

Dear Parent/Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of this year.

This term has seen us welcome back students and staff in a very different way. A nation of parents have taken on the role of 'home tutor,' and The Charter School North Dulwich staff and students have adapted to the introduction of our remote learning timetables and live lessons.

I cannot thank teachers enough for balancing the delivery of live lessons with managing their own family life and personal circumstances, in much the same way that my colleagues and I are indebted to parents for your support and to students for embracing change so maturely.

We have really appreciated the positive feedback and the kind words and encouragement you have expressed to us during these last few weeks in which we have had to undertake significant work to respond to announcements and changes from government, often with little guidance and clarity.

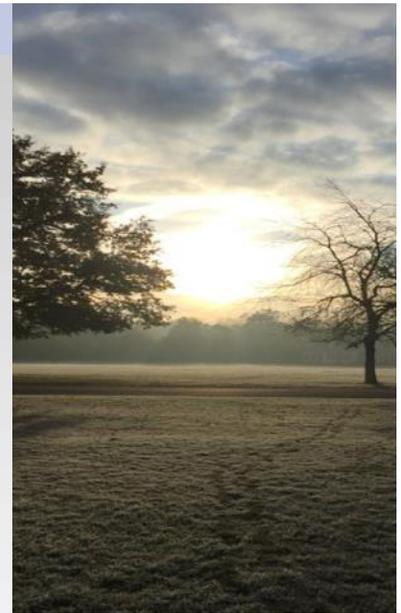
There has never been a greater need to be kind to ourselves and I urge everyone to be realistic, to accept that there will be difficulties, highs and lows along the way and to seek support from others. I remain as determined as ever to ensure all members of The Charter School North Dulwich community feel connected to our school, especially at a time when we are urged to stay at home where possible and our school has once again become a rather 'virtual' one.

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter, which will give you a taste of the exciting and varied events and activities that have taken place as well as looking forward to what's coming up next term.

Yours faithfully



Christian Hicks, Headteacher



Key Dates

Half Term: Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February 2021

Thursday 25 February 2021: Year 10 Achievement Evening

Friday 26 February– Early Closure (Full Inset Day to be moved to a later date TBC)

Thursday 18 March– Year 8 Achievement Evening

EASTER HOLIDAY Friday 2 April 2021 – Friday 16 April 2021

Thursday 22 April 2021– Year 7 Achievement Evening

SUMMER TERM 2021: Monday 19 April – summer term begins

HALF TERM Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June

Friday 23rd July – last day of summer term (school closes at 12:10pm)

Monday 30 August BANK HOLIDAY

Tuesday 31 August 2021 – Inset Day

Wednesday 1 September 2021 - Autumn Term begins for students

HALF TERM Monday 18 October 2021 – Friday 29 October 2021

Friday 17 December 2021 – last day of Autumn Term (school closes at 1:10pm)

CHRISTMAS BREAK Monday 20 December 2021

Please note that some of the above dates may be subject to change due to Covid 19.

CitizensUK Project – Listening Exercise



This year, we are working with CitizensUK on a project to promote Anti-Racism across the Charter Schools Educational Trust and our wider community. A core group of staff members passionate about this issue at The Charter School North Dulwich, have volunteered to learn how to facilitate real and measurable change within our community.

The first stage, called the 'listening exercise', went very successfully in November. It involved the group giving students and staff space to discuss any concerns around racism and sharing stories with others to help build relationships.

Every student at TCSND from year 7-13 was able to take part as part of their PSHE lessons or during tutor-time. Furthermore, we were most proud of our student 'Listening Champions' and Student Leaders who volunteered to deliver this activity to their tutor groups supported by the Core team. They all did an amazing job of engaging others, running the sessions and feeding back the information and stories to staff.

Staff, governors and Parents have also been invited to take part in this listening activity. It is great to see so many of people getting involved - well done to everyone who has participated so far!

The next step is to work with the other schools in the Trust to see where there is a common or recurring concern that we can all campaign around to facilitate positive changes this year.

Ms M. Ibrahim

Subject Leader for Politics and Citizenship

Head of Student Leadership

Careers News

National Apprenticeship Week

This week (8th -12th February) is National Apprenticeship week. The sixth form team have focussed on this in the Enrichment day Career's sessions and during tutor time in order to give year 12 students advice and guidance on Apprenticeships and allow students to attend the UCAS Apprenticeship Fair.

