



The Griffin



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Aspire, Apply, Achieve

Ymgeisio, Gweithredu, Cyflawni

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,



The photographs on this page remind us of the wonderful Open Evening that we held at the beginning of this month. Our Open Evenings are always a time for the school to celebrate and showcase the many opportunities that are offered in a Darland education and this year was no different with a wealth of stunning displays and legions of smart, friendly ambassadors ready to guide our visitors around.

We were especially proud this year, since our GCSE results have led to Darland becoming one of the highest achieving schools in the region. Shortly after half term, I will publish the Governors' Report to Parents, which will provide a comprehensive breakdown of exam results together with an evaluation of the developments of the last year.

For the third year in a row, we have the largest Year 7 in Wrexham, but I am pleased to report that the 182 pupils have settled in magnificently and that the feedback we received on our 'Settling In' evening of 7th October, showed that the vast majority were working confidently and enjoying school, even with the level of homework, which is often rather a shock for pupils just joining us. One of our priorities this half term, has been to provide alternative transport for those pupils having to use the Arriva public bus service. We are very proud therefore, that we now have two 'ticket only' buses, Oares A and B and that for once, there is an alternative for most students, over having to wait in the cold for a public bus.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Friday 23rd October - School closes for half term
- Thursday 12th November - Numeracy in the Workplace
- Friday 13th November - Children In Need
- Wednesday 18th November - Year 11 Guidance Evening
- Friday 27th November - Training Day
- Monday 30th November - Year 11 Trial exams commence
- Monday 14th December - Carol Service, Darland School Hall
- Tuesday 15th December - Year 11 photographs
- Friday 18th December - Whole school cinema trip



YEAR 7 LOGGERHEADS TRIP



The whole of Year 7 visited Loggerheads Country Park in Mold in October as part of their Geography fieldwork. They spent half a day there learning about the history of the park and utilising skills learnt in the classroom to complete activities. The weather was great and pupils enjoyed being out in the fresh air.

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO BETWS-Y-COED



On Wednesday 30th September the Year 11 Geography GCSE classes went to Betws-y-coed and Swallow Falls in Snowdonia. The purpose of the visit was to collect data that they will use in the controlled assessment component of their G.C.S.E Geography, constituting 10% of their final examination grade. The focus of their study was to assess the impact of tourism on the town. To do this students conducted interviews with the public and completed surveys of the area. Students are now working hard in class to write up their findings.



YEAR 9 VOLCANO MODELS

This term Year 9 have been studying Plate Tectonics in their Geography lessons. Some students have enjoyed the chance to create a model volcano using any material of their choice. We have seen exploding volcanoes, clay volcanoes, cardboard volcanoes and we have even been able to tuck into some delicious volcano-shaped cakes! Well done to all students who have taken up this challenge!



WELCOMING OUR NEW STAFF



Mrs D Ellis - Teacher of Mathematics

My name is Mrs Diane Ellis. I come from County Down in Northern Ireland. 15 years ago I moved to West Yorkshire to complete my teacher training. There I met my husband and after living in both Huddersfield and Wakefield we moved to Wrexham in 2007. I have two sons William aged 7 and Henry aged 5. Recently I have worked at Sir John Talbot's Technology College and at St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High school. My claim to fame is I went to school with the drummer from the 90's band Ash.



Miss L Medi - Teacher of Languages

My name is Miss Medi and I am the new Welsh and English teacher at Darland. Before starting at Darland High I worked at Ysgol Dinas Bran, Llangollen. I left Ysgol Dinas Bran at Christmas 2014 and travelled the world. During my time away, I taught English in Thailand and also enjoyed different countries' cultures. My hobbies include playing netball and mountaineering and my claim to fame is that I'm related to Abraham Lincoln.



Miss Y Mountford - Teacher of Mathematics

My name is Miss Mountford. I completed a mathematics degree at the University of Chester, where I have since qualified as a Teacher of Mathematics. In my spare time I love to play the guitar and the drums, similarly to mathematics music is a passion. My only claim to fame is once meeting Karl Pilkington from The Idiot Abroad. He was dressed as a banana!



Mrs S Abel - Assistant Anco

Hello, I am Mrs Abel. I moved to the UK in 2004 after getting my QTS in Primary Education and a Masters in Humanities. I have been working in the area of autism for the last eight years, teaching in mainstream and special needs schools, primary and secondary. I am passionate about working with children and young people with special needs and I have recently completed my PGC in Autism. I love living in Wales since it reminds me of home (North Spain), I wish the weather was better though! In my free time I like reading, swimming and going for long walks and I would like to try driving a truck (the bigger the better!).



Miss F Jones - Language Faculty Coordinator

My name is Miss Jones and I am the new Languages Faculty Coordinator at Darland. Prior to starting at Darland I was a Welsh teacher for 8 years at Ysgol Uwchradd Prestatyn. During my free time I enjoy participating in outdoor activities especially hiking in the mountains and helping on the family farm. My achievement so far would have to be reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa.



Dr. M Edwards - Mathematics Faculty Coordinator

Having completed my A levels at Yale VI Form College, Wrexham, I studied physics at Oxford University. Through the 90s, I taught both maths and physics at GCSE and A level, before researching for a PhD in laser-plasma physics in York. I spent a further six years researching and teaching at university before returning to Wrexham to teach maths at Ysgol Clywedog.



