

## **Annual report to parents 2021/22**

### **Letter from the Chair of Governors**

On behalf of the Governing body at Darland High School I am pleased to introduce our Governors' Report to Parents for the academic year 2021-2022.

As Governors we have a duty to share information and, as key stakeholders, you have the right to be kept informed and hold us to account for the quality of education our students receive. In this report we take the opportunity to summarise the responsibilities and activities of the Governing Body. My thanks go to my fellow volunteers on the Governing Body who give their time, energy and expertise in support of Darland High School.

As we recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, we have prioritised the well-being of our students and staff. The effects of the disruption continue to reverberate and so we have focussed on ensuring students are fully supported as they reintegrate back into school life. A key priority has been to ensure that those students taking exams have caught up on any lost learning and are well prepared.

The efforts of all our stakeholders – teachers, support staff, parents, carers and students is recognised and very much appreciated.

Feedback on the information contained in this report would be most welcomed.

**Chair of Governors**

## 1. Introduction

This report is prepared annually by the governing body with the purpose of informing parents and other stakeholders about the performance and management of the school over the preceding academic year. As a vibrant learning organisation with 820 students and well over 100 members of staff, a report such as this can only provide basic headline information on the school's activities and as such, the report is organised under headings denoting the statutory content as set out by Welsh Government. Further information about the activities of the school can be obtained from the following sources:

- School website [www.darland.wrexham.sch.uk](http://www.darland.wrexham.sch.uk)
- Governors meeting minutes are available on request from the clerk to the Governing body who can be contacted at [clerk.governor@darlandschool.org.uk](mailto:clerk.governor@darlandschool.org.uk)
- <https://mylocalschool.gov.wales/> - provides statistics against benchmarks on the performance of the school.

## 2. Parents meeting relating to this report

As per the regulations, no formal meeting of parents with governors will be held following the publication of this report, unless the parents / carers of at least 5% of the pupils write in to request that such a meeting is convened.

## 3. Information about the arrangements for the next election of parent governors.

The next parent governor elections will take place as and when vacancies arise.

## 4. Performance Data – Key stage 3 comparative data and summary of secondary school performance SSP, Attendance

Due to changes in the [school reporting regulations](#) governing body annual reports will not include performance and attendance data for the academic year 2021-22, the most recent summary of secondary school performance or the number of authorised and unauthorised absences in the school year.

## 5. Summary of the KS4 school results for 2022

Capped 9 measure	
A school average of the total points attached to the top nine GCSEs, or equivalent qualifications, for each learner. The top nine must include the following five grades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maths</li><li>• Numeracy</li><li>• The best two Science grades achieved</li><li>• English Literature</li></ul>	360

Indicator	Measure	Attainment (% of pupils)
Level 2 inclusive threshold	Attained a minimum of five GCSEs, or equivalent, at grade A*-C including English and Maths	69.7%
Level 2 threshold	Attained minimum of five GCSEs, or equivalent, at grade A*-C	75%
Level 1 threshold	Attained a minimum of five GCSEs, or equivalent, at grade A to G	92%

Grade A* and A	Attained at least one GCSE grade A* or A, or equivalent	24%
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Performance by subject - % of pupils attaining grade A* to C	
<b>Core subjects</b>	
English	70
English Literature	74.8
Maths Numeracy	76.6
Maths	75.4
Science	76
Cymraeg	73
<b>Option subjects</b>	
Art	88
French	90
Hospitality and Catering	64
Geography	71
History	77
ICT	78
Media Studies	67
Music	93
PE	78
Product Design	50
Photography	90
Textiles	89
Sociology	68

Skills Challenge Certificate
70% of the 105 students entered for Skills Challenge achieved their certificate.

## 6. Overview of provision made for pupils to participate in sport, including extra-curricular activities

The PE department have yet again enjoyed success in a number of sports. Both boys and girls have won football fixtures against Wrexham schools and we have a number of girls and boys playing for Wrexham Schools and for Wrexham FC across all age ranges. The Wrexham foundation run weekly after school sessions, which see around 30 girls staying each week, which a huge achievement.

This year the year 7 Netball team have won the Wrexham area Tournament, with year 8 placing second. The year 9 and 10 Tournament was unfortunately cancelled due to poor weather. We had a number of girls who were selected for the Wrexham county team and North Wales teams, which saw them compete at Wales level. We are also fortunate enough to have a number of girls members at local Netball clubs.

