



Darland High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Darland

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Headteacher Mrs J Lee BSc NPQH

11th September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome back to the new academic year and a special welcome to our new Year 7's who are settling in well.

We are exceptionally pleased with the way pupils are adapting to the 'New Normal' on site. Our one-way system and further safety measures although a little time-consuming, are working well to promote the safety of pupils, staff and their families at home.

A reminder that the school day starts at 8:45am and ends at 3:00pm, and we have 'Site-Passes' for parents of our ALN students or students requiring them on medical grounds to enable drop-offs or pick-ups on site (please display these in your car and staff will allow you onto the site). Please contact the main office if you require a pass. We appreciate that restricting car access to the site is a change, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, we need to limit the number of persons on site. Please be courteous to our staff if they ask you not to enter the site at drop-off and pick-up times. Thank you to parents who have been very patient at this time.

Thank you all for ensuring your child has a clean face covering for each day and for washing these regularly as they are getting a lot of use.

We have been very lucky with the weather over the last two weeks, however as we move into the autumn please make sure your child has a coat to keep them warm and dry and keep an eye on the forecast. We are required to keep year groups separate so have staggered entry into the canteen areas, this does mean that pupils will spend some of their lunch and break outside. Also a reminder that we are unable to open our canteens at break due to the lack of time to get all students through and maintain necessary cleaning routines. Please make sure your child has plenty of water for the day and a snack for the morning.

You will remember that last year we had a drive on parents signing up to SIMS ParentApp. Please can you make sure you have access to the App as from October 10th we will be switching to using SIMS ParentApp for messaging and texts. The new school calendar will be uploaded onto ParentApp shortly, but please be aware we have removed all gatherings such as Parents' Evenings and Open Evenings for the foreseeable future, in line with Welsh Assembly guidelines. We are currently looking into virtual or online alternatives and will update you as soon as we have further information.

Finally, we have been overwhelmed with the support we have received from parents. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work with the Local Authority, Welsh Assembly and Public Health Wales to keep pupils learning and keep everyone as safe as we possibly can. If you do need to speak to a member of staff at the school please phone and make an appointment in advance.

Kind regards

Joanne Lee
Headteacher