Please look at the school website Careers page and the opportunities bulletin for further information about Apprenticeships and contact Ms Linderoth if you would like more information.

'Thinking About...' Talks—SSLP

Last term we were very proud of Success Imafidon in Year 12 who was a wonderful co-host for this extraordinary talk with Dulwich College. Thinking About the Art of Surgery

Hand surgeon Sam Gallivan gave an insightful talk to Sameer, Dulwich College, and Success, the Charter School North Dulwich, looking at how skills developed for art and entertainment, particularly sculpture and carving, can be used to influence orthopaedic surgery.

Again this term we are delighted that more and more students are attending these inspiring talks most recent talks have been: Thinking About... Identity with David Lammy MP and Thinking About... Genocide with Dr James Smith. The talks are published weekly on teams to year 11,12 &13 students.

Careers advice and guidance

All Year 11 have now had their Careers guidance meeting with Ms Cumberbatch. The notes of these meetings are on UNIFROG and we encourage year 11 to continue to use UNIFROG for research and advice.

After half term to support with option choices and considering the future year 9 will have Career guidance meetings with Ms Cumberbatch.

Encounters with employers and Inspirational Talks:

In order to replace a gaping hole created by the lack of our wonderful annual Careers Fair we have been able to offer an hour of Careers based learning and experience to all students in KS3 and 5. Year 13 – who have now completed their UCAS applications had a session on interview skills an opportunity to listen to an interview with inspiring Lionel Idan. In December KS3 students took part in a creative challenge activity which was set up by one of our employer links who would have hosted students for Work experience.

We really appreciate the support we are getting from our network and community during these challenging times.

Ms L Linderoth

Careers and Enrichment Leader

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:

Enrichment Day

During this half term we have been able to provide a Careers session for each year group as part of their Enrichment day on February 9th. KS3 students were engaging in a session focussed on Jobs for the Planet and in KS4 they were offered 2 different Work experience tasks made specifically for our students by two of our preemployer Links Tim Bell Architects and Bristow Law Firm. During the day students were also given a wide range of creative, sporting and non-screen based learning activities.

Year 12 Clubs

A number of year 12 students have taken the initiative to set up some very interesting clubs including maths and Science, Current affairs and languages.

INVESTIN Education

This Year we became partner school to this organisation which means each term we can offer 3 free places on Virtual work experience programmes to students who meet the specific criteria. In the Aurtmn term over 25 students have taken part in the virtual programmes. In fact, because our school has been so active we were offered more free places.

We were offered a special mentoring opportunity for one of our Year 13 students.

Congratulations to Jamil Munayem in Year 13 who has been an excellent representative for the school taking part in this opportunity with real professional commitment.

Look out for further opportunities which are posted in the Careers Bulletin and posted on The Careers page of the website.



House Competitions

Christmas Boxes

Towards the end of last year, we ran a Christmas Boxes House Competition to collect food for a local Food Bank. Each tutor group in the school filled up boxes and all the food collected was dropped off to the Central Southwark Community Hub's Food Bank in Camberwell.

The winners of this House Competition were Seacole House. They donated the most food out of the all the Houses. 7G won the Year 7 competition. Well done to all the pupils for bringing in items. It was great to see so much food donated and pupils showing their commitment towards our Charter Value of 'Family.'

Huge thank to the Year 11 Fundraising team for motivating the houses to do well in the competition, and for coming into school during the Christmas Holidays to help sort out the food.



Kit Design for FIFA 21

The PlayStation F.C. Schools' Cup Kit Design Competition gave an opportunity for pupils in Key Stage 3 to design a kit during their art lessons. We turned this into an opportunity to run it as a House Competition for the pupils. The Kit Design Competition enabled our pupils to show display their skills in creativity, design, and fashion. All the 150 designs created by our pupils were sent off to PlayStation Schools and the winning design will be chosen to feature in the popular football game, FIFA 21. Fingers crossed the winning kit belongs to one of our pupils! Here some of the stand-out designs:





