



The Griffin



Issue 34

www.darlandschool.co.uk

February 2016

Aspire, Apply, Achieve

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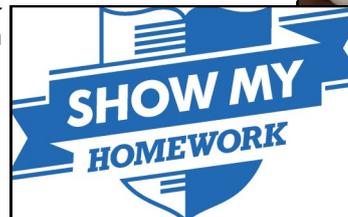
A Message from the Headteacher



Once again, we have had a very busy half term at Darland and achieved a great deal, despite the awful weather. A highlight of mine was the announcement of our early maths GCSE results in January. Nearly half of Year 11 have already achieved at least a grade C in maths and we are confident that our final maths results in the summer will be our best ever. Of particular note were the 16 students who were entered for the higher tier paper. All these students achieved an A* and now will go on to study Additional Maths GCSE, which is an excellent preparation for A Level.

Following the launch of our new Darland App last term, Mrs Adcock and Mrs Holland staffed a stall at both our Year 11 parents evening and the Year 9 options evening, to publicise both this and our new electronic homework system. I cannot stress enough how important it is to download the Darland App, which has replaced our texting system. Downloading the App takes a couple of minutes only and once on your tablet or phone, you will get reminders of important events or letters being sent home with your child.

The Show My Homework system is a very exciting development for Darland and as far as I know, we are the only school in the borough to be using it. Every student has been given log in details and passwords for both themselves and their parents. Once you have the login and password, you can easily see what homework your child has been set and the deadline for the task. There is even an App associated with the website, which will allow you to monitor your child's homework through your mobile phone! At our two parents evenings, we found that there were still parents who had not heard of this new system, so if you have not received the login details, please contact the school. From after half term, **ALL HOMEWORK** will be logged on the site.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 1st March - Year 9 Photographs
Wednesday 2nd March - Year 9 Parents Evening
Friday 4th/Monday 7th - Visit to Normandy, France
Friday 18th March - Sports Relief
Tuesday 22nd March - Year 10 Parents Evening
Thursday 24th March - Year 7 Eisteddfod
Thursday 24th March - School Closed for Easter Holidays
Monday 11th April - Training Day - School closed for all students
Tuesday 12th April - School Open

CLAY SHOOTING EXPERIENCE

Over 150 Year 9 and Year 10 students were guests of BASC (British Association of Shooting and Conservation) at a clay shooting experiences at Common Wood Forests in Borras. The students were given a thorough safety briefing before lifting shotguns to shoulders and training their eyes on the flying clay pigeons. This was a wonderful experience for our students and we hope to join BASC at future events.



SKIING THE CANADIAN WAY

FEBRUARY 2017



Continuing with our successful school skiing trips, next year Mr Coyne and his team have organised a trip to Marmot Basin, Jasper, Canada.

Marmot Basin is an alpine ski area located in Alberta's Jasper National Park. Marmot has 86 named runs and 4 mountain faces with 3000 vertical feet of drop. Marmot basin is generally not as crowded as other major ski resorts, it caters well for all standards and abilities. An extra bonus being 400cm average snowfall guaranteeing excellent conditions.

Marmot offers a unique experience as it is situated in some of the most stunning scenery in the world. Students will also benefit from avalanche training, GPS geo-caching, species awareness and safety in the mountains. The week culminates in an outdoor live explosive demonstration to trigger a real avalanche.

If you would like to participate in this exciting venture to Canada or require further information please contact Mr Coyne or Mr Jones. Letters will be distributed on 22nd February 2016 with places being issued on a first come first serve basis.



CRUCIAL CREW CALLED TO DARLAND



Crucial Crew is an innovative and interactive way of delivering personal and safety education to students in Year 7 and seeks to encourage model behaviour and good citizenship through active participation in a range of real life scenarios, including the Transport Police, Paramedics, Fire and Rescue Service, Women's Aid, Food Standard Agency, Air Ambulance and The British Red Cross.

On 13th January students at Darland enjoyed a very interesting and informative morning tackling current issues and learning how to cope in an emergency.



