24.04.2026 Issue No: 1192 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Year 7 Parents' Evening
It is hard to believe our Year 7 students are now 8 months into their secondary school journey, having joined us back in September. They have settled in well and have made a fantastic transition from primary school.

It was a real pleasure to welcome our Year 7 parents into school on Thursday for their first secondary school parents' evening. I enjoyed speaking with the parents of my two classes, and it was lovely to hear such positive feedback about our staff and the warm, supportive way in which your children have been welcomed and are continuing to thrive.

Please do continue to stay in touch with the Year 7 team if you have any questions or concerns about your son or daughter, we are always here to support you.

Summer term clubs and extra curricular offer
The range of clubs and extra curriculum opportunities is something we are very proud of. Details can be found in this newsletter and on our website. Charles Darwin School - Clubs

A huge thank you, as always to our staff for giving their time and expertise so our students have such a rich and diverse extra curricular offer across the year.

Mr Beezy
We welcomed Mr Beezy back to the school on Thursday, where he delivered an inspiring talk to our Year 10 students as they begin preparing for their end of year GCSE PPEs. A highly engaging international motivational speaker, Mr Beezy is renowned for his powerful messages, including "No Grind, No Glory" and "Year 10 is where GCSE success is built." He encouraged students to take ownership of their learning, develop strong study habits, and approach their work with focus and determination. Our current Year 11 students will remember his impactful seminar from before Christmas.

Dates for the Diary
The "Dates for the Diary" section in each newsletter contains information about upcoming school events, including trips, activities, and changes to the school day (e.g. INSET days). Please take a moment to review it each week.

With the sun shining we have some changes to clubs being run this term.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

A reminder to parents that as well as the LINK and the 'latest news' section on the website, you can follow the latest events happening in our school community on:

CDarwinSchool

SAFETY REMINDER

KEEP SAFE ON THE WAY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

A general reminder to all students for keeping safe on the way to and from school. As previously advised by the Bromley Youth Policing Team (BYPT), young people should:

- Try not to walk alone – find a friend to walk with.
- Do not walk down a lane or unlit road that isn't busy with traffic or pedestrians for a short cut. Take a longer route which is safer.
- Run, yell and tell. If you are approached by someone and don't feel safe start to run, yell loudly at the same time and head towards where there are people such as shops.
- Safe places include shops, schools, libraries, restaurants, take away shops, stations and bus stops where people are waiting.
- Speak to an adult you know, if you have concerns about your safety.
- Do not walk around with headphones in and a phone out on display.
- Call police on 999 in an emergency.

Talk Consent

Choice

Freedom

As part of our Relationship, Sex and Health Education provision, an outside company called Talk Consent are coming into school next Thursday to deliver an extended assembly to year 9 students on consent, sexting and online behaviour. More information about the content of this assembly has been emailed home to year 9 parents and carers.

Following this we will be running a parent forum after school on **Wednesday 6th May 5.30-6.15pm** at the Sixth Form hub. This will be a chance to share with parents/carers the messages delivered in this assembly and discuss some of the approaches we take in school when talking to young people about these sensitive issues. Any parents/carers are welcome to attend regardless of the year group your child is in.

If you are interested in coming along please email (gcurrie@cdarwin.com) so we have an idea of numbers.

Miss Currie and Miss Hurding
RSHE Leads

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have a variety of clubs and extra curriculum activities being run this term.

Details can be found on our website or click the link
Charles Darwin School - Clubs

Congratulations to Ronnie Oyston Year 7 who is now the new British National Champion in point fighting -32kg.

He is guaranteed a seat on the plane to Italy to represent GB in the World Championships in September.

What an amazing achievement Ronnie. We are so proud of you.

Miss Monk

Congratulations to our team who managed to get to the podium. 2nd in the Bromley Cup final for the U15's. Amazing!

We are so proud of you girls.

Miss Owen

A huge well done to Maisie Sewell Year 11 for achieving double gold in gi and no-gi and silver in no-gi jiu jitsu.

Amazing achievement Maisie.

Miss Owen

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 17 April 2026.

7SCu	98.3%
8LBy	95.2%
9STe/LSw	93.5%
10GJo/OLo	94.5%
11JAl	95%
12JDa	99.3%
13DWa	92.4%%

As you are aware attendance is linked to a student's attainment and at Charles Darwin we work closely with the parents to keep students' attendance levels as high as possible. Please could we ask that if your child feels unwell in the morning (headache etc.) and they do feel better later on, that you send them in. This will benefit them as they will not miss a whole days learning.

Please can we also remind parents to call in before 8.30am for each day of your child's absence and clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

A reminder that pupils **should not** contact home if they feel unwell but should be seen and assessed by Mrs Booth, our Health Care Lead.

Parents should be aware that pupils will not be sent home without being seen by Mrs Booth in the first instance.

Students Services Team

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence **before 8.30am**, clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

If you wish to report your child's absence, **OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS**, please call the school on **01959 574043** and when prompted to enter the extension number, please **dial 1** and you will be taken through to the student absence line where you can leave a message regarding your child's absence. This ensures we know your child is safe and their absence is authorised where possible.
Thank you for your support.