We had 6 pupils who made it through to the North East Wales Cross Country team, placing in the top 10 in three previous events before competing at Brecon in the Wales competition back in February, the pupils showed great resilience and are superb athletes.

We had 12 pupils selected from year 9 and year 11 to represent the Wrexham Athletics team at North East Wales level and our year 10 boys Athletics team placed third at Wrexham level in their competition.

**7. Details of the members of governing body (including the name and address of the chair and clerk to the governing body)**

Details of the members of the current governing body can be found on the school website - [Governors - Darland High School](#)

**Governing Body as at September 2021**

Chair of Governors: Cllr Rob Walsh

Vice-Chair of Governors: Mrs Yvonne Davies

Clerk to the governors: Helen Holland - email [Clerk.Governor@darlandschool.org.uk](mailto:Clerk.Governor@darlandschool.org.uk)

Mike Jones (Co-Chair Standards and Achievement Working Party)

Huw Roblin (Co-Chair Standards and Achievement Working Party)

Bob Chowdhury (Co-Chair Finance, Staffing and Premises Working Party)

Ian Edwards (Co-Chair Finance, Staffing and Premises Working Party)

Elaine Lacey (Co-Chair Student and Staff Wellbeing Working Party)

Ed Winterbottom (Co-Chair Student and Staff Wellbeing Working Party)

Mike Champion

Chris Cheffings

Ian Edwards

Gill Nicholls

Sarah Vye

Kay Andrew

Tina Dop

Ines Roberts

Cllr Hugh Jones

Rob Ratcliffe

David Davies (Co-Optee)

Contact details for Chair of Governors

Email [enquiries@darlandschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@darlandschool.org.uk)

**8. The financial statement of 2021-22, outlining school income and expenditure; including the section 52 statement provided by the local authority and summary of how the school's budget was used.**

SUMMARY FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2021-2022 Financial Year 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022

	EXPENDITURE &		EXPENDITURE &	BALANCE
BUDGET HEADING	INCOME		INCOME	AT
	PLANNED		ACTUAL	31st MARCH
	BUDGET			2022
EMPLOYEES	4,379,683		4,393,668	-13,985
PREMISES	253,176		275,061	-21,885

TRANSPORT		4,400	22,425		-18,025
SUPPLIES & SERVICES		319,426	339,191		-19,765
SUPPORT SERVICES		219,076	201,780		17,296
CONTINGENCY FUND		195,899			195,899
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		5,371,660	5,232,125		139,535
OPENING BALANCE		398,367	398,367		0
INCOME		462,497	739,526		277,029
TOTALS		4,510,796	4,094,232		416,564

No gifts or hospitality were recorded in the Gifts and Hospitality Register and no travel or subsistence was paid to any member of the governing body.

Form D – signed summary of transactions

**FORM D - DARLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

SUMMARY OF TRANSACTIONS OF SCHOOL PRIVATE FUNDS  
12 MONTHS ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

**RECEIPTS**

Balance brought forward from March 2021

Current a/c at 1st April 2021 59,310.12  
Less Unpresented cheques 0.00

59,310.12

**Receipts**

Receipts 221,975.47  
Less Bounced Cheques 0.00

221,975.47

281,285.59

**PAYMENTS**

Payments

204,690.82

204,690.82

**Balance carried forward to April 2022**

Current a/c balance 76,594.77  
Less Unpresented cheques 0.00

76,594.77

281,285.59

0.00

I have examined the books, vouchers and other documents relating to the Darland High School Private Funds and in my view the above account gives a true and fair view of its transactions for the twelve months ended 31 March 2022 and of the balance in hand as at that date.

Certified

Headteacher

Business Manager

Date

Signed

Auditor - Mike Griffiths and Partners  
The Yew Tree Inn  
High Street  
Gresford  
Wrexham  
LL12 8RF

## **9. Destination of School Leavers**

Following their GCSE results all pupils have secured either a place at Coleg Cambria or moved on to alternative institutions or pathways to continue their education or training.

## **10. Community Links 2021-22**

Darland offers a range of activities both curricular and extra-curricular and activities that promote strong links with a variety of organisations including academic institutions and work based organisations, spanning private, public and third sectors. The school engages with community organisations including careers wales, local authority youth services, the police and the health service.

A focus for our work has been planning for the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales. We have been actively fostering strong links with our feeder primary schools and enhancing arrangements for year 6 transition.

