12.06.2026 Issue No: 1198 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

As June gathers pace, there is much to celebrate and look forward to at Charles Darwin School this month. With the World Cup underway, students will be able to enjoy a variety of dishes from around the world in the canteen, giving us the opportunity to explore and celebrate different cultures through food.

On 25th June, we will be holding our Culture and Inclusion Day, providing an opportunity for our school community to celebrate the rich diversity we have within Charles Darwin School. Through a range of class-based activities, students will have the chance to learn from one another and reflect on the importance of understanding, respect and belonging. Further details are in The Link.

The month is also packed with opportunities beyond the classroom, including educational trips and showcases of the work produced by our art, textiles, photography, dance, drama and music students. We would also like to wish our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh participants the very best of luck as they undertake their qualifying expedition.

As the examination season draws to a close, I would like to send our best wishes to our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Your hard work and perseverance have brought you to the final stretch, and we are incredibly proud of all you have achieved. We look forward to celebrating at upcoming Proms and the Year 11 leavers day.

We also look forward to welcoming families to our Sixth Form Information Evening on Tuesday 30th June at 5pm.

The weather forecast indicates that good weather will be returning and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Aston Smith
Headteacher

Bromley Minors Athletics Championships 2026

On 10th June Charles Darwin students took part in Bromley Minors Athletics Championships 2026 at Norman Park

In comparison to all other Bromley district schools we fielded a considerably smaller team, however punched way above our weight achieving podium and top 8-point scoring positions in a range of events. Some highlights of the day were Khalil Linton winning both his heat and the final of the Year 7 Boys 100m, Zara Lett winning the Year 7 Girls 1500m by a 30-40m margin, along with a 5th place finish in the Year 7 Girls High Jump. Bobby Osborne won the Year 8 boys Javelin by over an 8-10m margin and placed 2nd in the Year 8 Boys 300m. Geiste Kersyte was 2nd in the Year 8 Girls discus throw, with Layla Mai Lucas placing 3rd in the Year 7 Girls Javelin. We had some gusty performances in the middle distance events with Mollie Sedgwick and Ezra Cooper placing 4th in the Year 7 Girls and Boys 800m, and Viktorija Domkova running to a 4th place finish in the Year 8 Girls 1500m. Lorenzo Burrows closed out a consistent team effort in the middle distance events with a solid 5th in the Year 8 boys 1500m.

Because the event is a team competition it meant that top 8 finishes were the priority of the day. The following students achieved top 8 finishes in their events and scored vital points for the team: Jackson Greenman (Year 7 Boys 200m), Khalil Linton (Year 7 Boys Shot Put), Ciaran Duffy (Year 8 Boys Shot Put), James Baptiste (Year 8 Boys Long Jump), Lenny Stone (Year 8 Boys 800m and Discus), Malik Onayemi (Year 8 Boys 200m), Charis Akioyame (Year 8 Girls 100m and Shot Put), Zissel-Zuriel Laryea (Year 7 Girls Long Jump), Rio Smith (Year 7 Boys Javelin). The day culminated in the 4x100m relays with a top 3 finish for our Year 8 Boys team (Malik, Lenny, Bobby, James) and our Year 7 Boys team (Rio, Ezra, Jackson, Khalil), as well as double point scoring efforts for our girls Charles Darwin Relay teams.

What was most impressive on the day was the way that all the students competed, fought hard for every point for the team, and cheered each other on. For the third year in a row, I can comfortably say that we were the loudest and most energetic team when cheering on our teammates. My last special mention goes to Rio, Zissel, Zara and Malik who both competed in the hurdles and high jump events; an event we do not have access to at school, and represented the team with distinction.

Overall Results:

Year 7 Boys – 7th out of 13 teams

Year 8 Boys – 5th out of 13 teams

Boys Overall – 6th out of 13 teams

Year 7 Girls – 6th out of 14 teams

Year 8 Girls – 8th out of 14 teams

Girls Overall – 7th out of 14 teams

Mr Huggins
PE Teacher

At Charles Darwin School we have a variety of clubs and extra curriculum activities being run this term.

