



The Griffin



Issue 30

www.darlandschool.co.uk

April 2015

Aspire, Apply, Achieve

Ymgeisio, Gweithredu, Cyflawni

A Message from the Headteacher

We hope you enjoy this Easter edition of The Griffin. As always, it has been a busy term at Darland. In January, we received the very welcome news that our early entry for Maths GCSE had yielded a staggering 11 A and 9 A* grades, together with a much better percentage of students achieving higher grades than at this time last year. We are acutely aware that so much rides on the performance of our Year 11 students, not just in maths, but in all exam courses and as a consequence, we have gone to great lengths to ensure that they have all the support they need for the summer exams. This newsletter reaches you at the beginning of the Easter holidays, but the school will be open throughout, with our staff holding many revision classes.



Our focus on pupil progress has not blinded us to the need to extend the horizons of our pupils. Only last Friday, the whole school emptied out into the senior yard to witness through hastily prepared pin-hole cameras, the eclipse. There was a genuine sense of wonderment from the pupils even before the science and maths faculties had exploited this great learning opportunity.

This page features photos taken during Red Nose Day 2015, when over £1000 was raised to support this very worthwhile cause (a Darland record). Undoubtedly the highlight of the day was a staff karaoke, organised by Mrs E Evans and Mr Bevan, where several of the teachers trod the boards, including Messrs Roberts and Corner as Kiki Dee and Elton John!

Elsewhere in the newsletter, you will be able to read of the success of our trips to Normandy and Italy and of our continued triumphs on the sports field; evidence if it be needed, that Darland produces well rounded and polite individuals.

Happy Easter!



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 13th April - Training Day

Wednesday 22nd April - Year 8 Parents Evening

Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th Wednesday 6th Thursday 7th - Literacy and Numeracy Tests Years 7, 8 and 9

Thursday 21st May - Year 10 Parents' Evening

Friday 22nd May - School Closes





NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR DARLAND



We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their on going support for Darland High School.



**New Directions,
Wrexham**



Spar, Rossett



**Mike Griffiths
Partnership**



Odeon, Wrexham



**Tenpin,
Wrexham**



**Monopoly Estate
Agents**



**J H Willis
Limited**



**R.F. Bellis
Haulage**



SG Estates

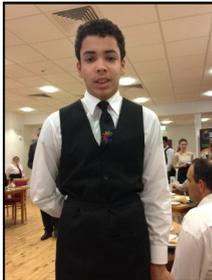


Excell, Wrexham

**Barry Macloskey Jean Williams Cable Services Limited
Solicitors**

All of us at school really appreciate the donations of money and vouchers and the time given to our business partners. This support has made possible the new rewards system at Darland and will help us to improve the learning environment to benefit our students.

COOKING UP A TREAT



Diogo Lima (Year 10) served a room of hungry diners in the Rendezvous Restaurant in Wrexham this week. As part of his catering college course, Diogo had to prepare, cook and serve a three course meal to the Wrexham community in a bid to earn his qualification. Diogo had guest visits from his mother, auntie and Mr.Bevan who all agreed his food was of a very high quality and tasted delicious. Diogo should be very proud of himself and the role model he has become to other students participating on college courses throughout their education in Darland.



GROWING SPACES



You may have noticed some strange goings on near the Year 7 yard...



Over the January and February period the good folks from Groundwork North Wales were busy building a brand new polytunnel and raised beds to provide extra capacity for the Darland Market Garden Project. This project aims to share knowledge about how to grow food in partnership with nature. The new facility will enable our school to grow food throughout the year.