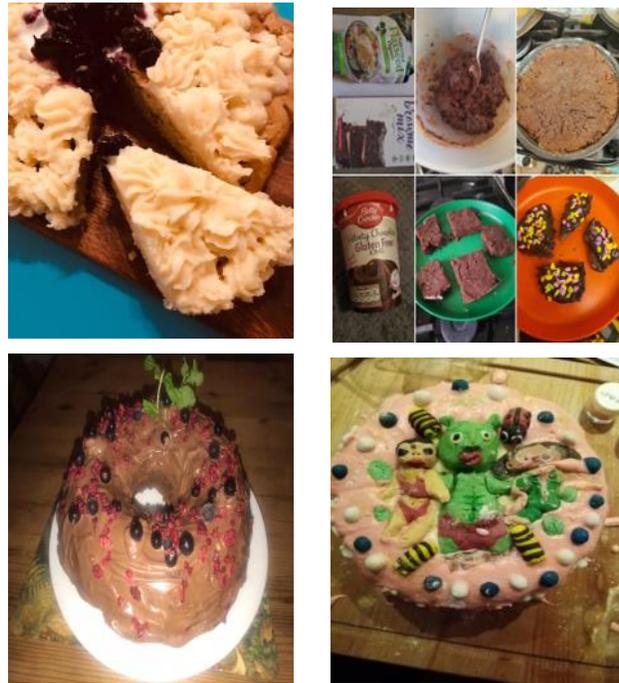
Library News

- ◆ Despite the library being used as a classroom for Year 13 students last term, it was still a busy time for the library with 777 books being issued by the last day of term. The Year 7 Lunchtime club was very popular especially on chilly days with graphic novels and manga comics going down a storm.
 - ◆ With the entire catalogue now available to view on the Charter Library website, students can browse the virtual library and reserve books. The 'reserve, read and return service' on offer last term has now been replaced with a 'click and collect' service this term with book collection available after 3pm from the reception desk in the atrium.
 - ◆ If students cannot find what they are looking for from our catalogue, I highly recommend joining the local library if they are not already a member. Both Southwark and Lambeth Libraries are allowing online membership applications. Download the BorrowBox app and this gives you access to thousands of ebooks and eaudiobooks.
1. [Southwark Libraries - Join](#)
 2. [Lambeth Libraries - Join](#)
 3. [Info re. BorrowBox app](#)

Vegan Bake-off

During January we ran a Vegan Bake-off House Competition for Veganuary. Pupils baked at home and sent in pictures of their lovely masterpieces. We had over 50 pupils sending pictures of their masterpieces.

The winner of the House Competition with the most entries was Frank House. 7C won the Year 7 competition. Well done to everyone that baked and for sending in your lovely cakes. Here are some of the cakes that we sent in:



Food Drive

Mr Francis and the TCSND family would you like to thank everyone for your donations of food before the festive break. Your generosity enabled us to donate 20 crates of food and clothing to The Southwark Central Community Hub.

Since setting up our Food Drive and Go Fund Me Page on December 3rd 2020 we have raised a staggering £5,000 and rising.

The Money you have donated and continue to donate is supporting our most vulnerable young people and families from within our school and in our wider community.

If you would like to donate please email Fooddrive@charternorthdulwich.org or you can donate via our Go Fund Me Page <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-charter-school-north-dulwich-food-drive>



FOOD DRIVE

Once again, Thank you

Mr Francis

Art Competition



As part of our commitment to making our curriculum more inclusive, the art department at The Charter School North Dulwich has run a monthly competition for students responding to the work of non-white artists. Since October, we have looked at the work of Toyin Odutola, Tyrone Williams and Lorna Simpson exploring drawing, photography and collage.



January's competition looked at the work of Ifeoma Anyaeji who constructs beautiful sculptural forms from plastic bags using traditional Nigerian hair braiding techniques. She addresses perceptions of beauty and environmental issues through her work. We have been overwhelmed with the efforts, skill and quality of the work submitted by students. The winners of this month are Jem Commene, Lois Hill and Edie Walker from Year 7. Well done!

Computer Science – Immerse Essay Competition

Computer science and IT students from years 9 to 13 were invited to take part in the Cambridge Immerse Essay competition. We could not be prouder of Alexander one of our year 11 computer scientists for taking part and winning a scholarship. Alexander wrote his essay on "How computer science can be helpful in pandemics".



In order to enter, students aged 13-18 are required to submit essay responses related to their chosen subject and age group. Subjects ranged from Architecture to Physics and students from all nationalities are welcome to enter the competition. Alexander successfully beat thousands of other applicants to win him a well-deserved 20% scholarship which will go towards the Computer Science academic summer programmes based in Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Congratulations Alexander and well done!



My Child At School (MCAS)

The Charter School North Dulwich is introducing a new and improved parent application in April 2021. MCAS is a parent portal that enables parents to view their child's performance at school in real time via any modern web browser (e.g. Application, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome etc.)

