10.07.2026 Issue No: 1202 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Drama and Dance Showcase
Thank you to Mrs Currie and Mrs Winter for organising Monday afternoon's end of year Drama and Dance Showcase. It was a wonderful way to begin the week, celebrating the creativity, talent and commitment of our students. It was especially lovely to see so many students, including several that I teach, perform with such confidence and pride, showcasing everything they have achieved this year.

Sixth Form Horizons
A huge thank you to the sixth form team for organising and delivering this week's sixth form Horizons programme. Our Year 12 students enjoyed a range of activities designed to develop new skills, gain valuable practical experience and prepare for life beyond school, before ending on a high with a fun and lively alternative Sports Day, rounded off perfectly with ice lollies.

Achievement Assemblies
It has been a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of so many of our students during our Achievement Assemblies, which began this week and continue into next week. These assemblies provide an opportunity to recognise the effort, commitment and accomplishments of students across all year groups, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved throughout the year.

Enrichment Days
As we approach the final week of term, I would like to thank all the staff for the tremendous amount of planning, organisation and coordination that has gone into delivering next week's exciting programme of Enrichment Days. They have created a diverse range of opportunities that we know our students will enjoy and benefit from. These experiences make a real difference. They create lasting memories, broaden horizons and allow students to discover new interests. We know they are greatly valued by both our students and their families.

Sports Day
Congratulations to all the students who took part in today's Sports Day, demonstrating fantastic enthusiasm, determination and team spirit despite the hot weather.

Thank you to Mrs Owen, the PE Department and all the staff who helped make the day such a success. We look forward to the excitement continuing with Part 2 on Monday.

Warm Weather Arrangements
It looks to be a little cooler next week. With this in mind, students should wear their usual school uniform. However, to help everyone stay comfortable, blazers may be left at home, Monday – Thursday. Friday is our last day and features our final celebration of success assembly, which takes place in our air conditioned hall and for this reason all students need to bring their blazers on Friday for this formal occasion. We look forward to seeing parents of award winners there.

Mr Smith, Headteacher

Important Canteen Update - Student Overdraft Limits

From September 2026, any **overdraft limit** available on student accounts used to pay for food in the Canteen will be removed.

This change has been made to encourage positive financial habits and ensure that students only spend the funds that are available to them. We believe this is an important step in supporting responsible money management and helping students develop good financial practices.

Ms Kelly and Harrison Catering

Drama and Dance Showcase

On Monday 6th July, the Dance and Drama showcase took place to parents and staff with students from year 7-10 taking part.

Students performed previous classwork, assessments and pieces created in extra curricular clubs and showcased their talents brilliantly.

They should be really proud of their efforts in preparing for the showcase and for the confidence and enthusiasm they demonstrated when performing.
A big well done to everyone who took part.

Miss Currie and Miss Winter

Performance of Midsummer Night's Dream

On Thursday 9th July, year 7 and 8 drama club students put on a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream to parents. The students involved should be proud of the work and commitment they put in over the last term rehearsing for the performance with Miss Lobb. They performed brilliantly, juggling costume changes and Shakespearian dialogue with confidence.

Well done to Millie Austin, Elizabeth Negus, Bella Galley, Barrie Allen, Kristen Stander, Jessica Stenson-Stagg, Isabella Jarred, Haleigh Hemple-Rest, Archie Davis, Myah Pamphlett, Florence Rogers, Sophia Houslop, Lexi Brazier and Isabelle Vaida.

Miss Currie
Head of expressive Arts

Library Award 2026 - Celebrating Our Readers

We are proud to celebrate the amazing students who made reading and library participation a priority this year! Thanks to their enthusiasm, curiosity, and commitment to learning, **26 special invitations** were sent out to students in recognition of their outstanding library engagement.

Our library is more than a place to check out books — it is a space for discovery, imagination, creativity, and growth. The students invited this year showed what can happen when you make reading a regular habit and take advantage of all the opportunities the library offers.

To all students: keep reading, exploring new genres, participating in library activities, and visiting the library often. You could be one of next year's invited students!