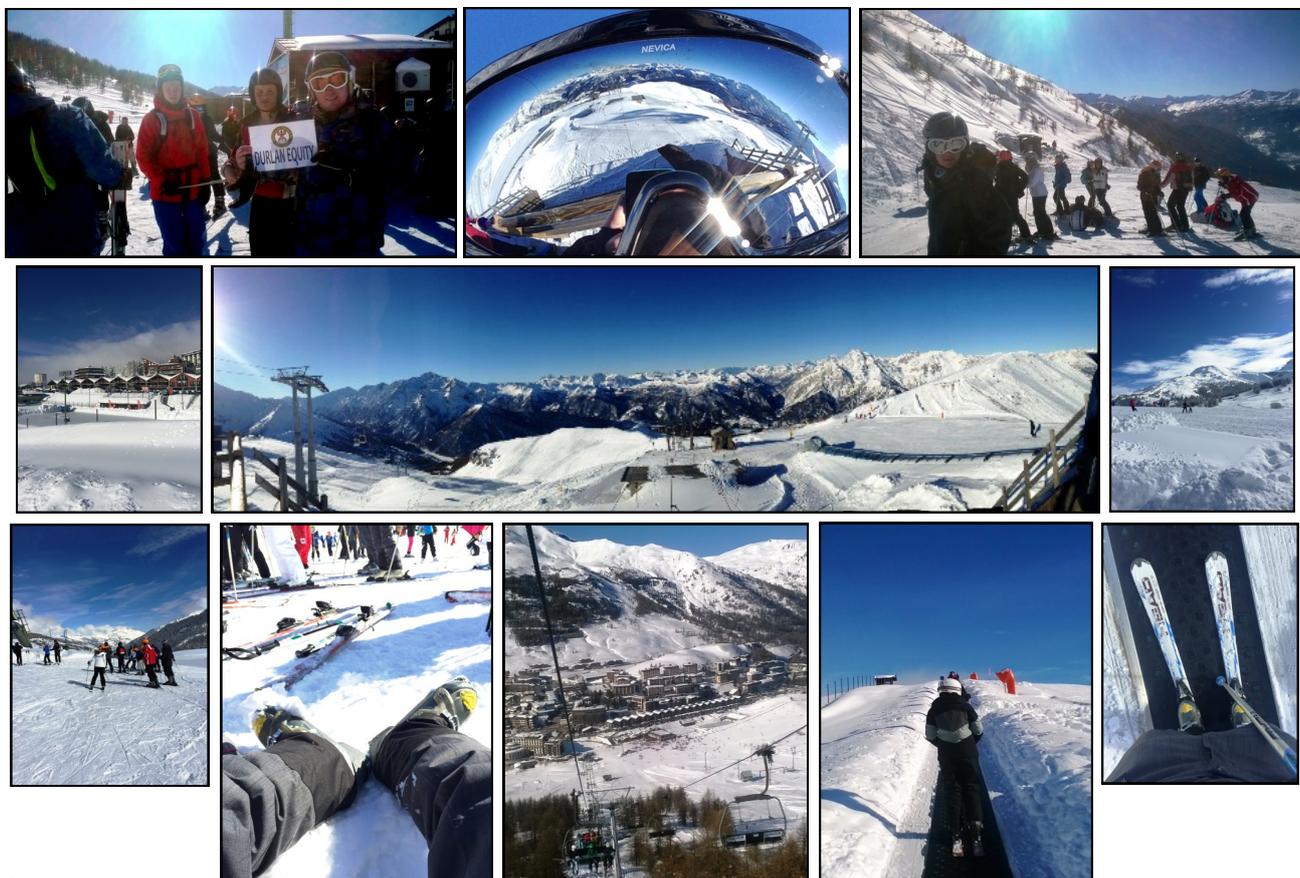
For the last few weeks, Mr Jones and a small group of students have been laying paths to improve access to the new beds, moving four tons of stone in the process! A special mention for James Jones and Adam Davies-Jones of Year 11 and Jordan Prince

of Year 10 for all their help. If you would like to get involved with this project or can help in any way, please contact Mr B Jones on 01244 570588.

SKIING THE SESTRIERE WAY



49 students from Darland attended a ski course in the Italian resort of Sestriere during February half term. With 80cm of snow falling during the first few days followed by bluebird sunshine for the rest of the week, we were set for a perfect week on the slopes. All students took to the slopes with enthusiasm, thoroughly enjoying the trip and giving 100% at all times. An incredible number of these students are already registered for next year's trip to do it all again! It was very nice to hear the praise for the behaviour and attitude of the students from members of the public from Manchester Airport through to the hotel and onto the slopes... a true credit to parents and Darland High School. The high or low point of the trip could be considered to be Mr Owen-Jones serenading the group as we drove over the mountains to and from the resort. A special thanks to the stupendous efforts of the staff who took the trip, Mr Coyne, Miss Gardner, Miss Jones, Mrs Wix and Mr Owen-Jones, all of whom could not speak highly enough of the students. Well Done Everyone!



Maths Challenge



The Easter Bunny has got in a muddle. He started with the same number of eggs in each 3 baskets. Then he moved 6 from basket 2 to 1. Then he moved 2 from basket 1 to 3, then 6 from 3 to 2. He ended up with half the eggs in basket 1 and a sixth of them in basket 3. How many eggs did he have altogether?

