17.07.2026 Issue No: 1203 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another school year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Charles Darwin School.

It has been another incredibly busy and successful year, with achievements across every part of our school community. Our students have continued to demonstrate their talents, commitment and character through their academic work, sport, music, drama, leadership and service to others.

The final weeks of the year have been particularly memorable. We have celebrated wonderful school performing arts events, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, educational visits, 6th form Horizons week, Culture and inclusion day, sports day and a wide range of experiences both inside and beyond the classroom. These opportunities are such an important part of school life. They allow students to develop confidence, independence and resilience, while creating memories and friendships that will remain with them for many years.

This week, members of our wider community also gave their time to support our students through practice interviews. I am extremely grateful to everyone who came into school to share their experience, encouragement and advice. The confidence and professionalism shown by our students was impressive, and the support provided by our visitors was invaluable.

Charles Darwin School is a strong community. That strength comes from the relationships between students, staff, parents, carers and the wider community. Thank you for the trust you place in us and for the contribution you make to the life of the school. By working together, maintaining high expectations and showing mutual respect, we continue to set the standard we want to see.

I would also like to thank our staff for their extraordinary commitment throughout the year. The richness of the opportunities available to our students would not be possible without the time, energy and care they give so generously.

There will also be a great deal happening across the school site during the summer. We are particularly looking forward to the completion of a brand new toilet suite for students, alongside the installation of new doors and windows at various points around the school. These projects form part of our continued work to improve the school environment and ensure that our facilities reflect the high standards we expect in every aspect of school life.

As we look ahead to September, I would like to remind families **that students in Years 8 - 12 will return to school on Friday 4 September.**

Attendance will be one of our biggest areas of focus next year. The link between attendance and achievement is clear, and regular attendance also builds the resilience, habits and commitment needed for success in later life. Put simply, it starts with turning up.

We will be introducing bigger and better rewards for excellent attendance, and we are setting every student the challenge of achieving 100% attendance from their first day back on Friday 4 September right through until we break up for Christmas. A strong start matters, and we want every student to begin the year with the highest possible expectations of themselves.

We are proud of everything that has been achieved this year and look forward to building on this further next year. There is much to be excited about as we continue to strengthen our school, broaden opportunities and ensure that every student is known, valued and supported.

As the summer begins, I hope that you and your families are able to enjoy some well-deserved rest and valuable time together. Childhood passes quickly, and the summer holidays provide an important opportunity to reconnect, create memories and enjoy time away from the routines of school.

Thank you once again for your support and partnership.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and enjoyable summer break.

Warmest wishes,

Aston Smith, Headteacher

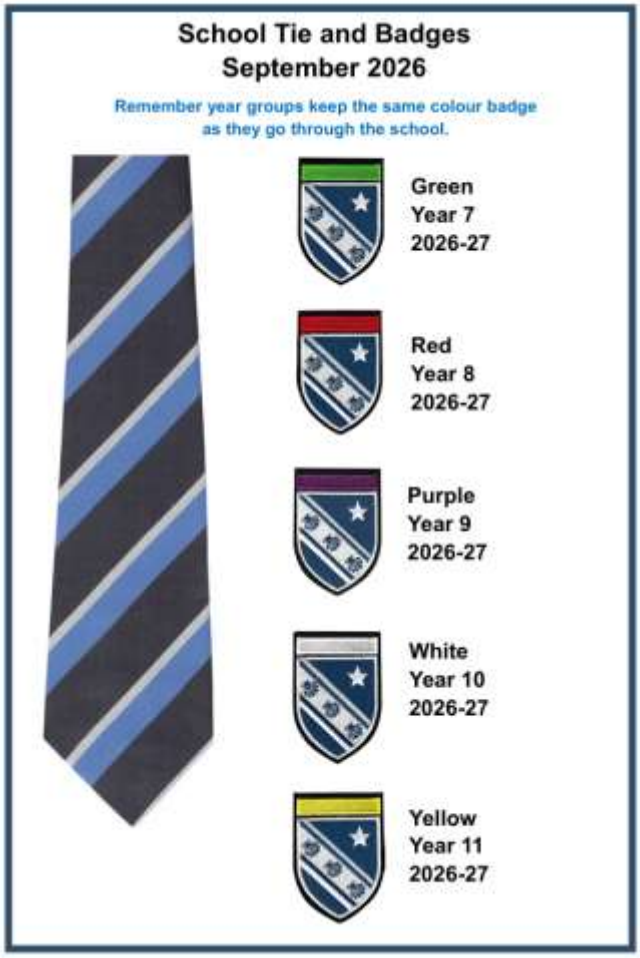
School Uniform 2026-27

Dear Parents/Carers

Please find a link to Oz Schoolwear website:

Charles Darwin School | School Uniforms - Oz Schoolwear

During their busy seasons (Summer and Easter Holidays) they recommend to book appointment at the shop for purchase. Arriving without doing this could mean a long delay.



