



Darland High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Darland

Darland Lane, Rossett LL12 0EN
Tel: 01244 570588 Fax: 01244 573099
Email: headteacher@darland.wrexham.sch.uk
www.darlandschool.co.uk

Yr Orsedd, Wrecsam LL12 0EN
Ffon: 01244 570588 Ffacs 01244 573099

Headteacher P. Agnew BA NPQH

23rd October 2017

Dear Parent,

As we start the final week of this half term, I felt it timely to write to you with information on a number of issues.

DEAR (Drop Everything And Read). Friday 27th October 2017

As part of our literacy programme, we are launching our first DEAR session this Friday during period 5. Research shows that by reading more regularly, pupils can improve their chances of performing well in GCSE examinations. Accelerated Reading lessons are already part of the curriculum for years 7 and 8, but in this forthcoming DEAR session, we want to extend the experience of reading in a group to the rest of the school. To launch this initiative, **we will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 27th October.** In return for being allowed to wear non-uniform, **we are asking for each pupil to donate a book (or a magazine) that they feel other pupils in their form would like to read.** In the afternoon, Years 10 and 11 will have an extended registration where they will read the books they have brought in. There will be a whole school assembly for Years 7, 8 and 9, after which they will spend the rest of the lesson 5 reading the books they have brought in. At the end of the day, each form should have enough donated books to provide for further DEAR sessions in the future.

Curriculum Briefing Evenings

It has been good to see so many parents at each of the five Curriculum Briefing Evenings we have put on this term. Feedback from parents who attended was very positive and each parent was given a booklet, summarizing the learning programmes for each subject, to help them support the learning of their child. If you were unable to attend one of these meetings, you should have received the booklet for the year your child is in. Should this booklet not have made its way home, an electronic copy is available on the school website.

Host duties

As part of our mission to develop the leadership qualities of our pupils, we are providing our pupils in Key Stage 3 with the experience of acting as hosts in our school reception throughout this year. This term, pairs of pupils from Year 8 have been welcoming visitors to the school and assisting our administration staff with duties. Each pupil does this duty for one morning only once over the year and when not performing host tasks, the pupils sit at their host desk and carry on with their work. We feel that this experience has had a very positive benefit in terms of developing confidence in our pupils and we will be extending the programme to Years 7 and 9 in the following terms.

Emails

In order to improve our communication with parents, we are trying to get a complete register of parent's emails. This will allow us in time, to email all letters and copies of the Griffin to parents in a timely manner. Parents for whom we have no email address will be contacted shortly after half term to help us complete our register.

Dropping off and collecting pupils

We have become increasingly concerned at the congestion experienced in our car park at the beginning and (especially) at the end of the day, when pupils are dropped off or collected by parents. On occasion, the departure of our school buses has been delayed through a gridlock of cars. Can I ask therefore, for parents to collect pupils from the rear of the school, on Darland Lane, where there is always ample parking.

Free School Meals

Apparently, there are many families in Wrexham who are eligible, but who are not claiming Free School Meals for their children. The Free School Meal entitlement goes much further than giving parents the peace of mind that their children are getting a hot, nutritious meal in the middle of the day. The school is also given a grant based on the number of pupils who are claiming Free School Meals and this is targeted at ensuring that pupils from less well-off backgrounds take part in the full range of opportunities and trips at Darland. If you think that you might be eligible, please fill in the form provided with this letter, or get in touch with us for advice and help, which will of course, be completely confidential.

Hoodies

Just a reminder that as the weather turns colder, pupils should not be wearing hoodies on top of their uniform. Pupils who do transgress this simple rule, will have their hoodies confiscated until the end of the day.

Parent Forum

Once a term, Mrs Easton and I hold a meeting of the Parents Forum. This body, made up of 20 or so parents, helps us evaluate the success of whole school initiatives and offers advice on new policies we are proposing to launch. Should any new parents wish to join this group, please contact my secretary, Mrs Pickup. Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 15th November at 7pm.

Finally, many thanks to all parents for your support in ensuring that pupils arrive in school properly dressed and equipped for learning. As part of our focus on 'relentless routines' every lesson now starts with pupils standing behind their desks with their equipment out in front of them. This approach is working well but your continued support is needed in the coming months. Pupils have also responded well to the changes in the school day and there has been a marked reduction in the number of pupils arriving late to school this term. However over the last few days regrettably we have noticed a rise in pupils arriving by late buses, please can you remind your child that they need to be in school by 8.55am at the latest.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Agnew
Headteacher