Features & Benefits

- All the data is in real time so a parent can instantly see whether his/her child is in school now
- Ability to record the receipt of payment for school dinners
- Any potential truancy problems can be detected early and prevented
- Parents will be able to monitor student homework and incomplete work slips
- An excellent means for schools to communicate useful information to parents, such as upcoming school events on the school calendar
- Parents can update their personal contact details online so that the school always has their most up to date information

Virtual School Trips in Computer Science

Our Computer scientists in KS3 and 4 went on several virtual school trips. Students were able visit the Android Park in Silicon Valley with Alan O' Donaghue as the tour guide where they were able to see Android sculptures and listen to the stories behind them.



Students also undertook a 3D tour of the National Computing Museum, home to the world's largest collection of functional historic computers and located on Bletchley Park. They then completed encryption challenges including the Crypto Bombe 2.



Year 11 students virtually visited the Computing History Museum located in Mountain View USA where they went on the 3D tour " Revolution : The first 2000 years of Computing" which chronicles the evolution and impact of modern computing from the abacus to the smartphone. The tour featured 31 of the most important artifacts in the museum and the stories behind it.



Wellbeing and Safety

A Reminder to help keep young people safe:

As we approach the half term, we would like parents and carers to be mindful about the safety of students whilst they are out in the community and when online.

When in the community, please always follow the police advice below

- 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.
- Always 999 if you feel threatened or unsafe for any reason

If any of your family are using trains and are concerned for your safety, please make use of the text service below, more information can be found by clicking [here](#).



Online Safety

During the Half Term Holiday, students are likely to be spending more time online and [this webpage](#) has some useful information and a short film to support parents and carers. We have also shared Dr Osbourne's 'Safer Internet Day' assembly with students this week, a recording of which can be found [here](#). There are some informative posters to support parents with popular social media platforms which can be accessed [here](#).



Wellbeing and Mental Health Support

School Counselling Service



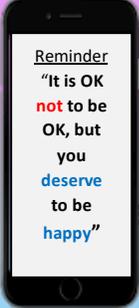
"It's been incredibly helpful. Having the opportunity to talk about anything on my mind, especially during lockdown, it's an experience I'm really grateful to have had the chance to receive".

Feedback from a student who has engaged in calls from the counselling service this half term.

SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICE

YOU TALK WE LISTEN

A voluntary service for ALL students Year 7 – Year 13.
The School Counselling Service is offering remote telephone support for students who want to speak to a counsellor.
If you would like to receive weekly phone calls from the counselling service, please email the Head of Counselling, Miss Leanne Chapman.
LChapman@charternorthdulwich.org.uk
"It is OK **not** to be OK, but you **deserve** to be **happy**"



If students, parents or carers would like to access support during the holidays, please access [this guide](#) to mental health and wellbeing services.

You can also email safeguarding@charternorthdulwich.org.uk, but we may not be able to respond to your email immediately. As ever, if you are worried about the safety of your child, you should call 999.

The Department for Education has also published [This Guide](#) to support parents and carers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mental Health - Online Q and A for parents and carers

We are running a new initiative to provide support, advice and answer questions on well-being and mental health open to all Charter North parents. This is in collaboration with Dr Siobhan McCarthy a local clinical psychologist with expertise in adult and adolescent mental health with over 20 years' experience. Dr McCarthy will answer any concerns parents may have for their own or their child's mental health as well as parenting challenges. Questions need to be emailed in advance of the meeting, will be treated in confidence and will also be anonymised. Please send your questions to Dr Siobhan McCarthy (dr_siobhanmccarthy@hotmail.com) by Monday 22nd February. The online event will run on Monday 1st of March at 7pm. You can join this live event on Zoom by following the link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72209668998?pwd=dUdFWVpZUXNGbFVCWjZyc1JlbURiQT09> Meeting ID: 722 0966 8998, Passcode: Health. We will record this event for those that are unable to attend.



Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

We were extremely pleased to have so many parents attend our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Consultation on the 7th December, ahead of our delivery of the RSE curriculum in the Summer Term. A recording of the event can be found by clicking this link [here](#).

If you have any questions you would like to raise about our teaching of the RSE curriculum from the start of the Summer Term, please email AGray@charternorthdulwich.org.uk. Because of the sensitive nature of this curriculum, we will only be delivering these sessions when students are physically back in school, and so await further government guidance about when schools will fully re-open.