Please also see a reminder of year group badge colours for September 2026. The same colour remains with the year group as they go through the school. Remember, every child should have a blazer with them in school every day and it is a compulsory item of school uniform. The school blue v- neck jumper is optional.

Replacement badges and ties can be purchased from the school via Parent Pay to be collected from main reception before the end of term. An evidence of payment on a phone from your child/daughter will make collection easy. As last year, please try to purchase replacement ties/badges before the summer rather than wait until the first day back when limited supplies will be available.

Finally, please remember that trainers should not be worn to school and are only required for PE lessons. Shoes should be worn as always with school uniform

Many thanks in advance.

Mrs Rees

Sports Day 2026

Thank you to everyone who took part in a fantastic day on Friday 10th July and Monday 13th July for Sports Day 2026!
It was heartwarming to see all the support and encouragement that students had for each other on the day. There were some fantastic individual and team performances and we are delighted to confirm the final results below.

Miss Owen
Head of PE

YEAR 7
1st – CON 183
2nd – SCU 179
3RD – SHE/KSA 177
4th – NKO 175
5th – LBR 168
6th – FDE 163
7th – MHU 152
8th – HEM 131

YEAR 8
1st – JBI 199
2nd – VKI 177
3rd – LWR 175
3RD- GCU 175
5th – SDA/CZY 171
6th – HCO/VMA 147
7th – SAS 146

YEAR 9
1st – STE 193
2nd – SHU 171
3rd – CMO 161
4th – SMA 152
5th – JWI 150
6th – ARO 138
6TH – LMC 137
8th – KMA 135

YEAR 10
1st – GJO 190
2nd – TMI 188
3rd – SHO 170
4th - PDG/JST 152
5TH – HKE 140
6TH – ADO 126
7TH – RBR 121
8TH – EOL 86

Culture, Inclusion and Diversity Day at CDS

Thank you to all students for their enthusiasm, engagement, and support during our Culture, Inclusion and Diversity Day which took place on 14th July.

Days like this matter because they remind our pupils that everyone belongs, every story has value, and our differences are something to celebrate. They help foster understanding, empathy, and a genuine sense of community, while reinforcing the importance of respect, inclusion, and kindness every day.

Mrs FitzGerald

Jack Year 9 won in Bolton playing at the national finals. He set the new record in the county and he is now the youngest UKDA men's single champion.

What an amazing achievement Jack. We are so proud of you!

Maisie Year 11 won Gold in London England Championships.
Well done Maisie!

Mia Year 10 is the latest British Showjumping Shining Star and she was nominated for the award by her coach.
Well done Mia!

ART at CDS

The Art department have embraced the expansion of ceramics across Key Stage 3 this year.
Year 7 have designed and made a tile with their choice of insect. Year 8 made pinch pot distorted heads a development from the topic identity and self-portraits.
Year 9 have created ceramic British buildings. The students have fully embraced and enjoyed creating these and some will have made their way home this week.

Thankyou to the PTA who funded the new mini mannequins for the Art department. These were put to use during the year 10 Textile exam with some lovely outcomes produced.
The PTA also funded the clay extruder earlier this year for the Art department which was not only used for the year 8 distorted clay heads project but also for the enrichment club this week to create a vase for students to decorate.

Mrs Broad
Head of Art & Textiles

Canteen - Menus September 2026

WEEKLY MENU

Charles Darwin - Week One

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chilli Con Carne served with Steamed Rice or Jacket Potato	Creamy Mushroom or Vegetable Pie	Roast Pork served with Roast Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots & Gravy	Cottage Pie served with Seasonal Vegetables	Traditional Fish & Chips served with Chunky Chips, Peas or Beans
5 Bean Chill served with Rice	-	Vegetable Balti with Pea Protein	Quorn Mince Cottage Pie	Vegetarian Pasty
Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	-
Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	-
Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Sauce	Vanilla Sponge served with Pink Custard	Treacle Sponge with Custard	Apple Crumble with Cream	Dessert of the day

Salad Bar is Available daily

HARRISON food with thought

WEEKLY MENU

Charles Darwin - Week Two

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Curry served with Spiced Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Sausage & Mash served with Seasonal Vegetables & Onion Gravy	Roast Gammon served with Roast Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots & Gravy	Meatballs in a Rich Tomato Sauce served with Spaghetti	Traditional Fish & Chips served with Peas or Beans
Pea Protein Potato Korma	Sweet n Sour Noodles	Quorn Roast served with all the Trimmings	Sweet Potato Stew	Tofu Teriyaki Stir Fry served with Egg Noodles
Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	-
Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	-
Jam & Coconut Sponge served with Custard	Banoffee Pie	Apple & Cherry Crumble served with Custard	Jam Tart served with Cream	Dessert of the Day

