



Darland High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Darland

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Headteacher P. Agnew BA NPQH

17th February 2017.

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Language Faculty Coordinator (Head of Welsh) at Darland High School.

On this website, you should find the following documents which are essential to prepare you for making an application for this post.

- Prospectus available from the school website.
- Guide to the Languages Faculty.
- Wrexham LA Application form. (please also enclose a letter in support of your application of no more than 3 sides of A4. (font size 12). CVs are not permitted.

Obviously, there is only so much information about the school and the post, that can be gleaned from these documents, so I would be happy to discuss any aspects of the post with you over the phone, or should you wish to visit the school prior to making an application, my PA, Clare Pickup, will be happy to arrange this. May I remind you that the deadline for applications is noon on 14th March 2017. We intend to interview in the following week.

There are currently three Welsh and three French teachers in the Languages faculty, teaching in a suite of rooms, each equipped with Interactive Whiteboards and a range of resources. All pupils in Key Stage 3 study Welsh for four hours a fortnight, in mixed ability form groups in Year 7 and in banded ability groups in Years 8 and 9. A small number of pupils with SEN statements are extracted from their Welsh and French lessons to receive intensive literacy lessons. Pupils commence their GCSE 2nd language course while in Year 9 and continue through Years 10 and 11, where they have three hours a fortnight.

As mentioned in the advertisement for this post, the Languages Faculty is an exceptionally tight knit team. There are established systems for monitoring standards of teaching and learning and a high degree of collaborative learning between team members. This has resulted in excellent consistency in teaching throughout the faculty and is in no small way due to the energy and commitment which the current postholder has carried out her role. Key to the success of the Welsh as a subject in the school is the high level of energy brought to the lessons by our young and enthusiastic team. There is a real 'can do' atmosphere in lessons, coupled with a competitive vibe and stunning results. Pupils really enjoy Welsh at Darland, from top set students, to those struggling to achieve a lower grade. Due to the strength and experience of the teams teaching both French and Welsh, results have consistently been above local and national averages, with the majority of pupils achieving their targets. In Welsh students in Year 10 sit the short course exam in the summer and achieve excellent results, with the majority going on to complete the full course in Year 11 with a similar rate of success.

I have been head teacher at Darland since September 2009 and have had the privilege of working with a fabulous team with a real appetite for change. As you will see from www.mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk, Darland is currently categorized as a Good, or yellow school, with 73% of our learners achieving L2+ last year. Our school motto, Aspire, Apply, Achieve, is a ribbon that runs through all that we do as a school and our surveys show that we are experiencing significant success in developing learner confidence and raising aspirations.

Although Darland is oversubscribed for Year 7 in 2017-18, we are at heart a small school, with a standard number of 170 per year group, a factor which allows teachers and managers to get to know our learners very well. We take pupil wellbeing very seriously and our two resource centres (for Dyslexia and ASD) help promote an inclusive climate in the school, which was recognized with our recent award of the Inclusion Quality Mark. We also have a major commitment to extending opportunities for our pupils through an impressive programme of extra curricular activities.

As a 'dysgwr' who was educated in Wales, but with English speaking parents, I am passionate about developing an affinity for the Welsh culture and a facility in speaking the language in our pupils. Although we are close to the English border, we have experienced remarkable success both in raising the profile of Welsh throughout the school (over a third of our staff are iaith cyntaf) and in celebrating cultural events such as Dydd Gwyl Dewi and the Eisteddfod. Our pupils love learning Welsh and French and if you are the sort of teacher who can inspire both staff and pupils, making lessons fun, challenging and geared to the ability of the individual learner, then this post will be ideal for you.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Agnew', is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

P Agnew