

A Parents' guide to Darland High School



DARLAND HIGH SCHOOL
ASPIRE, APPLY, ACHIEVE



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At Darland High School we understand the transition to high school can be an anxious time for parents/carers. With this in mind we have designed this transition booklet specifically for parents/ carers.

We have ensured this booklet has all the information you require to support your child as they start their journey through Darland.

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[@darlandhigh](https://twitter.com/darlandhigh)



[@darlandhighschool](https://www.instagram.com/darlandhighschool)

Welcome message

Hello, and welcome to Darland High School. I am delighted you have chosen to join our community, and are very much looking forward to meeting you all. Darland is a happy and successful school, and I am sure you will thrive here as part of our family.

We provide a safe and welcoming environment where our students are at the centre of everything we do. We are committed to offering the very best education through great learning experiences. Since our opening in 1958, we have grown into a community of over 1000, with 850 pupils and 160 staff members.

Our dedicated team of staff offer a wide curriculum that ranges through the faculties of science, mathematics, languages, creative arts, humanities and sports so no student will be left wanting. Our pastoral team work tirelessly with students to ensure each student is prepared and ready to learn.

We feel the most important relationship that supports a student's learning is that between the school and home, where together we can most effectively prepare and support students to achieve all that they can.

This year we are all in a different situation. Our usual transition programmes have been disrupted, so we have produced an online transition programme that will be available on our Google Classroom service. This will give a taste of Darland High School through some 'live' aspects of the site. Head of Year, Mr Owens-Jones, will keep you informed of our 'lessons' that will be accessible and will be available to answer any of your questions. We hope you enjoy the site.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Joanne Lee
Headteacher



Meet the Team



Mrs Easton
Assistant Head



Mr Owens-Jones
Head Of Year 7



Mrs Evans
Pastoral Care



Mrs Mclean
Pastoral Care

Year 7 Form Tutors



Miss Roberts
History Teacher



Mrs Minshull
Maths Teacher



Mrs Ashford
RE Teacher



Miss Young
Maths Teacher



Miss Burgess
Maths Teacher



Miss Mountford
Maths Teacher



Miss Halliwell
PE Teacher



Mr Campion
Maths Teacher

The first contact at school for any issues relating to your child should be their form teacher.

To contact the school, please phone the office. If the member of staff you require is not available they will organise a call back for you.



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Term Dates

Autumn Term 1	
1st September 2020	23rd October 2020
Half Term	
26th October 2020	30th October 2020
Autumn Term 2	
2nd November 2020	18th December 2020
Christmas Holidays	
21 December 2020	1st January 2021
Spring Term 1	
4th January 2021	12th February 2021
February Half Term	
15th February 2021	19th February 2021
Spring Term 2	
22nd February 2021	26th March 2021
Easter Holidays	
29th March 2021	9th April 2021
Summer Term 1	
12th April 2021	28th May 2021
Half Term	
31st May 2021- 4th June 2021	
Summer Term 2	
7th June 2021	21st July 2021

INSET Days (Staff Training): To be confirmed.

1. 1/9/2020
2. 2/9/2020
3. 4/1/2021
4. 12/4/2021
5. 20/7/2021

Uniform



Uniform

Bottle green blazer with school crest

White school shirt with long or short sleeves (no fitted shirts)

School tie with crest

Green check school skirt or Black school trousers – these should be 'business wear'. **We do not allow** cropped trousers, skin-tight trousers, 'cigarette' style trousers, ski-pants, leggings, jeans, chinos, viscose stretch-type trousers, and low-rise hipsters.

Plain black full socks or black tights. Socks should be plain black and full length, **we do not allow** trainer socks and there should be no gap in between trousers and shoes with ankles on show.

Plain black shoes with sensible heels and no large logos.

PE Kit



Indoor Kit

Green Darland T-Shirt. Plain black or Darland Logo: Shorts/ Leggings/ Skorts
Trainers

Green Long sleeve Darland top.

Outdoor Kit

Green Darland T-Shirt, Plain black or Darland Logo: Shorts/ Leggings/ Skorts

Black Knee length socks

Trainers/Football Boots

How can you help?

Here are some tried and tested strategies for you to help your child prepare for the transition from Primary to secondary as easily as possible.

- Ensure that your child is able to attend any induction activities that we have planned here at Darland. This will help them become familiar with the surroundings of the school and meet their new classmates before arriving in September;
- Ensure your child knows that feeling nervous is normal and everyone else will be feeling the same.
- Ensure that your child, as a minimum, arrives equipped with a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and water bottle.
- Ensure that your child has the correct uniform for when they start at Darland. Nobody wants to be the odd one out on the first day.



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Attendance

Key points to remember about Attendance at Darland.