Salad Bar is available each day

HARRISON food with thought

WEEKLY MENU

Charles Darwin - Week Three

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Schwinn Chicken Noodles	Lasagne served with Garlic Bread & a Side Salad	Roast Turkey served with Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken Tagine	Traditional Fish & Chips served with Peas or Beans
Protein Chilli Noodles	Vegetable Lasagne served with Garlic Bread & a Side Salad	Cheese & Leek Pie with all the Trimmings	Quorn Mince & Aubergine Moussaka	Vegetarian Sausage Roll served with Chips, Peas or Beans
Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	-
Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	-
Toffee & Vanilla sponge	Jam Roly Poly served with Custard	Apple & Cinnamon Pie served with Custard	Chocolate & Orange Sponge served with Chocolate Sauce	Dessert of the day

Available daily

Fresh Salad Bar is Available

HARRISON food with thought

Dates for the Diary

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)
15th September - UCAS Evening
23rd September - Year 11 Parents' Information Evening
29th September - Year 7 Meet The Tutor

October
10th October - Open Day
19th–30th October - Half term

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

Charles Darwin School - Term Dates

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Chloe Ford

Scarlett Kemp

Reggie Ruggins

Esme Dance

Student Services Duty Pupils

Imogen Kirby

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

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

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

Drive & Deliver
Fun & Professional Football Coaching
Birthday Parties, Holiday Clubs & 1:1 Classes
FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS
Every Monday Evening
BIGGIN HILL
Charles Darwin Sports Centre
4-12 Year Olds - 6pm - 7pm
FREE TASTER CLASS
Indoor & Outdoor Facilities
FA Qualified Coaches
Drills, Fun Games, Matches & Tournaments
Call: 07969 669 153
Email: danddfootiefocus@live.co.uk
Danddfootiefocus.com

Drive & Deliver
Fun & Professional Football Coaching
Birthday Parties, Holiday Clubs & 1:1 Classes
SUMMER CAMP
4th-7th August
BIGGIN HILL
Charles Darwin Sports Centre
4-12 Year Olds - 10am - 4pm
£25 per Day or £85 for all 4
(Sibling Discount Offered)
Indoor & Outdoor Facilities
FA Qualified Coaches
Drills, Fun Games, Matches & Tournaments
Medal for Every Child & Trophies to be won daily
Call: 07969 669 153
Email: danddfootiefocus@live.co.uk
Danddfootiefocus.com

Bromley mencap
CANDI EVENTS
ORB
Bromley
Togetherness
Celebration
INCLUSIVITY
Acceptance
Community
A rocking day filled with live music, friendship and fun.
All are welcome!
Sunday 16th August 2026
Doors open at 11.30am and close at 9pm
Bands from 12pm til 8pm
Beckenham Rugby Football Club, The Clubhouse,
Balmoral Ave, Beckenham BR3 3RD
Pre booked Tickets £15 | On the Door £20 |
Concessions £10 | Essential Carers Free | U18s £5
Scan QR code or use: bit.ly/4qrvEFR
This is a non-profit making event - Donations welcomed
A variety of hot/cold food available to buy.
Picnics allowed.
Tickets also available to buy with cash from:
Rhiannon's Cafe or ORB Gateway in person or
on the Door on the day

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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Bstarz ACADEMY

Bromley High School, BR1 2TW
Week 1 - Tues 11th Aug to Thurs 13th Aug
Week 2 - Monday 17th Aug to Fri 21st Aug
Week 3 - Tues 25th Aug to Fri 28th Aug

St Philomena's Catholic Primary School, Orpington, BR5 4RN
Week 1 - Mon 27th July to Weds 29th July
Week 2 - Monday 24th Aug and Tues 25th Aug

Wickham Common Primary School, BR5 9DG
Week 1 - Mon 3rd Aug to Friday 7th Aug
Week 2 - Weds 26th Aug and Thurs 27th Aug

All camp days 10am - 2pm

- Limited fully funded places available.
- Fee paying places reduced - £30 per child.
- More info at www.bstarzacademy.com
- Instagram: @bstarzacademy
- WhatsApp: 07766 011695

Coming to Bromley!

FULLY FUNDED
places for families in receipt of benefit related FSM

SAFE & HAPPY
A caring, supportive environment where every child thrives

FRIENDSHIPS
Making new friends from different schools

FUN & CREATIVE
Drama, games, arts, and exciting new activities

EXPERIENCED TEAM
Passionate leaders who inspire and support every child

BOOK NOW:

https://eequ.org/bstarzacademy

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF B STARZ CAMPS!