Parents should be advised that the school does not provide students with Paracetamol unless it is a medical emergency. We have a limited supply in school and prefer that medication wherever possible is administered at home.

Hay Fever Season - Medication for Students
Hay Fever and the symptoms for children studying at school can be very uncomfortable, please ensure that if your child suffers with Hay Fever that they take any relevant medication/antihistamine before school. The school is unable to provide this medication to students.
Thank you

Mrs Booth
Health Care Lead

Dates for the Diary

April
30th April– 1st May - Trip: Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition at Bewl Water

May
4th May - Bank Holiday
8th May - Year 8 Immunisations
6th May - Parents' Forum - Relationships, Sex and Health Education, 5.30pm at the Sixth form Hub
11th May - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
13th May - Year 10 Parents' Evening
15th May - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
18th-21st May - Trip: Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip, Bournemouth
21st-23rd May - Trip: Silver DofE Practice Expedition, Downe Activity Centre
22nd May - Inset Day
25th-29th May - Half term

June
1st June - Summer Term 2 starts

Preloved Uniform Shop
Promoting a positive eco-friendly culture of reusing

Did you know we have a preloved uniform shop with a variety of nearly new school uniform and PE kits?

If you are interested in checking stock, please send an email with your requirements (size, gender, specific item) to preloveduniform@cdarwin.com you can also use the link below or scan the QR code.
https://forms.office.com/e/qSR8ju6P5C

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Mia-Lily Kenedy
Antonia Salvador Dos Santos
Lily Sherdel
Evie Rous
Jessica Stenson-Stagg
Kirsten Stander
Nicole Tobiasz
Allanah Osman
Emily warner
Annalise Williams

Student Services Duty Pupils

Harrison Gower
Christopher Browning
Ciena-Lucia Scarciglia
Liam Delaney
Arthur Vowels

They have been fantastic this week, and their help has been invaluable.

Everything you need to support your mental health wellbeing during the exam season

Please use the link blow for selection of resources to help you to support your mental health wellbeing during the exam period:

[Easter and exams march 2026 - Kooth & Qwell Resources]

Term Dates 2025-2026

Summer 2026

Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

[Monday 4th May Bank Holiday]

Half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Friday 17thJuly

INSET Days:

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term 1

Start:	Tuesday 1st September 2026
Finish:	Friday 16th October 2026
Autumn break:	Monday 19th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026
	Staff Development Day Tuesday & Wednesday 1st & 2nd September 2026

Term 2

Start:	Monday 2nd November 2026
Finish:	Friday 18th December 2026
Christmas break:	Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027
	Staff Development Day Monday 2nd November 2026

Term 3

Start:	Monday 4th January 2027
Finish:	Friday 12th February 2027
February break:	Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027
	Staff Development Day Wednesday 13th January 2027

Term 4

Start:	Monday 22nd February 2027
Finish:	Thursday 25th March 2027
Spring break:	Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 9th April 2027
	Staff Development Day Friday 12th & Monday 22nd February 2027

Term 5

Start:	Monday 12th April 2027
Finish:	Friday 28th May 2027
Early May Bank Holiday:	*Monday 3rd May 2027*
May break:	Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027
	**No inset Day this term*

Term 6

Start:	Monday 7th June 2027
Finish:	Wednesday 21st July 2027
	Staff Development Day Friday 25th June 2027

**Term 5 Staff Development Day – to be chosen by Headteacher*

There will be no inset day for CDS in Term 5 – we will hold our inset day on Friday 12th February

SEND MATTERS

SEND matters:

https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/NHYf79ycetBnX

Bromley Parent Voice Bulletin Spring 2026

Click on these links to SEND matters and the family newsletter from the Bromley Parenting Hub (Early Intervention & Family Services).

Mrs Thom

The SEN team at Charles Darwin:

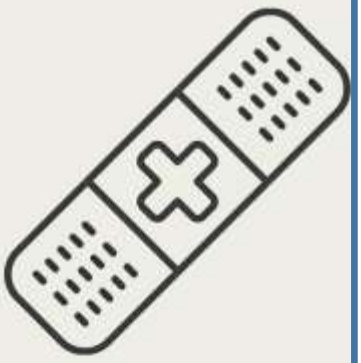
Mrs L Thom, SENDCo
Mr B Frost, Assistant SENCo
Mrs J Patten, Senior Learning Support Assistant
Miss R Higgins, SEN Administrator

Should you need to make contact with us, please use the inbox below:
send@cdarwin.com

BITESIZE FIRST AID

Come and join our FREE
Family First Aid course for children and families

Bitesize First Aid for Families is a short, non-accredited course for parents, carers, and children. Fun, friendly, and easy to follow, it's a great first step into first aid, helping learners of all ages build confidence and essential skills together.



All Ages

Thursday 25th May

10:00-12:00 pm

The Bromley Children Project

To book or find out more info please call or email:
01959 571 694
bigginhillcfc@bromley.gov.uk