01.05.2026 Issue No: 1193 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Examination Season
With Art, Textiles and Photography this week the examination season is well underway and good luck to those students who have exams next week, take time to balance study with rest this bank holiday weekend.

This week's student newsletter, The Beagle, offers exam tips to help students plan, prepare, and succeed in their future aspirations.

DofE
Thank you to the staff who, from Thursday to Friday, supported a group of Year 9 students on their DofE Bronze qualifying expedition at Bewl Water. Thankfully, the sun shone, and I look forward to hearing all about their experience.

Well done to all the students involved for their effort, resilience, and teamwork. Completing the expedition is a fantastic achievement.

Parent Survey
Our annual parent survey will be sent out next Wednesday and will remain open until the last day of term. It only takes a couple of minutes to complete, but your feedback is valuable to us.
We encourage all families to take part and share their views on their child's experience at the school. Your feedback helps us recognise what we are doing well and guides the improvements we make for the future. Thank you in advance for your time and continued support.

Follow Charles Darwin on social media
Don't forget you can follow us on social media to stay up to date with everything Charles Darwin alongside our new look website which remains at its usual address cdarwin.com

Have an enjoyable long bank holiday weekend!

Aston Smith, Headteacher

A reminder that we are running a parent forum after school on Wednesday 6th May 5.30-6.15pm at the sixth form hub. This session is on sexting, consent and online behaviour and will be a chance to share with parents/carers 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

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

KS3 Exams

Parents/Carers will receive an email from the school next Tuesday regarding KS3 exams which are across 2 weeks at the following times:

- Year 8 and 9 exams – Monday 1 June to Friday 12 June (straight after half term)
- Year 7 exams – Monday 8 June to Friday 19 June

These assessments will take a variety of forms depending on the subject. Children will have support in the weeks leading up to half term on how best to prepare for these exams. Some lesson time will be given to support preparation for exams, but the expectation is that revision will also be needed at home including at half term. Techniques on how best to revise are being covered during tutorial time in school and further support will be given during assemblies leading up to the exam period.

In the weeks leading up to exams, teachers will be telling their classes when their class exams will be so that this can be recorded in the blank timetable found in children's planners (page 98 and 99). This will allow organisation of revision before the relevant exam.

Satchel One will also be used by teachers to confirm areas to revise and prepare alongside helpful resources.

Please can I ask parents/carers to encourage preparation for these exams in the next weeks, including supporting revision over half term and with having all necessary equipment in advance. The results of these exams will be shared in the final report sent home this academic year and may inform settings and groupings from September 2026.

Mrs Rees
Deputy Headteacher

Inspiring Careers

Understanding current labour market information is more important than ever for both parents and students. The world of work is constantly evolving, with new industries emerging, roles changing, and employer expectations shifting. By staying informed about these trends, parents can better support their children in making confident, realistic decisions about their future.

For students access to up-to-date labour market information helps them identify growing sectors, in-demand skills, and potential career pathways.

