

THE NELSON THOMLINSON SCHOOL



Founded 1714

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Headmaster
Mr D S Northwood, M.A., M.Ed.

28th March 2013

Dear Parents,

'Parent View'

There has been much talk of Ofsted recently, certainly amongst local Headteachers, and I thought I should take this opportunity to explain our current position and how you, as parents, might be able to help.

We are currently judged 'outstanding' based on a full inspection that took place in 2006 and this judgement was then confirmed following a routine 'risk assessment' in 2010. We have been expecting another visit for a while now and although I am pleased with our current position and confident that we will do well, we are constantly looking for ways to improve, regardless of Ofsted and any judgement they may make. Indeed this is one of the reasons why we now ask for feedback through the Year 7 questionnaires, at the end of every parents' evening and at other events where parents are invited into the school.

As parents you are invited by Ofsted to share your opinion of the school on a website called '**parent view**'. One quick way to access this is via our own school website under the tab entitled 'parents'. There will be 12 questions to answer, for example, 'My child is happy at this school' with a choice of responses (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know). Rather than wait to be prompted the day before the inspection, you may like to take the opportunity to complete the short questionnaire in advance. I would encourage as many of you as possible to complete the questionnaire so that the summarised results are a fair and true reflection of what the majority of parents feel. If you would rather complete a hard copy of the questionnaire, I have included one here for your convenience and once complete this can then be handed in to the school reception.

Collecting pupils on Lowmoor Road

Following a recent traffic accident involving a young child on Lowmoor road, I have been asked by the police to encourage parents **not to pick up their children close to the entrance to the school**. You should already be aware that parents are not permitted to drive through the school grounds but congestion either side of the main gates is now also considered to be a major safety hazard. I have been informed that there will be increased surveillance of Lowmoor Road during peak times with the **possibility of penalties being issued to drivers who do not observe the existing traffic restrictions**. I do appreciate the uniqueness of Wigton and how a small market town is having to deal with the increasing demands of an ever growing community but I hope that these small measures make an impact on reducing the risk of further incidents.

School closure on Friday 22nd March 2013

As you will be aware, last Friday I decided to close the school due to snow. This was not an easy decision and I would stress that we only rarely close, such is the importance that we place on teaching and learning. I would simply like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and for collecting your children at such short notice. I hope that you all managed to get home safely.

Reports

I am extremely proud of the fact that we have retained the traditional, prose-based, personalised reporting style and have not gone down the route, as some schools have, of asking teachers simply to tick a few boxes. I am also very much heartened by the hard work of my colleagues on this front and their attention to detail. Teachers, Tutors, Heads of Year, Heads of Section and Deputies spend countless hours writing and reading reports to ensure that we deliver the best possible 'service' and I hope that this comes across to you as parents. Should you feel that this service could be improved still further, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Northwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr DS Northwood
Headmaster