



# The Griffin



Issue 42

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October 2017

*Aspire, Apply, Achieve*

*Ymgeisio, Gweithredu, Cyflawni*

## DARLAND STUDENTS WIN LIFE SAVING MACHINE FOR THE SCHOOL

A bold and innovative film made by a group of Darland students, has resulted in a defibrillator worth around £2000 being presented to the school. For two years now, all pupils in Year 7 have been trained in life saving CPR rescue techniques, by NHS staff, using the fleet of resuscitation dolls, which the school owns. We are really proud of the way our students have responded to this training, which has given them the skills to save lives.

However, despite the effectiveness of CPR, there are times when only the use of a defibrillator can restart a heart after a coronary. The defibrillator will be mounted in a box outside the school, accessible by members of the community in Rossett, who will be given the access code by the emergency services. The machine was presented to the school by the NHS in the final assembly of the half term. Our newest governor, Kayleigh Matthias, representing Rossett Community Council, was on hand to congratulate the pupils.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November - Maths PPE Numeracy Year 11
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November - English Language PPE Year 11 Resit
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November - Maths PPE Numeracy Year 11 - Years 7,8 and 9 Progress Review
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November - English Language PPE Year 11 Resit
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Science PPE Year 11 Resit - Maths PPE Year 11 - Year 8 Numeracy in the workplace
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Maths PPE Year 11
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Forum 7pm
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Year 10 Health and Well-being Morning
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Wrexham Schools Cross country
- Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> November - Year 9 No Barriers Theatre Company
- Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December - Year 7 Show Racism the Red Card
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Year 8 Parents Evening
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Year 11 Exams commence
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Carol Concert 7pm
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Year 11 Photographs
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Year 11 Car Safety
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Whole School Cinema Trip - School Closes for Christmas

# CYBER BULLYING PERFORMANCE

*October 2017*



Darland was pleased to host a short concert by solo singer/guitarist Sion Hill. Sion gave two performances, to Year 7 and Year 8 respectively. They were treated to some of his own material and also enjoyed singing along to some well known covers. As well as entertaining the students with his musical talents, Sion also spent time talking to them about key issues including cyber bullying, resilience, self-esteem and appropriate use of social media. His performances were well received and all students enjoyed the experience.

## ICT & COMPUTING

It's been a busy start to the year for the ICT and Computing department. Years 7-9 have seen a complete curriculum overhaul in preparation for future computer science courses being introduced at GCSE. The changes are also in readiness for the new Digital Competency Framework which must be implemented by all schools across Wales within three years.

The new scheme of work covers some previous ICT-based units of work; such as data handling, video and sound production and e-safety, but there is now more emphasis on computing concepts such as computational thinking, algorithms, data representation and visual/textual programming. The coding starts at Year 7 using visual programming which is programming in a drag-and-drop style. In Years 8 and 9, it becomes more challenging with the introduction of text-based coding through the use of the programming languages Python to produce a basic game and HTML/CSS to design and make a website. The majority of the units will still cover the main three elements of this subject, which are designing, creating/making and testing/evaluating.

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Many congratulations to Eleanor Bosworth (Year 8) for becoming our first ICT & Computing student of the month, for September. Eleanor was selected for her hard work and dedication in lessons but also for striving to improve her level by constantly making improvements. Well done, Eleanor.

## CODING CLUB

We will soon begin our new Coding Club which will be aimed at Year 7 and Year 8, as their schemes of work contain more programming. Students will develop their coding skills through visual and textual programming languages to control Micro:Bits, Bit:Bots and Drones which are controlled by a computer program developed by the students themselves. Keep an eye out for the sign up forms which will be sent through Show My Homework.

Follow the ICT department on Twitter for all the latest news and developments: @darland ICT



## A GRAND PERFORMANCE



Congratulations to Rufus Edwards from 8T who has recently performed at the Wesley Methodist Church in Chester as part of a lunchtime concert. He is an accomplished pianist and he enjoyed playing a variety of music styles on their beautiful grand piano.

*"I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and hope to be able to take part again next year." - Rufus Edwards*



# NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS



**Mrs S Poole** - After working for many years as Assistant Leader for English and Literacy Coordinator at St Joseph's High School, I am delighted to be working at Darland. There is a very positive atmosphere here and some very focused students. When I am not working, I love spending time with my dog, Max and riding my motorcycle.



**Miss F Roberts** - I am delighted to have joined Darland High School as a History Teacher. I graduated with a degree in History from Bangor University, specialising in Modern and Welsh History. In my spare time I enjoy travelling to new places and experiencing new cultures, as well as taking walks in the countryside.