PLEASE SHOW YOUR WORKINGS OUT



NAME..... FORM.....

ANSWER.....



BLOOD BROTHERS



Darland's Key Stage 4 Drama and English students recently attended an enjoyable production of 'Blood Brothers' at the 'Palace' theatre in Manchester. Students and staff were captivated by the performance of Marti Pellow, the former 'Wet Wet Wet' singer, lurking in the shadows as the dark-suited, menacing narrator and Maureen Nolan as the downtrodden Mrs Johnstone.

Students particularly enjoyed the comic humour and timing of the actors Sean Jones and Joel Benedict, who play brothers Mickey and Eddie from childhood through to adulthood. Sean Jones and Joel Benedict engaged us in the first act with the preposterously comic sight of grown men playing short-trousered children, which required a suspension of belief. Our GCSE Drama students were carefully making notes and taking tips on how to develop their own GCSE exam performances, our set design and technical students were particularly impressed with the stage design and use of varied lighting states, many leaving with a colourful program of the performance.

Apart from the difficulties of sitting up in the gods, an enjoyable evening was had by all.

DARLAND SUPPORTS ABER STUDENTS FOR COMIC RELIEF



Bay Radio supported by students from 7 Iolo and others in raised over **£2000** for Comic Relief.



Ms Hughes (Additional Needs Coordinator) roped in the support of her students to assist her eldest son Joël and three other university students reach their target for Comic Relief.



Joël is a student at Aberystwyth University and a member of Aber Student Media, he also has a weekly two hour slot on Bay Radio. He and three other members of Aber Student Media had arranged to host a 24 hour radio show to raise £2400 for Comic Relief. Ms Hughes told the students of this plan and came up with the idea of the students making a donation of 50p each to have their names mentioned during the show.

They didn't quite make their target but they did raise over £2000 and Joël has had the opportunity this week to personally thank the students for their support. Well Done Guys.



LESSONS ECLIPSED BY THE MOON



Students and staff gathered at various points around the school campus to observe the 90% eclipse of the sun on Friday, 20th March. Many photographed the event and were able to watch the eclipse using the pin hole method or wore special glasses. The event had been greatly anticipated by students and discussed at length in class.



SPORTING HIGHLIGHT

NETBALL VICTORY



A huge congratulations to the Year 8 netball team who won the Wrexham Schools tournament. The Year 7 team came a very respectable 3rd place in their tournament.

Miss Jones and Miss Gardner would like to thank all the girls who have attended netball training and represented the school this year. Well done for all your hard work.



NATIONAL GYMNASTICS SUCCESS



Congratulations to Year 7 student Jacob Edwards who came first in the Welsh Gymnastics Championships and also won the pommel, rings, vault and parallel bars. Jacob has also qualified to represent and captain the Welsh team in the Celtic Cup against Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man.



NEWS FROM THE PITCH



Congratulations to Morgan Thomas-Sadler, Harry Fuller, Alfie Lythgoe, Sam Williams, James Smith and Iwan Roberts who have all represented Wrexham Area Under 12 Football Team.

RAISING A GLASS FOR VALUABLE FUNDS



The PTA have been at it again, an excellent night was had by all at the Wine Tasting Event at School on Friday 20th March. The PTA would like to thank the following businesses for their wonderful support donating raffle prizes for the evening. The Trevor Arms, The Nailbar & Beauty Rooms, Schwarzkopf and Claire Waddington Mobile Beauty Services. Thank you also to Majestic Wines, Wrexham for showcasing a selection of their fine wines with our guests.

Some comments from the night included ***"Really good evening, thank you very much. The wine tasting was fun and informative and I ate more than is probably a healthy amount of delicious cheese. The quiz was good too but I am bitterly disappointed not to have won. Next Time!"***, "

"It was lots of fun, very informative and 'tidy' ! A good Friday night!"