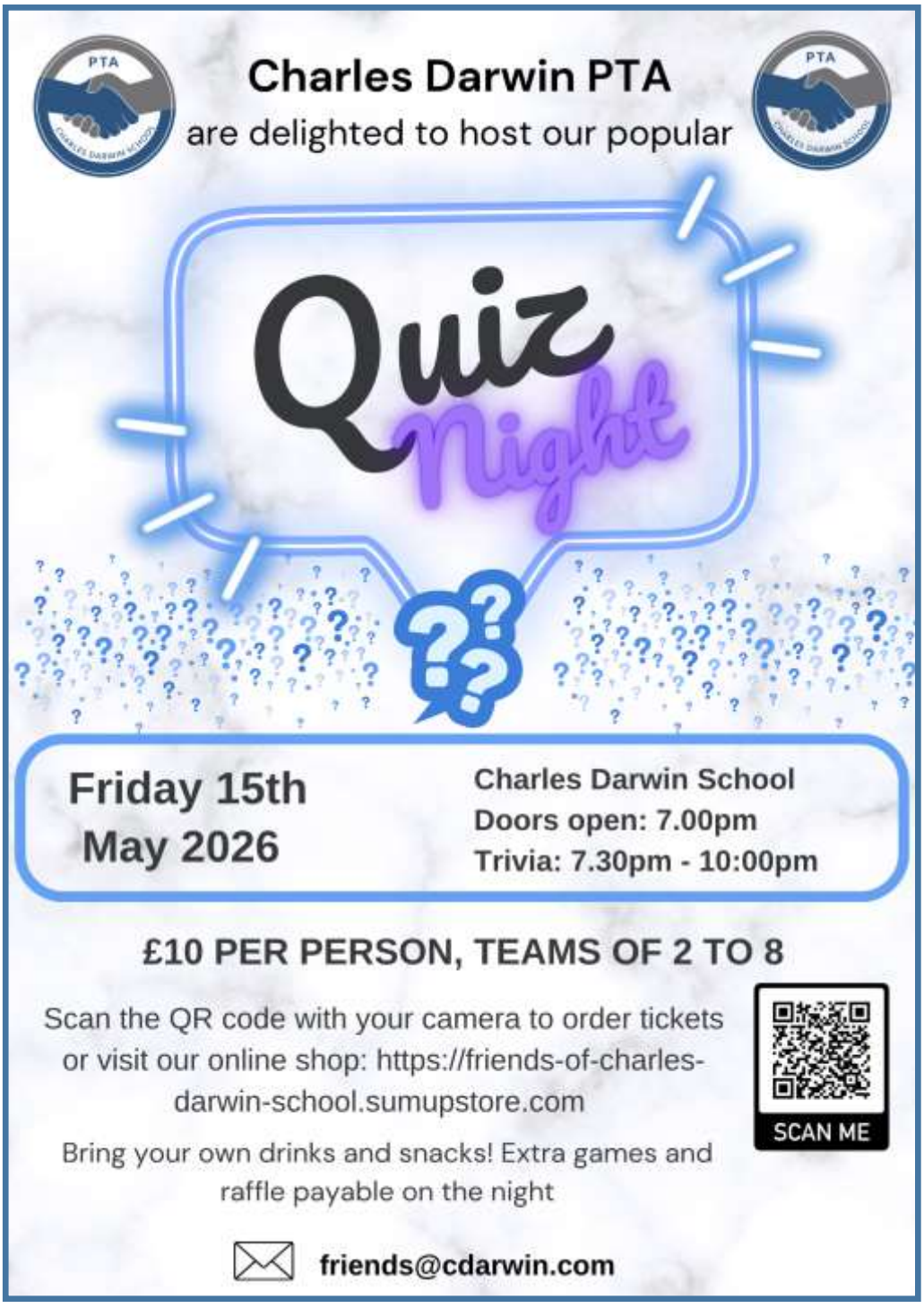
Please use the link to read the latest newsletter: Sway

Mr Simpson
Careers Lead

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.



West Kent Athletics Championships 2026 – Norman Park, Bromley – Tuesday 21st April

The following students represented Charles Darwin at the West Kent (Bromley District) Athletics Championships hosted just over a week ago at Norman Park Athletics Track. This is the highest level of athletics competition in the borough, with students competing for a place in the district team for the Kent Schools Athletics Championships. All students selected competed well and represented the school with distinction:

James Baptiste – Year 8 – 100m / Long Jump
Lenny Stone – Year 8 - Javelin
Bobby Osbourne – Year 8 – Hurdles / Javelin
Viktorija Domkova – Year 8 – 1500m
Cameron Revell – Year 9 – 1500m
Lewis Huggins – Year 9 – 100m / Long Jump
Franklin Eboigboden – Year 9 – 200m / High Jump
Zach Horton – Year 10 - Javelin
Jack Stacey – Year 10 – 400m
Stevie Ruggins – Year 10 – Shot Put
Kian Evans – Year 10 – Long Jump

We had some outstanding podium finishes. Viktorija came 3rd in the Junior Girls 1500m, to add to her top 10 finish in the winters District Cross-Country. Bobby came 3rd In the Junior Boys Javelin throw with Lenny Stone close in 4th place. Lewis came 2nd in the Junior Boys Long Jump, and Zach finished 2nd in the Intermediate Boys Javelin throw.