Congratulations again to this year's readers and library supporters. We cannot wait to see even more students join the celebration next year!

Mrs Waite
Library Supervisor

Charles Darwin STEM Challenge Day Success

On Thursday 9th July a group of twelve 9 pupils attended the *Bromley Science and Technology Challenge Day* at Bromley College alongside pupils from 8 other, mainly Grammar and Independent schools from the Southeast of England. The pupils involved were Florence Adler, Alex Buxton-Wilmott, Josh Clarke, Harrison Gower, George Henn, Elliott Johnson, Alex Matei, Sam Mitchell, Jay Ngyou, Chloe Priestley, Layla Wattle and Tom West. Two Charles Darwin pupils were then grouped with two pupils from another school, forming mixed-school teams of four pupils. The teams were then given three challenges each to complete (from a total of 4 different challenges) and were judged on how well they worked together as a team; how well they planned their response to each challenge; and how well they performed in each challenge.

The challenges included: programming a mobile Lego Mindstorms EV3 robot to manoeuvre around a winding course and gain points for stopping and performing special manoeuvres on designated areas (Robot Challenge); undertaking CPR, medical diagnostics and putting victims into the recovery position (Medical Challenge); designing and assembling a small vehicle from kit pieces (plastic wheels, axles and gears) to be powered by a 6V battery (Electric Vehicle Challenge); and using police-accredited E-Fit software to create the facial image of a 'criminal' (E-fit Challenge).

At the end of the event the Bromley Deputy Mayor, Dr Sunil Gupta, presented prizes to the winning team of each of the events; stating as part of his presentation how impressed he was with the teamwork and skills on display.

Throughout the day Charles Darwin pupils were exceptional – they collaborated well with their team colleagues from other schools and they used the skills they had developed through their science and technology classes to succeed in the tasks set them. Whilst our teams did not come first in any of the individual challenges, the team containing Josh Clarke and George Henn came out winner's overall meaning they go through to the London final later in the year. All winners received certificates celebrating their success, with a cup being presented to Josh, George and the school for having the overall team winners.

It was fascinating watching our pupils through the day, observing the different strengths they brought to each of the (very varied) challenges and seeing how they dealt with being placed in teams with unknown pupils from other schools – a situation they coped with extremely well and which augurs well for similar situations they will be faced with when they leave school.

Our thanks go to the pupils involved for their outstanding contribution to the day and their amazing representation of the school; they are truly exceptional.

Dr R Piercy

Thank you PTA

Charles Darwin PTA Supports Rugby at CDS

I would like to express my gratitude to the Charles Darwin PTA for funding the purchase of new jerseys for our Year 9 / 10 Boys rugby team. I hope this will bring a sense of pride to the students when they pull on the school colours during extra-curricular fixtures.

Thank you for your support!

Mr Huggins
PE Teacher

School Production - Taster Workshop

Monday 13th July
3-4pm, in the main hall

There will be a practical taster workshop for our next school production of 'Frozen the Musical'
Anyone in year 7-10 who is interested in auditioning in September is welcome to come along and find out more about the show and what we will be doing!

Miss Currie

Culture and Inclusion Day - Tuesday 14th July

Polite Reminder:

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 **Tuesday 14th July,** 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

July
13th-17th July - Year 12 Work Placement
14th July - Culture, Inclusion and Diversity Day
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

Finishing times:

Year 9 11.30am

Year 7 12.30pm

Year 8 12.45pm

August
13th August - A Level Results Day
20th August - GCSE Results Day
31st August - Bank Holiday

September
1st September -INSET DAY
2nd September -INSET DAY
3rd September - Year 7 only
4th September - Whole School (Year 13 starts Monday 7th September)

Term dates for **2026/27** can be found by clicking on the link below:

Charles Darwin School - Term Dates

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Jack Coburn
Rebecca Harries
Pixie Plummer
Blake Tubbritt
Lily Compton
Chloe Ford
Rocco Mackay
Dolcie Thompson
Henry Lambert
Finlay Pender