EASTER REVISION SCHOOL TIMETABLE

DATE	SUBJECT	STAFF	TIME
Monday 30 th March	English	Mrs J Davies Mrs Booth	10am - 12pm
Tuesday 31 st March	Music	Mr Winterbottom	10am - 12pm (composition work after)
	English	Mrs Lee	10am - 12pm
Wednesday 1 st April	Food Resistant Materials Vision to Learn	Mrs Watkin-Jones Mr Clarke-Coyne Mr Corner	10am - 1pm 9am - 12pm 9.30am - 11.30am
Thursday 2 nd April	Mathematics Vision to Learn	Mr Williams Mr Corner Mrs Easton	10am - 12pm 9.30am - 11.30am
Tuesday 7 th April	English	Miss Johnson	12.30pm - 2.30pm
Wednesday 8 th April	Science English Mathematics History	Most Science Staff Mrs S Davies Mr Owen Jones Mr Agnew (Year 10)	11am - 2pm 9.30am - 11.30am 9am - 11am 9am - 11am
Friday 10 th April	History	Mr Agnew	10am - 12pm



FRENCH ENRICHMENT NORMANDY/PARIS TRIP 2015



We left school at 6.30am on Friday 6th March, for our journey to Portsmouth. Everyone was wide awake and looking forward to the visit. En route we discovered that our scheduled ferry had been cancelled due to Industrial Action on the French side. We stopped en route at the services to buy drinks and food and were diverted to the shuttle by our Travel Company.

Unfortunately, we now had a five hour coach trip to our Chateau. We stopped several times on the way to fill up on food and drinks. Our driver ran out of driving hours, so we were met by a French coach and driver at a service station and our driver went to spend the night in a nearby hotel, before joining us again the following morning



We finally arrived at "Chateau du Baffy" after dark. We received our "Welcome talk" and fire details from Zara before being issued with our room keys. We were given time to settle in before bed time, everyone was shattered

Saturday morning, we had a buffet breakfast of cereals, yogurt, ham, cheese, fruit, cake and hot drinks. We then made our own lunch of French baguette, ham, cheese, tuna and salad before leaving on the relatively short journey to Bayeaux. Here we visited the very busy Saturday morning market. The weather was fantastic and we were allowed to wander around the market in groups, looking at the various stalls. We then made our way to the Tapestry. We were given headsets which relayed the story in English. It was very interesting and before leaving we visited the gift shop to purchase any presents for our families and friends



We ate our lunch in a picnic area as the weather was so lovely. Back on the coach we travelled to the Goats Cheese Farm. The farm had lots of baby goats and we were allowed to hold them by the owners. We had a short talk about the making of Goats Cheese and then we had a tasting session. Following this we were allowed to make purchases if we wished for our families

We then travelled another short distance to the Hypermarket. Here we were allowed to wander in groups and to buy gifts for our family and friends. We spent about an hour looking around the various shops before returning to the Chateau. We all showered and changed for our evening meal and our tasting session of frog's legs and snails. We were soon back on the coach and off out to the tenpin bowling alley. We all bowled and then returned to the Chateau to sleep

We had an early start on Sunday morning, as we were away after breakfast to Paris, all our luggage was packed onto the coach and we started on our journey, stopping at the last services before the city. We wandered around by the Eiffel Tower, taking photographs and taking in the sights. Then we were on our way to the base of the Eiffel Tower. We joined a short queue for the lift to the second level. It was such a clear day, we could see for miles. The city was very busy with many tourists as we made the short walk from the Eiffel Tower to the boat for our trip down the River Seine. Once again this was very enjoyable as it was such a lovely day with the sun shining down on us and many people sitting along the river edge, enjoying the lovely weather

The bus was waiting for us and we then drove on a sightseeing tour of the city. We were shown the tunnel where Princess Diana died and the monument erected in her memory. Our very knowledgeable bus driver pointed out many of the cities main attractions before taking us to our hotel Misterbed Torcy on the outskirts of Paris

The traffic was very heavy and this took us almost an hour. We were allocated our rooms and we showered and then made our way to a nearby restaurant to have our evening meal. This was very enjoyable and we had a really good time. The following morning we had to get up very early for breakfast and to start our journey to Calais for the shuttle home. We arrived back in school safely after a whirlwind few days in France.



ATTENDANCE MATTER...

