



The Griffin



Issue 31

www.darlandschool.co.uk

May 2015

Aspire, Apply, Achieve

Ymgeisio, Gweithredu, Cyflawni

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

Summer finally is with us and the students are enjoying a taste of the sun at break and lunchtimes as they break from their studies. Over the last few weeks it has been a case of 'heads down' for students in Years 10 and 11, in preparation for the important GCSE exams, of which we are now in the middle. We are very proud of the way that Year 11 have been working, attending many classes over Easter and after school and the early signs are that they will do very well indeed in the summer.

Our senior students have not just been the only ones to have had exams, years 7, 8 and 9 have now sat their National tests and we look forward to their results coming out in early July. Years 7 and 8 will also have exams in all subjects with the exception of PE, Music, ICT and Drama in late June, to give them much needed experience in sitting formal examination.

Now that Year 11 have almost come to the end of their time with us, we have appointed our new prefects for 2015-16. We had an unprecedented number of applicants from Year 10 to become prefects and the standard was very high. However, we are thrilled to announce the appointment of the following

Head Boy - Harvey Craddock 11 Iolo
Head Girl - Lily Smith 11 AR

Deputy Head Boy - Thomas Evans 11AR
Deputy Head Boy - Callum McLean 11GE

Deputy Head Girl - Rebecca Armitage 11AR
Deputy Head Girl - Eryn Burns 11LL

Sports Captain (Boys) - Zak Dobie 11 Iolo
Sports Captain (Girls) - Masie Harvey 11BR

Deputy Sports Captain (Boys) - Jacob Aldridge 11AR
Deputy Sports Captain (Girls) - Amelia Bailey 11GL



This year, for the first time, we have selected Year 9 pupils to train up to be Peer Mentors. These students will be attached to the new Year 7 forms in September and run a 'drop in' centre every lunchtime to help pupils who are experiencing friendship issues. Resplendent in their silver ties, they will I am sure, be great ambassadors for Darland.

Work has finally started on recladding our sports hall. This is very welcome news, since we have been campaigning for this for over six years! As well as this much needed renovation, we are having air conditioning installed in the upstairs English classrooms over half term. These classrooms become uncomfortably warm in the summer and we anticipate this improvement leading to heightened levels of concentration for all!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 22nd May - School Closes for half term
Monday 1st June - School opens for summer term
Tuesday 16th - Year 7 Parents Evening
Thursday 18th June - Awards Evening to be held at the William Aston Hall, Wrexham
Wednesday 24th June - Sports' Day and Year 11 Prom
Thursday 2nd July - Common Transfer Day
Friday 3rd July - Year 9 London Trip
Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July - Activity Days
Friday 17th July - School closes for summer

A PARENT'S VIEWPOINT

As we enter 'exam season' it is good to know that students are being well supported in the lead up to their GCSEs, but also that the school is still providing a range of opportunities for the students. I believe that the school has recently been nominated as '*Secondary School of the Year*' in the Daily Post Awards due to the recent progress made. It would not have been possible without the commitment and hard work of Peter Agnew and the staff-teaching and support staff- of the school. My eldest children were happy, felt safe and achieved excellent academic results and made good friends at Darland. What else could a parent want from a school?

TV CREW DROPS IN AT DARLAND



Darland student council appeared on the prime-time TV show 'The One Show' recently. Interviewed by TV presenter and wheelchair basketball player, Ade Adepitan, the students gave their views and opinions on e-cigarettes. They shared their opinions and the idea that some teenagers might use e-cigarettes just to look cool.

The students represented the school very well, were really professional, articulate, confident and enjoyed the filming the experience.



DARLAND STUDENTS IN THE LIMELIGHT



Five Year 7 students from Darland recently took part in the professional production of 'Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' at the Crewe Lyceum theatre. As members of Bitesize Theatre Company, Darland gave the students some time off lessons in order to perform with stars such as Amelia Lily.

