



The Griffin



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Aspire, Apply, Achieve

Ymgeisio, Gweithredu, Cyflawni

A Message from the Headteacher

Congratulations to the Year 9 boys who beat Ysgol Penglais (Aberystwyth) in the Welsh Schools semi-finals, securing a place in the Welsh Schools final against Olchfa (Swansea). The boys came back from 2-0 down to win the game 3-2. A special mention to Sam Williams who was given Man of the Match, and also to Sam Burke who made an excellent one handed save, which proved crucial to the result. The final will be held at TNS on Saturday 6th May, KO: 2pm We would welcome all staff, students and parents to come along and support the team! Good luck boys!

Well done also to the year 7 boy's football team who recently beat St Joseph's 7-0 at home. Ethan Simpson was given Man of the Match, and Joise Fernandes scored a goal on his debut for the team. An excellent effort from the whole team, da iawn chi hogia! The year 10 boy's football team have performed very well in their last two games, winning both matches 3-1, in poor conditions. Their attitude has been superb and they are showing improvement with every match they play.

After a busy term of fixtures, the netball season has drawn to a close. The final matches of the academic year took place at the Wrexham Schools Netball competitions, both held at St Joseph's. The year 7 and 8 teams played on a wet and windy afternoon on 29th March. Even in the difficult weather conditions, the girls were triumphant in achieving 1st place (year 8) and 2nd place (year 7) overall. Good luck to the year 9 and 10 teams who are due to play in their tournament soon. In addition to our Wrexham schools fixtures, our year 7, 8 and 10 teams also visited Queens School, (Chester) to play some matches. All three teams won their matches, with scores of 9-6, 17-4 and 25-6 respectively.



Mr Jamie Griffiths (Cricket Development officer) has been delivering girls cricket sessions to some of year 8 and 9 PE classes. The sessions culminated in the students attending the North Wales School Girls Cricket Tournament at Deeside. Fabulous work ethic and team work was demonstrated by all teams, and a special mention to the Year 8 A Team who got through to the final, losing out by just 2 runs to be awarded with 2nd place. Great work girls!

Through our 5x60 officer, Rob Darlington, we have been lucky enough to have two coaches from Olympus Gym Club coming into Darland to coach our students every Thursday after school. On Thursday 6th April the students who have been attending the sessions were given the opportunity to visit the Olympus gym and use their facilities. It was a lovely reward for the gymnasts who had been attending the club. Thank you to the coaches (Mr and Mrs Edwards) for all their excellent coaching!



During this half term there was an opportunity for our young leaders to develop their coaching skills in Table Tennis. We were privileged to have Ryan Williams (Welsh Table Tennis Coach) come in to school to deliver a coaching session for fourteen of our year 10 young leaders. The course looked at skills, drills and games that the young leaders can deliver to other students in the school. All of the young leaders were successful in passing the course, and some of them are now helping out with our 5x60 lunchtime table tennis club.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 24th April - Training Day
 Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday
 Tuesday 2nd May - Commencement of the Literacy and Numeracy Tests
 Wednesday 3rd May - Yr 8 Choose Life
 Tuesday 8th May - GCSE Examinations Commence
 Thursday 11th May - Parent Forum Meeting, 7pm
 Friday 26th May - School closes for Half Term



HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY



A new reward system was launched in January which has seen fortnightly nominations from staff for four new categories of awards: Student of the Week Key Stage 3/Key Stage 4; Headteacher Phone Call Home; Positive Text Home; Hot Chocolate Friday.

The new categories of rewards have been really popular amongst students from all year groups, feedback from recipients is extremely positive. Indeed, a popular category within the rewards has been the 'Hot Chocolate Friday' awards. Students are nominated by staff and during Friday break time, along with a friend of their choice, they are treated to cookies and hot chocolate with members of the Pastoral team!



Congratulations to all award recipients this term - da iawn!
Mrs Easton - Assistant Headteacher



DOUGHNUT DAY AT DARLAND



As part of Autism Awareness Day, Team ALN hosted a continental coffee and doughnut day. Finger licking fun was had by everyone and a grand total of **£420** was raised which was shared between the Wrexham branch of the National Autistic Society and Dynamics.

Thanks to Morrisons, New Directions plus our other doners of doughnuts for your fantastic support.



More than 15% of all GCSE students at key Stage 4 took and achieved an A*- C in music. This puts Darland in the top 13 schools across Wales. In recognition of the excellent work and achievement we have been awarded the ISM Silver Certificate in Music. Congratulations to Mr Winterbottom for his commitment to music at Darland. Well Done.



