22.05.2026 Issue No: 1196 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

End of Term Message

As we reach the end of another busy half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support with parents' evenings, attendance, revision, homework, and the many ways you work in partnership with the school to support your children.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are now fully immersed in the examination season, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity and determination they are showing. Over the half-term break, we encourage students to strike a healthy balance between rest and structured revision in preparation for the next round of exams. Good luck to all students who will be sitting examinations on the first day back after the holiday.

Please ensure your child attends any compulsory revision sessions, particularly in Maths, where we will be able to predict the exam paper.

We also hope that our Year 10 students taking part in their practice Silver DofE expedition today are managing to stay cool in the warm weather and, most importantly, enjoying the experience. We look forward to hearing all about their achievements.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended another very successful PTA Quiz Night last Friday. Events such as these are always greatly enjoyed by our community, and the support the PTA provides to the school is invaluable.

Thank you also to our staff for the many additional opportunities they have provided for students this term, as well as the revision sessions being run over the half-term break to support our Year 11 and Year 13 students.

A reminder that today is the final opportunity to complete the Parent Survey 2026 – Fill in form Your feedback is extremely valuable and helps us continue to improve and develop our school community.

I hope you and your families have a restful and enjoyable half-term break and are able to make the most of the lovely weather forecast.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 1 June.

Best wishes,

Aston Smith, Headteacher

We are delighted to announce that Charles Darwin School, have achieved the School Games GOLD LEVEL Mark Award for the 2025/26 academic year.
The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.
As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of staff and students at our school has been rewarded this year.
We look forward to applying once again in 2027!

Miss Owen
Head of PE

West Kent Golf Club – Careers Trip

Last Monday I was fortunate enough to take 12 Year 10 students to West Kent Golf Club. The aim of the trip was to give our students an understanding of what Golf Course Management is and some of the careers paths available to them.

Students got the opportunity to learn about what the job entails, benefits (including the golf), different areas (including engineering aspects and ground maintenance). Students also got the chance to show off their putting skills, create a new hole on the green, learn about how to look after the machinery and ended the session with a quiz testing them on everything they'd learnt.

Huge thanks to both Steve, Wayne and the rest of the team for organising and giving up their time to make the trip so interesting and engaging.

Mr Simpson

HPA News – Year 7

Great session with the Rising Stars and Mr Jones showing the year 7s how to be DJs – they all had a chance to show off what they had learnt – even gained their own DJ names ☺

Well done to the following students who through dedication and great attendance to Rising Stars have now earned their silver badges and 10 Achieve points ☺:

Rebel A
Henry B
Jack D
Jaden D
Olivia E
Chace H
Zissel-Zuriel L
Travis L
Poppi T
Elsie S (Bronze badge ☺)

Achievement Points Leader Board at CDS

Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 03.09.2025 - 22.05.2026

Earls, Olivia	7MHu/GQu	419
Downer, Ellie	7COn	366
Young, Abigail	8SAs	365
Smith, Elliott	7COn	362
Cunliffe, Bella	7HEm/KSa	357
Atkins, Isla	7COn	341
Johnson, Asa	7MHu/GQu	333
Olawoyin, Ololade	7COn	320
Mears, Bethany	7COn	312
Delaney, Jack	7NKo	311

Top highest achievers per each year for the period 03.09.2025 - 22.05.2026

Earls, Olivia	7MHu/GQu	419
Young, Abigail	8SAs	365
Lynch, Emily	9LMc	293
Clarke, Lola	10ADo	253
Lavin, Holleigh-Rae	11JHd	164
Weaver, Alyssa	12TJo	50
O'Brien, Jasmine	13RPi	50

A huge congratulations to Jessica Garret in Year 7 who won golds at the following large competitions, since the start of the year:

2026-01-18 Liverpool International Open Championships – Gold for Kumite (fighting)

2026-04-26 BASK International – Gold for Kumite, 2 x Silver for Team fighting

Last Sunday she took part in the final of the *United Karate Association (UKA) Junior League (Spring Season)*. This was a Karate event over 3 different weekends (January, March and May). Her team of 3 fought a total of 11 matches against other teams and remained undefeated for the whole Spring Season. They went on to be Division 2 Champions and will be moving up to the top division next season.