Higher Attendance achieves Higher Grades



It is fantastic to see the motivation of our students as the tension builds towards the 100% attendance draw for the lucky winner of the 32" Flat Screen TV which takes place in Friday's whole school assembly.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those students who have maintained 100% attendance for the Spring term:

YEAR 7: Kassia Allman, Sarah Ashfield, Lara Bailey, Jack Baker, Chelsea Bassam, Callum Bateman, Luke Birkbeck, Samuel Burke, Lewis Burnett, James Carr, Sarah Chaloner, Hannah Church, Connor Coulborn, Thomas Daniel, Greta Daniseviciute, Elin Davies, Charlie Evans, Lucy Evans, Mia Evans, Callum Eve, Elliot Gibson, Grace Giddings, Joshua Glynn-Thomas, Jack Gordon, Elliot Goss, Kelly Griffiths, Ellie Halford, Joseph Hamilton, Maia Hamilton, Cameron Harper, Beth Harrop, Eleanor Holdsworth, Cerys Hughes, Crystal Hughes, Elizabeth Jennings, Dale Jones, Elin Jones, Kai Jones, Mia Jones, Sophie Jones, Jacob Kersey-Smith, Georgia Grace Lea, Ethan Manuel, Matthew Marshall, Callum McGrath, Rebecca Philpot, Jacob Popplewell, Ellie Porter, Joshua Povah, Megan Pridding, Sophie Pugh, Nathan Rigby, Conel Roberts, Iwan Roberts, Nathan Roberts, Niamh Roberts, Elis Roblin, Rhiannon Skelly, James Smith, Lucy Steven, Nick Swainson, Anna Taraborelli, Sophie Templeman, Moragn Thomas-Saddler, Jack Tompkinson, Aimee Townshend Gaul, Mia Townshend Gaul, Kai Tudor, Amelia Tweedie, Joshua-James Venables, Caitlyn Williams, Evan Williams, Ryan Williams, Katie Williams-Davies

YEAR 8: James Andrew, Lucy Armitage, Matthew Bailey, Patrick Bailey, Ethan Barlow, Ted Beeching, Joe Cade, Daniel Clarke, Ffion Cotter, Emma Davey, Benjamin Davies, Fin Davies, Tom Durnell, Ben Edwards, Harri Edwards, Jac Edwards, Jade Edwards, Joe Evans, Freddie Gater, Kim Godfrey, Joel Gray, Daniel Griffith, Isobel Griffith, Leah Griffiths, Nathan Griffiths, Lewis Griffiths-Davies, Ifor Harris, Bridget Harvey, Laura Hodson, Ellie Hutchings, Ben Jones, Caitlin Jones, Daniel Jones, Eleanor Jones, Holly Jones, Ieuan Jones, Megan Jones, Owen Jones, Raheem Khan, Adam Liddy, Ceri Martin, Chloe Massey, Cameron Mcloughlin, David Morris, Lucy Parry, DJ Povey, Bethan Pritchard, Lucie Pugh, Lillian Roberts, Lydia Roberts, Olivia A Roberts, Owen Roberts, Samuel Roberts, Charlie Roberts-Mathias, Abby Royce, Kate Sellwood, Alexander Smith, Aaron Swindley, Joshua Thomas, Daniel Thompson, Henry Tucker, Jonathan Wallis, Katie Weaver, Arlya Welch-Smart, Harry Wheeler, Maddy Williams, Owen Williams, Eleanor Yates

YEAR 9: Max Alsworth, Tom Ansell, Dylan Bailey, Pheobe Bell, Anastasia Binnington, Harry Booth, Jack Booth, Anna Burns, Samuel Burns, Charlotte Campbell, Debra Cartledge, Abigail Catherall, Ethan Clarke, Sophie Coburn, Kelsey Cochran, Connor Edwards, Rebecca Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Joseph Evans, Luke Evans, Aiden Fox, Matty Gee, Emma Giddings, Ellie Goodwin, Kira Gordon, Olivia Goss, Callum Herling, Jessica Holden, Abbie Jones, Charlotte Jones, Daniel Jones, David Jones, Grace Jones, Jacob Jones, Samuel Jones, Tai Jones, Toby Jones, Alice Kenny, Bethany Lewis, Katie Malone, Morgan Malone, Poppy Malone, Harvey Massingham, Ella McKeivitt-Harvey, Dylan Milne, Daisy Nelson, Emily Owen, Hannah Owen, Joseph Parry, Ryan Phillips, Joshua Quinn, Lewis Redman, Deanna Roberts, Emily Roberts, Holly Roberts, Evie Robertson, Libby Scothern, Katie Seager, Eve Sharples, Esme Simmonds, Henry Soper, Leah Thomas, Liam Thomas, Jordan Tipping, Ellie Tudor, Luke Vickery, Alex Vine, Emily Walker, Tomos Walker, Melissa Watson, Scott Whitehouse, Connor Williams, Findlay Williams, Grace Williams, Liam Williams, Luke Williams, Owain Williams, Elin Wright

