



Darland High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Darland

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Headteacher P. Agnew BA NPQH

7th November 2016

Dear Parent,

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn term. I am writing to you with information on a number of events and initiatives which will take place over the next few weeks.

Starting the Day the Correct Way

We have started back with a renewed focus on the way we start the day. Having a prompt start, with key routines rigorously followed, sets the scene for purposeful learning and good behaviour throughout the day. The day starts at 8.55am and all pupils must be in school by that time, ready to enter their form rooms. ALL pupils will then be checked by their form teachers for uniform and equipment before the register is taken. The following activities will take place across the week.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
YEAR 7	Assembly	Collective Reflection	Numeracy	Numeracy	Form Time
YEAR 8	Collective Reflection	Assembly	Numeracy	Numeracy	Form Time
YEAR 9	Collective Reflection	Numeracy	Assembly	Literacy	Form Time
YEAR 10	Independent Work / Homework	Collective Reflection	Independent Work / Homework	Assembly	Form Time
YEAR 11	Independent Work / Homework	Collective Reflection	Independent Work / Homework	Form Time	Assembly

Important note for pupils in Years 10 and 11. As you can see from the schedule above, there is no such thing as 'free time' in form rooms in the morning. On Mondays and Wednesdays, all pupils in these years must bring work to do in the 20 minutes of form period.

SHARP System.

We are pleased to announce that the school has now subscribed to the online SHARP System (Student Help Advice Reporting Page System) which allows young people to report any incidents which occur within the school and local community anonymously and without fear via a designated email address. Aside from the reporting tool SHARP delivers educational content to raise awareness on a wide range of subjects including: Bullying, Health, Community Issues, Weapons and Hate Crime. Students and parents can access the system at the following web address:

<http://darland.thesharpsystem.com/>

Any reports will be accessed by one of our 3 designated members of staff who are managing the system Mrs Easton (Assistant Headteacher) and two members of the pastoral team, Mrs Evans and Mrs McLean.

**New Staff
Technology**

Following the resignation earlier this term of Mr Clarke-Coyne, I have great pleasure in announcing that Mr Sedgwick has been appointed Faculty Coordinator, for Technology and Creative Arts. Furthermore, the governors were delighted to appoint Mr S Jones as teacher of technology (Resistant Materials). Mr Jones has been teaching in the school since late September and is a highly qualified specialist in technology. Mr Jones will bring continuity to the exam classes he has inherited, which is most welcome.

ICT.

Mr Dykes is unfortunately off on long term sick leave. This week, we confirmed the appointment of Mrs D Bull as teacher of ICT for the duration of Mr Dykes' incapacity. Mrs Bull is an ICT specialist and a highly experienced teacher. She will be line managed by Mr Roberts, our Assistant Headteacher and Head of ICT and undertake all of Mr Dykes' duties, including assessing work, contacting parents and attending parents' evenings.

Trial Exams

Pupils in Year 11 have a week of Trial Exams starting on December 5th. You will receive a timetable for these exams in a separate document. These exams are crucial in providing a 'dry run' for the GCSE exams next summer and also guide teachers in deciding which tier to enter pupils for. We will be spending a great deal of time preparing pupils for these exams. Please support us by talking over revision plans with your son / daughter and encouraging regular revision.

Year 8 Parents Evening.

On Wednesday 23rd November, from 4.15 to 6.30pm, we will be holding our annual parents evening for the parents / carers of Year 8 pupils. A separate letter will be sent out nearer the time, but please mark this in your diaries now, since your attendance is highly important in our quest to get the best out of your child.

Parents Forum

Parents new to the school may not be aware of the Parents Forum that we established last year. This is a group of some 20 parents who meet on a termly basis to discuss with the Headteacher and senior staff, how we are meeting the needs of parents and pupils. A simple agenda guides the format of each meeting and the feedback we receive from such meetings is enormously important in helping us to improve both the wellbeing and academic attainment of our pupils. The next meeting is scheduled for the evening of Thursday 10th November at 7pm. If you are interested in taking part, please contact me.

Finally, I close this letter with the excellent news that our fundraising efforts in the sponsored walk, raised over £6000 for the children of Nyabigoma Primary School in Uganda. This means that this primary school will soon have a new toilet block, which will have a big impact on their attendance. We will be exchanging letters with the children of Nyabigoma in the coming months and I look forward to reporting on the fruits of our partnership.

Yours sincerely



**Mr P Agnew
Headteacher**