

THE THOMAS HEPBURN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A Specialist Science College

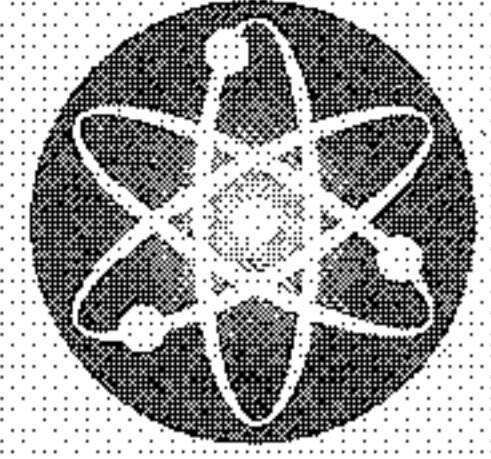
SWARDS ROAD FELLING GATESHEAD NE10 9UZ

Headteacher: Mrs J Barker

Telephone (0191) 420 4555 Fax (0191) 420 4554

E-mail ThomasHepburnCommunitySchool@gateshead.gov.uk

Website www.thomashepburn.org.uk



Science

Our Ref: JBA/kw

9 December 2009

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to confirm that the Christmas holiday arrangements are as follows:

School closes

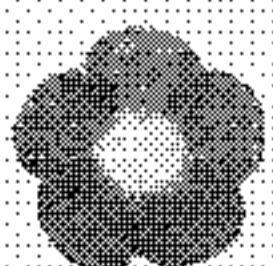
School re-opens

1:15pm Friday, 18 December 2009

Tuesday, 5 January 2010

I would like to thank you for your continued support over Autumn Term 2009. It has been another action packed and exciting term at The Thomas Hepburn Community School. We continue to be extremely proud of our school and the many achievements of our young people.

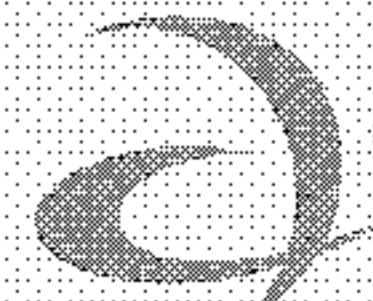
- Our new school building project is well underway. There is a large builder's compound at the front of the school and parts of the old building are being demolished to make way for the new building.
- Our new Year 12 are working hard, studying a range of Advanced Level courses. This is part of the new East Gateshead Post 16 Partnership. Our next Post 16 Choices Evening will take place on Thursday 7 January at 6:00pm in our Life Long Learning Centre. This is an important date for all current Year 11 students and their parents/carers.
- Year 11 (2008/9) achieved the best results the school has ever seen – 69% gained at least 5 good GCSE grades A*-C, a 17% increase on the previous year. We have high expectations for the current Year 11 who are working very hard to achieve highly in summer 2010.
- The school is among the top 25% of schools nationally for the progress made by our students.
- Students who have the highest attendance rates and who display the best behaviour for learning have engaged in a range of reward visits including, a day out at Whickham Thorns, a trip to the Theatre Royal to see the Panto and a cinema visit.
- Many of our young people have demonstrated their ability to aim high with a range of visits and residential experiences at local universities.



Specialist Schools
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school
achievement award
department for education and skills



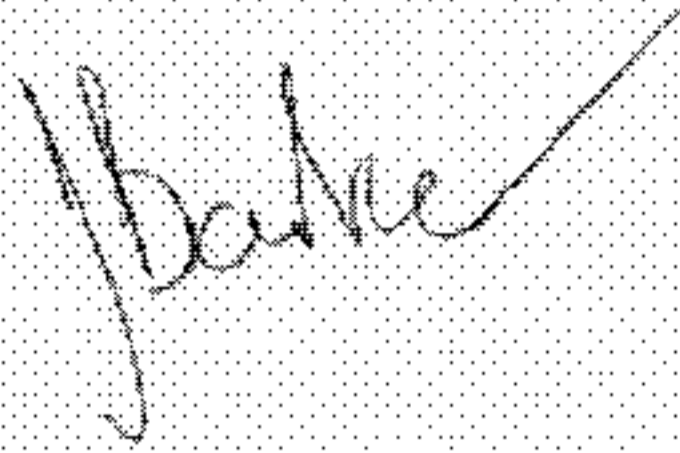
Senior Leadership Team: Mrs M A Carter, Mr S Cleghorn, Mr G Gollidge, Mr I Tempest.

- We have hosted a variety of activities for children from our partner primary schools and we are looking forward to a range of transition experiences for children in Year 6.
- We held another excellent Children in Need Day and raised over £1,400 for this worthy charity.
- All our students are beginning to see the benefits of using their new Hewlett Packard Netbooks, as we further develop our use of ICT to promote learning.

We would ask for your continued support in sending your child/children to school in full uniform including a school bag. Please remember that the biggest barrier to poor achievement in school is poor attendance. It is extremely important that your son/daughter is in school every day and on time. We want every member of our school to be part of the 95% plus Attendance Club in Spring Term 2010.

Finally can I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the festive season and the New Year.

Yours faithfully



Jackie Barker
Headteacher