Details of all the clubs can be found on our website or click the link below:

Charles Darwin School - Clubs

Drama Trip

On Wednesday 10th June, staff from Mountview Drama School, came to Charles Darwin to talk to year 10 GCSE Drama students about career pathways in the arts.

The focus of the workshop was on the Production Arts and students heard about the vast range of jobs within this area e.g. Producer, Stage Manager, Audio-Visual artist, Scenic Painter, Sound technician, Sound designer, Make-up Artist, Lighting technician, Microphone assistant etc.

Students saw an example of a Deputy Stage Manager's script, which illustrated the number of cues a full-scale production has. They learnt that this job role is responsible for cueing the whole show from the wings including when moving set should be flown in or out and when lighting or sound changes should be made. They also heard about lesser-known jobs in the Production Arts such as Breakdown artist-someone whose job it is to make props and set pieces look old and in keeping with the time period/background of the production.

Well done to the following students for attending and for their contributions and questions:

Lana Wyatt
Milly Rogers
Olivia Catley
Ava Reilly
Leila Jones
Lola Clarke
Chloe Budd
Phoebe Gourley-Hedges
Ava Newton
Josh Clements
Lucas Nagle
Poppy Mason
Megan Mansell
Daisy Pointer
Alice Boyd

Miss Currie
Head of Expressive Arts

Personal Development Days

Calling all year 8 and 9 families that have yet to book a trip.....

We have booked Downe Activity Centre for year 8 (Weds 15th July) and year 9 (Thursday 16th July) for range of problem solving and team building activities. Students will be in groups of 12 on a carousel of activities that include Axe Throwing, Laser Tag, Grass sledging (this looks awesome!), a massive zip wire, archery, fire lighting, shelter building and crate stacking amongst other things. Students will arrive in school in their own clothes, walk through the field to Downe Activity Centre and work together as teams until 2pm, for an early release from school. There are still quite a lot of spaces here so students can be with friends to end the year on a high. Book on ParentPay as soon as you can!

Mr R Jones

Football World Cup 2026

2026
FIFA WORLD CUP
UNITED STATES | CANADA | MÉXICO

From Monday 15th June, to celebrate the world cup football tournament, the canteen will be having country-themed food choices on a Monday and Thursday lunchtime throughout the tournament, starting with Swedish meatballs and Tunisian Chicken and couscous with root vegetables and chickpeas on Monday 15th. Look out for the posters in the canteen with details of each special menu.

Ms Kelly

Culture and Inclusion Day - Thursday 25th June

Dear Parents/Carers

Building on the success of last year's events, we would like to invite students once again to contribute to our day of celebration on **Thursday 25th June**, in the following ways:

The theme this year is: **'Many Stories, One School' - Identity, Culture and Inclusion Day**

You could:

- **Bring in a dish** to share with your form group (during period 5) that is special to you and your family and celebrates your cultural background
- **Bring in a recipe** to add to our 'Cultural Cuisine' cookbook – we will collate these recipes and create a virtual cookbook – feel free to write about why this dish is special to you and why you and your family enjoy it so much
- Add **ONE item** to your uniform to celebrate individual cultural backgrounds and diversity
- Take part in the following **art competition**: Create your interpretation of our theme: 'Many Stories, One School'

There will be three different prize categories:

Best Digital Art: Use digital technology to blend photos and graphics to celebrate your cultural background and diversity

Best Traditional Craft: Use mixed media (fabrics/beads/ papier-mâché/clay) to create a 3D poster/model to celebrate cultural background and diversity

