

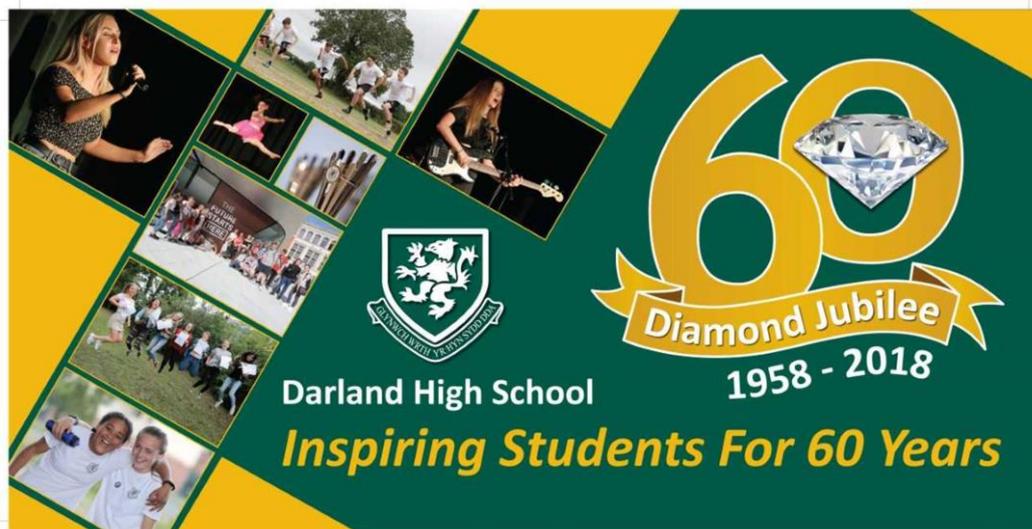


The Griffin



Aspire, Apply, Achieve – Ymgeisio, Gweithredu, Cyflawni

Issue 13: 15th July 2019



Dear Parent

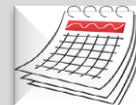
With the summer holidays only days away, there is a palpable sense of excitement around the Darland campus. I must confess to sharing in this excitement, with my time as a headteacher nearly over, but mine is an excitement tinged with sadness, admiration and pride. Just to leaf (or scroll) through this newsletter is to be reminded of the rich vault of experiences held in a school like Darland. To read about our visits to Milan and Berlin, stockbroker activities in the hall, multiple sporting victories and curriculum enriching opportunities in school, is to be reminded of the vibrant learning culture which we have here at Darland. Since I have seen this level of engagement as a constant throughout my time as headteacher, I need to remind myself frequently that every day that a pupil spends with us, shapes their character, attitudes and values in ways that will endure throughout their life. Schools are special places where talent and character are nurtured and guided. Every year we witness the marvellous spectacle of the Darland Prom; the culmination of five years of developing cohorts of confident and ambitious young people, ready to go out and make their mark upon the world. Those five years pass quickly for those of us of a certain age, but are a major rite of passage for young people, since of course, we never forget our schooldays!

It has been a huge privilege to have been headteacher of Darland and to work with such a talented and committed staff team, whose energy and positivity is humbling. I have also been grateful to the community of governors and parents for their endless support and encouragement. One very recent example of this was the opening I attended, along with the Mayor of Wrexham (who of course is our Chair of Governors), of the new Darland Fitness Suite. The idea to refurbish this facility came from our PE department, who worked tirelessly with pupils to raise over £5000, throughout the autumn term. Governor Mike Jones was successful in attracting an additional £7000 grant from the Bank of America and one of our parents, Mr Craig Young, stepped in with a fantastic offer to design and equip the fitness suite and through his generosity, the plan came to the fruition. The point of this story is that it demonstrates the power of our school community, working together for the benefit of our pupils.

Although I have many exciting plans for my retirement involving educational consultancy, outdoor adventure and travel, I will sincerely miss the vitality of life in the Darland Community. The future is bright for Darland however. Mrs Joanne Lee is going to make a brilliant headteacher and the school with prosper I am sure, for many years to come.

