



# The Griffin



Issue 36

[www.darlandschool.co.uk](http://www.darlandschool.co.uk)

July 2016

*Aspire, Apply, Achieve*

*Ymgeisio, Gweithredu, Cyflawni*

## A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to a bumper edition of the Griffin with a superb range of visits to report on. The choice to run on the front page with pictures from our Performing Arts evening was a natural one. However, there was a record breaking number of wonderful singers, dancers, musicians and actors who provided an evening of fun and fine entertainment.



Although the term has not yet finished, the builders have moved in and started their renovations to the classrooms around Technology. Over the summer, the main corridor is being extensively remodelled, with a new classroom emerging from our Skills Plus rooms (which are being relocated to the ALN department) and a conversion of Mr Sedgwick's art room into a brand new science lab. Early next term, we will finally be losing our rather dilapidated mobile classrooms and work is afoot to relocate the Languages faculty within the school buildings. We are also delighted that contractors will be building covered walkways around our main teaching block, which will keep both students and staff drier as they move between lessons.

As always, the end of term is a sad time, as we bid farewell to a number of staff. Mr Lloyd has been a PE teacher here for 29 years and there are generations of ex students who will remember his inspiring lessons with great fondness. We wish him a long and very happy retirement. Miss Griffiths is moving from Darland to become Head of History at Ysgol Bryn Alyn. We thank her for her dedication over the last 8 years at Darland and wish her all good fortune in her new role. Mrs Jones, Faculty Coordinator, Science, will also be leaving us, but only for a year, since she has been successful in winning a prestigious secondment to the North Wales Education service (GwE) as the principle science advisor. In addition, Mrs Ashford and Mrs Garratt (RE and Geography) will be undertaking advisory work with GwE, on a part time basis. Finally, we bid farewell to the following members of staff and thank them for their many contributions: Mrs Lloyd-Walker, Miss Edwards, Miss Pollitt.

In September, we will be welcoming a number of new appointments to the school.

Mr Newland will be joining the PE faculty  
Mr Reeves and Mr Sellers will be joining the Science faculty.  
Miss Banham will be covering Mrs Owen's maternity leave.  
Mr Higgins and Mr D Jones will be joining our Humanities faculty.  
Mr O'Hagan will be covering Mrs Tate's maternity leave.  
Mrs K Smith will be joining our Languages faculty as a teacher of French.

Please remember that school starts again for all students on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. The School Office will be open from 9am to 3.30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, when our training days are held. In addition, we will be placing a list of key dates and other information for parents on the school website over the summer holidays. May I wish all the students and their families which make up the Darland community, a wonderful summer holiday.

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July - School closes for the summer holidays 3.20pm  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September - Training Day  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Training Day  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September - School Opens  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September - Year 7 School Photographs  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October - Open Day and Evening  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Year 7 Settling in Evening 4.30pm - 6.30pm  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October - Whole school sponsored walk  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October - PTA Halloween Disco

## DARLAND PREFECTS 2016-17

Now that Year 11 have come to the end of their time with us, we have appointed our new prefects for 2016-17. 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 - Robert Ffoulkes 10A**

**Head Girl - Amy Lloyd 10A**

**Deputy Head Boy - Joe Evans 10T**

**Deputy Head Boy - Sam Williams 10T**

**Deputy Head Girl - Olivia Goss 10L**

**Deputy Head Girl - Caitlin Hardman 10L**

**Sports Captain (Boys) - Ethan Clark 10R**

**Sports Captain (Girls) - Daisy Nelson 10T**

**Deputy Sports Captain (Boys) - Iwan Thomas 10E**

**Deputy Sports captain (Girls) - Emily Owen 10E**



We have also selected Year 9 students to train up to be Peer Mentors. These students will be attached to the new Year 7 forms and run a 'drop in' centre to help students who are experiencing friendship issues. Resplendent in their silver ties, they will be great ambassadors for Darland.



## TEACHERS TAKE THE LEAD ACROSS WREXHAM AND FLINTSHIRE



Two teachers from Darland have been chosen by GwE, the school improvement service for North Wales, to coordinate curriculum development in Religious Education and Geography across North East Wales. Mrs L Garratt (Geography) and Mrs L Ashford (RE) will remain at the school, but will have the responsibility for helping to embed the new GCSE courses in their subjects throughout the region. It is a great tribute to the quality of the teachers at Darland that two of our staff have been selected by GwE for carrying out this important role.

# A STYLISH CELEBRATION

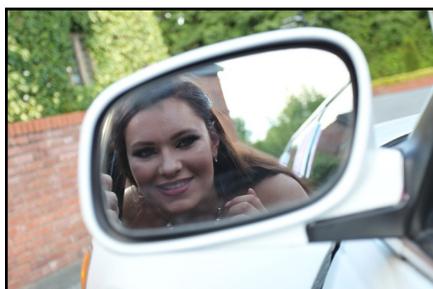
## GROSVENOR HOTEL, PULFORD

### CLASS OF 2016



There was plenty of glitz and glamour as students attended their end of year prom. Year 11 students celebrated completing their GCSEs in style at the event, which this year took place at the Grosvenor Hotel, Pulford. Students arrived in impressive modes of transport which saw the arrival of a fire engine which was outsize by the great American monster truck.