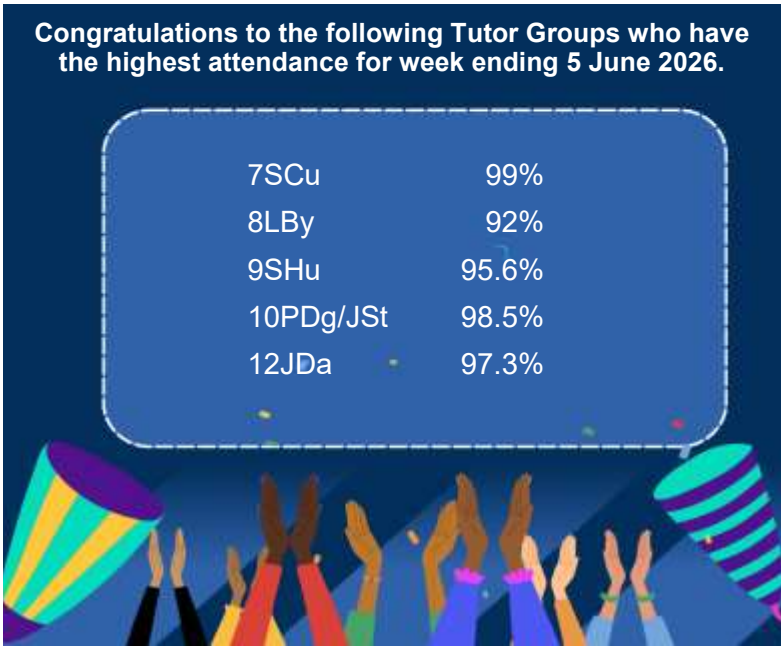
Best Educational Poster: Create a poster that promotes cultural backgrounds, inclusion and diversity

We are a nut-free school and we would ask that any dishes or food brought in do not contain nuts. Pupils with any allergies or food intolerances should be mindful before sampling any food.

Thank you for all your support with this.

Miss Kaye, Mrs Tigoue, Mrs Haugeneder and Ms FitzGerald

Attendance



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

June
15th June - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
16th June - Year 11 Leavers' Assembly
16th June - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
16th June - Trip: Year 10 & Year 12 Drama Theatre Trip - 2:22 Ghost Story, Churchill Theatre
16th June - PTA Meeting, 7.30pm, The Crown
18th June - A Level Fine Art, Textile and Photography Exhibition, 4-6.30pm, AR3 and Photography Studio
18th-19th June - Trip: Bronze DofE Expedition - Bewl Water
25th June - Year 11 Prom
26th June - INSET DAY
29th June - GCSE Art Show, 4-6.30pm, School Library
30th June - Sixth Form Taster 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
6th July - Year 10 Walk/Run Charity Event
9th July - Trip: Year 9 Science & Technology Challenge Day - SE London College
10th July - Sports Day
13th-17th July - Year 12 Work Placement
15th July - Year 10 Mock Interviews
15th-16th July - Trip: Year 7/8 Daytrip to France
15th July - Personal Development Day 1
16th July - Personal Development Day 2
16th July - Year 10 Work Shadowing Day
17th July - End of term
Celebration of Success Assemblies, early finish

Exam dates:

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

Harry Seilder
Isla Mitchell
Amy Shufflebottom
Cienna Kentfield
Bella Galley
Abigail Young
Theo Young
Max Bourne
Evie Ricca
Izzie Berriman

Student Services Duty Pupils

Freya Castle
Rosha Afshar
Maggie McCarthy
Solliyah Matthews-Jarrett
Harrison Poulton
Olivia Rice
Frankie Allen

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

Term Dates 2025-2026

Summer 2026

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

Apprenticeship Information Evening

London South East Colleges is hosting an **Apprenticeship Information Evening** at Bromley on Monday 15th June.

This event is designed to give parents and students clear, practical guidance on apprenticeships - whether someone is just starting to explore options or ready to apply.

Event details:
London South East Colleges, Bromley Campus, Rookery Lane, Bromley BR2 8HE
Monday 15 June
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (presentation begins at 5:45 PM)

What attendees will gain:

- A full overview of how apprenticeships work, including eligibility
- Insight into current vacancies and progression opportunities
- The chance to speak directly with our Apprenticeship team
- Guidance for parents on how to support their child's decisions
- Advice on applications and next steps

This is a great opportunity for parents and students to feel confident about apprenticeships as a pathway and to get their questions answered in person.

Please note: Due to limited space, each booking allows one ticket, with the option to bring one guest.

RESERVE A SPOT HERE

FOOTBALL FRIDAYS

GIRLS ONLY SESSIONS

5–6pm | Charles Darwin School

SHAUN WILLIAMS FOOTBALL SCHOOL

STARTING 19TH JUNE

AGES 8-12

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR FREE TRIAL SESSIONS

@sw6footballschool