

Prospectus

2020/21

Darland High School

Aspire, Apply, Achieve



www.darland.wrexham.sch.uk



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At Darland we offer a welcoming learning environment the moment you walk through the door and where every child is encouraged to make the most of every opportunity.

Our work starts long before pupils arrive, with the strong links we have with our Primary Schools and continues with all members of our community, learning is a life-long activity and here at Darland we recognise that. It is important to us here at Darland to have good relationships with our parents, and our communication systems like Parent App mean that parents can keep in touch with their child's progress daily at the touch of a button.

Our Curriculum offers a wide range of opportunities for our students, we have some of the top performing Mathematics and PE departments across the whole of North Wales and uniquely offer a full suite of Creative subjects including Drama, Textiles, Photography, Media Studies and Hospitality and Catering alongside the traditional disciplines of Design Technology, Art and Music.

Our spacious Science and Computer Laboratories, a newly built Gymnasium and extensive recent refurbishment provide a great range of modern facilities for students and staff.

Alongside and supporting our extensive curriculum you will find our Pastoral care team. Our Heads of Year, Assistant Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Officers are on hand each day to cater for the needs of our students. We also encourage older students to become Peer Mentors, Sports Leaders and Prefects which offer support to the younger students helping them settle in and take part in the array of extra curricular activities we offer at Darland.

Darland is definitely a school that is more than the sum of its parts – Staff that have a passion for teaching, students that are inquisitive and independent and a supportive and friendly pastoral team really does create a special place for learning.

I look forward to meeting you all soon at Darland High School.

Kind regards

Joanne Lee
Headteacher





Aims of the School

The aims of Darland High School are summed up in our school motto “Aspire, Apply, Achieve”. At Darland we know that for students to succeed they must have aspirations. We encourage all our students to aim high and foster in them a belief that they can fulfil their dreams. We ensure that all the students in our care understand their potential in all aspects of the curriculum. However we are realistic enough to appreciate that success does not come without effort and that is why we see application as the means of achieving potential. We have a Darland culture that celebrates and enjoys success in all aspects of school life. Most importantly, the school motto was chosen by all those who work in the school: students, teachers and all staff - it represents our belief that together we can achieve success for all our students.

Darland High School is a local Authority Community Co-educational Comprehensive School.

Age Range: 11 - 16

Number on roll: 840 (+ Resource students)

Number of places available in each of the five year groups: 168 (excluding students in our Additional Needs Resources).

Language of the School: English

Admission arrangements:

The Local Authority is the admissions body for the school for students starting in Year 7 in September 2020. In common with the other six community schools, the LA asks that all parents looking for places for their children for the following year should make submissions by **06/11/20**. Applications can be made on-line or by using a paper form. Please see www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/education/admissions_secondary.htm for more details.

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



Setting the Ethos: our key words

Rather than post lists of rules on walls around the school, we constantly communicate the expectations we have chosen for the school community to keep us focused.

These words are:

Ready – i.e. punctual, receptive to advice and ideas and ready to develop and change.

Respectful – i.e. polite to one another, friendly and courteous, conscious of the need of everyone for personal space and the right of others to hold their opinions.

Safe – i.e. walking on the left around school, playing safely and using equipment correctly in science and technology.

Behaviour in classrooms, corridors and playgrounds

We expect courtesy, respect and consideration from all members of the school community. Our school rules are simple and the consequences for infringement clearly signposted for students. As with all aspects of school life, we believe that keeping parents informed is important and we may telephone parents to discuss the behaviour of their children. Our behaviour records are recorded electronically on the school database and a summary of all 'Attitude To Learning' points is sent to parents five times a year and can be found on the SIMS Parent App.



Awards Evening

Every year, the school celebrates achievement in an awards ceremony in the William Aston Hall in Wrexham. Prestigious awards are presented to around 300 students for criteria encompassing academic achievement, effort and community work. It is a wonderful event for the school to showcase the hard work and determination of our students and staff.



Rewards

It is our ambition that every student at Darland should achieve at least one reward every year. Just as students receive 'Behaviour Points' when they fail to meet our behaviour expectations, they receive 'Achievement Points' when they impress the staff with their effort, attitude and actions. These Achievement Points (called House points) lead to the award of a bronze badge when the student reaches 30 points, a silver at 50 and a gold at 100. These are presented by the Heads of Year in Assemblies. There is a reward at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms for students in each year group who have consistently high effort grades. In addition, six students are selected by the staff every week for a praise phone call home and another six are selected for a special 'hot chocolate treat' every Friday.





