

Darlinghurst Academy Open Evening – 18 October 2018

Principal's Speech Accompanying Presentation



Slide 1

Good evening and a **warm welcome to all families**, including some familiar faces and potential new families and friends to join our community. It is with great **pleasure that I welcome you** to Darlinghurst Academy today and **thank** you for taking the time to visit our amazing school and **considering joining us** in the future. Our welcome, is not only for tonight but any future visits, either through our admission tours or upon request. **Our door is always open.**

Slide 2

Choosing a school for your child is an **important decision**, From their **first time** at school, to **moving from one school** to another, the **decision and questions** remain the same.

Why Darlinghurst?

Slide 3

Will it meet my **expectations?**

Will my child be **successful?**

Happy and safe? **Inspired?**

Can the school **deliver?!**

Will they help my child be the **very best they can be** - now and ready for their lives ahead?

Slide 4

In today's complex world, children need the knowledge and the skills to succeed but also a sense of their humanity - the ability to respect, to empathise and be caring individuals.

Slide 5

We recognise this and it is reflected within our academy values, our commitment to teaching British Values and through our **curriculum provision** to educate our children about the **world around them**, alongside teaching them the **learning and life skills** that they need.

Your child's **journey to adulthood** starts with us - here.

Slide 6

We are here because we are **invested in the lives** of our children. They are at the **centre** of all we do. First and foremost we like **talking about our children** and their **learning**. We are proud to be in an environment in which everyone feels **valued and respected**, resulting in **happy and successful learners**.

Slide 7

Our Academy **logo carries meaning** through our **metaphorical boat**, which sets sail on a sea of adventure and **challenge** every day, with **sights** set on **high horizons**. With our **children's talents lighting the way**, we **sail to success**.

At Darlinghurst we believe our **children are the stars** and we encourage them to **shine bright!**

Everyone at Darlinghurst **believes passionately in our academy values**

A-E

Achievement – always do your very best, together we will succeed,

Belonging - be happy and help make our school a caring and welcoming place

Confidence – challenge yourself every day. Ask, discover, explore and create

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Determination – don't ever give up! Believe you can and you will all leading to **Excellence**.

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Our **actions and beliefs are deep rooted in our mission statement** - At Darlinghurst Academy, we **achieve excellence together**. With this as our **mantra we work hard** to ensure **every child is happy and supported** in their journey with us. We want **every child to grow and flourish in our care**.

We know you have been **their first teachers and play an active part** in their education and **we value working in partnership** with you.

Slide 9

We recognise the **importance of community and a shared culture**.

Strength is within partnerships. Our children, the school staff and families.

We **emphasis family commitment** to ensuring children come to school and are **ready to learn, every day**. We provide **opportunities for learning together** and our **recent receipt of the LPPA Award** - leading parent partnerships awards exemplifies that and our commitment to working in partnership.

Slide 10

As Principal and staff members, we **respect the history and recognise the** community that we serve. We talk about **rapid improvement and relentless focus on teaching and learning**. We talk about a **providing a broad and balanced curriculum** with an **academic core** that **not only provides a home for specialised learning** and a **wealth of arts and sports but delivers great outcomes across the board**.

Every day counts and we are committed to providing **exciting opportunities** during their time with us. **Our work here, our ability to be successful is something I passionately believe in**.

Slide 11

We are delighted to share our positive results which **demonstrate the success** of Darlinghurst **Academy wide drive on reading and phonics**, with **positive** attainment and progress stories from **reception to year six**.

*Our greatest success and **headline figure of 95%** of our pupils passed the **phonics screen** in Year 1 (national average 82%).

*In addition to this our children secured **good levels of development** in reception, with **early learning goals above last year's results and national**.

***Key Stage 1 results** for reading, writing and maths combined continue to be **above national average, with a positive trend**.

***Our year two results also reflect high standards and challenge**, equipping them for KS2 outcomes.

*These **high standards are mirrored in year six**, demonstrating high aspirations.

In 2018, **Key Stage 2** made greater progress with **15% achieving greater depth in reading, writing and maths combined** – that's **Greater depth in ALL three subjects** (national average 10%)

Keystage 2 results at the expected standard are also above national for reading and writing and **combined is aligned with national**.

Our children's average scores are equal to national in all subjects.



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Our **academy wide structures** and bespoke programmes are built from Nursery through to year six, ensuring that **from strong foundations** we go from **strength** to strength! We **define our success** through **high aspirations, outcomes and conduct**, but also knowing what it **means to be a good person**.

Slide 13

We **strengthen character**, build **confidence and determination** so our children **achieve and thrive**. We **embrace all opportunities** and through our **connected curriculum, enrich** experiences within **daily provisions, extended curriculum** and opportunities and special events throughout the year.

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We **install a sense of responsibility**, a sense of **ownership** in **their learning, their houses, and to the Academy**. We recognise that these **qualities alongside growing independence**, creates **greater engagement**, a sense of **belonging and value**, here at Darlinghurst and in their future lives.

Slide 15

All children are **active citizens**. They **all play an active part** in academy life. We also have **committees** across the school, with our ***Junior Governors**, prefects, Head boy and Girl **representing the pupil voice**. *We have our **play squad**, delivering **play sessions in play zones**, every lunch time. *Our **Eco Team** who are relentlessly driven on **improving our footprint** on the world around us
*and our **sport committee** who are determined to **keep us active, fit and healthy**.
I am **proud** of our children, their **commitment and passion**.

Slide 16

At Darlinghurst Academy we **encourage playful spirits, curiosity and a sense of adventure inside and outside** the classroom. We believe in developing the whole child through **pastoral, academic and holistic approaches**. I am proud of our **aspirational culture and growth mind-sets**. We celebrate **achievements big and small**. We **believe and we achieve**.

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I hope this video gives you a **flavour** of Darlinghurst Academy

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At the start of each year, we **welcome all new comers** hosting a special event called **shaping the future**. The day demonstrates our **sense of belonging and inclusion**, welcoming new children and parents/ carers into **the Darlinghurst Academy family**. Shaping the future allows us to **emphasise the value of working together**, promoting **friendships within house teams** and comradery. This year we promoted the importance of **everyone having a part to play – using the analogy, individually we are one drop – together we are an ocean**.

In a few moments, **we will experience a live performance** of, 'Drop in the Ocean', sung by our **school Darlinghurst choir**.

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I could go on **indefinitely about Darlinghurst Academy** and the wonderful things that go on here - **It's my favourite topic!** I **am proud** of our school but you **must judge it for yourselves**, as I said at the beginning - I recognise the importance of choosing the right school for you. I know **many of you will be visiting other schools** and **we all have a slightly different feel**. For us, **our grounds are often a memorable feature** of our school with its beach huts, hagrid's hut, our animals and our bus!

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But I'd like to **emphasise that what's special about Darlinghurst Academy is the things you can't always see**, but you can **feel** in the classrooms and around the school - **The buzz, the energy, the sense of adventure** and at **times the magic that happens**.

I hope **you experience a sense of this as you tour** around the school tonight. Please continue to **look around our school, engage in learning and conversations** with our staff and children and **take a little bit of Darlinghurst Academy away with you**.

I hope this evening is the **start of a journey together and bright futures for us** all, today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

Slide 21 Thank you for your time and now **please enjoy our Darlinghurst Academy choir**.