All the students had gone to great lengths to dress smartly for the event, with the ladies opting for a whole range of colours and styles, whilst the men looked equally dapper in their seasonally stylish suits. The students conducted themselves in an exemplary manner, and as the photographs confirm, everyone had a great night. Well done Year 11





# SALE SHARKS NUMERACY CHALLENGE



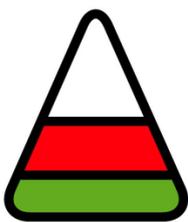
On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Year 7 took part in the Number Cruncherz numeracy programme put on by the Premier League Rugby team Sale Sharks. They got to develop their financial numeracy skills by looking at topics such as budgeting and income & expenditure through fun activities linked to running a rugby club. On the budgeting session, where they had to sign 2 new rugby players for the squad, **Rachel Mclean of 7E said she "really enjoyed the budgeting session as it was interesting and enjoyable"**. These skills were also linked to their own lives and now all pupils should have the awareness of the importance of financial education. The afternoon session allowed pupils to play touch rugby with professional coaches. This was a great experience and many pupils who have never played rugby before, felt confident by the end of it and enjoyed playing the game. And as if that wasn't enough, all pupils who participated in the sessions will be receiving a free ticket to a premier league rugby game at Sale Sharks when the season starts back up again in September!



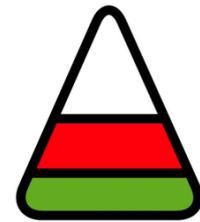
## TOP WELSH STUDENTS HEAD TO GLAN LLYN



Top Welsh students recently visited Glan Llyn to polish up their language skills. Seven proud students in Darland's Year 10, beat off competition from around Wales, to win places at a specially organised 4 day course at the Urdd Outdoor Center in Glan Llyn, near Bala. The students, Findlay Williams, Oliver Barton, Daisy Nelson, Emily Owen, Joseph Parry, Eve Sharples and Ffion Halliwell all from Year 10 and all Welsh learners, entered a competition where their written Welsh was put to the test. Miss Ffion Jones, head of Welsh at the school commented: **'We are enormously proud of the achievements of these enthusiastic students and look forward to hearing of their exciting adventure on their return.'**



**urdd.org**  
Urdd Gobaith Cymru



**urdd.org**  
Urdd Gobaith Cymru



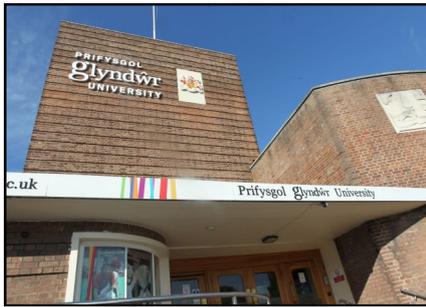
NWF Fuels

# AN EVENING CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

16<sup>th</sup> June 2016



NWF Fuels



Students and staff celebrated in style at the annual Achievement Awards Evening held at the William Aston Hall, Glyndŵr University on the 16<sup>th</sup> June.

This year the guest speaker was Mr Kevin Kennerley, a former footballer who is now the Managing Director of NWF Fuels Ltd, the third largest fuel distributor in the UK. There was a packed auditorium and a fantastic atmosphere as the school recognised the amazing achievements of the students, staff and the local community.

Over 200 awards were presented for academic excellence in a range of subjects as well as 100% attendance, outstanding effort, achievement points and for making a contribution to community life. Of particular note was the special award presented to year 11 student Megan Lea to recognise her 100% attendance record over the 5 years at Darland. The nominees for the AAA (Aspire, Apply, Achieve) trophy this year were Harvey Craddock, Blythe Hallam, Emily Holden, James Rodgers and James Sandford. In Oscar style complete with drum roll and panning light, the award winner was revealed to be Year 11 student Emily Holden. Our sponsored, *Where people make the difference* award was presented to Harvey Craddock and Mrs Charlotte Evans.

The school would like to thank Mr Kevin Kennerley for his aspirational speech. Thanks also go to our local businesses Waterways Garden Centre and Llyndir Hall, for the loan of equipment.



# YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAY

June 2016



On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, we extended a warm welcome to our new Year 6 students who came into school full of enthusiasm and excitement ready to take part in a day of fun filled and action packed taster lessons and activities. The students were met by our Year 9 Peer Mentors and placed into their new form classes ready for September. The fun began with Year 6 experiencing a wide variety of taster lessons ranging from maths, English, Welsh, science and humanities to art and PE. The key objectives of the day were becoming familiar with the new environment, having a taste of the Year 7 curriculum, meeting new friends and of course, having fun.

