

Dear Parent/ Carer

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2019.

As ever this half term is one of the busiest of the year with practice exams, fairs and concerts, trips and meetings. Staff and students have been working hard on both lessons and extra-curricular activities and we are always grateful to the support we receive from all our parents and carers, either at home or in school, especially as energy starts to flag before the Christmas break. Thanks in particular to those parents who attended the Parent Forum last week, and provided feedback about what the school is doing well and what we can do to improve.

Over the past few weeks we have welcomed many visitors from education, business and the local community to a series of events in school. In November, our annual Christmas Fair raised over £6,500 for the school, thanks to the amazing work of The Friends of The Charter School North Dulwich. We also hosted over 40 businesses, further and higher education providers and careers organisations at the Charter Schools Careers and Education Fair last week. More about both of these events inside this newsletter.

The Christmas Concert last week was, once again, a wonderful showcase for the musical talent that we have across the school and was enjoyed by a packed audience. This follows on from the brilliant Black History Month Showcase, which was organised by three Year 11 students in November, rounding off a wonderful month of activities and events, which celebrated and recognised black history and culture. Finally, this week we delivered over 45 boxes of donations to the Southwark Foodbank, donations that will help local families in less fortunate circumstances enjoy a little Christmas cheer.

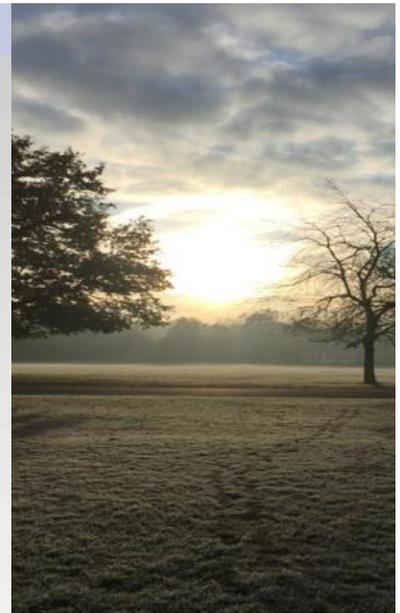
Please note that school closes at **1:10pm on Friday 20 December** for the Christmas holidays and reopens to pupils at **9:30am on Monday 6 January** (please note the slightly later start time for the first day of term to allow for a staff meeting to take place before students arrive). As always, we ask that students work hard, be kind and do the right thing, with particular regard to our uniform expectations and mobile phone rules (see pages 7 and 10 for further information on this).

I would like to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours faithfully



Christian Hicks, Headteacher



Key Dates

Friday 20 December: School closes at 1:10pm to all pupils for Christmas Holidays

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY:
Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January

SPRING TERM STARTS on Monday 6 January for all pupils at 9:30am

Thursday 9 January: Y11 achievement evening 4:00–7:00pm

Wednesday 15 January: Y10 music recital

Wednesday 15 January: US Session 6 Respect and Parental Boundaries 6:30–7:30pm

Thursday 16 January: Friends committee meeting 6:30pm

Tuesday 21 January: School closes at 1:10pm to all pupils (STAFF TRAINING)

Thursday 23 January: Y9 achievement evening 4:00 - 7:00pm

Wednesday 12 February: Friends committee meeting 6:30pm

Half Term: Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February

Wednesday 26 February: 6th form interviews—school closes at 1:10pm to all pupils

Friday 28 February: INSET DAY—school closed to all pupils

Charter Strike Again...

This half term our various teams have successfully competed in 42 fixtures. It's been a busy couple of months for our sporting wonders with plenty to celebrate.

The U13 girls' badminton team won the LPESSN tournament, closely followed by the U15's who came in 2nd place.

Our U15 girls' handball team also shone at the LPESSN tournament coming in 1st place.

The Year 7 boys' basketball team racked up their first win in their very first competitive fixture, with a score of 18-8!

And the **U14 girls' football team** continued their winning streak, progressing to the quarter finals of the Inner London Cup after beating Burlington 3-2.

