



Issue 1

The Griffin

Ysgol Uwchradd Darland - Darland High School



October 2023

A message from the Acting Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we arrive at the end of our first half term, we are all very grateful to you for your support and encouragement so far this year. Students have made a positive start to their year of learning and it has been wonderful to welcome our Year 7 students, who are now very much established as a part of our Darland Community.

This half term has been about routines for learning, with staff and students getting used to some of the new systems we have introduced to ensure that the school day continues to be purposeful and positive. To reflect this, throughout this final week of half term, Heads of Year have celebrated the success of students through our special *Class Charts Rewards Assemblies* and I have been delighted to see so many of our students collecting rewards and achievements points for their hard work and efforts over this first half term at Darland. The introduction of Class Charts has allowed students, parents and carers to track daily progress and support with the organisation for learning. If you require any help with Class Charts, please can I encourage you to contact the Main Office.

This newsletter gives a taster of just some of the things our students have experienced over the first half term. It is encouraging to see our young people developing in their learning and I look forward to sharing more successes with you as we enter the next half term.

I wish you all a wonderful half term break.

Mr A. Clarkson

Acting Headteacher



Class Charts

A reminder that the *Class Charts app* will be replacing *SIMS Parent app*.

From Friday 9th November, the SIMS messaging platforms/apps will no longer be used for communications to parents/carers. Instead, all communications will be sent via the Class Charts platform.

If you have not yet registered for the Class Charts app, it is crucial that you do so before 10th November. If you have not yet received your login details or need any help logging on, then please contact Mrs Wilkinson or Mrs Picken in the main office as soon as possible.

It is also important that your son/daughter has also registered for the Class Charts platform, as key information regarding their subjects and homework is detailed on Class Charts, so you can see how well your child is doing. For more information on Class Charts please [click here](#).



Dates for the diary

KS4 Mathematics Numeracy Exams

Tuesday 7th November - Paper 1 (Non-Calculator)

Thursday 9th November - Paper 2 (Calculator)

KS4 Mathematics Exams

Monday 13th November - Paper 1 (Non-Calculator)

Wednesday 15th November - Paper 2 (Calculator)

Full Suite of Trial examinations from 4th December onwards for Year 11. Timetable to be sent out.

Wednesday, 8th November

Year 8 Parents Evening

Friday, 10th November

Remembrance Service

Friday, 17th November

Children in Need

Thursday, 7th December

Year 10 Parents Evening

Wednesday/Thursday, 13th & 14th December

Year

8 Glan Llyn Trip

Friday, 15th December

Community Christmas Party

Wednesday 20th December

Christmas Dinner

Thursday 21st December

Christmas Fayre and Christmas Jumper Day



A message from the Chair of Governors

Elaine Lacey – Community Governor and current Chair of Governors.

Hello! I am delighted to have been asked to introduce myself and say a few words about the role of governors.

My family moved to Rossett thirteen years ago and our children started at St. Peter's, before choosing Darland High School. I joined the governing body shortly after we arrived, taking on various roles before becoming Chair this May.



For unpaid volunteers, governors take on big responsibilities. Whilst it can be daunting at times, it is also hugely rewarding. I particularly enjoy being on site and experiencing the school in action.

It has been a busy start to the new school year. Mrs Lee's absence has provided an unexpected extra twist and we are all wishing her a speedy recovery. Already this term, our three working groups have met - *Finance & Premises*, *Student & Staff Well-being* and *Standards & Achievement*. We will also be holding our second Full Governing Body meeting shortly after half term. Some of the things we have been doing this term are; discussing the school budget, scrutinising the 2023 exam results, learning about new approaches to behaviour support, and reviewing the School Development Plan.

I am fortunate enough to be part of a diverse and experienced governing body who embrace their role as '*critical friend*' to the school with vigour and good humour. If you are interested to find out more about becoming a parent governor, please email me at enquiries@darlandschool.org.uk

SHARP SYSTEM

A reminder about the schools online reporting system, the **SHARP** System (Student Help Advice Reporting Page System). This system allows young people and/or parents/carers to report any incidents, which occur within the school and local community anonymously and without fear via a designated email address.

