



The Griffin



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July 2017

Aspire, Apply, Achieve

Ymgeisio, Gweithredu, Cyflawni

A Message from the Headteacher

This week, we rounded off a very rich and varied term with a wonderful Performing Arts concert at Darland. There were an unprecedented number of acts treading the boards of our stage and as always, it was humbling to see the wealth of talent that lies within the student body of Darland.

It has indeed been a very busy term. As well as the usual exams for Year 11, our Year 10 students were also put through their paces, taking exams in Science, Maths, English, Welsh and RS. Away from the classroom, it has been a bumper season for our young sportsmen and women, with significant achievements in both athletics and team sports. 30 of our Year 9 students are celebrating getting their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award, a first for Darland. In another first, the History department has just returned from a fantastic trip to Berlin.

As is usual at the end of term, we say goodbye to a number of staff who are moving on:

Mrs N Jones, Faculty Coordinator Science. Mrs Jones leaves us to take up a full time post as the Science Advisor for North Wales.

Mrs V Gray, Faculty Coordinator Humanities. Mrs Gray is taking up a post teaching history in Whitby High School.

Mrs J Symes, Progress Coordinator Year 8. Mrs Symes is moving to teach at Bishop Heber School.

Mrs S McDonald, Teacher of English and ALN. Mrs McDonald is retiring after over 30 years' service to the school.

Mrs J Hawke, Assistant Faculty Coordinator, Maths. Mrs Hawke is retiring after 25 years' service to the school.

Mrs J Chandler, Teacher of Maths. Mrs Chandler is retiring after 25 years' service to the school.

Miss F Jones, Faculty Coordinator Languages. Miss Jones is leaving to set up her own business teaching Welsh to businesses.

Mr D Reeves, Teacher of Chemistry. Mr Reeves leaves us to take up a post in Ysgol Maes Garmon.

Miss R Benham, Teacher of Science. Miss Benham leaves us to develop her teaching career.

Mrs D Bull, Teacher of ICT. Mrs Bull is taking up a post at Ysgol Dinas Bran.

Mrs T Ward, Teacher of English. Leaving after the return of Mrs Wasiuk from maternity leave.

The following Teaching Assistants are also leaving, mostly to complete their studies to become fully qualified teachers: **Mr D Hughes, Mr C Eagle, Miss H Gittins.**

To all these colleagues, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the way each and every one has helped shape the pupils of Darland and contributed to the success of the school.

It is important to note that we have made excellent appointments to replace those leaving the school and will be fully staffed when school opens again for students on Tuesday 5th September. In the first week of term, I will of course write to all parents to introduce our new staff.

Finally, may I remind all parents that we move on to our new timetable on September 5th, starting period 1 at 8.55am. On the first day back however, pupils will have a two hour form period with their new form tutor. May I wish all students and their families a very relaxing and fulfilling summer break.

Please remember school opens on the 5th September for all students and that students in Year 10 attending college courses will go to college on the afternoon of Tuesday 5th September.

AN EVENING CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

15th June 2017



Students and staff celebrated in style at the annual Achievement Awards Evening held at the William Aston Hall, Glyndŵr University on the 15th June. This year the guest speaker was Mr Peter Moore, CEO of Liverpool Football Club. There was a packed auditorium and a fantastic atmosphere as the school recognised the amazing achievements of the students, staff and the local community. Over 200 awards were presented for academic excellence in a range of subjects as well as 100% attendance, outstanding effort, achievement points and for making a contribution to community life.

Of particular note were the awards presented to 5 year 11 students Anastasia Binnington, Jack Booth, Harry Booth, Toby Jones and Sasha Thomas in recognition of their 100% attendance record over the 5 years at Darland.

The nominees for the AAA (Aspire, Apply, Achieve) trophy this year were Anastasia Binnington, Emily Owen, Rachel McLean, Emily Baines and Charlotte Jones. In Oscar style complete with drum roll and panning light, the award winner was revealed to be Year 11 student Anastasia Binnington. Our sponsored, Where people make the difference award was presented to Mrs Janet Chandler.

The school would like to thank Mr Peter Moore for his aspirational speech. Thanks also go to our local businesses Waterways Garden Centre and Llyndir Hall, for the loan of equipment.