P Agnew

Key Dates:



GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS PUBLISHED
Thursday 22nd August 2019

School opens to pupils
Wednesday 4th September 2019

TRAINING DAYS
2019/20

Monday 2nd September 2019
Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Friday 22nd November 2019
Friday 19th June 2020



Darland High School,
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Rossett, Wrexham,
LL12 0DL

Website
www.darland.wrexham.sc.h.uk

Visit
schoolsays.co.uk/darland
with your android or
apple device and
download the Darland
App to stay updated.

If your child is absent
from school please
call the
Absence Line on:

01244 570588
on each day of
absence.



Achievements at Darland

Aspire, Apply, Achieve – Ymgeisio, Gweithredu, Cyflawni

Attendance Matters Well done to the top tutor groups in each year, for their excellent attendance over the past two weeks.

7T 96.0%	8F 96.9%	9A 94.2%	10R 96.1%
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Huge congratulations go to the following pupils who have maintained 100% attendance throughout the whole of this academic year.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Jake Barlow Mitchell Clare Emily Collins Lara Goodwin Tilly Hall Lowri Holdsworth Dylan Hughes Malakai Jones Holly Mitchell Owain Price Polly Richards Ollie Weston Jack Wills Gracie Wright lestyn Wyn-Jones	Nancy Done Dylan Ellis-Jones Owen Hughes Mia Jones Henry Layhe Megan Leech Bob Lewis Rachel Lightfoot Sam Page Dylan Renouf Matthew Smart Megan Tunstall Matthew Tweedie Eve Wilde Elizabeth Williams	Aaron Bell Elin Durnell Iwan Holland Lamine Ndiaye Kate Reddy Connor Skelly Harvey Smallman Ieuan Thomas Ben Todd	Emily Benyon Grace Bithell Sophie Di F-Kamperman Ben Hall Ella Hancock Oliver Jones Ollie Jones Grace Richards Thomas Roberts Francesca Thomas Aran Walters Jack Weston



WELSH WORD/PHRASE OF THE FORTNIGHT



Uchelgais - Ambition

THINK OF THE WEEK:

Is it better to play well and lose,
or play badly and win?

DID YOU KNOW

Shakespeare invented more than
1,700 words?

In the headlines...

Year 11 Prom – Grosvenor Hotel, Pulford

On Wednesday 26th June, Darland said farewell and good luck to Year 11 students at the annual prom. The event was again held at the prestigious Grosvenor Hotel, Pulford and was attended by the vast majority of both staff and students. The students looked fantastic and arrived at the venue in a range of vehicles, taking full advantage of the glorious weather for photo opportunities in the gardens. Following a 2 course meal, it was time to award mock Oscars before the Year 11's hit the dance floor for the remainder of the evening. In summary, a very pleasant evening and a fitting end to their time at Darland School.



Darland prom photographs are now available to view on the Darland School website: <https://darland.wrexham.sch.uk/2019/06/27/darland-prom-2019/>

TEXTILE ARTIST WORKSHOP

Textile Artist, Nikki Parmenter visited recently to teach the Year 10 girls new textile & mixed media techniques. The girls work will create artwork for their Art & Design/Textiles portfolios which will be completed next year.



<https://darland.wrexham.sch.uk/2019/07/10/textile-artist-workshop/#gallery-1>

FASHION WORKSHOPS THE ITALIAN WAY – MILAN

The Art and Design Department recently took 18 year 9, 10 and 11's students to Milan on a memorable and activity packed trip. The students were able to photograph the beautiful cathedral, Duomo and other notable architecture in Milan as well as taking part in a bespoke atelier fashion workshop with a famous Italian tailor.

Students enjoyed eating Italian food, strolling through the shopping district, and visiting the home of Armani's world famous designs. Tired feet were rested on a scenic boat trip along the Navigli Canal, after a long day sightseeing.

Students no doubt will use the inspirational visit as a basis for future projects for Art, Photography and Textiles GCSE coursework.