Attendance and Punctuality

Students learn best when they are in school! Students are registered electronically in every lesson and should your child be absent, we ask that you telephone the school after 8.30 on the morning of absence. When a child accumulates more than five unauthorised absences in any one term, the school in conjunction with the Local Authority may impose a Fixed Penalty Notice on the parents of the child.

For students who maintain 100% attendance, there is a grand prize draw at the end of the Spring term where we give away an iPad and a TV respectively.

Punctuality to lessons is of prime importance if we are to prepare young people for the world of work. Students must be in school by 8.40am.

<u>School Day</u>	
Form Time	08:45 - 09:00
Lesson 1	09:00 - 10:00
Break	10:00 - 10:15
Lesson 2	10:15 - 11:15
Lesson 3	11:15 - 12:15
Dinner	12:15 - 13:00
Lesson 4	13:00 - 14:00
Lesson 5	14:00 - 15:00

Uniform

At Darland we believe that a smart uniform is very important; it demonstrates the pride that students take in our school and themselves. No extremes of appearance are acceptable - this includes hairstyles as well as dress and the school asks for the support of parents in ensuring their children dress and present themselves correctly. In case of unforeseen problems with uniform, parents should contact the appropriate Progress Coordinator.

In accepting a place at Darland High School, parents agree to these rules.

Students must ensure they are wearing the correct uniform from the following list:

Bottle green blazer with school crest

White school shirt with long or short sleeves

School tie with crest

Official school skirt (green tartan kilt) or black school trousers. Please note that 'skinny' trousers or black jeans are not permitted. 'Trainer socks' are not allowed and trousers must reach the top of the shoes, with no exposed flesh showing.

Plain black short socks or black tights (opaque)

Plain black shoes sensible heel and no large logos

Optional Uniform Item*

Bottle green V neck pullover (available sleeveless or with sleeves), available from RAM, our school suppliers.

PE Kit

Rugby Kit

Green long sleeved top with Darland logo

Black Darland logo shorts

Black knee length socks

Studded football boots

PE Kit

Green sleeved Darland logo t-shirt

Darland ¾ zip training top or Darland logo long sleeved top (Optional)

Black Darland logo shorts/skort/leggings or plain black shorts/leggings

Trainers

Shirts must be traditional school shirt design so that they can be tucked into skirts and trousers properly. They must have a proper collar to accommodate the tie correctly.

Shoes must be completely black and low heeled, any visible logos must be small. Boots are not allowed.

Socks/tights must not be coloured or patterned.

Outdoor coats should fit over the blazer so that they can be worn to and from school in bad weather



Jewellery - students may only wear an inexpensive watch and one pair of **plain studs** in the lower lobes. Hooped earrings including sleepers are not allowed. No body jewellery is allowed (nose, tongue, lip, eye-brow, belly button etc). The school will not be responsible for any injury caused by or to a body piercing. All jewellery brought into school is at students' own risk.

Hair should be a natural colour. Hair styles must not be extreme; the minimum length is grade 2. The school will decide what is extreme and if you are in any doubt about your child's hair style, please check with a senior member of staff. Head bands and hair bobbles should be of a dark colour and not excessive. Tramlines, shaved designs in hair or shaved eyebrows are not permitted.

Make-up is only allowed if it is very subtle and is applied minimally. The school reserves the right to make that judgement and we will ask students to remove excess. **Nail varnish** is not allowed.

Equality and Diversity

The school is respectful of all faiths and where specific faiths require alterations to the uniform and appearance code, we will do our best to accommodate those needs. Students with a disability, who may need amendments to the uniform, will be accommodated. Parents are advised to contact the appropriate Head of Year.

Financial assistance

The LEA operates a clothing scheme to help some families with the purchase of uniform. Application forms for a grant to help with the cost are available from Wrexham County Borough Council.

https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/education/school_uniform_grant.htm



Transport

Very few of the students who attend Darland are entitled to free transport by Wrexham Council. Fortunately the Arriva buses travel the route along the Chester Road every 12 minutes. We also offer private buses. In return for a fee (£160 a term in 2019), your child will have guaranteed seat on a bus that will collect them from within the school grounds.