In the evening, parents were provided with an opportunity to meet their child's form tutor and ask any questions relating to all aspects of life at Darland. The new Year 7s were unanimous in their enjoyment of the transition day and are all eagerly awaiting September 5<sup>th</sup>, when they can wear their new uniform with pride and a new chapter in their life begins.



ASPIRE, APPLY, ACHIEVE

YMGEISIO, GWEITHREDU, CYFLAWNI



# PERFORMING ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA

Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students enjoyed demonstrating their varied and spectacular talents to parents, staff and their peers alike at our Performing Arts Evening. The variety of acts was staggering, from dancers and gymnasts to instrumentalists, soloist and singers. The confidence of the performers testified to the hard work that the students had put in on the days leading up to the performance. Well done everyone!



## A TRULY WICKED TIME, BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Ripley's  
**Believe It or Not!**  
LONDON

Ripley's  
**Believe It or Not!**  
LONDON

Ripley's  
**Believe It or Not!**  
LONDON



44 Darland students went on the annual London trip once again and had a fantastic time. On the first day, a visit to the strangely interesting "Ripley's, Believe It or Not" was enjoyed by all. Artwork created from dead butterflies and chewing gum was both imaginative and slightly disturbing.

The highlight of the trip was the evening performance of the much acclaimed West End show, "Wicked". It was magnificent, and when the first half ended with the signature "Defying Gravity", the auditorium went ballistic. The students who hadn't really heard of the show raved at the end and a standing ovation was completely deserved.

Saturday was spent in Oxford Street, with everyone returning to the bus with an item or two, (in some cases, there were many bags to cram under seats!) A great time was had by all.



## CONGRATULATIONS



Darland High School is proud of the many achievements of current students but is delighted by the recent success of the following former students.

Fabienne Spalvieri has recently been awarded the title of Primary School Teacher of the Year 2016 whilst working in a St Helens School.

First Class honours degrees have been awarded to Robyn Burns and Rhys Evans.

Upper Second Class honours degrees have been awarded to Amie Austin, Zoe Cox, Melissa Edwards, Hemma Gittins, Joe Robertson and Thomas Spalvieri.

Former Head Boy Thomas Booth has recently been accepted onto the Airbus Under Graduate programme. ***The sky's the limit Thomas!***

These results have just started to come in so please update us if you have news of other former students.



# SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS



## SPORTS DAY JUNE 2016



Our annual whole school sports' day took place recently. The atmosphere was set by our Year 7 dancers recreating the Rio 2016 carnival spirit as we look forward to the Olympics. Enthusiastic athletes represented their forms and were cheered on by their supporters. Congratulations to all who took part and many thanks to the staff who helped to make the day run smoothly.



## ROUNDERS

Congratulations to the year 9 and 10 Rounder's team who were the winners of the Wrexham Schools Tournament, which was held at Penley on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. Unfortunately the year 7 and 8 Rounder's tournament had to be postponed due to bad weather.

All the teams have been excellent at attending training matches, as well as friendly fixtures. Well done on all your hard work!

## ATHLETICS

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, students from year 7 and 8 attended an athletics meet at Queensway. There was some excellent talent displayed throughout the day, and the final team positions demonstrate this. Out of the nine Wrexham schools that were in attendance; the Year 8 girls team were 2<sup>nd</sup>, Year 7 girls were 4<sup>th</sup>, and both the year 7 and 8 boys were 3<sup>rd</sup> in their age categories.

Congratulations to the U15s girls athletics team who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and the U13s girls team who came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Wrexham Schools athletics meet in Queensway. They both qualified for the next round of the competition which saw the girls competing against teams from across North East Wales. In this competition the U15s achieved a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and the U13s came 4<sup>th</sup>.

Continuing with our Athletics theme, congratulations to the following students who represented Wrexham at the North East Wales athletics competition on the 20<sup>th</sup> June at Deeside; Leah Griffiths (Yr9), Holly Pemberton (Yr8), Sophie Hodson (Yr9), Adam Liddy (Yr9), Aaron Swindley (Yr9), Millie Bailey (Yr11), Ffion Halliwell (Yr10) and Libby Scothern (Yr10).

As a result of winning their individual events, Libby, Millie, Holly and Adam were all selected to represent North East Wales in Cardiff on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July! Well done on your excellent achievement!!

## INTER FORM

The summer term there has been some very successful (and competitive) inter-form tournaments taking place. Thank you to all the forms and form tutors for their support with the games.

Year 7 Rounder's winners – 7T (Miss Gardner)

Year 8 rounder's winners – 8F

Year 9 rounder's winners- 9E

Year 7 dodge ball winners – 7F (Mr Jones)

## THANK YOU

Finally, the PE department would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who have taken part in extra-curricular activities, and to those who have represented our school teams this year.

Keep an eye out for the new extra-curricular timetable in September!