



# Darland High School

## Ysgol Uwchradd Darland

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Headteacher P. Agnew BA NPQH

13<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Dear Applicant,

I am delighted that you are interested in applying for a post of Teacher of Mathematics at Darland. Over the last three years, standards at both Key Stages have improved tremendously with the 75% A\*-C achieved by this summer's Year 11, being the best in the Local Authority. This was achieved despite the fact that this was the first examination of the two new Maths GCSE courses: Mathematics and Mathematics Numeracy, both of which were taken by all our students. At the higher end, results were even more significant, with 32% of the cohort achieving at least 1 A\*/A and 86% of the Additional maths cohort achieving distinction. This success has been down to the hard work and energy of the maths team, combining as they do, a mixture of youth and experience, underpinned with a commitment to collaborative working and high standards. Dr Matthew Edwards is the Faculty Coordinator and encourages a culture where both students and staff are encouraged to try new ideas in a highly supportive environment. All staff at the school have their own classroom, laptop and iPad.

I have been headteacher at Darland since September 2009 and have had the privilege of working with a fabulous team with a real appetite for change. Darland has always had a reputation for high standards in public exam results. On the Welsh system of school categorisation we received a grade 2 (yellow), reflecting the enormous amount of work that has taken place in the school recently to drive up standards. Obviously our ambition is to achieve a grade 1, which we are confident that we will do in the near future.

For the last three years, Darland has been oversubscribed for Year 7, but despite this, we are at heart a small school, with a standard number of 168 per year group, a factor which allows teachers and managers to get to know our learners very well. We take pupil wellbeing very seriously and our two resource centres (for Dyslexia and ASD) help promote an inclusive climate in the school, aided by a major commitment to extending opportunities for our students through an impressive programme of extra curricular activities.

This post will suit both an experienced teacher as well as someone at the start of their career. We can guarantee you high-quality support in your new job, committed and effective colleagues, well-motivated and imaginative students and a supportive community. In addition, we can promise an outstanding programme of staff development including participation in a peer observation programme, together with access to a range of external courses to develop you as an outstanding practitioner and also hone your leadership skills for further promotion. It is testament to the success of our programmes for professional development, that nearly all of our new appointments in recent years have secured promotion within a few terms.

On the school's website [www.darland.wrexham.sch.uk](http://www.darland.wrexham.sch.uk) you should find attached a copy of the school prospectus. The school's own website can also provide you with more information about our school. Please ensure that your application is completed on the standard Wrexham application form and that you attach a letter of application in support of this document. Obviously, there is only so much information about the school and the post that can be gleaned from these documents, so I would be happy to discuss any aspects of the post with you over the phone, or should you wish to visit the school prior to making an application, my PA, Clare Pickup, will be happy to arrange this. May I remind you that the deadline for applications is noon on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

P Agnew