There will be more competitions and fixtures in the New Year. You can follow us on Twitter [@CharterPEdept](https://twitter.com/CharterPEdept) to keep up to date with the latest news and results.



'Messiah' at The Royal Albert Hall

The roof was raised with the glorious music of Handel's 'Messiah' at The Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 7th December. The young voices of choirs from across the UK and Europe joined together for this wonderful event.

Students from the Charter North Dulwich Chamber Choir performed with singers from The Charter School East Dulwich, and the money raised from ticket sales went to support the charity, WaterAid.

We all felt so privileged to have been able to experience the day and make glorious music to raise money for a great cause.

A Trip to Facebook Headquarters

30 GCSE and A level Computer Science students visited Facebook Headquarters in London. This is a report from one of our year 10 students.

“When I went to Facebook, I was able to learn about the many different jobs that take place there. My group and I got to take part in activities and challenges before making badges, trying out the oculus and taking a tour of the site. The trip was really enjoyable and interesting”. Rosa F

Bebras Computational Challenge

This half term, over 500 Charter students from across the school took part in the Bebras International Computational Thinking Challenge. Our students performed extremely well with ‘Best in School Awards’ going to Django Pettifor Carey (Juniors category), Dylan Evans (Intermediate category), Maxwell Cherry (Seniors category) and Jamil Ahmed (Elite category). As a school, we achieved 129 Distinction Awards, 126 Merit Awards and 246 participation awards. The computing department is incredibly proud of everyone who took part in the challenge. Well Done!

Games Development Club

The computing department has been fortunate to receive 100 educational licenses for game making software called Construct 3 . Some of our year 9 and 10 students are now trialling the software in the games design club where they are building a variety of games.

Black History Month Showcase

The audience was wowed at the Black History Month Showcase held on 6th November, with students of all ages contributing to the event with their singing and dancing skills. Visitors were also treated to a delicious meal featuring the tastes of Africa and the Caribbean thanks to our caterers, Harrisons.

The evening was one to remember with plenty of food, laughter, dance and music.

A big thank you to all those involved, especially Ms Gray, Ms Ibrahim and our student team, led by Success, Stacey and Lucia, for organising such a memorable event.



‘Project Boxing’

Over the past few weeks, 20 Year 10 students have participated in a Met Police initiative called ‘Project Boxing’.

Students were able to discuss their personal interactions with the police and find out more about how the Met Police are also there to support people in the community.



Following three in-school sessions, 16 students were loaded into police vans and taken to the Dwaynatics Boxing Gym. All the students had a great time and represented the school really well. We now have a number of students who wish to continue their new found hobby.

Careers News

There have been a number of fantastic careers events this term; highlights of which have been:

- **The Year 10 Work Experience launch**

All Year 10 students had designated time to write their CV in preparation for their work experience applications. Using Google classroom, students were supported by tutors to create their CV. The next steps for Year 10 are to ensure they have their placements secured and their confirmation forms submitted by **February 28th, 2020**. Please remember to ask around for placements with family, friends, neighbours and local businesses. If you think you might be able to offer a work experience placement to a student, please email: RWilliams@charternorthdulwich.org.uk
Students should see Ms R Williams in the Careers Office for support

- **Year 13 Apprenticeship support**

Three targeted events this term were organised to provide information, advice and guidance to any Year 13 students who are keen to take the apprenticeship route, as well as any Year 12 students who are curious to find out more about apprenticeships. On November 13th we had a presentation from PwC at school which helped students to understand what opportunities PwC have to offer and the routes that can be taken to get there. On December 10th, 30 students attended an apprenticeship fair at St Saviours and St Olave's School. The event featured a wide range of providers and many students went away with clearer ideas for their next steps. We also hosted Ian Birthwright from the Department of Work and Pensions on 18th December. Ian spoke to our sixth formers about apprenticeships, employability skills and expectations, CV writing and much more.

