

THE NELSON THOMLINSON SCHOOL



Founded 1714

Headmistress
Mrs J Downes B.Sc.

WIGTON, CUMBRIA, CA7 9PX
Tel: (016973) 42160 Fax: (016973) 49160
Email: admin@nts.cumbria.sch.uk
www.nts.cumbria.sch.uk

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Dear Parents

I am delighted to be able to report that we are finally in a position to start work on our long awaited new Sports Facility/Community Hall. This building was originally planned in the academic year 2008-2009 but planning permission was denied because part of the land had been designated a flood plain. Fortunately for NTS the Governors decided not to accept this ruling and launched a successful challenge. We are hoping that the new facility will be in use by the start of the next academic year. It will include enough space for two badminton courts and will have retractable seating for up to 240. There will also be a multi-gym. Once this project is underway we can then proceed with our plans to re-design the bus-bay, sort out the car-parking situation and change our main entrance.

There has been considerable media attention about the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. At present the final form of this new award is still under discussion and working its way through the Parliamentary process. However, we have decided to amend our Options for the current Year 9, to ensure that one route includes a Language and either Geography or History.

When the league tables were published in January we were pleased to see that at A Level we achieved the highest average points per student of any school in Cumbria (state or independent) and that we were 12th of all the comprehensives in the country. We also appeared in the Sunday Times on the 6th February as the 3rd best 'value for money' Comprehensive Sixth Form in the country.

It was a pleasure to watch the PE department display in early February. I was very proud to see over 100 students involved in so many different aspects of sport and dance. Equally, the Rock Night last week involved a large number of musicians and it is a real strength of NTS that so many students contribute to the extra-curricular life of the school.

On July 19th we will be holding our Activities Day. On this day we run many different activities and we would appreciate help from parents on the day to act as additional adults on the various activities. This could mean being based in school or travelling further afield. If you are able to help, please contact the school and ask for Mr. Beechey (Assistant Head).

We have some money available through the Access Fund. A letter from Mr Beechey explaining this can be found overleaf.

Finally, I have been asked by the Local Authority to send out the NHS advice about recognizing the signs of Meningococcal Disease. This information is attached.

Yours sincerely

J Downes

J Downes
Headmistress

Dear Parents

We currently have Extended Schools Access Funds available for students who are Economically Disadvantaged or Children Looked After. By economically disadvantaged we mean households where parents earn under £16,000 per annum and/or where pupils are entitled to access Free School Meals.

The purpose of this funding is to allow students to access additional activities to those provided for free through the Curriculum where there is an associated cost. For example, After School clubs, holiday activities, play activities, arts and crafts, music lessons, sports activities, volunteering and residential trips. This could include activities provided here at school or outside. Additionally the funds could be used to support family learning sessions.

This funding can pay for the activity itself and/or for equipment associated with the activity.

To apply you will need to fill in a simple form with details of the activity and submit it to me for approval by our Extended Schools team.

If you wish to discuss this with me further please contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

M Beechey
Assistant Head