YEAR 10: Jacob Aldridge, Rebecca Armitage, Bintou Baldeh, Charlotte Barnes, Jordan Bateman, Catrin Bellis, Robyn Berry, Katie Bithell, Emma Carew, Chloe Chapman, Thomas Chatfield, Elissa Cheung, Lewis Czerniak, Lydia Davies, Zak Dobie, Alexander Dulson, Charlotte Edwards, Leon Edwards, Lucy Fairclough-Jones, Sam Gardner, Stephen Goulding, Ben Hirst, Emily Holden, Katie Howells, Cameron Hughes, Toby Huxley, Jordan Jackson, Thomas James, Emily Jones, Emma Jones, Ewan Jones, Olivia Jones, Thomas Jones, Simon Kane, James Kenny, Bethan Kersey-Smith, Megan Lea, Thomas Lloyd, Pheobe Lodge, Ben Longson, Callum Mclean, Matthew Monk, Jordan Morris, Helen Owen, Jack Owen, Jasmine Pemberton, Samuel Postle, Bradley Richards, Jack Roberts, Katherine Roberts, Amy Roblin, James Sandford, Lily Smith, Christopher Williams, Dylan Williams, Harry Williams, Olivia Williams, Ryan Williams, Sydney Williams, Taylor Williams, Tomos Williams

YEAR 11: Dhruv Bansal, Kayleigh Bray, Chloe Cheung, Adam Davies-Jones, Joe Evans, Lucas Feng, Katie Gee, Alix Godfrey, Luke Griffith, Sean Hislop, Lauren Hughes, James Jones, Matthew Jones, Lewis Kane, Oliver Kitching, Emily Lloyd, Sian McHugh, Jay McKeivitt-Harvey, Jack McLean, Jack Morris, Hannah Philpot, Matthew Pinder, Rhys Pritchard, Nathan Prothero, Alexander Quinn, Rebecca Randles, Rebecca Sharp, John Sidebottom, Michael Sissons, Anna Smith, Christian Smith, Katie Stretton, George Tucker, Kayleigh Unitt, India Whyte, Sam Wilde, Adam Williams, Ellen Williams, Joseph Williams, Luke Williams, Lydia Williams



Well done to each and everyone of you



Achievement Points will be awarded to all of the above students



READING FOR PLEASURE

Miss Richardson - Teaching Assistant



My favourite book that I read recently is 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell. It is a story about a baby girl who is found in a shipwrecked cello case and a fairy tale begins. It is the first book for ages that has made me feel like I was 'in' the story. This book was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal which is always a good place to look online if you are stuck for a good read. I also loved 'The Hunger Games', more so than the films as there is so much more in the books.

My favourite author is definitely Roald Dahl, I have read his books over and over again as I have grown up and still find new things in them and find the stories exciting. The ones I love the most are his short stories, 'The Twits' and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' which are easy to read, exciting and funny. The characters are easy to relate to and do things that are laugh out loud funny!

I love to read and can read pretty much anywhere, usually on my tablet. My perfect place to read is outside on a sunny day and I try to read a little bit every day.

BOOK REVIEW

THE BLACK TATTOO

by Sam Enthoven



The fictional book 'The Black Tattoo' was a thoroughly enjoyable and thrilling book to read. Before I read the book, I thought it would be quite childish and not at all something I would choose to read. Although, after reading the first chapter I was hooked on the book.

The book contains mythical creatures and magic of all sorts, which is what led me to believe that it would be an easy and unsophisticated read, but somehow the book was able to utilise the idea of demons, warlocks and other mythical creatures and even other worlds and universes to tackle peoples perception on religion, feelings and even question the relevance of our existence. I really enjoyed reading 'The Black Tattoo' because although the book had the fictional aspect of dragons and shape-shifting creatures, the book made you think and question your views on things, especially your belief in religion and your feelings of the importance of life itself.

My favourite character in the book was Jack whom I believed was the true hero. I also felt I could relate to Jack as he described his life as 'typical'. Even though Jack never received any of the rewards that the other characters got, Jack was always the one that helped and solved the problem, and I felt, that in a way, I would relate this 'typical' nature to me.

I would definitely recommend this book to those who enjoy imaginative books and those who have a sophisticated vocabulary, as the language used throughout is quite complicated. From reading this book, I would definitely read other books from this author.

Book reviewed by Lucy Armitage 8BR1

♥ If you loved this, you might like these...

