



Founded 1714

The Nelson Thomlinson School
Wigton
Cumbria
CA7 9PX
...still "outstanding"
(Ofsted, May 2013)



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Headmaster:
Mr DS Northwood, M.A., M.Ed.

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

First and foremost I should draw your attention to the reports in the newsletter written by Ms Williams, our Citizenship Co-ordinator, and Mr Beechey, Assistant Head, relating our **Tercentenary Celebrations**. I am often reminded that one of this school's main strengths lies in the fact that its staff are prepared to go the extra mile and I would like to stress here how grateful I am to them all on occasions such as this. I should also say how delighted I was, as I often am, with the behaviour of our pupils and their willingness to get involved, take on leadership roles and make the most of opportunities. I have since received many letters and emails from our VIP guests and tour party guests complimenting our pupils and saying how wonderful it was to be part of such a special day. You will find more details about the day's events in the newsletter.

The Sixth Form Mezzanine

You may have guessed from the builders' fencing and portacabins that construction of the Sixth Form Mezzanine is ongoing. The building work was originally scheduled to be completed in 12 weeks but unfortunately, dry rot has been discovered in the existing structure and exploratory work is currently being carried out to establish the extent of it all and the implications. We are still confident that the new facility will open in time for the start of next term but inevitably there may be hiccups along the way.

Staffing

Miss H Southwell pleaded guilty to the charge on 4th July and will be sentenced next month. Following her period of suspension, she will now be subject to our disciplinary procedure.

We will be saying goodbye to a number of colleagues this term: Mrs Key (Midday/part-time Library Supervisor) is retiring; Mrs Gilhooly (Maths TA) is moving out of the area to support her husband in his work; Mrs Northwood (part-time teacher of Science); Mr S Scott (who has covered Dr Henley's maternity leave in History since January); Mrs Castle (who was taken on for one year to replace Mr Richardson in ICT); Miss Dunne (temporary teacher of Science) is moving to Leeds; Miss Burgess (teacher of Science) is moving north of the border (Edinburgh) to be closer to her family home; Mrs Winskill (teacher of Technology/Art) is moving further south to be closer to home (Keswick); and Mr Armstrong (teacher of Science) is making a side-ways move to Newman School.

Mr Coxon (teacher of Music) retires after many years of dedicated service and involvement in a variety of extra-curricular events. He will be a significant loss to the department and the school. Mr Chapman (Head of Technology) is moving down to the new UTC, again after many years of dedicated service. Mr Chapman has thrown himself into the extra-curricular life of the school, particularly on ski trips, on the hills (DofE) and on the five-a-side football pitch. His energy and good humour will be sorely missed.

Mrs Lynch (Head of Sixth Form) retires after 32 years of dedicated service. Mrs Lynch has been an extra-ordinarily committed member of staff who has given so much of her time and energy to making the Sixth Form the undisputed success that it is. She has been an outstanding colleague and a good friend to many, and has also had a significant impact on the lives of many hundreds of Sixth Form students over the years.

Young Enterprise

Following DigiPi's success at the North East and Cumbria Finals, I am delighted to tell you that the team came third in the National Competition out of 14 teams from across the country. This is our most significant success to date in this competition (DigiPi is the most successful Young Enterprise team in Cumbrian history) and all members of the team and their teacher, Miss Walker, supported by Mr Beechey, deserve the highest of praise. Again, you can read more about their success in the newsletter.

Strike Action

You may know that some teaching staff were involved in strike action on Thursday 10th July. Although we were keen to keep the school open for all pupils, you will appreciate that for some periods of the day some classes could only be supervised rather than taught effectively. We knew that this would be the case but considered this to be a more favourable option for parents than us closing the school.

Child safety online

The police have asked me to draw your attention to a letter about child safety online that they have circulated to all schools in Cumbria. The letter can be viewed on the school website.

Uniform

In my last letter to parents I included information from the school prospectus regarding uniform. A number of parents were asked to acknowledge receipt of this letter because their child's trousers or shoes were not appropriate. In September I anticipate that all pupils will adhere to the dress code.

Year 7 Ties

If you have a younger child in the family joining us in Year 7, you are reminded that they will receive their tie on the first day in September free of charge.

Thank you for your continued support of what we do here at The Nelson Thomlinson School and I urge you, once again, to contact the school if you think we could improve the service we provide.

Kind regards,

Mr DS Northwood
Headmaster