## **11. Policies reviewed and/or passed by the governing body**

Policies are renewed every two years, except for the following which are every year:

ALN

Pay

Performance Management

Safeguarding

Assessment & Target setting policy

Policies adopted in 2021-22

September 2021

Framework of Responsibility (Amended)

ALN Policy (Renewal)

Performance Management Policy (Renewal)

Safeguarding Policy

Staff Pay Policy

November 2022

Assessment and Target Setting Policy (Amended)

Attendance Policy (Amended)

Feedback to Learners Policy (Amended)

Pupil Restraint Policy (Amended)

Shelter and Lockdown Policy (Amended)

Strategic Equalities Policy (Amended)

Uniform Policy (Amended)

January 2022

Anti-Bullying Policy (Renewal)

Feedback to Learners Policy (Amended)

Freedom of Information Policy (Renewal)

Governor Code of Conduct Policy (Renewal)

Numeracy Policy (Amended)

School Visits Policy (Renewal)

Staff Acceptable Use of ICT Facilities Policy (Renewal)

Strategic Equalities Policy (Amended)

Substance Misuse Policy (Amended)

March 2022

Behaviour Policy

Controlled Assessment Policy

Healthcare Needs Policy

Looked After Children Policy

Schools Redeployment & Redundancy Policy (To be noted)

Sex & Relationships Education Policy

Staff Absence Monitoring Policy

Staff Dignity at Work Policy

Staff Discipline Policy

Staff Recruitment & Appointment Policy

Whistleblowing Policy

June 2022

Continuous Professional Development Policy (Renewal)

Equalities Policy (Renewal)

Examinations Policy (Renewal)

Parent & Visitor Conduct Policy (Renewal)

Staff Capability Policy (Renewal)

Website Policy (Renewal)

## **12. Term dates (including half term holidays) for 2022-2023**

The latest school term dates can be found on the website by clicking on the following link [Term Dates 2022/2023 - Darland High](#)

## **13. School prospectus**

The latest school prospectus can be found on the website by clicking on the following link [School Prospectus](#)

## **14. The use of the Welsh language in the school by pupils of all age groups.**

Although Darland is an English medium school, very close to the English border, the school prides itself on actively promoting an affinity for Welsh culture and the use of conversational Welsh in lessons other than Welsh itself. In addition, teachers greet classes in Welsh, registers are answered in Welsh and many signs around the school are bilingual.

The Welsh department organises an annual residential visit to Glan Ilyn for pupils in Year 8, where pupils participate in outdoor and adventurous activities, instructed through the medium of Welsh.

## **15. Toilet facilities at the school for pupils registered at the school and the arrangements in place for cleaning such toilet facilities.**

There are three areas for boy's toilet facilities and three areas for girl's toilet facilities in the school buildings. There are two areas for boy's toilet facilities in the sports hall and two areas for girl's toilet facilities. The toilets are open all day and are cleaned every evening after school and at regular intervals throughout the day. All facilities are monitored throughout the day (CCTV monitors communal spaces i.e. sink/entrance) and any problems are dealt with as they occur.

## **16. Action taken to promote healthy eating and drinking by pupils of the school.**

Health and wellbeing is vitally important and we strive to ensure that the school environment is safe, happy and inclusive.

The school has for some years run and managed its own catering service which is fully compliant with Welsh Government regulations on healthy eating. The 'Appetite for Life' programme is

observed when designing menus. Hot and cold options have been expanded in response to student voice and feedback. Fresh water is available at fountains in different parts of the school.

Healthy eating and drinking is promoted through lessons in the following subjects: PE, Science and PSE. In the latter, all pupils participate on at least one occasion over the year in a half day of activities aimed at sharing successful strategies for health and wellbeing.

**17. A summary of the school development plan (PIAP) prepared by the governing body for 2021-2022.**

The school has reviewed and developed a comprehensive whole school quality assurance system which is due to be implemented from September 2022. This will provide robust performance management information that supports improvement at individual, team and faculty levels.

A key success has been our work on planning for the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales. Our focus has been strengthening our relationships with feeder primary schools to further improve transition arrangements from year 6 into year 7.

A new approach to selecting Key Stage 4 options was introduced to move away from school determined 'blocks' towards free choice with the aim for a higher percentage of students being offered their preferred options.

Our new HIVE facility was launched which provides the space for focussed intervention work with students including earlier intervention and restorative practice ways of working with students and families.

Senior leadership developed an improved data collection and analysis framework to better use pastoral information. This is used to support our preventative work with students by linking pastoral and academic data to provide a more rounded view of our students.

Culture change work was progressed with the development of our shared values following consultation with students, parents, staff and governors.