**Mr J Hayes** - I am from a small village in England, Rainford, but now live on the Wirral. I have two children, William (aged 4) and Charlotte (aged 1). I have taught in Hillside High School in Liverpool, Hope Academy in Newton-Le-Willows near St Helens and now Darland High School - this is my 10th year in teaching. I worked one day a week in primary schools in St Helens whilst at Hope Academy to assist those schools with the new computing curriculum. I also hold my Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Skills (DES) certificate meaning I can lead and support with the delivery of this within schools.

In my spare time I like to cycle (road and mountain bike) and I enjoy riding my motorcycle in the summer months. Music and TV/film are my passion - I have music playing 24/7 and like nothing more than to get lost in a good film or box set.

I am proud to volunteer for the RNLI as Lifeboat Crew at West Kirby Lifeboat Station. I have a great sense of pride and community belonging to be able to support others in a time of great need and possible emergency. The RNLI vision is 'To end the preventable loss of life at sea'; I am honoured to be part of their team.



**Miss E Thomas** - Hello, I'm Miss Thomas and I am the new Welsh Teacher and Welsh Curriculum Coordinator in Darland High School. I attended Aberystwyth University studying Welsh and Theatre Studies, and then went on to Bangor for my teacher training. Lastly I studied the Masters in Education through Cardiff University. I have worked at Prestatyn High School and Ysgol Brynhyfryd before coming to Darland.

In my spare time I love to dine out, socialise with friends, go to the theatre, and watch Dragon's Den.



**Miss K Roberts** - I have previously worked at Castell Alun High School as a Biology teacher and am now working as a Chemistry teacher here at Darland.

Since university, I have been an avid rock climber having climbed routes inside and outside, I also like playing badminton on occasions.



**Mr A Jeffery's** - I completed my A Levels at St Richard Gwyn High School, Flint, and went on to study economics at Lancaster University. From 2010-11, I taught maths at Hawarden High School, before moving to Wrexham to teach maths at Ysgol Clywedog, where I was an Assistant Curriculum leader for Mathematics.

In my spare time I like doing maths, and am currently in my final year of studying for a degree in maths. I enjoy watching all types of sport, and I used to play rugby for North Wales and Mold. During my time playing for Mold I was lucky enough to play alongside the Wales and Ospreys flanker, Rob McCusker. I also enjoy weight training and playing football.



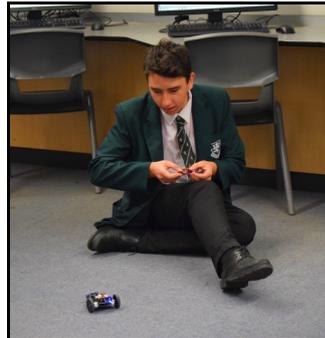
**Mrs R Rae** - I am a mother of three (aged 16, 7 and 4). In my spare time I enjoy going for a run and taking my children on outings. I have 15 years experience as a credit analyst working in different banks and ending up in the chemical industry, where I credit risk assessed businesses across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, covering a turnover of approximately 700,000US dollars. I live in Wales, but would like to eventually retire in the South of France with a small swimming pool and perhaps my own vineyard.

# DARLAND OPEN DAY 2017

October 2017



The pictures on this page remind us of the wonderful Open Evening that we held at the beginning of this month. Our Open Evenings are always a time for the school to celebrate and showcase the main opportunities that are offered in a Darland education. This year was no different with a wealth of stunning displays and legions of smart, friendly ambassadors ready to guide our visitors around.





**Yr.10's have the opportunity to help yr7,8 and 9 students in the Urdd club, every Tuesday 13:30-14:00**



*In the Welsh department, there is a weekly 'Seren yr wythnos' that wins a Welsh badge (pictures to the right) to wear on their blazer with pride!*






Ar-Lein Online






*In order to catch up on any Welsh programmes, there is 'clic' similar to iplayer or 4od! Even if it's just switching to Welsh news with subtitles!*

*What about giving a Welsh Professional Theatre Production a try? Theatr Clwyd in Mold? 'Y Galeri' in Caernarfon?*



**Eisteddfod yr Urdd**

*The Eisteddfod yr Urdd is coming to Denbigh in 2020! Anyone who wishes to compete to see Miss E Thomas! Choir club is every Wednesday lunchtime!*

welcome to **learnCymraeg.org**

*Did you know that there are Welsh courses/lessons available in YOUR area?! + Every Monday evening at 18:30 in Coleg Cambria!*

**Only 21.7% of the population of Wales, speak Welsh!  
Let's all make that small change!**

23/10/2017

## ☕ REWARD FRIDAY ☕

As part of the reward system here at Darland, students enjoy a 'Hot Chocolate Friday' with the pastoral team.

Students are excited to receive their nominations from staff and love bringing a friend to enjoy the experience.