Route A Bus (George Edwards)

8:20am- Texaco Garage
8:23am- Narrow Lane
8:25am- Holly House (Claypit Lane)
8:25am- Red Lion
8:27am- Marford Hall (on Marford Hill)
8:29am - Marford Old Carriage Yard (old ATS)

Route B Bus (Strafford Coaches) *Route split for academic year 2020-21*

Route 1

8:20am - Rhosddu Road / Park Street, Rhosddu
8:23am - New Road / Bryn Y Glyn, Rhosddu
8:25am - VW Garage
8:30am - Blue Bell Lane (Pandy-Near Westbury Drive & opposite narrow no through rd)
Then down A483 to
8:40am - Darland High School

Route 2

8:20am - High Street, Gwersyllt
8:20am - Glan Llyn Road / Toyota Garage, Bradley
8:25am - Llay New Road / Pentre Street, Llay
8:25am- Hunters Way, Llay
8:25am- The Crown by St Francis of Assisi Church
8:30am- Junction of Croeshowell Hill / Llay Road, Burton
8:40am - Darland High School

Route C Bus (Strafford Coaches)

8:22am- Dean Road (Opposite No 92A)
8:24am- Jeffreys Road (Near Bryn Gryffydd)
8:25am- Box Lane (Near Windermere Road)
8:26am- Smithy Lane (Opposite Smithy Close)
Then down A483 to
8:40am - Darland High School

Route D Bus (Price Coaches)

8:22am - Grove Road
8:25am - Prices Lane/Skate Park
8:27am - Four Dogs
8:29am - Garden Village Shops
8:31am - Smithy Lane
8:32am - Derosa Garage
Then down A483 to
8:45am - Darland High School

Price Coaches – £2 pay daily – 2020-21

(this bus is organised by Price Coaches)

8:20am - Greyhound Pub
8:22am - Holt Road (by Birkdale Road)
8:23am - Borrass Shops
8:24am - Cunliffe Arms, Jeffries Road
8:25am - Smithy Lane (Barkers Lane end)
8:45am - Darland High School

Staff Structure

Headteacher	Mrs J Lee
Deputy Head	Mr S Corner
Assistant Head Curriculum	Mr S Roberts
Assistant Head Ethos and Wellbeing	Mrs L Easton
Additional Needs Coordinator	Ms D Hughes
Assistant Additional Needs Coordinator	Ms S Abel
Faculty Coordinator English	Ms C Godwin
Assistant Faculty Coordinator English	Miss A Shoosmith (Acting)
Faculty Coordinator Maths	Dr M Edwards
Assistant Faculty Coordinator Maths	Miss Y Mountford
Faculty Coordinator Science	Mrs K Green
Assistant Faculty Coordinator Science	Mr D Roberts
Faculty Coordinator Modern Languages	Miss L Medi
Assistant Faculty Coordinator Languages	Mrs F Wood
Faculty Coordinator Technology & Art	Mr M Sedgwick
Assistant Faculty Coordinator Tech & Art	Mrs T Crompton
Faculty Coordinator Humanities	Mrs L Garratt
Assistant Faculty Coordinator Humanities	Mr D Jones
Head of PE	Miss G Gardner
Head of IT Strategy, DCF and ICT	Mr J Hayes
Head of Music	Mr E Winterbottom
Literacy Coordinator	Mrs T Dop
Numeracy Coordinator	Mrs C Minshull
Head Of Year 7	Mr D Owens-Jones
Head Of Year 8	Mrs S Owen
Head Of Year 9	Mr S Coyne
Head Of Year 10	Mr G Hamm
Head Of Year 11	Mrs C Booth

Governance

Darland is fortunate to have a very active and supportive governing body. As well as the full governing body, which meets six times a year, there are also governor working parties for Finance, Curriculum, Environment and Community. Parents with expertise and interest in one of the latter areas are invited to apply to the Chair of Governors to join that Working Party. We find that this is a good way of preparing parents for the role of governors should they wish to stand for election.

The current governors are listed below:

Current Governors

Local Authority Governors

Cllr Robert Walsh (Chair)

Cllr Hugh Jones

Mr Ian Edwards

Mrs Yvonne Davies (Vice-Chair)

Mr Rob Ratcliffe

Community Governors

Mrs Kay Andrew

Mrs Elaine Lacey

Mr Huw Roblin

Mr Bob Chowdhury

Mr Mike Jones

Parent Governors

Mrs Gill Nicholls

Ms Sally Jones

Mr Denzil Brockhurst

Mrs Sarah Vye

Mrs Ines Roberts

Vacancy

Teacher Governors

Mr Edward Winterbottom

Mrs Tina Dop

Staff Governor

Mr Mike Champion

The Curriculum at Key Stage 3

During the first three years at school all children will follow a broad based course in English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, ICT, History, Geography, Religious Education, French, Drama, Physical Education and Games, Design and Technology, Art and Personal and Social Education.

