08.05.2026 Issue No: 1194 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Drama Trip

On Tuesday evening, a group of GCSE and A Level Drama students enjoyed a trip to see Witness for the Prosecution. Set within a former courtroom, the production provided students with a unique and immersive theatrical experience, bringing live performance and staging techniques vividly to life beyond the classroom. Opportunities such as these are invaluable in developing students' understanding of drama, performance, and the creative arts, while also inspiring their own work and broadening their cultural experiences.

Despite the late night, our students were absolutely fantastic throughout and represented the school superbly. It was a pleasure to share the experience with them and see their enthusiasm and engagement with live theatre.

A huge thank you to Miss Currie and Mrs Suttun for organising the trip, as well as to all the staff who continue to support and lead activities beyond the classroom. These experiences give our students opportunities to learn, grow, and create lasting memories together.

Year 13 Leavers BBQ

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Sixth Form team for organising such a lovely Year 13 Leavers' BBQ today. It was a really special opportunity for students and staff to come together and reflect on the journey our Year 13s have shared during their time at Charles Darwin School.

As we head into these final weeks, we encourage all our students to keep going and stay positive. Every bit of effort really does count, and we are here to support and encourage them all the way through this important time.

Parent Survey

Our annual parent survey was sent out on 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. **Here is the link again** Parent Survey 2026 – Fill in form

Thank you to everyone who has completed it so far.

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

KS3 Exams

Parents/Carers have received an email from the school on Tuesday 5th May 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

PE at CDS

2026 TCS Mini London Marathon for schools

A huge thank you to the PE staff who organised the TCS Mini London Marathon during CORE PE lessons on Thursday 30th April and Friday 1st May 2026.

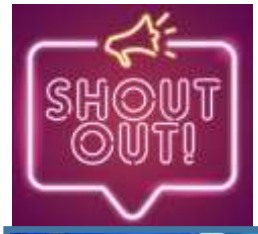
A huge **£512.50** was raised by students! All funds will go directly to the PTA to support upcoming school projects and enhance opportunities for our students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Owen
Head of PE

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUMMER TERM 25/26

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1.10 – 1.50pm				GCSE Revision **Year 11** *IT1* **CON/SHU/NDO**	
After school 3.00-4.15pm	Athletics - TRACK Year 7/8/9/10 **(Boys and Girls)** *Sports hall/Field* **SHU**	Rounders Training Year 7/8 **(Girls)** *Field* **LWR/CON**	Athletics - FIELD Year 7/8/9/10 **(Boys and Girls)** *Sports hall/Field* **PE STAFF**	Cricket Training Year 9 and 10 **(Boys)** *Field/Sports hall* **JBI/JAL**	
	Cricket Fixtures Year 7/8/9/10 **(Boys and Girls)** *Field* **JBI/JAL**	Rounders Fixtures All years **(Girls)** Field **LWR/CON**	Rounders Fixtures All years **(Girls)** Field **LWR/CON**	Trampolining Year 7/8/9/10 **(Girls and boys)** 3:30-5 **PAY ON PARENT PAY**	**FIXTURE CATCH UP DAY**
	Rounders Fixtures All years **(Girls)** Field **LWR/CON/NDO**	Cricket Training Year 7 and 8 **(Boys and girls)** *Sports hall/Field* **JBI/JAL**		Cricket Fixtures Year 7/8/9/10 **(Boys and Girls)** *Field* **JBI/JAL**	
	ALL FIXTURES WILL BE ARRANGED ON A WEEK-BY-WEEK BASIS FOR ALL TEAMS. THIS COULD BE DIFFERENT EACH WEEK DUE TO THE DIFFERENT LEAGUE AND COMPETITIONS.			Rounders Training Year 9/10 **(Girls)** *Field* **NDO/CON**	



A huge congratulations to Tillie Brown in Year 11.

Tillie has returned from the IASF Cheerleading Worlds Competition at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Florida where she competed in the U18 L5 Coed Division, with her team Unity Allstar's Royal. The Cheerleading Worlds Competition is spread across a 3 day event.

Royal competed in the semi finals and secured a comfortable second place to advance into the finals.

They were against some seriously tough teams from across the world and gave the performance of an absolute lifetime. Unity Allstars Royal finished in 2nd place, Returning home to the UK as World Silver Champions.

Tillie was also recognised by her coaches and she was awarded MVP (Most Valuable Person) of the Season.

Well done Tilly, what an amazing achievement!

Mrs Tsang

CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL

SPORT AWARDS

2026

CELEBRATING SPORTING SUCCESS
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2026 (TBC)

INVITATION ONLY EVENT!

HOW DO I GET INVITED?

- REGULAR ATTENDANCE TO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
- MAKE THE PE DEPARTMENT AWARE OF EXTERNAL SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS
- CONSISTENT REPRESENTATION OF THE SCHOOL AT FIXTURES AND SPORTING EVENTS

BRONZE SILVER GOLD PLATINUM

Charles Darwin PTA

are delighted to host our popular

Quiz Night

Friday 15th May 2026

Charles Darwin School
Doors open: 7.00pm
Trivia: 7.30pm - 10:00pm

£10 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF 2 TO 8

Scan the QR code with your camera to order tickets or visit our online shop: https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com

SCAN ME

Bring your own drinks and snacks! Extra games and raffle payable on the night

friends@cdarwin.com

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 1 May 2026.

