



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.

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Dear Parents

School Closure in Bad Weather

We have always prided ourselves in the fact that we remain open whenever we can but as we enter the festive period and the temperature falls, there may be occasions when we have to close the school. Please note that the **only** reliable sources of information relating to school closure are:

- The official school website
- The official school facebook page
- ParentMail

If you are in any doubt about school closure, please check the above sources and do not rely on hearsay.

As far as the school *Facebook* page is concerned, for those of you who do not know, here we post, amongst other things, letters, newsletters and trip information – as well as information about travel disruption and school closure. The Link is: www.facebook.com/TheNelsonThomlinsonSchool. For non-Facebook users our school website will continue to be updated with the latest letters, newsletters *etc.*

Year 11 Support

Our Year 11 pupils have experienced an intensive period of additional input from teachers and outside speakers recently with a view to preparing them for the mock examinations and the remaining months leading up to their final tests. Prior to the usual Parents' Evening on 16th November, we held a 'Live and Learn' Day where outside speakers came into school to give motivational talks and advice to all of the Year 11 pupils. In addition, a targeted group of parents and pupils were invited to a Study Skills Evening delivered by members of the Senior Management Team on 15th, which seemed to be well received. SMT and pastoral staff have also been working with specific individuals as part of our usual mentoring programme. I have to say how pleased I am with the way the pupils have responded to these initiatives and their positive reaction to the advice and help we have given them. If you are a parent of a Year 11 pupil and feel that your child could do with additional support on top of what we have already offered (e.g. help with revision planning), please do not hesitate to contact the school.

ParentMail

Since 'going live' in July, 84% of parents have registered and/or installed the free NTS ParentMail app. We are finding the service an efficient and speedy way of getting information out, and would encourage you to register if you have not already done so.

Once you have registered, there is a facility within your ParentMail account for you to change details such as addresses and telephone numbers. However, ParentMail does not 'feed' the updates back into our school computer system. We would therefore be grateful if you could contact us with any updates too.

Financial matters

As a result of national funding problems, inflation and - in Wigton specifically - low birth rates (and consequently low pupil intake figures), we are facing another period of significant financial pressure. This has required me to speak to the teaching staff again about voluntary redundancies, of which we only need about 3 or 4 in order to bring the school out of deficit. A number of other local schools have experienced similar difficulties and have gone through the same process.

As parents, you should be reassured that there will be no impact on the education of pupils at the school. It is simply the case that the school's income has decreased, along with pupil numbers, and we obviously cannot afford to pay for more staff than we need. Any staff who volunteer to leave will do so at the end of the academic year, and I shall of course provide you with details nearer the time.

House System

This year twelve Year 12 House Captains were appointed to represent their respective 4 Houses. The House Captains have worked with House Representatives from Forms to encourage and motivate pupils across the year groups. Pupils in our dedicated House assemblies were reminded of the vast range of ways they can earn House Points, i.e. through academic performance, improved test scores, charity efforts, courtesy and membership of clubs and teams. Osprey House currently lead the house competition for this term; as House Captains, Daniel Clark, Ayla Moor and Katie Arnold have clearly done a fine job motivating their troops.

This term we have seen House sports activities for Year 9, the House run and House table tennis competitions. All of our pupils will have a breakdown in their school report of the House Points that they have won.

As things stand, the top ten achievers for house points this term are: Fae Studholme (7PH Kestrel) 30, Jordan Ion (10RCT Peregrine) 27, Annabel Northwood (7EC Peregrine) 27, Isla Henderson (7RCG Osprey) 26, Amelia Shaw (8DH Merlin) 26, Joshua Bird (7RCG Osprey), 24, Megan Todd (7JFP Osprey) 24, Ben Barnes (9CCM Kestrel) 24, Olivia Zachopoulos (7RCG Osprey) 23 and Margaret Bell (7RCG Osprey) 22.

Congratulations to all House Point winners this term!

School ski trip 2019

The school ski trip is open to all current Year 8-12 pupils and will visit Madonna in the Italian Dolomites during February Half-Term in 2019. With the hotel located at the foot of a 5km blue run this trip is ideal for all abilities. There are currently 5 remaining places on the trip. See Mr Beechey for details.

PTA

The presence of the Friends of the Nelson Thomlinson School (FONTS), our PTA, has been most welcome at many events this term including parents' evenings and the hugely successful music concert. Parental contributions at these events have allowed us to fund the ParentMail system for another year, Year 11 revision books and gum shields for pupils participating in school sports events. The FONTS team also organised a Christmas quiz which was won by Mr Peerless (grandparent of a Year 7 pupil).

You can support FONTS in two very simple ways....

- Join the 100 Lottery Club which runs from January each year. It costs £12 to join with £20, £15 and £10 awarded each month in a prize draw. If you would like to support us please contact Miss Richmond at NTS for further information. Alternatively send in £12 with your contact details and we will enter you in the January draw.
- Register for Easy Fund Raising using this site: easyfundraising.org.uk. Simply register and donate to The Nelson Thomlinson School. Each time you shop, go to the Easy Fundraising site and search for your chosen business. We currently have just 25 parents and staff who have registered but they have already raised £100 in this way.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and your child's learning, and I hope you have a pleasant and relaxing Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Northwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr DS Northwood
Headmaster