In Year 7 students are taught in form groups for most subjects, with the exception of Maths, which is set and PE which is taught in gender groups. In Years 8 and 9, students are placed in ability groups for French, Welsh, Maths, English and Science, remaining with their forms for the rest of their lessons.

Children who have specific learning needs have the opportunity to benefit from the specialist help available in the Additional Needs Department. We have a team of dedicated staff who specialise in learning support who have frequently been praised by outside agencies for the work they do with students. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs D Baugh-Hughes, our Additional Needs Coordinator.



Accelerated Reader

All students in Years 7 and 8 are enrolled onto the Accelerated Reading Scheme, run under the auspices of Renaissance Education. This is a highly successful national scheme, currently being used in thousands of schools across the UK. Students choose books suitable to their reading level from a vast array in the library, taking an on-line test when they have finished which points them to a slightly more challenging book. Students spend two hours a fortnight on Accelerated Reading in the library.





The Curriculum at Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11, the curriculum consists of two parts, the Learning Core and the Options. In the Learning Core, all students take:

English and English Literature, Mathematics (Maths and Maths Numeracy), Science (Separate sciences and Applied sciences available), Welsh, ICT, Physical Education, and Skills Challenge certificate.

Being the largest 11-16 school in Wrexham we are able to offer a broad selection of subjects for Key Stage 4 students. Students choose at least 3 option subjects from a wide ranging menu of over 30 different courses. At Darland, we currently offer: Art, Photography, ICT, Home Economics, French, Drama, Geography, History, Media Studies, Music, PE, Resistant Materials, Sociology and Textiles. These options are continually reviewed and revised in line with the needs and interests of each year group.

Our students also have the advantage of being able to choose from subjects (including many vocational courses) offered by the Wrexham 14-19 Network option menu and studied off site. Currently our Year 10 students are able to choose from the following subjects taught at Coleg Cambria: Construction, Customer Service, Engineering, Horse Care, Horticulture, Hospitality and Catering, Performing Arts, Public Service. More Able and Talented students are offered GCSEs in Spanish, Computer Science, Law, Psychology and Economics.

Careers Education

All students receive Careers Education throughout their time at Darland High School. This is mostly achieved through special ½ day activity sessions (particularly in Key Stage 3), but increasingly at Key Stage 4, there sessions when employers come into school to deliver talks to students on employment in different sectors. Once a year, students in Year 10 also attend mock interviews with a group of local employers. A Careers Officer is based in the school for two days a week, and students can access their advice and support at any time. We also host Careers Days where local employers come into school to show students what they have to offer future employees—these days are open to all year groups.

Music Tuition

Music lessons are taught in a purpose built suite of rooms, connected to our School Hall, where our young musicians regularly perform. Music is a real strength of the school, and regularly achieves the highest music GCSE results in North Wales, with our students performing in local and national ensembles and orchestras. In common with nearly all schools in Wrexham, individual lessons are provided by the Wrexham Music Cooperative, which bills parents directly for lessons taken in school, although these charges are subsidized for students on Free School Meals.

Use of Welsh Language in the School

We take pride in our position as a school in Wales and celebrate the importance of the Welsh language within the context of a bilingual country with its unique culture and traditions. Through our curriculum, we develop an appreciation of the geography and rich cultural traditions in Wales. Although English is the main language used in the school, we are committed to encouraging the use of Welsh by both staff and students.

Collective Worship

Darland High School believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Homework

Homework is a vital part of school work. Working at home on tasks set by teachers allows students to gain the confidence they will need in working independently. Homework is not about ‘giving the students something to do’. Each piece of homework will be testing a particular skill being developed by the class teacher, consolidating the learning taking place in lessons or allowing students to demonstrate their new-found learning and understanding. It is difficult to be precise as to how much homework you should expect your child to do, but a Year 7 student should expect at least 40 minutes on every weekday evening. This rises to around 70 minutes a night for every Year 9 student.

Google Classroom

Homework is delivered on the online platform called Google Classroom and is easily accessible through the Wales HwB network. All students in the school regularly use this platform and departments also use the platform to upload resources, so students have electronic access to resources used in class.