TCSND Record Label & Compilation Album



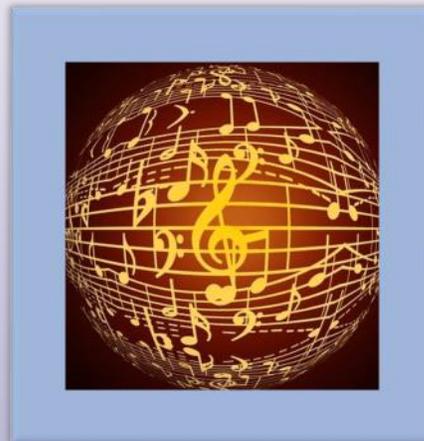
Dear Parent/ Carers

We have the opportunity to present an exciting musical project in school this year.

We are setting up a record label here within school and we are looking for songwriters to contribute to our first ever compilation album to be released in the summer.

If selected, you'll receive mentoring from the Music dept to develop and improve your song, record it in our studio and then have it streamed through the internet on major internet outlets amongst others.

To take part, all you need to do is send us a song!



It can be any style of song, performed with anyone within the school and with any instruments.

It doesn't have to be complete- it can be a set of lyrics, some vocals with a backing instrument or a chorus to a song you've written. As long as you have communicated your idea well and you know the direction that the song is likely to go in, then it will help with the selection process. If you have a whole song written, that is great too- we can still work with you on it and record it properly in our studio.

The submission needs to be in the form of a song so will be unable to accept purely instrumental performances on this occasion and it has to be totally original material as the song will be taken off of the streaming platforms for breach of copyright.

There are a number of ways to do it, but the most straightforward way will be to put your song on a OneDrive link and email it in to music@charternorthdulwich.org.uk.

We'll start listening to the entries by Monday the 22nd February (day after half term), so please get your songs in by then to take part in this incredibly exciting opportunity!

Thank you.

MFL Competition

The Languages department is running a House Singing Competition until end of half-term (Sunday 21st February). Students (and anyone in their bubble) are invited to submit their recording of a song of their choice in any foreign language. All details are available as an Assignment under their Year group on Teams.



Prizes available for best entries!!!

INFORMATION:

- **Rap or sing** any song in **any language except English** (as long as it is 'clean': no swearing or inappropriate content.)
- **Upload your audio or video** using the **Form** in this **Assignment** by the end of half-term (before **Sunday 21st February.**)
- Student entries will not be **shared publicly** (only MFL Teachers will see them.)

THE



FACTOR

SING TO WIN!

NEED SOME INSPIRATION?

INDILA - [Dernière Danse](#)

KIDS UNITED - [On Ecrit Sur Les Murs](#)

JUAN LUIS GUERRA - [Ojala que Llueva Café](#)

ALEJANDRO SANZ, CAMILA CABELLO - [Mi Persona Favorita](#)

NENA - [99 Luftballons](#)

FROZEN - [Libere](#) ("Let It Go" in Latin)

STUDENT PRIZES!

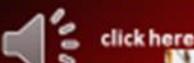
- ✓ HPs for **every entry!!!**
- ✓ **Double HPs** for entries from the **house with the most entries!!!**
- ✓ **£10 Amazon vouchers** to the **3 Category winners!!!**

CATEGORIES:

- **BEST SINGING VOICE**
- **BEST PRONUNCIATION**
- **BEST PERFORMANCE**

SEPARATE **TEACHERS** CATEGORY TO BE JUDGED BY STUDENTS!

HEAR SOME TEACHERS' ENTRIES!!!





Good Luck!

The Friends of The Charter School North Dulwich

Hi Everyone

Wow – how can it be half way through the school year already? As half term draws closer we wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what's been going on and let you know about plans for the rest of the school year.

For those of you who don't already know us, we'd like to introduce the current committee officers.

Chair: Eleanor Mitchiner (mother of two Y11s, a Y9 and a Y7)

Co Secretary: Clare Dunne (mother of a Y7 and a Y9)

Co Secretary: Molly Jarvis (mother of a Y9)

Treasurer: Angus Farr (father of a Y7)

It's not just us though. We are supported by teams of wonderful parents currently working on events, sponsorship and bid opportunities to benefit the school and its pupils.

If you would like to find out more about the Friends or get involved with us, please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you at friends@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

We are working hard to help all the Charter North parents feel more connected to each other and to the school. This year we set up year-based WhatsApp Groups and, if you haven't already, we would urge you to join the WhatsApp group for your child's year (email us for a link) and to follow us on Facebook and Twitter if you use those platforms.

