



Darland High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Darland

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Headteacher P. Agnew BA NPQH

24th February 2017.

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Teacher of English and Drama

The English team comprises six full time teachers and two teachers who also teach elsewhere in the faculty. Standards have traditionally been very high in English and results at KS3 and GCSE have consistently been higher than local and national levels. There is a strong tradition of extra-curricular theatre visits and the very well equipped English suite of classrooms is a highlight in the school for the quality of displays. All staff at the school have their own laptops and iPads and the school has an excellent programme of training for new staff.

At Key Stage 3, Drama is currently taught within the English programme of study, but at KS4, it is a popular option subject, with a class of around 20 students in both KS4 years. Facilities for the teaching of drama are good: there is a Drama and Music studio and a very well equipped school hall with staging, lighting and sound. In recent years, a growing number of students have chosen to specialize in the technical side of drama, due to the equipment that the school possesses. There is close collaboration with the Head of Music in our bi-annual Performing Arts evenings, but we recognize that there is much more that we should be offering with regard to extra-curricular drama.

Working under the line management of the Faculty Coordinator for English, we are looking for someone with an appetite for engaging young people in both Drama and English, someone who has a flair for breathing life into texts through dramatic production. Although maintaining our record of good outcomes in both GCSE English and Drama will be the key focus for the postholder, we would like to appoint someone to nurture the growth of the dramatic arts throughout the school, particularly in the extra-curricular arena. To this end, we are prepared to create a timetable with a generous allocation of non-contact time in order to facilitate this growth.

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. Darland has always had a reputation for high standards in public exam results. On the Welsh system of school categorisation we received a grade 2 (yellow), reflecting the enormous amount of work that has taken place in the school recently to drive up standards. Obviously our ambition is to achieve a grade 1 and our current focus is to improve English language results to the same level as English Literature, which have been consistently spectacular for a number of years.

For the last three years, Darland has been oversubscribed for Year 7, but despite this, we are at heart a small school, with a standard number of 168 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, aided by a major commitment to extending opportunities for our students through an impressive programme of extra curricular activities.

On the school website you should find attached a copy of the school prospectus. Please ensure that your application is completed on the standard Wrexham application form and that you attach a letter of application in support of this document. 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 Tuesday 21st March 2017.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

P Agnew Headteacher

