

# THE NELSON THOMLINSON SCHOOL



Founded 1714

Headmistress  
Mrs J Downes B.Sc.

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September 2011

Dear Parents

I'm pleased to say that during the holiday our long-awaited bus-bay improvements have taken place. The finishing work will continue during September but the bus-bay is already operational. I am also delighted that the new car park is also well under way and that the work on the new Entrance Hall has started. All our projects should be completed by Christmas.

**If you are visiting the school please report to the green portacabin, which is our Reception, until further notice.**

## Driving in the School Grounds

There is less space available on site due to the construction of the new Entrance Hall. 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 or collecting them at the end of the day **please do not drive through the school grounds.** (Students arriving by taxi or with physical disabilities are exempt from this.)
- If you are bringing your child to school by car in the morning, please do not stop in 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.
- At other times when you visit the site for an appointment or to pick up a sick child **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.

## 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. It is particularly important that you complete the photo permissions slip.
- b) Parental Questionnaire (Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form.) 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 Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>, please.

### Exam Results

Once again the exam results were very pleasing at all levels. At A Level, out of a cohort of 122 we have 9 students who gained straight A/A\* grades, 25 students who gained 3 or more A/A\* grades and 14 students who gained 4 or more A/A\* grades. Catherine Smith achieved 6 A\* grades. We had 110 students who applied for University or Art College and 109 were successful in gaining a place. Almost all of our Upper Sixth Form Leavers have been successful in finding employment, training or in entering Higher Education. We are delighted to report that Peter Blenkarn, William Murrant, Emma Pearson, Catherine Smith and Matthew Usher are heading for Oxbridge and that Madeleine Hallowell, Nicola Powley and John Rothwell have gained places to study medicine.

At GCSE we broke our previous records with 69% gaining five or more A\* to C grades including English and Maths, and 79% gaining five or more higher grades based on GCSE single subjects. This figure increases to 81% when GCSE “equivalents” are included. Fourteen students gained all A or A\* grades and there were 39 students who gained 8 or more A/A\* grades.

These results reflect the hard work that both the students and teachers invested throughout the year.

### Sporting Success

In the holiday Abbie Hetherington represented Great Britain in the Junior Olympics in Turkey. She competed in the 800m and got through to the final where she came fourth in a personal best time. This is a remarkable achievement, as all the other finalists were more than a year older than Abbie.

### New Staff

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

Miss R Cheshire to teach Art

Mr S Rudd to teach PE

Mr M Richardson to teach ICT

Mrs P Bell to join our administration team

Mr J Parker as Finance Manager

### Attendance Officer

Mrs Jones who was previously our Key Stage 3 Pastoral Assistant will be taking over as Attendance Officer and Manager of the Internal Exclusion Room from the start of term.

### School Buses

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 27 <sup>th</sup> September	(receiving Year 10 prizes)
Year 10	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	(receiving Year 9 prizes)
Year 9	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	(receiving Year 8 prizes)
Year 8	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	(receiving Year 7 prizes)

We will hold our formal senior prize ceremony for the Sixth Form on Friday 30<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.

Yours sincerely

*J Downes*

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Headmistress

## Term Dates 2011-2012

### Autumn Term 2011

Starts Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September for pupils.

Half-term is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Last day of term is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### Spring Term 2012

Starts Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January for pupils.

Half-term is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Last day of term is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

### Summer Term 2012

Starts Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April for pupils.

Half-term is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

The last day of term is Thursday 19<sup>th</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> /11 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE Maths & English Re-sits
November 9 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup>	Years 10 & 11 Maths Modular Exams
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Years 10 & 11 Science Modular Exams
January 9 <sup>th</sup> – February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Module Exams for some L6 and U6 (AS & A2) and Year 11 GCSE modules (provisional)
January 24 <sup>th</sup> /26 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup>	Years 10 & 11 Science Modular Exams
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Years 10 & 11 Science Modular Exams
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Years 10 & 11 Maths Modular Exams (provisional)
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Years 10 & 11 Maths Modular Exams (provisional)
March 8 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 11 Mock Exams and Y10 Exams
April 30 <sup>th</sup> – May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 9 Exams
May 14 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> June	AS/A2 Exams (provisional) Yr 12 Study Leave - until 10 <sup>th</sup> June
May 14 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>h</sup> June	GCSE Exams (provisional)
May 21 <sup>st</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup>	Years 10 & 11 Science Modular Exams
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	U6 Leaving Day
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Years 7 & 8 Exams.
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 study leave during period of remaining exams
June 12 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 9 Science Modular Exams
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Leaving Day

### 2. Parents' Evenings

We have planned the following dates during the year :-

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Open Evening for pupils and parents
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	U6 Parents' Evening
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	L6 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 7 Parents' Evening (HMWG half of year)
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 7 Parents' Evening (NELST half of year)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Information Evening (Provisional)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Parents' Evening (X half)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 Parents' Evening (Y half)
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 Parents' Evening (X half)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Y half)