



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.

13th May 2020

Dear Parents,

I have attached a letter from Dan Barton, Assistant Director of Education at the Local Authority. He has asked schools to send this out to all parents.

Most of the letter is relevant to primary school teachers/parents/pupils but there is a line about secondary schools. You should also be aware of the following that has recently been added to the gov.uk website:

From 1 June 2020, we expect that secondary schools and colleges will be able to offer some face-to-face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 pupils. This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school or college full time, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education. In line with implementing protective measures and reducing contacts, schools and colleges should limit the attendance of the Year 10 and 12 cohort in the setting at any one time and keep students in small groups as set out in our guidance. Schools and colleges should also ensure that the use of public transport for travel to and from school/college is minimised, especially at peak times. We will be consulting with sector representatives over the coming week in order to develop some suggested models to demonstrate how this could operate, which will be published along with further guidance for secondary schools in the coming weeks.

As ever, the LA will take the lead on this but I am meeting my counterparts from other schools tomorrow morning to discuss this and possible next steps.

I just wanted to keep you as up-to-date as possible. In essence, nothing much has changed and we are waiting further advice and instruction from the Government / Local Authority in terms of when precisely and how we are expected to open for Year 10 pupils and Year 12 students.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in these challenging times. I am very proud of what the pupils have managed to achieve over this period and fully appreciate that this has very much been a concerted effort involving both teachers *and* parents. The role you have played as supportive, encouraging and cajoling adults and carers should not be underestimated. I am very grateful indeed for the time and support you have given your own children and I do hope that you recognize the benefits, short-term and long-term, that they will reap as a consequence. I suspect that our pupils and teachers have worked harder over this period than those at many other schools and, despite the setbacks, teething problems, even conflict at times, together we have managed to maintain a very respectable standard of education (teaching and learning) that will make the lives of our pupils, your children, that much easier in the long run.

We will all be looking forward to the end of this crisis and lockdown. Until then, I ask that you continue to support the school and your child as best you can. I would also urge you to contact the relevant Head of Year

(via the school Reception/admin email) if your child is struggling – academically or emotionally; as ever, we will listen and do our best to reduce the strain if necessary.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DS Northwood'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mr DS Northwood
Headmaster