PEACE POSTER COMPETITION

Four Year 8 students have been recognised by Wrexham Lyons Club for their Peace Posters and have been presented with Certificates of Appreciation at a presentation at Glyndwr University attended by the Mayor of Wrexham.

Pictured are Connor O'Toole, Jennifer Walls, Catherine Williams and Grace Ganci

PEER EDUCATORS PASS WITH FLYING COLOURS



Our Peer Education Scheme at Darland has gone from strength to strength in recent years. Meeting once a week at Llay Resource Centre and with the help of Mr Les Williams from Wrexham Youth Service, the Year 10 Peer Educators have successfully gained a Level 1 in Peer Education.

Our Peer Educators undertake a programme to develop their interpersonal and communication skills. Through understanding boundaries and roles, and gaining an insight into issues such as prejudice and racism, drugs and alcohol and the dangers of social media, they will help to deliver programmes in school to their peers and become positive role models. Well done.

GREEN FLAG AWARD FOR DARLAND

Students and staff from the Eco Committee at Darland are celebrating after being awarded the internationally recognised 'Green Flag' Award. The school was initially awarded the Green Flag in 2013 after several years of hard work. It is only valid for two years and schools must then demonstrate they are continuing to uphold environmental standards and follow the Eco Schools programme, (managed by Keep Wales Tidy).

The judges were particularly impressed by the work that takes place in the school allotment to produce vegetables onsite and which are used in the school canteen, with surplus being sold to staff. They were also keen to see different strategies the school has used in trying to reduce litter and unnecessary waste.



Eco Committee Chair, Olivia Goss said *"We are keen to get as many members of the school community involved in our eco-activities as possible, including parents/guardians. If you are interested in working with us we would love to hear from you."*

Please contact Ms C Pollitt on 01244 570588 for further information.

Numeracy Challenge

Think Carefully!

There is a prize for the best solution.

Bernard lives on one side of a symmetrical hill and Jean lives on the opposite side. The only way to get from one side to the other is to travel along the two-mile road which goes straight up to the top of the hill and back down again on the other side. On his way to Jean's house, Bernard drives at a steady 30mph on his way up the hill. At what speed must he complete the journey if he is to average 60mph.



SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS



NEWS FROM THE PITCH

Year 8 girls have acquitted themselves admirably in the Welsh Cup beating Hawarden High School to reach the National stages for the first time. They lost to a strong Creuddyn School from Llandudno, in what was a very hard fought game.

During the winter, a large number of boys have represented the Wrexham and District Schools team. 8 boys have represented the area side against Powys and Flintshire. Joel Edwards, Sam Williams, Morgan Thomas-Sadler, Harry Fuller, Nathan Roberts, Iwan Edward, Alfie Lythgoe and James Smith all represented the team that beat Powys 6-0 and Flintshire 9-1.

Similarly, we have a good representation of Year 7 boys in the Wrexham Area Team, Oliver Jones, Matthew McNee, Owen Czerniak and Jack Weston.

RUGBY NEWS

Congratulations to Year 10 students Tomos Walker and Daniel Jones, who were selected for the North East Wales Rugby Squad. The team beat Blaenau Gwent but were defeated by North West Wales.

DARLAND STUDENTS HEAD FOR NETBALL NATIONAL FINALS



Darland was well represented at the North East Wales Regional Netball Championships held at Deeside Leisure Centre on Sunday 7th February.

Playing for their clubs were: Elizabeth Wilkinson, Sasha Aldridge, Grace Bithell, Frankie Thomas, Megan Adcock (North Dragon Blazers) who are trained by our very own Teaching Assistant Bronwen Edwards, Sarah Ashfield (North Dragon Rockets), Ellie Tarran, Charlotte Monk and Jemma Birch (Rhosnesni Netball Club).

Well done to North Dragon Blazers and North Dragon Rockets who will now progress to the National Finals in Cardiff on May 8th.

SPORTS CLUBS

Monday - Cricket, Dodgeball and Badminton

Tuesday - Tennis Years 7,8 and 9

Netball Years 7 and 8

Wednesday - Netball Year 10 and 11

Rugby League, All Years

Girls Football, All Years

Thursday - Netball Year 9

Basketball

Friday - Badminton All Years