Aside from the reporting tool, the SHARP system also delivers educational content to raise awareness on a wide range of subjects including: **Bullying, Health, Community Issues, Weapons** and **Hate Crime**. [Click here to learn more.](#)



UNIFORM

At Darland, we encourage all students to take pride in their uniform. Can parents/carers please ensure that your son/daughters are wearing correct uniform when we return after the half-term break.

Please take note of the following:

- Only one stud piercing is allowed on each earlobe. No other piercings are permitted.
- All footwear must be plain black (no logos) and polishable.

Students are awarded 2 achievement points each week on Class Charts for 'Perfect Uniform all Week'. However, persistent incorrect uniform can result in after school detentions.



For further details about uniform please speak to your child's Head of Year.

English Faculty Update

Year 11 are currently preparing for their January examination (let's hope revision won't impact on Christmas Day!) and reading *Of Mice and Men*, before embarking on some poetry comparisons, in readiness for 9th January 2024.

Meanwhile, Year 10 are going back in time, well, over 400 years, as they begin the preparation for their up-and-coming Shakespeare NEA (Non Examination Assessment...or controlled assessment, as it was once known). They are studying the greatest love story ever told, and delighting in Romeo Montague's misery as he strives to meet "the one".

In Key Stage 3, following hot on the heels of *Romeo and Juliet*, Year 9 are finishing their Dystopian Literature unit, where Big Brother was certainly watching them! They too will encounter the Bard of Avon, as they study *Macbeth* in the lead up to Christmas. If they come home complaining that their heads are full of scorpions, please praise them for their attentiveness. Year 8 are in the trenches, joining the Peaceful brothers in the World War I story, *Private Peaceful*. Harrowing and horrifying, Michael Morpurgo brings the horrors of war to life in this very moving account of family and friendship.

Finally, Year 7 are reaching for the sun, quite literally, as they study myths and legends, and learn how ambition, on occasions, can bring its own problems as Icarus clearly demonstrates when he flies too near to the sun.

All in all, a very busy but highly enjoyable start to the 2023 - 24 academic year.



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Attendance

We continue to focus on improving attendance and punctuality at school. This week, (23rd - 27th October), the attendance and punctuality rates have been positive. We must remain focussed on punctuality as we have noticed a small trend of pupils arriving late to school.

A gentle reminder that pupils need to be moving to registration at 08:40 am. Registration beginning at 08:45 a.m. Please ensure that you catch a suitable bus to arrive before 08:40 a.m.



Class Charts

Congratulations to everyone for their work this half term. Below is a list of the highest achieving form classes. Please keep tracking your progress in learning on the Class Charts app.

YEAR 7 – 11241	YEAR 8 – 8549	YEAR 9 – 10006
YEAR 10 7190	YEAR 11 – 6517	
Total for all years: 43503		



Science Club

Science club runs **every Thursday 3.00 - 4.00 p.m. in G6.**
Please see Miss Williams or Dr. Moore for further details.



Courage, Honesty, Resilience, Respect, Kindness

Dewrder, Gonestrwydd, Dyfalbarhad, Parch, Caredigwydd



Introducing 3D printing to our Year 7 D&T class has been a spooktacular success! The students are bubbling with excitement and cooking up some wickedly creative ideas. Students have taken on the challenge of 3D printing their unique ghost, and we have to say, it's been a real treat.

Utilising 'TinkerCAD' in our classroom is like having a magical cauldron at our disposal, brewing up benefits that are nothing short of spellbinding. Not only have our students brewed up some enchanting problem-solving skills, but they have also been flaunting their 3D masterpieces like ghoulish works of art. It is like Halloween magic in our classroom!

This technology is opening our learners' eyes to the boundless possibilities of the 21st century. It is not just enriching our curriculum; it is conjuring up a cauldron of innovation, teamwork, and a strong connection to the real world.

This adventure of exploration is leaving a lasting impact that is more delightful than a bag of Halloween treats, and it perfectly aligns with the fang-tastic Welsh curriculum.