- **The Charter Schools Careers Fair**

This annual event took place on Friday 13th December for Year 9-13 at TCSND and we welcomed Year 9 from TCSED. Once again we were lucky to be visited by over 40 organisations who came to share their advice and expertise with our students. It was a tremendous day. The buzz in the Sports Hall was evidence of the engagement and focus of our students. We had stalls from a wide range of sectors including Channel 4, The Unicorn Theatre and the BBC World service from the creative industries. EY, PWC and Morgan Stanley represented the Professional and Finance sectors, and students were able to find out about a range of different careers in the NHS from paramedics, emergency department nurses and doctors and many others. We would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to parents and volunteers who gave their time to support us. We are very proud of our students who were praised by the visitors for their maturity, interest and good manners.



Do you know that apprenticeships now offer young people an alternative to college and university for students who would like to earn while they learn at both post 16 and post 18—you can find parent information packs on apprenticeships on our website if you would like to know more: Click [here](#) to access the careers page on the website.



Enrichment News... clubs and wellbeing

Enrichment News:

The highlight of this term is increased opportunities and engagement from the 6th form in extra curricular activities.

YOGA

Sixth Form Yoga has been really popular with over 20 students each session. Students from Years 12 and 13 have appreciated having a chance to stretch and unwind at the end of the day. Thanks to the Friends for supporting this club and to our excellent teacher Linda!

STUDENT LED CLUBS

We have more clubs for 6th Form and also more Year 12 students showing initiative and starting clubs either for their own year group or for the lower year groups, such as this terms **Dungeons and Dragons club** and, starting next term, a **Boxing Club** for 6th form. This has been initiated by Jamil Munayem in Year 12. He has secured funding from The Friends and an external Boxing Coach to come and work with students. The ethos of the club is stress release and relaxation.

Also, next term a new **Dance club will begin for KS3**. Any Sixth Form student who wants to run a club should see Ms Linderoth.



Fragrant 5 Smell Success at Borough Market

Our winners of the Southwark Young Enterprise competition this year were the “Fragrant Five” – Joshua Coomber Clancy, Finnan Foster, Nancy Kavanagh, Kofi Broni and Jeremiah Walker who came up with an excellent business plan to produce a range of reed diffusers to sell at Borough Market.

At the Dragons Den style competition the ‘Dragons’ were suitably impressed with their financial planning and the fact that they had managed to produce an idea which fitted the eco-friendly brief, satisfied the Christmas gift market and indicated substantial profitability.

Even though only Nancy, Finnan and Josh were able to make it to Borough Market on the day, they worked extremely hard and surprised themselves with their convincing sales patter. Although Nancy complained she could “no longer feel her feet”, Joshua claimed self-appointed status as the best salesman in South London and Finnan managed to sell even the “Christmas Pine Needle” diffusers by insisting that customers could NOT smell before they buy. The Frankincense & Myrrh and Orange & Cinnamon fragrances proved to be top sellers.

There are a few diffusers left and available for last minute Christmas presents at £5 each.

Simply email asomerville@charternorthdulwich.org.uk. Profits are going to St Christopher’s Hospice in Sydenham.

Well done team!





Library News

- ◆ Year 7 enjoyed a visit from authors Mo O'Hara and Lydia Syson who came in to talk about an exciting story writing competition, Stepping into Stories. All students have to do is pick an art trail symbol that can be seen in and around Herne Hill and use this to write their own story. Entry forms can be picked up in the library or downloaded from www.stationhallhernehill.org/stepping-into-stories. The deadline for submissions is 15th January 2020, with the winners being announced at the Herne Hill Literary Festival (5 -9th Feb). There was an enthusiastic response on the day and we hope for many entries to the competition



- ◆ Please have a good look over the Christmas holidays for any library books at home that are overdue and need to be returned to the library in the New Year.