BOARDROOM CLIMBING

On Wednesday 29th March, students on the Princes Trust program attended the Boardroom Climbing in Queensferry. All the students gave 100% effort in all the various activities on offer and they should be very proud of themselves.





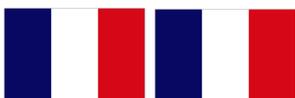
STUDENTS RAISE MONEY FOR RED NOSE DAY



On Friday 24th March, students and staff donned their sports gear for Comic Relief 2017. Students and staff, entered into the spirit of the day by enjoying a non uniform day, the highlight being the highly entertaining students v staff relay races. As well as generating much needed funds for the charity, a great time was had by all.

A staggering **£730.00** was raised
Staff were victorious, winning 3 out of the 5 events
WELL DONE EVERYONE!





YEAR 9 FRENCH ADVENTURE



On Thursday, 2nd March a group of 34 Year 9 pupils and 4 members of staff set off on a 4 day adventure to Paris and Normandy. We travelled by coach through the night down to Folkestone where we took the Eurotunnel to Calais. From there we drove to Paris, where we were able to take in the sights of the beautiful city. We also went up to the 2nd floor of the Eiffel Tower, the views were amazing!

After another four hours of driving, we finally reached our accommodation on the Friday evening at Chateau du Baffy, in the heart of Normandy, where we stayed for 3 nights.



On Saturday, after a continental breakfast, our party headed off, with our packed lunches, to the historical town of Bayeux, where we had chance to do some shopping at the local market. From there we drove on to the 360° cinema at Arromanches, where we watched real life footage from the D-day landings in 1944, it was very moving! We had our packed lunches overlooking the landing beach itself. From there we went on to the American cemetery at Coleville, we couldn't believe how many of the American soldiers had lost their lives, it was so sad to see so many white crosses, some soldiers were as young as 17! We went back to the chateau for a quick freshen up, ready for dinner and then out bowling to Bayeux. We had a really exhausting day and were definitely ready for bed when we got back!!

After breakfast on the Sunday, with packed lunches, we went on a short coach journey to the medieval walled city of Mont St Michel, crowned by its' great gothic abbey, is built on a small granite outcrop standing all by itself in the flats of the estuary of the river Couesnon, in an area now known as Mont Saint Michel bay. We spent a couple of hours exploring the small cobbled streets, with its unique shops and restaurants, despite the windy weather!!

On the way back to the chateau we stopped at a German memorial site, again we could not believe how many soldiers had lost their lives during the D-day landings.

On the Sunday evening, before dinner, we had the chance to sample some local delicacies of frog's legs and snails, a very brave task indeed!!! We finished off the evening with a quiz and there were prizes for the winning team.

After an amazing few days, we set off on the Monday morning after breakfast and headed to the local supermarket, for us to buy extra gifts and provisions for our long journey. We got to Calais in plenty of time for the Eurotunnel home and arrived back safely, but exhausted, to school by 9.00 p.m.

What a fantastic whistle-stop tour we had!!!

Next year, our current Year 8's will have the opportunity of visiting a new venue, Chateau de Warsy, set in a beautiful hamlet of the Picardy region of Northern France . A trip that has proved very popular indeed and has sold out completely, with 50 students booked to go!!



SPORTS LEADERS



14 pupils from Year 10 have recently been chosen to become Sports Leaders for the school. 10 of these pupils are 5x60 Leaders with four of the pupils also taking on the role of Silver Young Ambassadors:

Silver Young Ambassadors - Holly Jones, Caitlin Jones, Ben Edwards & Freddie Gater

5x60 Leaders - Lucy Parry, Hannah Bagby, Cait Williams, Emily Prandle, Maddy Williams, Katie Weaver, Leighton Birch, Aaron Swindley, Owen Jones & Adam Liddy.

The main roles of all 14 pupils are to attend lunchtime & after-school extra-curricular sessions and to be of assistance to the coach, leader or instructor. This may include taking the register, helping with equipment or refereeing or umpiring games.

The four Silver Ambassadors will take on some extra roles such as helping the 5x60 Officer with timetables/ ideas for new activities, helping promote 5x60/ extra-curricular sessions & attending regular meetings with the 5x60 Officer. The Sport Leaders programme is a Sport Wales initiative and all pupils will have the opportunity to sign up to the Wrexham Sports Development Coach & Volunteer programme. There will also be an opportunity for all leaders to help out at primary school tournaments, festivals & transition days between now and the end of the Summer term.