As you can imagine, Covid has restricted our fundraising activity but, thanks to your generosity and support, we are thrilled to have reached our fundraising targets.

In particular, we'd like to thank everyone who has helped fund the building of the new bike shelter and all of you who have contributed so generously to the Christmas Cheer staff fundraiser, which continues to fund wellbeing events for the staff and, one day, will help provide a huge staff party.

Here are just a few more highlights from the past few months:

Work on the new Astroturf has begun; we have provided a new daytime telescope for the Astronomy Club; we created a thank-you sign for the teachers, which some of you might have seen outside the school; we have funded the purchase of some additional sewing machines for the DT department and we are working with the school to relocate the Garden Oasis project to a more suitable site and revive the Striding Man statue as its centerpiece.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Friends, thank you all for your generosity and support and hope to see you face to face sometime soon!

Angus, Clare, Eleanor and Molly



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

Please contact the Friends at: friends@charternorthdulwich.org.uk and Follow us on Twitter @FoTCSND

Join our Facebook group: Friends of The Charter School North Dulwich



Let the Art transform ChArter!

We're running a short fundraiser to help support the school's efforts to improve the interior of the school. Read more about this and donate by visiting <https://www.givey.com/artforcharter>

Auction – Date for your diary

Last time we ran an auction, we raised a fantastic £12,000 for the school so we are planning another on March 19th. We are still looking for prizes both material and offers of service. If you can offer anything, large or small, or would like to get involved behind the scenes, please email us at friendsauction@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

For general giving please consider nominating us as your charity on [amazon smile](#) or [easyfundraising](#). We can also help you obtain match giving from your employer for any donations to us. Please contact friends@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

FINANCE

ParentPay

Please ensure that your payments are kept up to date by regularly checking your ParentPay account for new payment item alerts. This includes all remote music fees for the Spring Term.

As you are aware due to budget cuts and restraints it is essential that payments are made on time as this will allow The Charter School North Dulwich to provide opportunities for all our students. Nonpayers, although minimal do cause a strain on school resources, this means that funds which should be spent on the children's education are used to cover these shortfalls. We request that all parents/carers and staff consider this. If you have any payment related issues or concerns, please contact finance@charternorthdulwich.org.uk

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

Due to the rising cost of living and the unfortunate global pandemic everyone could use a bit of help. If you are on a low income or on benefits, then you may be able to claim free school meals for your child. The amount allocated for the free school meal (£2.25p) will be credited to your child's lunch account confidentially. (Currently we are issuing £15 vouchers to all entitled students). This will cover a hot or cold meal deal. Once your child is entitled to Free School Meals an additional funding called Pupil Premium is allocated from the Department for Education, the funding is paid directly to the school to improve the quality of these children's education. Your child will receive a 30% discount on all extra-curricular activities and 50% discount on all curricular activities as well as substantial discount in music tuition each term until the end of their current phase of education. If your child is in sixth form, they may also be entitled to a weekly bursary, paid monthly.

Music

If you would like to request music tuition for your child, please contact the Music team. If you would like to cancel your child's music tuition, we require 5 school weeks' notice BEFORE the start of next term. All requests must be made by email to music@charternorthdulwich.org.uk The Charter Schools Educational Trust have implemented a Pupil Premium music Bursary, this allows families to access music tuition at a significant discount of £50 per year for paired lessons or a 30% discount per term for individual lessons.

Lettings

The Charter North School has a wide range of high-quality sports facilities, drama and assembly spaces and outdoor areas available to hire outside of normal school hours. We hire our facilities to the local community and external organisations for birthdays, sports clubs, conferences, charity events and much more. For more information or if you would like to view or book any of our facilities please email bookings@charternorthdulwich.org.uk



Parent Volunteer Needed -Dulwich Safer Routes to School



- * DSRS is a volunteer-led group of teachers/senior management and parent reps of local schools which promotes safe, healthy and active travel for children. They work collaboratively with local councillors, Southwark officers, local police, The Dulwich Society, the Dulwich Estate, our MP, local community groups and active travel organisations. The group provides an on-going forum to share good practice, challenges, ideas and solutions.
- * There is a vacancy for a parent representative for TCSND on the DSRS group. This would involve a once per term meeting (usually in the afternoon). If you are interested and would like to find out more please email Shalene Varcoe at svarcoe@tscet.org.uk