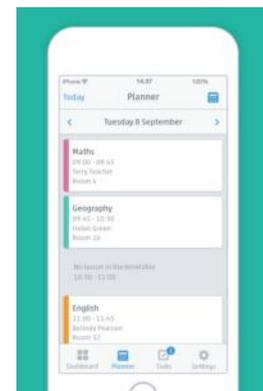
Firefly for Students

The school VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) is called Firefly and can now be accessed by students using an app on their phone which can be downloaded for free.

Firefly for students allows pupils to view their timetables and manage their tasks on their phone:

- * Tasks—check and respond to homework that teachers have set or create their own 'to-do' lists
- * Messages—review messages sent by teachers
- * Planner—access their timetable
- * Dashboard—an overview of upcoming lessons and tasks due

Full details on how to download the free Firefly for Students App can be found on the website by following the link [HERE](#).



A World of Technology

This half term, Year 10 Computing students along with A level Computer Science and ICT students visited the Euro Gamer Expo at the ExCel Centre where they were able to attend developer sessions, try out the latest blockbuster games, see live competitions and speak to careers advisors and young gamers on getting into the games industry.



Y7 French Students Explore Lille

On 5/6 December, 40 Year 7 pupils took part in the annual French trip to Lille and Arras. On the first day, Year 7 students enjoyed the visit to Lille Old Town, complete with waffle tasting. On day two, we visited the Wellington Quarry in Arras. Students had the opportunity to use their language skills throughout, particularly on the second day at the Arras Christmas Market where our trip ended.

It was another wonderful trip that we all enjoyed!



'The spoken word has power. The right words at the right time can move minds. You might need to convince the committee, persuade the public, or simply get the job. The better you are at communicating, the better your ideas will seem and the more success you will have in motivating people.'

LAMDA
Exams & Qualifications

The ethos of the LAMDA courses is as follows:

"LAMDA exams are about achievement – recognising and rewarding the endeavours of each individual – but they are also about empowerment. Our ultimate aim is to provide all people with the opportunity to develop the life skills they need to be a success: attributes such as self-confidence and the ability to communicate clearly and present ideas."

This term we have begun offering LAMDA classes to Year 8 students . Currently 44 students have taken part in lessons which take place every Thursday during the school day on a carousel timetable. Students participate in small group lessons with a highly trained teacher to develop their speaking and communication skills, and they will have the chance to gain one of the well-respected LAMDA qualifications.

We have a small number of additional places for Year 8 students for the course so do get in touch with Ms Linderoth or Ms Edwards if you would like to find out more.

We are also hoping to offer an after school group so watch out for further information about this.

Ms Linderoth

llinderoth@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

Reminder of mobile phone policies at school

- If a Year 7—11 student's phone is seen or heard by a member of staff at any time of the day on school premises it will be confiscated for ONE WEEK.
- Sixth form students are only permitted to use their phones in the four designated 6th form areas: The Bridge, Cyber Café, 6th form study room in A block and the 6th form area in the library. Phones seen being used in any other area of the school will be confiscated and kept in the sixth form office until 3:30pm when the student can then come and collect it.

Wellbeing and Safety – Mr Williams - Deputy Headteacher

A Reminder to help keep young people safe over the Christmas Holidays:

There have been some recent instances of personal robberies (muggings) in the community. Please remind your children to keep themselves safe during the holidays by sharing the below advice:

- Try and travel in pairs (or more) and avoid risky/unlit areas
- If you are worried you are going to be approached, walk assertively, be aware of your surroundings, don't stop or make any noise to draw attention to yourself, and find a safe place to go into such as a shop
- Try not to carry valuable items on you such as smart phones and cash. If you must carry a phone, carry an old one that is less likely to be seen as valuable by a robber
- If you get asked for your possessions by a robber, give them over, get yourself to safety and then contact the police **immediately** by calling 999.

Please also remember that unless the police are informed of a robbery, and a crime reference number has been given, insurance companies are unlikely to pay for the item to be replaced.

