



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.

3rd November 2014

Dear parents,

I need to make you aware of two matters:

Parent Governor Applications

Firstly, we have two vacancies that need to be filled on the Governing Body, for parents of current pupils.

Nominations

Any parent (or legal guardian) of a pupil attending Nelson Thomlinson School may put their name forward. Letters of nomination need to be with me by 3.30pm on Wednesday 19th November 2014. Nomination letters must be countersigned by two sponsors who must also be parents of pupils currently attending the school.

Procedure

If there are only two nominations then the nominees will automatically become parent governors. If there are more than two nominations then we shall hold an election by secret ballot to allow parents to decide who they would like to represent them. If an election proves necessary I shall write to you with details of how and when to vote.

Points to bear in mind if you are thinking of putting your name forward

The term of office for a parent governor is four years. Names and addresses of parent governors will be made known to all parents so that all of them have access to the School's governing body. If an election is necessary, all candidates will have the opportunity to write a short statement in support of their candidature which will be circulated to all parents of the school. Candidates may seek support in other ways if they wish but this will be entirely their own responsibility. On appointment/election, all governors receive documentation to help them in their role as a school governor.

Our Chair of Governors and I are very happy to talk to prospective candidates about the role. Please enquire via my secretary.

Behaviour Statement

Secondly, every school is required to have a so-called "behaviour statement", in addition to the standard, much lengthier behaviour policy that we have already. It is also a requirement that we consult pupils and parents on its contents.

Rather than starting from a blank canvas, I thought I would circulate a short draft statement that you, as parents, could comment on if you wished, suggesting amendments as you deemed appropriate. Your child will also get the same opportunity this week in Tutor sessions.

The draft statement, as it stands currently, reads as follows:

"At The Nelson Thomlinson School, we believe that good behaviour is essential to allow all our pupils to achieve their full potential. No pupil will be allowed to behave in a manner which adversely affects the learning of others.

We believe in a culture of inclusion, equal opportunities and respect for all members of our community and in the importance of self-discipline and self-esteem. Discrimination in any form should not be tolerated. We recognise that pupils with particular emotional or behavioural needs will receive support to achieve the expected standard of behaviour.

We view as essential a system of sanctions where standards fall below an expected level. These sanctions must be applied consistently and fairly. Individual pupils' behaviour will be monitored and their parents or carers will be kept informed."

Should you wish to comment or suggest improvements, can I ask that you do so by Friday 7th November, via email: admin@nts.cumbria.sch.uk? I will then pass on the current draft and your responses to Governors for their consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Northwood'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mr DS Northwood
Headmaster