Our students have carved out a path to success, and we are absolutely bewitched by their achievements.





ALN Department - Social & Communications



Abilities and Talents
Concentration
Problem solving
Turn taking
Having fun



P.E. Department

Sporting Success!

An eventful start to the 2023 / 24 academic year on the sporting front.

Years 7 - 10 boys and girls teams have been involved in Welsh Cup football fixtures during the autumn term with varying results. We are having great success with our U13 and U15 girl's football teams. The U13s beat Hawarden 5 - 0 and St. Joseph's 5 - 1. The U15s beat Christ the Word 8 - 3 and Rhosnesni 2 - 0. Both teams are now through to the 3rd round.

There have also been several friendly games arranged, including our annual prestigious matches at the Kings School, Chester. Meanwhile, the older boys played a highly competitive rugby game v Morgan Llwyd a few weeks ago where Darland won 25 - 7.

We have plenty of netball success with fixtures against schools in Wrexham and huge congratulations to Bethan Vye, Lily Durkin, Mia Bostock, Eva Dixon, Daisy Jones, Emily Clark, Lexi Weaver (U14s), Niamh Shaw, Poppy Hancock and Lucy Hooper (U16s), who have all been selected to represent Wrexham County at the North East Wales netball tournament.

Years 9 and 11 performed well in the Wrexham schools athletics meet in September, with a few individuals winning their event.

In addition, a number of pupils did a fantastic job during the Open Evening in the Sports Hall, with a number of parents stating how impressed they were with the conduct and enthusiasm they displayed in helping prospective youngsters in the various activities on offer.

We were also very grateful for the efforts of those GCSE students who gave their time early on a Sunday morning to help out with the drinks station for the Chester Marathon. As well as issuing water where it was needed, the support and encouragement given to the runners was exceptional.

Finally, it is very pleasing that some of our Year 9 pupils have taken up the opportunity to become involved in Sports Leaders. There was a large response to this and proved a difficult job for the P.E. department to select the chosen candidates.

A huge thank you to our Pupils and Parents for the amazing amount of donations shared for the Wrexham Food Bank as part of our Charity non-uniform Day. **#WeAreDarland**





Humanities Faculty

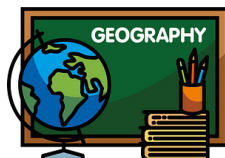
Welcome to Wrexham Humanities Trip!



Earlier this term our Humanities faculty took the whole of Year 7 for a fantastic day out in our wonderful city! As part of our Cynefin topic, students have been studying our local area and so what better opportunity is there than to actually visit some of the places we have been learning about? We planned a full day in Wrexham where students were able to experience using some of the skills they have been developing in their Humanities lessons since joining Darland.

Activities included time in St Giles' church, where students were able to see the beauty of the Parish Church decorated for the Harvest festival. The volunteers at the Wrexham Museum brought the medieval history of Wrexham to life through dressing up and a hands-on workshop looking at tools and items discovered in nearby archaeological digs.

Finally, students were able to carry out some fieldwork through surveying the shopping facilities and completing pedestrian counts on Hope Street. All of these opportunities gave the students an important experience of bringing their studies to life, and it was also great fun!



Catering & Hospitality



On 15th September, the Royal Navy Recruitment team delivered an interactive Masterchef style lesson to the Year 11 catering students, whereby the students had to create a main dish and a dessert within 90 minutes.

The Year 11 Catering students rose to the challenge and it was an excellent opportunity for them to demonstrate initiative, teamwork, communication and time keeping skills.

The students also had the opportunity to find out about the roles of the catering service and career opportunities in the Royal Navy.

Well done to the Year 11 Caterers!



Wednesday, 20th December 2023 - Christmas Lunch

Pre-order required by 8th November 2023

Click on the link to pre-order



Christmas Dinner

Turkey or Quorn Fillet with all the trimmings & Cranberry sauce
Festive Biscuit or Pudding of the day
£2.65

Christmas Baguette

Turkey or Quorn Fillet with Chipolata or Quorn Sausage, Stuffing & Cranberry sauce
Festive Biscuit or Pudding of the day
£2.65



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