

THE NELSON THOMLINSON SCHOOL



Founded 1714

Headmistress
Mrs J Downes B.Sc.

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Dear Parents

As usual we have started the term with our Prize Ceremonies and it was pleasing to see so many of our students receiving awards for academic achievement, attitude and service and attendance. I am pleased to announce that 123 students gained an award for 100% attendance. Last year we achieved 95.1% attendance and hope to reach 95.3% this year. Every day a student takes off school reduces their attendance by approximately 0.5% and holidays in term time contributed significantly to the 4.9% of absences last year. Attached is a letter from Julia Morrison the Director of Children's Services, which I have been asked to pass on to you. This explains the issue of family holidays in term time, in more detail.

At the start of the term we asked you to complete our annual questionnaire and we had 909 parental responses covering the current Years 8-13. I would like to thank you for taking the time to provide us with feedback, something we take very seriously. A summary of the results of the questionnaire is attached with this letter.

The building work has provided us with some challenges but your patience and cooperation have been much appreciated. The new bus bay has proved popular with students and staff and we are looking forward to its completion.

As winter approaches, I would like to remind you about the arrangements in the case of severe weather problems. If we do not intend to open the school we will use the media (Radio Cumbria) and our web-site to make announcements. If, for any reason we have to close the school during the day, we will supervise students at school if they are not able to go home until such time as they can be collected. I must add though that we will only close the school as a very last resort and despite the dreadful weather in November and December last year we remained open throughout.

Parent Governor Election

We only received one nomination for the two vacancies. Mr David Murphy is therefore duly elected. I will speak to the Governing Body about the remaining vacancy at the Annual General Meeting in November.

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Founders' Day

This will be held on Thursday 13th October at 11.30am in St Mary's. Year 7 and representatives from all other tutor groups will be present. Parents and friends are most welcome to join us. There will be a collection and the School Council have decided to donate it to Alzheimers UK, Eden Valley Hospice and Smile Train (a cleft palate charity).

SIMS Learning Gateway

Parents are able to 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 **SIMS Learning Gateway Usage Policy** followed by **SIMS Learning Gateway Access 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.

Privacy Notice

We have received a new version of the Privacy Notice. A copy of this is attached.

Yours sincerely

J Downes

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Headmistress