- Attendance has a significant impact on progress.
- Missed days equals missed learning opportunities
- Research shows 17.5 missed days equates to a GCSE grade below the pupils target.
- Attendance is a key theme of assemblies and form time discussions.
- Rewards are available for good attendance. However we also recognise where pupils have put the effort in to improve their attendance
- It is our policy **NOT** to authorise any holidays.
- If you decide to take your child on holiday it will be marked as an “unauthorised absence” and may result in a fixed penalty notice.
- Pupils are made aware of their attendance along with their forms and year group on a weekly basis.
- Punctuality is important if they are late to school it has an impact on their learning. They will be handed a late slip and expected at the late detention at break time.
- **Please remember if you child is absent from school then parents/ carers need to contact the school each day they are absent on 01244 570 588**



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Rewards System

Attitude to learning: At Darland we utilise a 4 step attitude to learning grade system for each lesson. All pupils begin on a 2. If they exceed this basic expectation they are awarded a 1 which has an associated achievement point. If on the rare occasion their attitude drops below this expectation they can be awarded a 3 or a 4. Keep up to date with this on a daily basis with the Parents App!

Treat Friday: Staff nominate pupils who have impressed them in the previous week to receive a Hot Chocolate with Assistant Head Mrs Easton. This is a real honour. Especially for Year 7 pupils.

Attendance: With the importance of attendance we like to motivate pupils to achieve the best attendance open to them. In this regard a number of rewards are offered to pupils with good attendance including termly prize draws, weekly raffles and the opportunity to win the form cup in each year group.

Awards Evening: The jewel in the crown of the Darland calendar. This is an opportunity to celebrate all that is good at Darland. We take the time to recognise outstanding contributions to Team Darland, both in an academic and a community sense.

Reward Trips: Each year we offer a number of trips for pupils who are consistently excelling at Darland. Venues include Laser Tag, Manley Mere and cinema trips.



Trips and Visits

We offer a number of educational trips all around the world.

#notallclassroomshave4walls



Annual ski trips.

Including Canada, America
and Europe

Annual French Trip



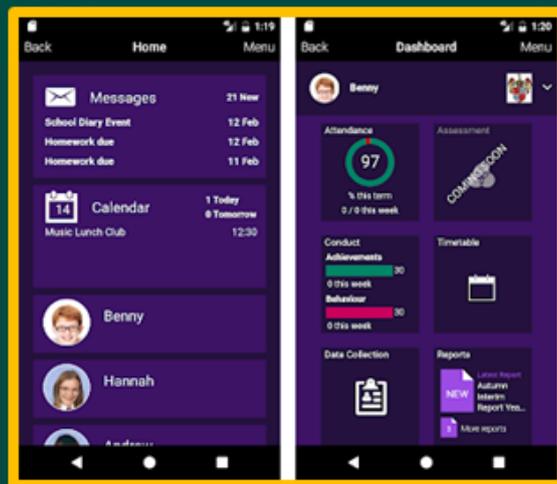
Duke of Edinburgh Award

Geography trip to
Switzerland



SIMS Parent App

SIMS Parent App will provide you with swift access to attendance, achievements, homework, behaviour, the school calendar from the convenience of your phone, tablet or P.C.



SIMS Parent App will be the method of regular communication between home and school. Therefore all parents will need to sign up.

For more information please click on the links below. Which will take you to the videos explaining all the features!

[Introduction and Overview](#)

[Parent Registration onto SIMS Parent App](#)

[SIMS Parent App Installation by Narendra Rathore, IT Assistant](#)



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Views of Year 7

Below are some extracts of letters current Year 7 have shared about their experience of coming to Darland.

"Now that I have been to Darland for a while I am happy! I have lots of friends and I know that if I am upset or feel like I need something, I can always go to my head of year or my form teacher because they are both very supportive!"

"However there are lots of other children from other schools that I didn't know. I made friends with these children quickly because I was with them all the time."

"I think it's really nice to have different teachers for different classes because they all have their own unique personalities which is why it makes me enjoy every lesson."

"It is easy to make friends because people are very friendly at Darland so by the end of the week you will have made lots of friends."

"Once my English teacher called my Mum and Dad to say how well I had done and that I had won a trip out!"

"What I enjoy about Darland is that we are a team and everyone's ideas can be shared and listened to. Darland has made me go to school everyday thinking positively and always knowing I'll learn something new everyday."

"The most important thing about being in Darland is to enjoy yourself and make the most of it before it ends, everyday is a new day to learn interesting new things! "



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Frequently Asked Questions

How will my child know where to go on the first day?

Your child will be greeted by staff in the car park and directed to the main hall for their first assembly at Darland.

Will they need PE kit for their first day?

No, the first PE lesson will not involve changing into kit.

What do they do about getting lunch?

Pupils can bring their own sandwiches, but a session will be set up in the morning to allow them to register onto the canteen software.

How will my child find their way around school?

Your child's form class will be escorted around for the first few days by the peer mentors, to allow them to get a feel for the layout of the school.

What if my child becomes ill before coming to school or in school?

If your child is going to be absent for any reason please ensure you phone the office to alert them. If your child is ill in school, the school will call you to pick them up if required. If you are picking your child up, please come into school to sign them out.

What equipment will my child need?

As a minimum a pupil should come to school equipped with a bag, pen, pencil, ruler and a water bottle.

Where can I get the uniform from?

You can purchase any Darland uniform from RAM leisure. More details are available in this booklet.



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