Assessment and Reporting

We assess all students on five Tracking Points in the year, approximately at intervals of 7 weeks. Students in Years 7 and 8 are given grades scaled to match the stage they are at in their development, but students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are given grades based on GCSE marking criteria. Parents receive Progress Reviews after each Tracking Point, which is a single sheet of paper on which the most recent assessment grade for each subject is printed, alongside the target for the student in each subject. The penultimate Progress Review also contains a written report from the student's form teacher, detailing the progress made by the student pastorally. The final Progress Review contains the grades of the internal examinations which all students in Years 7 to 10 take in the last few weeks of the year.

The aspirations you set for your children at home are vital in working with the school to support the progress of your child. Each year our parents evenings allow us to discuss with you the progress of your child and answer any questions you may have.

Transition Arrangements

The following Schools are designated Cluster Schools for Darland: St Peters CP Rossett, All Saints CP Gresford, The Rofft Marford, Holt CP and Park CP Llay. We have a long tradition of organising activities for students from these schools from Year 4 onwards and our staff meet regularly with primary teachers from these schools to plan and moderate work. Every year we welcome many students from outside these cluster schools and we see it as a priority to work to integrate these students as smoothly as possible. Prior to your child joining Darland High School, the Head of Year for Year 7 visits their primary school to collect information about your child. We then have a two days in the summer term, (including the Common Transfer Day) when students joining in September, attend lessons and learn about life in Darland. Prior to these transition days, there is an evening guidance meeting for parents, where they can meet their children's form tutor. Throughout the transition process, we work with your child's primary teacher, who helps us ensure that our forms are based on existing friendship groups and that there is a continuum of learning from Year 6 to Year 7.

On starting school in September, all Year 7 forms will be assigned two Year 10 'Peer Mentors' to help them find their way to lessons and to organise themselves. Your child will stay in their form group for most of their lessons and so a 'team spirit' is quickly built up under the guidance of the form teacher, who is the first point of call for any student when concerns come to light.



Additional Learning Needs

The school has resourced provisions for Social / Communication needs, Dyslexia and provides support for students with Moderate Learning Difficulties, sensory and physical impairment and speech and language difficulties. Our Additional Needs Department, called 'Future Focus' within the school, has expanded in the last three years and the suite of rooms it occupies have undergone complete refurbishment. There are now 7 small classrooms in the department, where children who have been identified with Additional Needs as well as those with a formal Statement receive lessons from a team of specialists. Our ALN department is a busy and happy place, with the emphasis on integration with the mainstream school. Extensive transition takes place before students with ALN arrive at the school and our ALN Coordinator, Mrs Daniela Baugh-Hughes, is always on hand to speak to parents about any concerns.

The Department adopts a flexible approach to meeting the needs of all students with ALN and provides advice and support to all staff. Students with Statements of ALN and those with Extended School Action Plus, are entitled to varying amounts of support time in lessons.

(Further information available in the School ALN Policy)



Peer Mentoring and Prefects

In year 10 we offer a Peer Mentor training programme, which is always over subscribed. These students undertake valuable mentoring work with students in Years 7 and 8 on transfer to secondary school. Organised by one of our Behaviour for Learning staff, Peer Mentors are attached to junior forms and help students organise themselves during registration. At lunchtime they are available for younger students to make an appointment to see. Often this is just for a chat and a snack, but it has been found that this help from older students has been very beneficial in raising the confidence of our new students.

Learning Coaches

As well as having four Behaviour for Learning Mentors, working to resolve pastoral issues, the school also staffs a Learning Coach room for each morning of the week. The Learning Coach is a trained Teaching Assistant, who provides support on a one-to-one basis for students for a whole range of issues.

Agencies Active at Darland

The following people visit Darland on a weekly basis and through the Behaviour for Learning team, students can make appointments or be referred by form teachers:

School Nurse, School Counsellor,, Educational Social Worker, Police Liaison Officer. We also meet regularly with TRAC counsellors, who organise one to one counselling sessions for vulnerable and disaffected students as well as organising off site provision for those on part time timetables.

Anti Bullying Policy

Please see our website for details of our anti bullying policy

School Council

We value our students and try to involve them as fully as possible in the life of the school. Our students are regularly consulted about school improvements. We have a very active School Council, which is made up of representatives from the Year Councils, which in turn are made up from representatives from each form. They manage a budget and are a vital asset in helping us improve our environment and are involved in school development planning and in staff appointments. Each year, a group of Year 11 students are appointed prefects (identified by their gold ties), helping us to run the school by acting as role models, running clubs and assisting in school events. The Head Boy and Head Girl also attend Governors meetings to bring our governing body up to date with the views of the students. We also have around 20 students who are trained as Peer Mentors (identified by their silver ties). These students ensure that Year 7 students are accompanied to their lessons in the first two weeks of term and staff a drop in centre throughout the year for younger students who are feeling lonely and 'out of sorts'.

