

15th December 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

This has been a very successful term for Thornhill and its young people as I'm very pleased to give you news of the GCSE results from the summer gone. The top GCSE grades, A and A*, are designed to be awarded to the most able 10 to 12% of examination candidates, so I'm sure you can imagine our students' and teachers' delight when **40% achieved one or more of the top A or A* grades in their suite of qualifications.**

The latest performance information about all schools in the country has been published by Ofsted on the day I am writing this; and I am very proud to tell you that Thornhill has one of the highest progress scores in the city again. In fact this is a record year for our school! This means that pupils at Thornhill make more progress during their secondary experience than the large majority of other schools achieve and assures you that the quality of education your son or daughter is receiving here is second to none. **Thornhill is well inside the top 20% of schools in the country!**

Our links with Nissan continue to flourish as we plan to be involved with the Formula One In Schools competition, with the national final in London and the international final at one of the 2015 Formula One races our budding design engineers are excited about designing their own 'fast car'. We are also arranging for a group of Yr9 pupils to follow the Engineering Cadets programme to learn about the part graduate engineers play in the Nissan company and in the automotive industry in general.

I wish to turn to rather more mundane, but non-the-less important, issues now and remind you that school will close at 12.30pm on Friday 19th December for the Christmas break and reopen for pupils on Monday 5th January 2015 at the usual time for morning lessons.

On behalf of pupils, staff and governors here I wish all a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year and hope that you will enjoy reading our most recent newsletter when the wintery weather confines us to relaxing in front of a warming fire.

Yours faithfully,

J K Hallworth
Executive Head Teacher