7COn	98.1%
8GCu/CMe	91.1%
9CMo	95%
10PDg/JSt	95.4%
11JAl	95%
12MMe	99.4%
13DWa	89.4%

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

SEND MATTERS

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

Mr Frost, the assistant SENCo will be leaving us at half-term in order to take up a full-time university degree and a new part-time role at another school closer to home. We are in the process of recruiting for the assistant SENCO role and will update families when this has happened.

Mrs Thom

To nominate Charles Darwin please use the link below:

Win £1,000 / €1,000 for your school's library! | National Book Tokens

Dates for the Diary

May
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
15th May - PTA Quiz, 7pm
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
3rd June - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
3rd June - New Year 7 Induction Evening
5th June - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
26th June - INSET DAY

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

James Macqueen
Riven Oakes
Charlie Wooldridge
Roman Fazzani
Rebecca Jermacz
Evie Murphy
Bella Cook
Ami Collins

Student Services Duty Pupils

Elsie Starrs-Freeman
George Addison
Ava Brown
Emily Lynch

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

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

SOCCER SATURDAYS

AT DARWIN LEISURE CENTRE

Fun & engaging football skills sessions
for children of all abilities

10:00 - 11:30AM
During Term Times

BOOK A FREE
TASTER SESSION

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

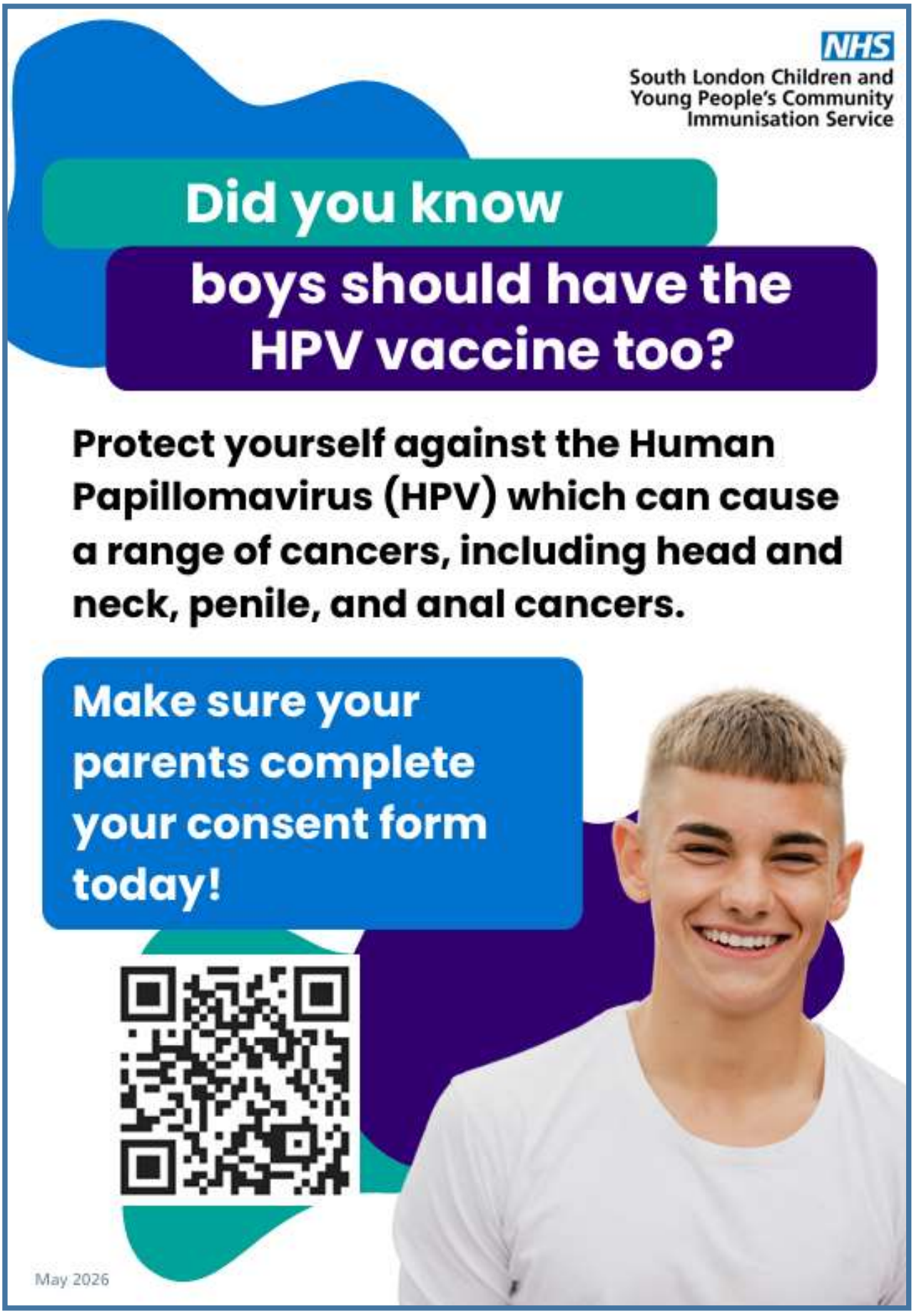
01689 828385
skillsacademyltd.com
info@skillsacademyltd.com

skills academy

Please use the link to book the space (spaces are limited so book early):

https://forms.office.com/e/T7WkrzgeVs

Please see below a poster from NHS about HPV vaccination for boys.

If you require any more information please use the link below:

https://cypcis.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/hpv/2025/Bromley