Assistant Headteacher, Mrs L Easton commented "***It was an absolute honour to be able to be a part of such a prestigious evening. Over 200 awards were given to students on the night, awarded as a culmination of all of the hard work, effort and achievement demonstrated by Darland Students. It was a superb evening and the recipients were a real testament to the Darland ethos of 'Aspire, Apply, Achieve'.***"



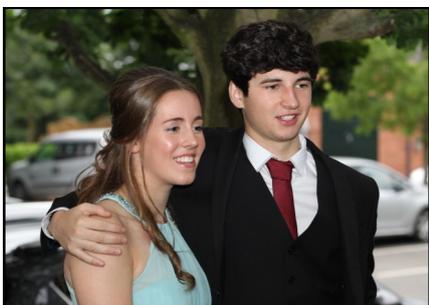
A STYLISH CELEBRATION

GROSVENOR HOTEL, PULFORD

CLASS OF 2017

There was plenty of glitz and glamour as students attended their end of year prom. Year 11 students celebrated completing their GCSEs in style at the event which this year took place at the Grosvenor Hotel, Pulford. Students arrived in impressive modes of transport which saw the arrival of a hummer, sports cars and horse and carriage

All the students had gone to great lengths to dress smartly for the event with the ladies opting for a whole range of colours and styles whilst the men looked equally dapper in their seasonally stylish suits. The students conducted themselves in an exemplary manner, and as the photographs confirm, everyone had a great night, well done Year 11



YEAR 5

SCI TECH DAY IN PICTURES

26th, 27th and 28th June 2017



MAKE IT - ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

On Friday 16th June, 8 Year 9 pupils went to the Ramada Plaza Wrexham to take part in the Make it Enterprise challenge.

The challenge was to produce "People fuel" an energy/nutrition drink for any age group of their choice. Pupils had to organise themselves into different roles in a company, including Managing Director, Finance Director and Marketing Director.

One of the main focuses of the challenge was to come up with a reward/recycle scheme for their chosen drink. The pupils had about 3 hours to come up with a prototype of their product package, draw up a finance plan and marketing campaign for their reward scheme.

At the end of the day the pupils had to make a 2 minute sales pitch to 3 Dragons. The team worked extremely hard and enjoyed a taste of enterprise.

YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAY

29th June 2017



On Thursday 29th June, we extended a warm welcome to our new Year 6 students who came into school full of enthusiasm and excitement ready to take part in a day of fun filled and action packed taster lessons and activities. The students were met by our Year 9 Peer Mentors and placed into their new form classes ready for September. The fun began with Year 6 experiencing a wide variety of taster lessons ranging from Maths, English, Welsh, to D&T and PE. The key objectives of the day were becoming familiar with the new environment, having a taste of the Year 7 curriculum, meeting new friends and of course having fun.

In the evening parents were provided with an opportunity to meet their child's form tutor and ask any questions relating to all aspects of life at Darland. The new Year 7s were unanimous in their enjoyment of the transition day and are all eagerly awaiting September 5th, when they can wear their new uniform with pride and a new chapter in their lives begins.



BRONZE AWARD FOR DARLAND DUKE OF EDINBURGH STUDENTS



This term 29 year 9 students participated in the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. To achieve this award each participant had to complete three months of volunteering, skills and physical activities selecting one to do over six months. Additionally they had to complete a two day expedition which took them through parts of Flintshire and Denbighshire.

To prepare for this the students took part in after school skills sessions where they learnt about map reading, route planning and first aid. Additional preparation included a practice expedition around Llandegla forest. Some of the groups did not make it out of the forest without assistance, however all groups did make it to the camp site safe and sound with a little help from Vinny the Van. Once everyone had arrived everybody worked together as one great team to set up the tents and the Trangias. The team spirit continued in to the evening as we entertained each other. The second day was a simple if challenging route, the whole experience was a good taster for what was to come in the final expedition.

After a few more skills sessions the students were ready to complete the final expedition. Each group had clearly defined goals to achieve, these varied from creating video diaries to looking at the different impacts on the environment. It is fair to say that all the students did really well on this expedition as everybody passed. It has to be noted that their map reading and first aid skills had been put to the test! Many thanks to Mr Coyne, Mr Jones, Miss Medi and the other staff members who assisted us through our Duke of Edinburgh experience. We hope that all younger students will consider taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as it is a great opportunity to 'Aspire, Apply and Achieve'.

ICH BIN EIN BERLINER!



The History trip to Berlin began with a really early start leaving school on Monday morning to check in for our 6.30am flight to Berlin Schonefeld airport. All 32 students, Mrs Gray, Mr Jones History and Mr Jones Maths arrived safe and excited to be met by our tour guide who accompanied us to our hostel. There was no time for a rest though as we went straight into the centre of Berlin to begin our tour of some of the key historic areas of the city. Unfortunately, it rained heavily as we visited the famous Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and the poignant Memorial to the Jews of Europe. It brightened up though as we visited the Cold War's Checkpoint Charlie giving us a chance to dry out.

