

# THE NELSON THOMLINSON SCHOOL



Founded 1714

Headmistress  
Mrs J Downes B.Sc.

WIGTON, CUMBRIA, CA7 9PX  
Tel: (016973) 42160 Fax: (016973) 49160  
Email: [admin@nts.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@nts.cumbria.sch.uk)  
[www.nts.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.nts.cumbria.sch.uk)

September 2010

Dear Parents

On the last day of term we were surprised but delighted to receive a letter in the post from OFSTED informing us that we had had an Interim Assessment, rather than an actual inspection. (We had been expecting OFSTED throughout the last academic year.) As a result of the Interim Assessment, based on a variety of criteria, the 'Outstanding' judgement has been sustained. All members of the NTS community can take pride in this significant achievement.

The exam results this year were very pleasing both at "A" level, "AS" level and at GCSE. At "A" level, 8.1% of the entry gained the new A\* grade, 22.2% gained an A or A\* and 73.2% gained A\*-C grades. The vast majority of students who applied for university have been successful in securing their first choice and all students who wanted a university place have secured one. This means 95 students (out of 110) will be taking up university places this year, including two students (Thomas Place and John Wilde) who are heading for Oxbridge and Emma Carter who is studying medicine. Carlisle King achieved 5 A\* grades and 1 grade A and six other students achieved all grade As or A\*s. We believe that our average points per student may well be an NTS record.

At GCSE 71% of the year gained five or more A\* to C grades and 63% gained five or more A\* to C grades including English and Maths. These results were very close to our targets and were all based on the 'traditional' GCSE single subjects. Fifteen students gained all A or A\* grades and once again the results reflect the hard work that both the students and teachers invested.

During the summer break a major project has started to re-tile the oldest part of the school that contains the Library, Sixth Form and some offices. As this is a listed building it has been far from straightforward, but good progress is now being made. The work will continue into October and inevitably this will cause some disruption, especially to parking.

\over

### New Staff

We are pleased to have recruited the following staff for the new academic year.

Miss R. Akers to teach Science

Miss A. Coan to teach Science

Miss K. Thompson to teach Maths and Science

Mr. S. Knott to teach Geography

Mrs J Picken to teach English to cover the secondment of Mr K. Proudfoot

Mr M. Richardson to join the ICT Technicians team

Mr G. Clark as our IAG Officer (Information, Advice and Guidance)

### Safety and Transport Issues

For those of you that are new to NTS, safety is an important issue for us and I would ask for your co-operation regarding transport around the school. If you are bringing your child to school by car in the morning, please do not stop in the main part of the bus bay between 8.30am and 8.50am and at the end of the day when you are likely to cause problems for the large number of buses that deliver our students to school.

**Please remember that there is a one-way system in operation at all times through the school grounds.** Entry is through the bus-bay and the exit is onto the High Street. If your child comes to school on a bus, sensible behaviour is obviously expected and this includes sitting down on a seat with the seatbelt fastened.

### Receiving school letters by e-mail

We will send our school letters and newsletters to parents by e-mail. If you are already receiving information in this way you do not need to do anything. However, if you are not on the list – or the parents of a new pupil – please go to the following website and follow the instructions on the webpage.

[www.nts.cumbria.sch.uk/lettershome](http://www.nts.cumbria.sch.uk/lettershome)

Please contact us if there are any problems. For ease of administration all students are also given a hard copy of letters and newsletters.

### Prize Ceremonies

For Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 ceremonies will be held in school in extended assemblies starting at 9.15am and lasting approximately half an hour:

Year 11      Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September      (receiving Year 10 prizes)

Year 10      Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September      (receiving Year 9 prizes)

Year 9      Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September      (receiving Year 8 prizes)

Year 8      Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September      (receiving Year 7 prizes)

We will hold our formal senior prize ceremony for the Sixth Form on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm in St. Mary's Church. Prizes will be presented to last year's Year 11 as well as the Sixth Form.

### Term Dates, Examinations and Parents' Evenings

These are printed on side 4. Please keep this sheet for reference.

### Confidentiality and Data Protection: Privacy Notice.

The school, local authority and government agency hold basic information on pupils in order to support their teaching and learning. Parents (and older pupils) have rights to have access to personal data held on their children. This includes the right to view their children's educational records held at the school.

We are requested to issue you with a copy of the attached Privacy Notice. Almost all of the document is amplifying what I have written above. However, it includes a specific point about providing information to Connexions. If parents wish to restrict what information (beyond name and address) is passed on to Connexions, they must contact the school in writing.

### Data Collection Sheet and Parental Survey

Once again we need to ask for your assistance with regard to information we require.

- a) Data Collection Sheet. Please amend or complete this as appropriate.
- b) Parental Questionnaire (Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form.) After experimenting with a different format last year we have returned to our more usual style. We really do appreciate your feedback and it does inform future school developments.

We would like both the Data Collection Sheet and the Parental Questionnaire returned to the school by Monday September 13<sup>th</sup> please.

Yours sincerely

*J Downes*

J Downes  
Headmistress

## Term Dates 2010-2011

### Autumn Term 2010

Starts Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Half-term is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Last day of term is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### Spring Term 2011

Starts Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January for pupils.

Half-term is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Last day of term is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

### Summer Term 2011

Starts Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April for pupils

Half-term is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

The last day of term is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

## Key Dates

### 1. Examinations

Parents are requested, as far as possible, to arrange holidays during the school holidays. However, the following dates should be absolutely avoided.

November 8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE Maths & English Re-sits
November 9 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Maths Modular Exams
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Years 10 & 11 Science Modular Exams
January 10 <sup>th</sup> – February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Module Exams for some L6 and U6 (AS & A2)
January 13 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Science Modular exams
January 19 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Mock Exams
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 11 Maths Modular Exams
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Years 10 & 11 Science Modular Exams
March 18 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Exams
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 9 Exams (including Functional Skills)
May 13 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Science Modular Exams
May 16 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> June	AS/A2 Exams Yr 12 Study Leave- until 10 <sup>th</sup> June
May 16 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June	GCSE Exams
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 RE Modular Exam
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	U6 Leaving Day
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 study leave during period of remaining exams
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 History Modular Exam
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Geography Exam
June 6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Years 7 & 8 Exams.
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Leaving Day

### 2. Parents' Evenings

We have planned the following dates during the year :-

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Open Evening for pupils and parents
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	U6 Parents' Evening
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	L6 Parents' Evening
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 7 Parents' Evening (NELST half of year)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 7 Parents' Evening (HMWG half of year)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Options Evening (Provisional)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Information Evening (Provisional)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March`	Year 9 Parents' Evening (X half)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March`	Year 9 Parents' Evening (Y half)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 Parents' Evening (X half)
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Y half)