



Darland High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Darland

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Headteacher P. Agnew BA NPQH

18th February 2019

LETTER TO APPLICANTS FOR POST OF TEACHER OF SCIENCE

Dear Applicant,

I am delighted that you are interested in applying for the post of Teacher of Science at Darland High School. Situated to the north of Wrexham, serving a cluster of rural villages, our school boasts beautiful, leafy grounds and has excellent communication links with the North West and with North Wales.

On the TES site, or on the school website, you should find the following documents which are essential to prepare you for making an application for this post.

- Job Description
- Prospectus
- Brief guide to the Science Faculty
- Wrexham LA Application form. (please also enclose a letter in support of your application of no more than 3 sides of A4. (font size 12). CVs are not permitted.

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 12th March. We hope to interview in the week following this.

I have been head teacher 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 and we have seen a steady improvement in these over the last three years, brought about through close monitoring of students and a rigorous quality assurance schedule and clear lines of accountability. Our school motto, Aspire, Apply, Achieve, is a ribbon that runs through all that we do as a school and our surveys show that we are experiencing significant success in developing learner confidence and raising aspirations.

This is an exciting time to be joining the school. We are currently categorized as a Good or 'yellow' school by the Welsh government and are actively pursuing Outstanding or 'green' status. In 2018, Year 11 achieved a L2+ of 64% and results in science have been over 70% A*-C for several years now. We generally have two classes sitting Separate Sciences in each year and last year 60% of these students achieved A*/A.

Although Darland is regularly over-subscribed, 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.

The successful applicant will join a team of 7 full time scientists. We need a committed and passionate science graduate, ideally one with a chemistry or physics background, but your skills as a communicator and enthusiasm for working to unlock potential in young learners are just as important as your academic qualifications. The Faculty is situated in its own purpose built building with excellent facilities, two prep rooms and a work room for science staff. There has been considerable investment in the faculty and much of the equipment and apparatus is brand new. Leadership in the faculty is renowned locally as being exceptional, with excellent policies for assessment, tracking and meeting the needs of the LNF. There is an excellent culture of self-evaluation and collaboration within the tight knit science team and the record of the career progression of scientists at Darland is very good.

This appointment is an exciting opportunity for an individual with drive, energy and a passion for bringing out scientific ability in young people. I am wholeheartedly committed to creating a vibrant learning culture in our school and seeing our students develop their skills and progress to further and higher education. If you would like to be at the centre of this mission, then you will find a very supportive staff and a highly enthusiastic group of students and we would love to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Agnew', with a horizontal line underneath.

P Agnew