Day two began with much better weather and we visited the emotionally draining Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp where everyone struggled to comprehend the scale of cruelty and inhumanity of the Nazi regime. Everyone was agreed that it was an overwhelming but important experience. The mood was lifted in the afternoon with a visit to the Olympic Stadium where Jesse Owens won 4 gold medals in 1936 smashing holes in the Nazi's racial theories. It was being prepared for a U2 gig the following night. Unfortunately they wouldn't give us tickets to come back!

The trip also included an awesome walking tour of Berlin focussing on the Jewish community, a visit to a Museum of East German life and the Museum of German Resistance to the Nazi's where the film Valkyrie was filmed. It was a trip packed with activities and we were busy the whole time we were in Berlin but we still managed to have a great time. The pupils were a credit to themselves and to Darland High School and I am sure it was an experience that will stay with them all for a long time bringing the course to life. Great trip, great memories, great city: Berlin.

DARLAND PREFECTS 2017-18

Now that Year 11 have come to the end of their time with us, we have appointed our new prefects for 2017-18. We had an unprecedented number of applicants from Year 10 to become prefects and the standard was very high. However, we are thrilled to announce the appointment of the following:



Head Boy - Adam Liddy
Head Girl - Cait Williams



Deputy Head Boy - Liam O'Toole
Deputy Head Girl - Abby Royce

Sports Captain (Boys) - Aaron Swindley
Sports Captain (Girls) - Sophie Hodson

We have also selected Year 9 students to train up to be Peer Mentors. These students will be attached to the new Year 7 forms and run a 'drop in' centre to help students who are experiencing friendship issues. Resplendent in their silver ties, they will be great ambassadors for Darland.

'BY YOUR SIDE'



On the 16th July, Songs of Praise followed and filmed Mike Peters, lead singer from the Alarm on his journey as part of the 'By Your Side' Appeal. Darland's school choir were lucky enough to meet and sing with Mike Peters and Aled Jones, the famous Welsh singer and TV presenter. A thoroughly enjoyable morning and a fabulous opportunity to share with the community.



SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS



Athletics

The summer term has seen some excellent team, and individual successes in the Athletics competitions.

The U13s girls, U15s boys, and U15s girls teams, placed in the top two at the Wrexham Schools Athletics competition. They all made it through to the North East Wales Schools competition which was held at Deeside on Monday 19th June. The teams were not successful in qualifying for the next round; however they demonstrated great team work and effort on the day.

On Tuesday 4th July, there was a year 7 and year 8 Athletics competition for all Wrexham Schools at Queensway. Another great day for Darland team athletics, in which the Year 7 girls and year 8 boys were 1st and the year 7 boys and year 8 girls were 2nd. Well done to all the students involved!

Finally, we have some individual athletes who have excelled this term. Congratulations to Holly Pemberton (Yr9) who, after two qualifying rounds, went on to become U14s Welsh Champion in Javelin. Well done to Lewis Parry who qualified for the North East Wales U16s 1500m, and Ffion Halliwell and Libby Scothern who both won their events at the North East Wales events. The PE department are very proud of all your achievements.

A special mention also goes to Grace Meredith (Yr7) who was crowned Victrix of the Year 7 Wrexham Girls Athletics competition.



SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS



Once again, sunny skies set the scene for our annual whole school sports' day which took place in an atmosphere of tremendous team spirit, as enthusiastic athletes representing their forms were cheered on by their supporters. Outstanding effort was rewarded and the results were as follows:

The winners for the year groups were as follows: Year 7 = R, Year 8 = F, Year 9 = N, Year 10 = A

The overall winning form was "R" Congratulations to all who took part and many thanks to the staff who helped to make the day run smoothly.



Rounders

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 girls who both won the Wrexham Schools rounders competition. Thank you to our Sports Leaders and Young Ambassadors for helping out on the day.

Cricket

Well done to the U14's boy's cricket team who won the Wrexham schools cricket tournament which was held at Brymbo Cricket Club.

The U15s team then went through to the "Chance to Shine" national cricket competition which was held in Birmingham. The boys demonstrated excellent team work and effort throughout the day, and were 3rd place overall!

Finally, the PE department would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who have taken part in extra-curricular activities, and to those who have represented our school teams this year. Keep an eye out for the new extra-curricular timetable in September!