



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.

October 2014

Dear Parents

Exam Results

You should be aware that following remarks and recalculations, our already impressive examination results this year have improved slightly.

At GCSE, the original figure of 66% of the students gained 5 or more 'higher grades' including English and Maths has risen to 67%, our second best percentage ever. I should stress again that this figure is the same whether or not we include so-called 'equivalent qualifications' such as BTECs.

At A Level, as is the case at many schools across the country, our figures are analyzed annually by an external, accredited company known as Advanced Level Performance Systems (ALPS). A grade between 1 and 9 is awarded to schools based on the analysis of pupil performances when measured against their target grades (determined by GCSE scores). A grade of 1 or 2 is deemed to be 'outstanding', 3 as 'excellent', 4 as 'very good' etc. down to 9, which is 'poor'. This year our AS ALPS grade was 2 (outstanding), and our A2 grade has risen from 4 (very good) to 3 (excellent). These constitute some of the best results we have ever had.

Reports/Progress Reviews

Parents of pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 will have received their Attitude to Learning (AtL) grades already, and parents of Year 11 pupils will receive them as part of their child's Progress Review. Year 11 parents should also receive a letter in their report book from Mr Parker, Deputy Head (Curriculum), explaining further recent changes to our reporting system and the way we present progress data. In due course, parents of pupils in all other year groups will receive the same information – as and when Progress Reviews are distributed.

Once again, I should like to remind parents that they can access their child's data, including his/her school reports, via the Internet. If you would like to use this facility, please go to the school website at www.nts.cumbria.sch.uk and go to Parents then the Learning Gateway followed by Usage Policy & Request Form. Please print off this form, complete the details and return it to the school reception. You will then be issued with your personalised access details. If you are already using this facility there is no need to complete another form. If you require a hard copy of the policy and/or the form please contact the school office.

Driving on school premises

Please ensure that, when leaving the school, you stay clear of the marked pedestrian walkway down the right-hand side of the driveway. Pupils and staff leaving the school know that this is reserved for their use and should not need to be constantly checking for cars approaching from behind. Similarly,

please be aware of the marked walkways in the bottom car park. I should also remind you that a 5mph speed restriction applies.

Sixth-Form Dress

Following a recent School Council meeting, I have had meetings with Mr Beechey (Assistant Head) and Mr Walker (Head of Sixth Form) to discuss the possibility of allowing Sixth-Formers to wear jumpers/sweaters/cardigans underneath a jacket/blazer, in cold weather. Please understand that we do not want students to suffer in cold weather but we need to ensure that any changes do not undermine the recent improvement in standards of Sixth-Form dress. You should know that I am extremely proud of their appearance so far this term.

By the time you read this letter, students will have had the following statement read out to them:

“Following a recent meeting of the School Council, it has been decided that the following additions to the Sixth Form dress code will be made.

(All other rules relating to the dress code still apply.)

If students feel cold in shirt sleeves only, they can now wear...

- *Either a **plain**, smart jumper (v or crew neck)*
- *Or a **plain**, smart, waist-length cardigan*

However, if they choose to wear knitwear, this must only be worn underneath a suit jacket or blazer.

If students choose to wear knitwear, they will only be allowed to remove their jacket or blazer in lessons and the Sixth Form block.

When walking around the school, students will not be allowed to wear knitwear without a jacket/blazer over the top.”

Head Lice

There have been a few cases of head lice reported in the school in the recent weeks. Please could I ask that you take the time to check your child's hair and treat it accordingly. The following website has details on various treatments and methods for this <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

I wish you and your children a very pleasant half-term break.

Yours sincerely

