



The Nelson Thomlinson School
Wigton
Cumbria
CA7 9PX

...still "outstanding"
(Ofsted, May 2013)

Founded 1714

Headmaster:
Mr DS Northwood, M.A., M.Ed.

Tel: 016973 42160
Fax: 016973 49160
Email: admin@nts.cumbria.sch.uk
www.nts.cumbria.sch.uk

July 2015

Dear Parent,

It has been a particularly busy term, as you will see from a 'bumper edition' of our newsletter. When I read it myself, I am reminded of the dedication of my colleagues and the hard work of the pupils outside timetabled lessons. Extra-curricular activity in schools tends to be neglected by politicians and local government in favour of promoting academic success, not least because the latter is easier to measure. I would like to think we value the importance of both at NTS.

I know through personal experience – as a teacher and parent now, and as pupil many years ago – how vital it is for young people to participate in as many different kinds of activity as possible, seizing the opportunities as they arise and challenging themselves to take on new and exciting projects. Quite apart from the immediate and more obvious gains offered by the activity in question, it is through extra-curricular participation generally that your son or daughter will develop resilience, confidence and friendships. If your child is currently not involved in events such as those described in our newsletter, I would simply ask you to encourage them on this front. *They* will always thank you for it, and *you* will never regret it.

None of these activities, of course, could take place without the enthusiasm and energy of my staff and I am forever grateful for the time they dedicate to running them. So many of my colleagues go above and beyond what it expected of them and I feel very proud of them indeed. It is with this in mind that I come to the end of another year and run down the list of those leaving. Each member of staff below has contributed in their own way to the success of the school and as they move on to pastures new, I hope they remember with fondness their time at NTS. In alphabetical order, they are:

Miss Cowgill	(Teacher of Technology) is moving to Manchester
Mr Hawks	(Clerk to the Governors) is retiring
Mrs Hoskins	(Health and Safety Coordinator) is leaving to resume her work in nursing
Mrs Hudson	(Teacher of History) is going on maternity leave
Miss Milligan	(Teacher of Science) is moving to Scotland
Mr Murray	(Part-time Teacher of Art) is retiring after 19 years of service at NTS
Mr Proudfoot	(Teacher of English) is leaving his Part-time Teaching post here to begin a PhD at the University of Cumbria
Mr Richardson	(Site Manager) is retiring after 16 years of dedicated service at NTS. Mr Richardson has very much been a part of the fabric of the school and has often gone well beyond the call of duty to ensure the maintenance and safe running of the school and its grounds.
Mrs Robertson	(Midday Supervisor) is retiring
Miss Sara	(Part-time Science Technician) comes to the end of her temporary contract with us
Mrs Summerfield	(Teacher of Technology) is retiring after 11 years of service

Mrs Wightman (Part-time Teacher of Maths) is moving closer to her home town of Keswick

In September we will be welcoming 9 new staff:

Mrs Allin	(Part-time Teacher of Maths)
Ms Chicken	(Part-time Teacher of Art)
Mr Heap	(Maths Teaching Assistant)
Mrs Jennings	(Part-time Learning Support Teaching Assistant)
Mr Steven Knott	(Teacher of Science)
Ms Lightfoot	(Teacher of English)
Mrs Richmond	(Health & Safety Coordinator and Clerk to the Governors)
Mr Watts	(Teacher of Technology)
Mr Wharldall	(Site Manager)

E-safety

This term we have rewritten a new E-Safety policy with help from parents, Governors, pupils and staff, taking on board advice from CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) organisation. This will be launched through a new Pupil and Parent Acceptable Use Policy in September. It should help to inform pupils and parents about the effective use of technology.

New GCSE qualifications starting in September 2015

Following the election, education has regularly featured in the news, especially with regards to new qualifications. This is just a reminder, then, that new Year 10 pupils following GCSE courses will receive results at the end of Year 11 that are graded A* to G in all subjects except English Language, English Literature and Mathematics. These three courses are 'new GCSEs', with results to be graded 1 (lowest) to 9 (highest). As a rough guide:

- Grade 1 is expected to be equivalent to Grade G.
- Grade 4 is expected to be equivalent to the bottom of Grade C.
- Grade 7 is expected to be equivalent to Grade A. The very highest performers in each exam will get Grade 9.

Rest assured that our teams of English and Mathematics teachers have been working very hard to be fully prepared to introduce these new specifications such that pupils are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by these nationally implemented changes.

Careers Guidance Evening Workshops for parents/carers

NTS now offers a range of online Careers Guidance resources to our pupils, and their parents or carers. These are available at school, or from home.

If you would like to learn how to use this system to support your child in their important decision-making, from Year 9 to the Sixth Form, you would be welcome at any of the following:

1. 'Drop-In' workshops between 7.00 and 9.00 pm (particularly useful for parents/carers of Year 9 or Year 11 pupils):

Tuesday 20th October
Monday 9th November

2. Half-hour workshops, 7.30 – 8.00 pm:

Thursday 12th November (following Year 12 Parents' Evening)

Monday 30th November (following Year 8 Parents' Evening)

Thursday 10th December (following Year 8 Parents' Evening)

Thursday 7th January 2016 (following Year 10 Parents' Evening)

All the workshops are 'hands-on' in classrooms with computers, and with support from NTS staff. No previous experience is expected.

Further details of how to book a place on these workshops will follow in the autumn.

School Nurse Provision

At the start of the academic year, the government removed the School Nurse provision from schools. (In the past we were supported through three lunchtime drop-in sessions and instant referrals.) A number of schools from the CSLC have decided to join forces to employ a mental health worker who will act as a signpost for referral to a number of external agencies. We have opted for a full day, every Tuesday, and the pastoral team will coordinate the referral process.

Year 7 Ties

If you have a younger child in the family joining us in Year 7, you are reminded that they will receive their tie on the first day in September free of charge.

Thank you for your continued support of what we do here at The Nelson Thomlinson School and I urge you, once again, to contact the school if you think we could improve the service we provide.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Northwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mr DS Northwood
Headmaster