Student Services Duty Pupils

Heidi Seymour
Lucie Kempster
Matilda O'Sullivan
Brooke Maloy
Jimmy Johnson

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

BROMLEY Y
Building Strengths

July - December 2026

Wellbeing Webinars

For Young People

Stress & Worry Management

Mon 13 July @ 5:00pm
Mon 28 Sept @ 5:00pm
Sat 14 Nov @ 10:00am
Fri 11 Dec @ 5:00pm

Managing Academic Stress: Developing Healthy Study Habits

Fri 18 Sept @ 5:00pm
Sat 17 Oct @ 10:00am
Mon 9 Nov @ 5:00pm

For Parents & Carers

Helping Your Child With Fears & Worries (Primary)

Fri 31 July @ 10:00 am
Fri 25 Sept @ 12:00pm
Fri 20 Nov @ 10:00am

Helping Your Child with Fears & Worries (Secondary)

Fri 17 July @ 10:00am
Fri 23 Oct @ 10:00am
Mon 14 Dec @ 10:00am

Changing from Primary to Secondary School

Fri 3 July @ 10.00am
Mon 20 July @ 10:00am
Mon 3 Aug @ 10:00am
Fri 14 Aug @ 10:00am
Sat 5 Sept @ 10:00am

Helping Your Child With Sleep (Primary)

Mon 6 July @ 12:00pm
Fri 11 Sept @ 12:00pm
Mon 26 Oct @ 12.00pm
Sat 5 Dec @ 10.00am

Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Fri 28 Aug @ 10:00am
Mon 14 Sept @ 10:00am
Fri 6 Nov @ 10:00am

Visit our Eventbrite page to book your place

bromley-y.org @bromley_y_ @bromley_y_ @bromleyywellbeing

Please use the link below to book your place:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bromley-y-31612643251

Supporting Families over the Summer 2026 Holidays

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, VAT on a range of eligible activities will be reduced from 20% to 5%. This temporary measure is intended to help ease the cost of living for families while encouraging access to leisure and cultural activities.

The Great British Summer Savings scheme covers:

- Children's meals consumed on premises in restaurants
- Children's and family tickets for cinemas, theatres, concerts, shows, and exhibitions
- Admission tickets (for both children and adults) to attractions such as amusement parks, museums, zoos, soft play centres, and adventure parks
-

In addition, children aged 5 to 15 in England will be eligible for free travel on local bus services throughout August, supporting greater access to activities and provision over the summer period.
We kindly ask that you share this information with families where appropriate, as it may help support access to activities during the holiday period. Further information is included on the links below.

Great British Summer Savings: VAT slashed to save families money on days out - GOV.UK

Great British Summer Savings 2026: Family activities VAT relief fact sheet - GOV.UK

THE MUSIC KLUB
CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

THE MUSIC KLUB CREATIVE ARTS AND DEVELOPMENT

HAF

SUMMER PROGRAMME

SUMMER

OUR PROGRAMME

Our Summer HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) Programme provides young people aged 8-16 with a fun, safe, and inspiring space to learn new skills, express themselves creatively, stay active, and connect with others through healthy eating, sports, music, arts, and exciting summer experiences.

WHERE

Anerley Methodist Church
Oakfield Road,
SAnerley
London
SE20 8QA

WHEN

Monday 27th July to Thursday 20th August 2026, operating Monday to Thursday each week, and is open to young people aged 8-16.

10:30am - 3:30pm

Bromley
THE LONDON BOROUGH

FREE FOR ALL
REGISTER AT:WWW.THEMUSICKLUB.COM/HAF

FOR MORE INFO: 02079670833
INFO@THEMUSICKLUB.COM

Bromley
THE LONDON BOROUGH

Summer Holiday Fun

Bromley's Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Bromley is running a holiday club programme for eligible children and young people

To find out more and to book
Scan the QR code or go to the Bromley website

www.bromley.gov.uk/HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme

BEST START IN LIFE

Funded by UK Government

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