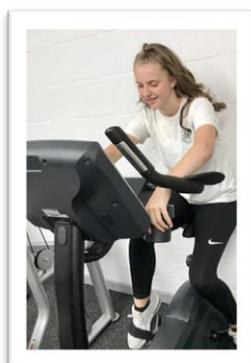
<https://darland.wrexham.sch.uk/album/gallery/milan-trip-art-and-photography/>

REFURBISHED FITNESS SUITE GRAND OPENING



On the 8th of July we finally opened our newly furnished fitness suite, we are absolutely thrilled with the finished product, the attention to detail and calibre of equipment is so much more than we ever expected. We could not have done this without the support of all the children on MAD day back in October, raising a staggering £5000. Also Mr Mike Jones who won a £7000 bid from MBNA and £1000 from BALPHE, we are hugely grateful to both Mike and these organisations for all their support. We would also like to thank the school and Mr Agnew for contributing towards the cost of the fitness suite. Finally, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mr Craig Young, a parent at the school and a local business owner, he has gone above and beyond to make our vision a reality, providing a gym costing in the region of £25,000 for a lot less, his time and attention to detail has really made the fitness suite a magnificent place for our students and staff to improve their health and wellbeing.

Thank you so much to everyone for all your help.



Year 10 Stockbroker Challenge

Thursday 5th and Friday 6th July saw the return of the stockbroker challenge. A Great day and a fun way to compete against each other whilst still being educational.

During the day Year 10 were split into groups and were told they had £100,000 to invest in different stocks that will be constantly changing through the five trading days (shortened to about 25 minutes a day). The idea was to invest while cheap, and then sell the shares off when they have increased in value but it wasn't always that simple. Much like the real market if you didn't sell off before share value dropped, you would lose a lot of money but it could equally rise up in price right after you sell off and you miss out on a large profit. Whoever had the largest profit at the end of the session was the winner.

From the day the pupils had a pretty good idea on how the stock market works and the uses of it, they learnt about taking risks and advantages of investing in businesses and how they can earn money through doing it.

The day was run really well but some found it quite difficult to manage and make money although that did make it more realistic, as in the real market not everyone would make money! A great day was had by all and who knows an aspirational Alan Sugar could be in our midst.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

Friday 28th June – Sunday 30th June

Over this weekend, 70 Year 9 and 10 students participated in order to gain their Bronze and Silver Awards. The expedition, involving walking and camping and took place around Carrog and the Berwyn mountain range. The event was organised and led, in his own inimitable style and with great panache, by Mr. Coyne. He was supported by a team of staff who gave up their time to support the pupils over the weekend and we are grateful to all the staff involved. The pupils are to be highly commended on their determination and resilience in undertaking the walks in very warm temperatures. So, in addition to testing themselves physically doing the walking and carrying heavy packs, they had to learn how to conserve and manage energy levels in the strength sapping conditions. Although there were many aching limbs by the end of the weekend, it was an enjoyable experience, with the added bonus of topping up suntans!

A huge thank you to all who took part and helped.



<https://darland.wrexham.sch.uk/album/gallery/dofe-july-2019/>

Culture, Curses and Currywurst!

Darland History Trip 2019

Our flight was from Manchester airport and we had a number of first time and/or nervous flyers who were worried about the flight. Our process through security was fine with only a couple of minor incidents like jelly smuggling and lost wallets to contend with. Luckily the flight was smooth and relaxing with a bit of a bumpy landing to keep us on our toes. We were met by our guide who accompanied us through the airport and to our hostel, pointing out some key parts of Berlin on the way. We settled in to the hostel and, after dinner, we went for a walk up to Checkpoint Charlie, the old entrance to the America sector, where we had time to have a look at the souvenir shops and McDonalds!

After an early start to day 2, we arrived at Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. The tour guides who took us round were really knowledgeable and gave us a good understanding of the life in the camp. Experiencing the camp was eerie, but very interesting, and although it left us feeling uneasy knowing what went on there, it is an experience everyone should have.

We then went on to the Wannsee House where the SS agreed on the Final Solution. It is a beautiful house in a beautiful setting but it was weird knowing who'd been there and that it was the place where such an awful event in human history had been decided. From here it was on to the Olympic Stadium where Jesse Owens had smashed the Nazis ideas about the Master Race. It was fantastic and we got to sit in the VIP boxes, see the player's lounges and the press conference area. It was an awesome stadium and we had only just missed a Metallica concert! After a busy day on and off the tour bus we took a walk in a beautiful park to see the Leipzig memorial which is one of the highest points in Berlin. The walk was hot but it was worth it for the fantastic views over Berlin and the break dancer at the top!