Mrs E Lloyd-Walker - Teacher of Science

Hi, my name is Mrs Lloyd-Walker and I am a Teacher of Science at Darland High School. Before coming to Darland I worked in Denbighshire. My free time is taken up looking after my many animals (Tortoise, fish, dogs and birds), scuba diving and mountain biking. I have been lucky enough to swim with the Seals at Puffin Island, Anglesey and see wild bottlenose and Risso dolphins. I have also dived with the Sharks at Blue Planet Aquarium.

DIY projects at home form my major hobbies, as well as chopping wood (for the wood burner in winter). I enjoy words and grammar, and am an avid supporter of the apostrophe. However, I particularly enjoy listening to my son play the piano, and playing My Little Pony with my daughter. I enjoy classic cars, and when I get time, I like reading about quantum mechanics, atomic physics, and developments in lasers. If my wife takes the hint I should be getting a new 8 inch reflecting telescope for Christmas in order to take some decent pictures of planets in our solar system.



Mrs T Dop - Teacher of English

During my teaching career, I have taught at a number of schools including an outstanding school in Shrewsbury but my heart has always been here at Darland. My involvement with this school began in 2008 when I started work in the Communications Unit and my greatest achievement today has been securing a full-time position here. My passion is Welsh rugby and this has been evident in my classroom during the world cup.

My only claim to fame is to have met Simon Le Bon at Silverstone in 1991, just after he'd bought a new Ducati motorcycle. He subsequently overtook me on the A40 at some three-digit speed! At Darland, I hope to build upon and develop good teaching and learning in the maths faculty, with the aim of making it the best place in Wrexham to learn maths.



Mrs L Ashford - Teacher of Humanities

My name is Lucy Ashford, and I am new to the Humanities Faculty teaching RE and Geography. Prior coming to Darland I spent 16 years at the UCE Academy in Ellesmere Port. I am very excited at the prospect of working with the fantastic young people at Darland. In my spare time I enjoy singing, playing my guitar, walking the dog and having fun with my young children.



Mrs C Wasiuk - English Faculty Coordinator

I have been teaching for the last eleven years in local schools, first at St. Joseph's in Wrexham and then at the Alun in Mold, before joining the excellent English team here at Darland in September. I absolutely love teaching English as it allows you to be varied and creative on a day-to-day basis. I enjoy spending quality time with my husband and family, and also going to the theatre whenever I can. Recently, I saw a brilliant production of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' at Theatre Clwyd in Mold. As I dragged my husband to see it with me, he is now threatening to drag me to a Wrexham F.C. home game in the middle of winter as revenge! My only claim to fame is that my maiden surname links me to King Harold who was defeated at the Battle of Hastings; this is leading to some interesting researching of our family history.

**Congratulations on the unopposed election
of the following two Parent Governors
Mrs G Nicholls and Mrs V Roberts.**



SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS



TAEKWONDO GOLD FOR DYLAN

Year 10 student Dylan Milne is the current Triple World Champion gold medalist in Point Stop Sparring, Continuous sparring and Tag Team sparring. He has recently attended the Scottish Championships and was successful in winning two gold medals to match his double gold in the Welsh Closed Championships. A huge congratulations on this stunning achievement.

GIRLS TRIUMPH FOLLOWING PENALTY SHOOT OUT



The Year 7 and 8 girls football team has recently beaten Hawarden High School in the Welsh Cup. It was 1-1 at the end of full time with Morgan Churchill scoring our goal, no change in extra time and then 6-5 on penalties, with Ella Hunter saving three goals. The girls performance, behaviour and character was absolutely fantastic especially as Hawarden had tremendous support. Coached by Year 11 student James Sandford these girls will now progress to the National rounds.

Primary School Athletics Festival



On Monday 19th October an athletics festival was held at Darland High School for the local feeder primary schools. This was following on from sessions that had been delivered in the primary schools by Wrexham Community Athletics Coach, Dave Roberts. Around 150 pupils from the five feeder primary schools attended- All Saints Gresford, Holt, Park CP Llay, The Rofft & St Peters. The pupils were split into groups and took part in nine different activity stations which included triple jump, short sprints & shot put. All of the pupils who took part were extremely well behaved, put in lots of effort and showed a great deal of talent during the activities.

A big thank you must go to the Year 10 pupils from Darland High School who helped with the running of the activity stations on the day- Jacob Griffiths, Sam Burns, Ethan Clarke, Jacob Jones, Bradley Ferguson, Sammi Gittins, Sophie Harper, Regan Brown, Eve Sharples, Katie Malone & Niamh Mason Evans. The festival ran very well and a fun afternoon was had by all.

Rob Darlington (Active Young People Officer for Darland High School and feeder primary schools)



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Year 10 students Joe Evans and Alis Veale along with Ms Pollitt held a very successful and popular MacMillan coffee morning during Friday 25th September, with cake sales being held at lunch time, raising a staggering **£278.11**. Many thanks for all the contributions and if you baked, nibbled, nattered or sipped we couldn't have done it without you.

