

Annual report to parents 2022/23

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. This gives me the opportunity to outline a summary of the responsibilities of the Governing Body and information on the life of our school, outcomes and achievements.

The Autumn 2022 economic crisis impacted on our school community in many ways. Regretfully, despite strong financial management over many years, we could not prevent the school plunging from a surplus budget position in 2022/23* into a deficit budget for 2023/24* (*financial years). Immediate steps were taken to manage the planned, licensed deficit budget and implement our recovery plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow governors for their support and commitment throughout the past year. They give freely of their time, skills and expertise, to work alongside the staff to continue to improve Darland High School. I would also like to recognise the commitment of the former Chair, Cllr Rob Walsh who stepped down in May 2023. A former pupil, I know Rob is enormously proud to be part of our learning community and we are grateful that he continues to serve on the governing body.

I also want to thank you, our parents and carers. Your support and willingness to work in partnership with the school and Governors helps us all maintain high standards; and ensures all pupils can achieve their full potential.

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

Elaine Lacey

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 775 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
- Governors meeting minutes are available on request from the clerk to the Governing body who can be contacted at 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 2023

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">● Maths● Numeracy● The best two Science grades achieved● English Literature	354

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	60%
Level 2 threshold	Attained minimum of five GCSEs, or equivalent, at grade A*-C	69%
Level 1 threshold	Attained a minimum of five GCSEs, or equivalent, at grade A to G	95%

Grade A* and A	Attained at least five GCSE grade A* or A, or equivalent	22%
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Performance by subject - % of pupils attaining grade A* to C	
Core subjects	
English	64
English Literature	79
Maths Numeracy	74
Maths	71
Science	69
Cymraeg	51
Option subjects	
Art	85
French	57
Hospitality and Catering	100
Geography	53
History	73
Digital Technology	32
Media Studies	58
Music	60
PE	97
Product Design	61
Photography	64
Textiles	71
Sociology	27

Skills Challenge Certificate
83% of the 150 students entered for Skills Challenge achieved their certificate.

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

We offer a range of sports throughout the year. During the Autumn term we offer interform 5 a side, cricket, badminton and dance at lunch. After school we have football, JuJitsu wand netball.

In the Spring term we will have interform 5 a side, badminton and cricket at lunch. We also have and yoga with Eve our Active Wrexham Office. After school we will offer netball, a new Taekwon Do club gymnastics club, basketball and girls' football.

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 2022

Chair of Governors: Cllr Rob Walsh (succeeded by Elaine Lacey, May 2023)

Vice-Chair of Governors: Ms Elaine Lacey (succeeded by Mr Bob Chowdhury, May 2023)

Clerk to the governors: Helen Holland - email Clerk.Governor@darlandschool.org.uk

Mike Jones (Chair Standards and Achievement Working Party)

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

Ian Edwards (Chair Student and Staff Wellbeing Working Party)

Ed Winterbottom

Chris Cheffings

Ian Edwards

Gill Nicholls

Sarah Vye

Kay Andrew

Tina Dop

Ines Roberts

Cllr Hugh Jones

Rob Ratcliffe

David Davies (Co-Optee)

Tim Segasby

Stuart McLeod-Andrew

Contact details for Chair of Governors

Email enquiries@darlandschool.org.uk

8. The financial statement of 2022-23, 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 2022-2023 Financial Year 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

BUDGET HEADING	EXPENDITURE & INCOME PLANNED BUDGET	EXPENDITURE & INCOME ACTUAL	BALANCE AT 31st MARCH 2023
EMPLOYEES	4,515,806	4,760,136	-244,330
PREMISES	271,202	257,862	-13,340
TRANSPORT	4,400	19,325	-14,925

SUPPLIES & SERVICES	463,966	406,201	57,765
SUPPORT SERVICES	204,960	251,708	-46,748
CONTINGENCY FUND	257,745		257,745
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,718,079	5,695,232	22,847
OPENING BALANCE	416,562	416,526	0
INCOME	548,617	653,476	104,823
TOTALS	4,752,900	4,625,230	127,670

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.

9. Destination of School Leavers

Following their GCSE results, the majority of 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 2022-23

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 implementation of the Curriculum for Wales where we have been strengthening transition arrangements and enhancing collaborative working with our learning community. You can find out more about this work on our [website](#). here.

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 2022-23

- September 2022
- Framework of Responsibility (amended)
- ALN Policy (renewal)
- Assessment and Target Setting Policy (renewal)
- CCTV Policy (renewal)
- Child Protection Policy

Data Protection Policy (renewal)
Equalities Policy (renewal)
Performance Management Policy (renewal)
PSE Policy (renewal)
Safeguarding Policy (renewal)
Staff Pay Policy (renewal)
Website Policy (renewal)

November 2022

Framework of Responsibility
Accessibility Policy (deferred to Feb)
Complaints Policy (amended)
Eating Disorder Policy (amended)
Equalities Policy (amended)
Health and Safety Policy (renewal)
Rarely Cover Policy (renewal)
Staff ICT Acceptable User Policy (amended)
Staff Leave of Absence Policy (amended)

February 2023

Accessibility Policy (amended)
Charging Policy (amended)
Curriculum Policy (amended)
Literacy Policy (amended)
Redeployment & Redundancy Policy (renewal)
Rewards Policy (amended)
Sex & Relationships Policy (amended)
Transport Policy (amended)

31 March 2023 (Extra-ordinary FGB meeting)

ICT Acceptable Use Policy for Computer Systems and the Internet Policy

May 2023

Behaviour Policy (amended)
Controlled Assessment Policy (amended)
Examinations Policy (amended)
Examinations Appeal Policy (amended)
Governor Expenses Policy (renewal)
Staff Grievance Policy (renewal)
Staff Whistleblowing Policy (amended)
Workload Impact Policy (renewal)

June 2023

Emergency Asthma Inhaler Policy (renewal)
Self Harm Policy (renewal)

12. Term dates (including half term holidays) for 2023-2024

The latest school term dates can be found on the website by clicking on the following link [Term Dates 2023/2024 - 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 2022-2023.

1. Quality Assurance processes
a) To support professional ownership for Middle Leaders and further develop system-wide awareness for all staff.
b) To encompass the requirements of the National Self-Evaluation Framework for roll-out 2024.
2. New Curriculum
a) Prepare, pilot and implement a creative and innovative curriculum in line with Donaldson's recommendations
b) To work with Primary partners and other agencies in developing a vertical cluster learning community.
3. Feedback supporting progression

a) All GCSE courses providing timely and purposeful opportunities for feedback, of different types, which support individual learner progress to aspirational GCSE outcomes.

b) KS3 curriculum to build in opportunities for targeted and purposeful feedback, of different types, which supports progression in skills, knowledge and understanding, for all groups of learners.