Well done to all athletes.

Mr Huggins
PE

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

Year 8 Ceramic Heads

We are really excited as the Year 8 continue their Identity theme with the designing and making of ceramic distorted heads which have been made possible by the **kind donation of the clay extruder by Charles Darwin PTA.** This has meant we can now extrude coils and hollow forms. We look forward to sharing with you the final finished creations in the upcoming weeks.

Mrs Broad
Head of Art & Textiles

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 24 April 2026.

7COn	99.2%
8VKi	93.8%
9LMc	97.1%
10PDg/JSt	95%
11JAl	95.4%
12TJo	96.8%
13DWa	97.65%

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
5th 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

Exam dates:
1st-5th June - Year 8/9 exams
8th-12th June - year 8/9 exams

8th-12th June - Year 7 exams
15th-19thJune - Year 7 exams

15th-19thJune - Year 10 exams
22nd-26thJune - Year 10 exams

15th-19thJune - Year 12 exams
22nd-26thJune - Year 12 exams

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

Freya Chandler
Archie Davis
Amos Kumitse
Joshua Ivaldi
Ciaran Duffy
Lorenzo Burrows
Poppy Pratt
Tommy Chevalier
Poppy Rogers
Ola Oget

Student Services Duty Pupils

Frankie Lee Winters
Ivy Bird
Maxwell Hawker
Bonnie Coward
Oliver Bailey

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
SENDCO

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

Bromley Borough Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Penge and St Mary Cray Centres **will be closed on both bank holiday Mondays in May (4th and 25th).**

The food bank office and warehouse will also be closed on these 2 days.

Bromley Healthcare
community first

Parent Workshop

Occupational Therapy in Schools

Tuesday 19th May at 7:00- 8:00PM via Teams

Hosted by Bromley Healthcare Children's Community Occupational Therapy Service, in collaboration with the London Borough of Bromley SEND partnership.

Occupational Therapists are changing the way they work in Bromley schools. We want to ensure the new approach is clear and meaningful.

We are inviting parents and carers of children in primary and secondary schools to help us shape the service.

You are invited to:

- Join an online session (around 60 minutes)
- Hear about the proposed changes
- Share your views on what families need
- Give feedback on draft resources

Your experience will help us make sure children get the right support.

If you want to join, please scan the QR code or email **susana.fernandez1@nhs.net** for a link

SENDAT PARENT WORKSHOPS

BROMLEY SEND OUTREACH TEAMS

Supporting Parents and Carers of Children Transitioning into Year 7

Join the SEND Advisory Team's (SENDAT) free workshops designed to support families as children move into Year 7, including those with an Educational, Health and Care plan (EHCP).

Practical advice on:

- Visual supports to ease transition anxiety
- Boosting independent learning
- Working together with your child's education setting
- Building executive functioning skills
- Growing practical independence from Year 7 onward

Workshops delivered online

12 MAY, 10AM - 11AM ONLINE

Book now: sendat@bromley.gov.uk

Bromley THE LONDON BOROUGH

BROMLEY SEND LOCAL OFFER SEND Matters

SENDAT PARENT WORKSHOP

Supporting Parents and Carers of students transitioning to Year 12 with a range of needs including those with an EHCP.

What to expect:

- Practical tips to support your child's transition into Year 12
- An email information pack you can use anytime
- Visual supports to reduce anxiety around transitions
- Support for independence, organisation, and executive functioning skills
- Guidance on next steps after Year 11 and everyday independence

ONLINE SESSIONS

13 or 20 May 2026

6pm - 7.30pm (online)

9 June 2026

10am - 11.30am (online)

BOOK NOW

Email: sendat@bromley.gov.uk