All of the students performed well and enjoyed being part of the production. Well done girls!

Pictured are student: Elin Jones, Elizabeth Jennings, Elisabeth Jones, Grace Ganci and Catherine Williams.



ATTENDANCE WINNER



It is fantastic to see the motivation of our students as the tension builds towards the 100% attendance draw. The lucky winner of the 32" Flat Screen TV which took place on Friday 11th April was Debra Cartledge 9GE.

This term's draw will take place on Friday, 17th July, during our whole school assembly. All qualifying students with 100% attendance from Monday 18th May to Friday 10th July will be entered into the draw to win a white 16gb Ipad Touch.





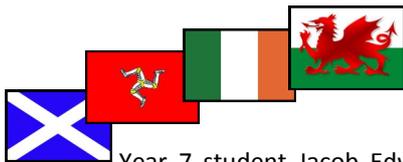
SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS



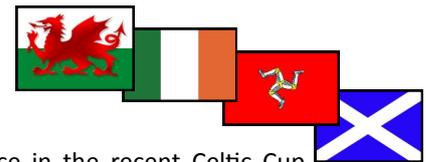
NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS TRACK

On 30th April, 2015, the Under 16 and Under 14 athletics teams competed in the Wrexham Schools' Area Championships. The Under 14 boys team finished 4th and the Under 16 boys finished 2nd. In the girls' events the Under 14 team finished 4th, but the Under 16 team finished 1st to complete a very good day.

Following on from this event, George Jackson, Ethan Clark, James Kenny, Ben Palmer, Ffion Halliwell, Libby Scothern, Megan Buckley and Erin Burns will all represent Wrexham in the North East Wales Championships at Deeside. Good Luck to all competitors.

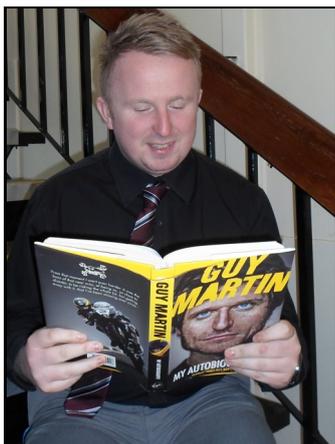


GYMNASTICS



Year 7 student Jacob Edwards produced an outstanding performance in the recent Celtic Cup Gymnastics Championships. Representing Wales in this prestigious competition, he finished 6th on the high bar, 4th on the pommel horse, 2nd on both the rings and parallel bars in the individual events. This was sufficient for him to finish 1st in the overall individual event. In the team event Wales finished 2nd to Scotland but ahead of Ireland and the Isle of Man.

CAUGHT READING



Guess who we caught reading this term!

What book did you read?

"Guy Martin 'My Autobiography.'"

What did you think about the book?

"The book was very good, and highlights the dangers motorcycle racers go through."

What did you learn from, take away or get out of this book?

"I learnt what commitment was needed to succeed in life."

Why did you choose this book?

"I have worked with Guy Martin and I was curious to know if he would tell the truth about his life."

What was the theme of the book?

"The book shows an insight into the mind and personality of a road racer."

Did your opinions of the book change as you read it?

"Yes, it started off as him being a motorcycle racer but then expanded to include the more technical aspects of motorsport."

Would you recommend this book to other readers?

"Yes, especially anybody who is interested in motorsport."



Maths Challenge

HOW MANY TICKS?

PLEASE SHOW YOUR WORKINGS OUT



3 ticks = 2 tacks

2 ticks = 3 clicks

5 tacks = 4 tocks

4 clicks = 5 flicks

7 tocks = 6 tucks

3 flicks = 4 picks

How many ticks make 240 tucks?

How many ticks make 600 picks?

All entries to be handed in to Mrs Hawke by Friday 5th June 2015

The prize for the winning entry will be a £15 iTunes voucher.

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

ANSWER.....