Sporting Opportunities

Football is played with a passion at Darland and in the last ten years, our teams have been finalists five times in the Welsh Cup, winning the trophy four times.

The P.E. Department offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities both at lunchtime and after school. These include: netball, soccer, rugby, basketball, athletics, tennis, rounders, dance and dodge ball. Students play regular inter-school matches and compete very successfully in local leagues and county tournaments. The 5x60 scheme runs very successfully at Darland allowing students to try out different sports and to discuss what activities they would enjoy. Of course examinations are important. We want our students to leave school with the highest academic qualifications possible. However, we also want our students to leave with a passion for learning and a passion for life. Our extra-curricular programme complements the taught curriculum and brings an added dimension to school life. Older students also get access to our own gym facilities opened last year and built with money from MBNA, Balfour Trust and Make A Difference Day (MAD Fundraiser).



The School Show

We have an annual school show, that takes place in January and involves a wide cast, along with many staff helpers. To support this, there is a Drama club which meets every Thursday.





Duke of Edinburgh's Award

For many years the Staff and Governors of Darland have recognised the important role that Outdoor Education can play in a young person's development. Mr Coyne organises the Schools Duke Of Edinburgh scheme which involves over 60 of our Year 9 students following the Bronze scheme. In order to achieve the award, students have to take part in community volunteering, follow a sport, learn a new skill and plan and take part in an overnight expedition. Once the students have completed their Bronze award in Year 9, they progress to the more challenging Silver Award in Year 10. Around 80 students achieve awards annually through this highly worthwhile initiative.

Other Opportunities to enhance Learning

Every year, the school organizes a ski trip to either America or Europe, which is always well subscribed. In addition there are Modern Languages trips to France, Humanities visits to the Battlefields of Belgium and Welsh visits to Cardiff. The Geography department augments the GCSE syllabus with fieldtrips to Llandudno, Snowdonia and overseas (Switzerland). Textiles department provides opportunities to study in Europe, last year they went to Italy.

Every two years, all students take part in a challenging walk in the countryside around Wrexham as part of a fund raising day for the charity chosen by the school. This provides a great opportunity for the students to gel as a form group and to get to know their form teachers who walk with them.

The English and Drama departments arrange theatre visits to the Liverpool and Manchester theatres, to Theatr Clwyd and to the Globe Theatre, London to bring literature to life. Touring companies are booked to enable all students to benefit from live performance and from workshops.



The School Library

Our newly decorated library is staffed by a full time librarian, assisted at lunchtime by a small army of student librarians. Students use the library in lesson time and it is also available as a drop in centre, when students can access the computer suite housed there.

The library is a hive of activity at lunchtime with students researching, studying, producing our newsletter 'Newyddion', preparing presentations for assembly, promoting healthy eating in addition to taking out books. Unusually for a high school, a high percentage of our boys are regular library users. The library is also the hub for quizzes and competitions which promote reading. Darland students are fortunate that the extended opening hours allow students access to the range of library facilities until 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.



Working with parents

Contacting the school

An efficient two way communication is important between parents and the school and is vital for the learning of your child. We use ParentApp and emails to regularly share information. Teachers are always prepared to discuss progress and any concerns regarding your child. Parents are encouraged to telephone the school at the earliest opportunity to arrange to speak to your child's Head of Year.

SIMS parent App

The school uses SIMS ParentApp as a way of sharing student information with parents. This gives parents full access to their own child's progress and achievements throughout the year and keep up to date with up and coming events. ParentApp allows parents to track attendance and merits awarded by teachers from the comfort of their own home.

Parents Evenings

It is very important that parents make every effort to attend the annual Parents Evening for their child. These are held at different times throughout the year depending on the year you child is in. For parents of children who have just started in Year 7, there is an evening set aside in October, where you are invited in for a short meeting with your child's form tutor to discuss any issues they may be having settling in. This is also a good opportunity to find out a little bit more about what your child will be studying throughout the year.

There are also other guidance evenings throughout the year, such as the Year 9 Option Pathways Evening in March.

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

“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.”

“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!”

“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! “

“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.”