US sessions

We have had four extremely successful US sessions for parents covering Health and Wellbeing, Living in the Wider World and Relationships, Social Media, Child Exploitation and County Lines. We shall run further sessions after Christmas, starting with session 6 on 15th January covering Respect and Parental Boundaries. Please visit www.ustakingastand.com for further information. We will send more details and dates for upcoming US sessions after the New Year.



World Class Schools

Three of our students were invited to attend the World Class Schools Awards Ceremony at Cambridge University on Friday 13th December.

Reece Webb (Year 10) and Stacey Nukpe (Year 11) were shortlisted for the World Class Student of the Year Award and Oscar Stott (Year 10) was shortlisted in the essay writing competition.

Well done to all.

All the Fun of the Fair!

The Charter School North Dulwich annual Christmas Fair took place on Thursday 28th November. Over 30 stalls from students, parents and designer/makers provided gift shopping inspiration to the hundreds of visitors who attended despite the inclement weather.



Musicians from the school entertained the crowds with a selection of festive tunes and a range of hot food and drink helped to keep spirits high. The event raised over £6500 for The Friends of The Charter School and we would like to thank everyone who helped make the event such a resounding success again this year.



Want to meet new parents, get involved or suggest ideas?

Please contact the Friends at:
friends@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

Our next meeting is 16th January at 6:30pm in the school library



You can help to raise money for The Friends of The Charter School North Dulwich from the comfort of your own armchair. If you are finishing your online Christmas shopping or browsing the sales please sign up to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select the Friends of TCS North Dulwich as your cause.

If you use this site to find your retailers, any online shopping you do will raise money for the school at no extra cost to you. Its that easy!

UNIFORM

Uniform – which should be worn to and from school every day and to Achievement Evenings

- * The school navy blue **V-neck** sweater with the Charter logo which must be worn (unless directed otherwise)
- * A white polo shirt **with our logo**
- * No long sleeve tops are to be worn under the polo shirt.
- * **Navy blue or black** formal trousers worn around the waist – no chinos or jeans
- * A formal navy blue or black skirt worn at a length that is appropriate for school – no tight-fitting skirts
- * Plain black hard leather shoes are to be worn. **No canvas or suede shoes, boots, trainers, 'Vans', 'Converse' of any description, or any other soft trainer-style footwear are to be worn.** Plain black hard leather Kicker shoes **are** acceptable
- * **Tracksuit tops and hooded tops are not allowed** in school
- * Plain navy blue, black or white knee or ankle height socks, or plain black or navy blue tights. No leggings
- * **Plain black coat only – no logos, no denim or leather jackets**
- * No jewellery allowed except one small pair of ear studs that must be worn in the lobe of the ear. **No other piercings are allowed**
- * Make up may not be worn in Years 7–11
- * No false eye-lashes or nail extensions are to be worn.
- * Hair must be of a natural colour
- * No tattoos of any description
- * **No Headwear allowed except plain** navy blue or black head bands may be worn. Head scarves (including 'do-rags') are not to be worn except for religious or medical reasons
- * Any neck scarves worn must be plain navy or black.

PE Kit – which needs to be brought to each practical lesson, even if a student is unwell or injured

- * Plain navy blue or black sport shorts or skirt and/or leggings for girls
- * Navy or black jogging/tracksuit bottoms
- * Light blue Charter PE T-shirt
- * Navy Charter PE Sweatshirt
- * Non-marking trainers
- * Football boots for lessons on the field
- * Plain navy or white socks

Equipment – Ready to Learn

Every student must bring a school bag big enough to carry A4 folders and books every day. The following basic items need to be in the bag:

Pencil case containing:

- * Two black or blue biros
- * Green biro
- * Pencil and eraser
- * Coloured pencils
- * Pencil sharpener
- * Pair of compasses
- * Ruler 30 cm and protractor
- * Calculator

The school bag should also contain:

- * The Planner
- * Exercise book
- * Reading book
- * PE kit if needed that day
- * Other practical equipment needed