



The Nelson Thomlinson School
Wigton
Cumbria
CA7 9PX
...still "outstanding"
(Ofsted, May 2013)

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Dear Parents/Carers of pupils in Year 11/13,

This is one of two letters I have written; they are very similar but one contains content that is specific to Years 7-9, the other to Years 11/13.

As a parent myself of a child in Year 11, I can well imagine you are feeling part of a neglected minority in what continue to be strange and difficult times for us all. I am aware, too, that I have not written to parents of Year 11/13 pupils for a while; this is simply because there is nothing new to report to you personally. Indeed, things have changed very little since you were first told back in spring that examinations were not taking place and that your child's formal education would not resume this academic year.

For your information, in terms of Year 10 and Year 12, plans are in place to re-open the school soon, and the relevant parents have been given the detail here. For Years 7-9, remote teaching and learning continues and will do so for the remainder of this academic year.

I am writing to you as parents of Year 11/13 pupils for no other reason than to reassure you that you are not the 'forgotten few'. Nobody has any idea yet as to what teaching and learning will look like in schools, colleges and universities come the start of the next academic year but all those leaders involved in education, from those in Government down to heads of sixth forms, are keen for your child not to miss out on educational or training opportunities.

My personal hope is that your child will not have to carry the burden of being part of the 'COVID cohort' throughout the remainder of their academic career or as they enter the jobs market. I hope, too, that employers, educators and trainers will be empathetic, not just with regard to the significant gap in the education that these young people have experienced but also in terms of the impact all this has had on their mental health. I can only imagine how difficult the last few months must have been for some children, especially those who thrive on social contact with their peers and on face-to-face interaction with their teachers.

We will of course update you if we are provided with further guidance or information but in the meantime, I wish you and you families well and hope you can keep safe as lockdown restrictions are relaxed.

You will receive information about your child's examination grades in separate correspondence.

Kind regards,

Mr D S Northwood
Headmaster