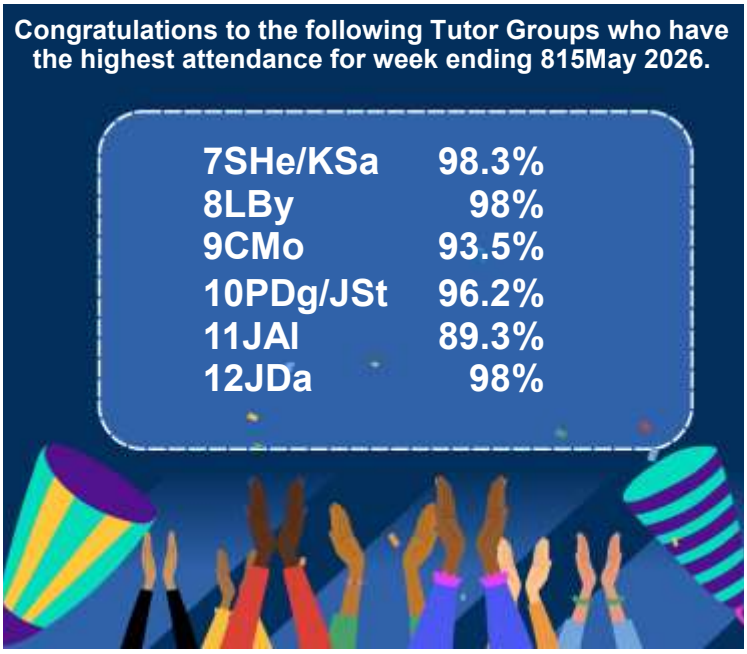
Jessica trains with the local Karate club (Kaigaishii) who train at Darwin School Leisure Centre on Fridays.

Well done Jessica!

Mrs Broad

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 815May 2026.



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

May
25th may - Bank Holiday
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
15th June - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
16th June - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
24th June - PTA Meeting
25th June - Year 11 Prom
26th June - INSET DAY
30th June - Sixth Form Parent's Information Evening

July
1st-3rd July - Trip: Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition, Adamswell Scout Site
3rd July - Sixth Form Summer Ball
10th July - Sports Day
15th July - Personal Development Day 1
16th July - Personal Development Day 2
17th July - End of term
Celebration of Success Assemblies

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

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Emir Beklevic, Izzie Berriman
Abigail Young, Evie Ricca
Dylan Selman, Myah Pamphlett
Charis Akioyame, Daniel Nemeth

Student Services Duty Pupils

Charlotte Bateman
Milo Rietmeijer
Essie Devlin-Barry
Chloe Priestley

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

Term Dates 2025-2026

Summer 2026

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

Monday 1st June – Friday 17thJuly

INSET Days:

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

GymClub Gymnastics

Part Time Gym Set up Assistant

Part Time Gym Set up Assistant required for our Wednesday and Saturday classes at Charles Darwin Leisure Centre.

Hours:

Wednesday:	4.00pm – 4.30pm and 7.05pm-7.35pm
Friday:	7.30pm - 8.00pm
Saturday:	11.50am – 12.20pm

Hourly rate: £8.00 (or MLV dependant on age)

Please send CV to enquiries@gymclub.org.uk

BROMLEY Y
Building Strengths
Empowering Youth and Fostering Wellbeing since 1965

translate

Bromley Y Summer Term Webinars 2026

Webinars for parents

Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Helping Children and Young People with Anxiety, Fears and Worries

Helping Children with Sleep Difficulties

Exam season can be a particularly stressful time for young people preparing for their GCSEs and A Levels. To help support them through this challenging period, Bromley Y have arranged a new date for their Managing Academic Stress webinar which they are hosting for young people:

Managing Academic Stress
Friday 29th May
5:00pm

Please use the link below to book the webinar:

Managing Academic Stress: Developing Healthy Study Habits (Years 10 - 13) Tickets, Multiple dates | Eventbrite