On Wednesday we were up early and had the U-Bahn to negotiate. We met our guide Jamie who was really engaging and interesting. Although the tour was 4 hours of walking the time flew by as we found out loads about Berlin's history and the rise of the Nazis. We even began to feel like we knew our way around. So with our feet hurting we heading for some shopping time in Alexandersplatz. Here we saw some street markets, some familiar brands, and had the chance to buy souvenirs. Berlin is an awesome city and we definitely enjoyed the cultural differences like the millions of bikes and smart cars we saw. We would love to come back!

Thanks to Olivia Price Williams, Ollie Jones and James Mann for their words.

***The pupils were a pleasure to travel with and dealt with some difficult experiences with great respect. They were a credit to themselves, their families and the school.
Roll on the next History trip!***



Sporting Highlights...

Sports Captains

Congratulations to our newly appointed Sports Captains and deputy Sports captain, it was a tough field this year and all who applied deserved the positions, however or New Sports Captains for 2019-2020 are Daniel Lloyd and Meg Royce, supported by Jack Weston and Frankie Thomas as deputy Sports Captains.



Silver Ambassadors

Oliver Jones, Scarlett Oldfield, Alex Palmer, Victoria Redman, Hannah G Jones, Mia Williams and Nicole Taylor were all successful in their appointment as Silver Ambassadors last week, this is a recognised qualification through Sports Wales and they as well as the Sports Captains will support the department in hosting running various events for both primary and secondary schools in the area as well as extra-curricular activities. Congratulations to every single one of you!

Sports Day

We managed to go ahead with Sports Day this year despite the very wet June we endured and we had a superb day! A huge thank you to all staff and pupils who took part and supported the day – The final results are as follows –



Overall winning house – ‘L’
Victrix Ludorium – Isabella Jones (Yr 8)
Victor Ludorium – Callum Shaw (Yr 10)

Year group	Winning form	Best Female Athlete	Best Male Athlete
7	F	Ffion Harrington & Lara Goodwin	Dylan McDowall
8	L	Abbie Thomspson	Alfie Gabriel
9	R	Holly Burke	Kade Thatcher
10	F	Elizabeth Wilkinson	Callum Shaw

<https://darland.wrexham.sch.uk/album/gallery/sports-day-2019/>

Athletics

We've had several successes at both regional and national level at Athletics meets this summer. Unfortunately, due to the poor weather conditions, we've had a few competitions which have been postponed, but most were rearranged where possible.

At the Wrexham Schools U16s and U14s athletics competitions, we had several students who placed 1st or 2nd in their event and went on to represent Wrexham at the North East Wales competition which was held in Queensway. Following on from this, Holly Pemberton, Ella Hunter and Abbie Thompson were all successful and selected to represent North East Wales at Gemau Cymru. The competition was held in Cardiff on the 6th July and saw Holly winning the Javelin and placing 2nd in the Discus across Wales. Well done girls on your excellent achievement!



The U15s Girls, and U13s Girls and Boys were successful in gaining a place at the North East Wales Athletics competition. Our U15s girls finished second and were selected to go down to the Welsh Schools' Athletic Association to compete in the NASUWT Plate in Brecon.

We also has the year 7 & 8 Wrexham Athletics Championships at Queensway on the 2nd of July, all teams were outstanding on the day, Year 7 boys placed first in Wrexham, Year 7 girls placed third, Year 8 boys placed fifth and Year 8 girls placed second. Congratulations to you all.



New Kit Alert!!!



Rounders

We've been training every week on a Thursday after school in preparation for the Wrexham Schools Rounders Tournament. Due to poor weather conditions the year 9 and 10 tournament had to be cancelled, however the year 7 and 8 tournament took place at Darland on Thursday 4th July. Both our year 7 and 8 teams displayed excellent batting and fielding skills and were crowned champions in both year groups! Da iawn chi genod / Well done girls!



Gemau Cymru

Alongside our individual athletics successes, we also have four girls in year 10 who were selected to represent Wrexham in the netball tournament held at Gemau Cymru on the 6th July. Well done to Ellie Tarran, Jemma Birch, Grace Bithell and Charlotte Monk who were runners up at the tournament.



Cricket

Congratulations to our year 7, & and 9 boys who recently won the U14's Wrexham Cricket Championships. Darland were the only school to enter three teams in the competition held at Brymbo Cricket Club.



Girls Football

Well done to our year 7 & 8 girls Football team who recently competed at the Wrexham area tournament held at Cefn Druids this year, they played well in a tough competition, placing third.