



Northampton Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Newsletter

Issue 7 - Winter 2021-22



School of
CHARACTER

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity

Welcome

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Thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter.

Please submit any feedback or articles for the next newsletter to Lyn Salmons, our Marketing Officer by emailing l.salmons@northampton-academy.org

Welcome To Our Winter Newsletter

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter.

The last term saw a return to 'normal' with students enjoying the freedom that has been so inhibited in the previous year.

Practical work returned in Science, the canteen was a thriving venue with year groups mixing, and enrichment clubs came back with a bang. It has been great to see so many students staying after school to enjoy the vast array of clubs on offer, all aimed at developing their character.

Our Character Programme remains at the heart of everything we do. We were very proud to receive the Kitemark Plus in recognition of our programme, evaluated in October.

The assessors said: "There is little doubt that Northampton Academy can be considered one of the most successful schools in the country in terms of its character development programme and its direct impact on standards."

We celebrated all the values demonstrated by our students during the last year, with the re-introduction of the Best in Everyone (BiE) Awards Evening. We were fortunate to have special guest speakers during the evening - Northampton Saints captain and England player Lewis Ludlam and fellow Saints player James Grayson. I was particularly impressed how they highlighted the importance of our values in sport and the fact that our values had played a crucial part in getting them to the top of their professional game.

Our Elite Sports programme is really starting to move forward at pace after being hindered by the lock down. The students are back training and playing competitive matches. They enjoyed an inspiring video from Gareth Southgate (with hopefully a visit to Northampton Academy to follow) as well as a visit from André Marriner, Premiership football referee. André spoke to students and did a Q&A with them before refereeing their Year 7 match against Wootton Park School. We have several girls selected for the County Netball team too, and already a number of the boys are playing for top clubs outside of our school.

Nucleus STEM continues to go from strength to strength; several excellent lecturers this term have been into the Academy already, with many more on the way. The after school programme is in full effect, and I have enjoyed playing chess with the students this term. I am always open to a game with them, although James in Year 9 convincingly defeated me in my last one!



Overall, I am incredibly proud of all we have achieved recently. I have only touched on the wide range of brilliant things that have happened, which I am sure you will enjoy reading all about in this newsletter edition.

We are looking forward to 2022 being even better than this year as we continue towards our vision of being; 'An Academy of Character and Excellence.'

Chris Clyne
Principal

Get Connected

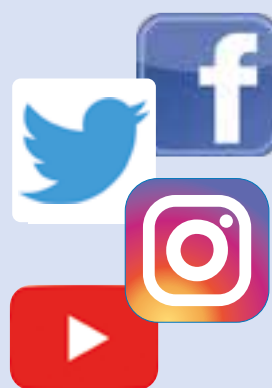
Northampton Academy Website

Our website, www.northampton-academy.org holds all the latest information you will need, such as our policy documents, term dates and latest news. You can also access our online payment system Ipay Impact from here, along with the My Ed app and SatchelOne.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for our website, please email Lyn Salmons, our Marketing and Communications Officer, on L.Salmons@northampton-academy.org.



Connect with us on Social Media



Please check our social media pages for all the latest news and updates on a daily basis.

Like us on Facebook:
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Follow our Twitter feeds:
[@northacad](https://twitter.com/northacad)
[@NA_NucleusSTEM](https://twitter.com/NA_NucleusSTEM)
[@NA_Character](https://twitter.com/NA_Character)
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[@northacadMusic](https://twitter.com/northacadMusic)
[@NA_English1](https://twitter.com/NA_English1)
[@NASixthform](https://twitter.com/NAsixthform)

Follow our Library on Instagram:
www.instagram.com/northacadlib

Subscribe on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKJfKFQmV1Vi2cmkJcre6Q>

Nucleus STEM Website

A dedicated site covering all aspects of the Nucleus curriculum and co-curricular activities. If your child has gained a place, or is interested in the Nucleus STEM you will find everything you need to know at www.nucleus-STEM.org.



Northampton Academy Awarded Character Kitemark Plus In Recognition of Character Education Programme

Northampton Academy has been awarded the 'Character Education Kitemark Plus' for its excellent work to develop students' character.

Students and staff at Northampton Academy are very pleased to have been awarded the 'Character Education Kitemark Plus', building on their first Kitemark in 2018.

The accreditation is awarded by the Association for Character Education to schools that take an explicit, planned and reflective approach to the cultivation of positive character qualities in their pupils, in the interest of creating well-rounded individuals. It is therefore indicative of the huge variety of academic and non-academic opportunities that Northampton Academy has to offer.

The award is not just a testament to the Academy's excellent commitment to providing an Education with Character - a principle of United Learning's Framework for Excellence, of which the Academy is a part - but their success allows them to join a wider network of like-minded institutions. This means by having the Kitemark, staff at Northampton Academy get access to additional support for its continued development of an inspiring character education programme. This includes regular progress updates, as well as access to a resource portal. The collaborative network signals a broader aim within education to ensure wider societal prosperity.

Chris Clyne, Principal at Northampton Academy, said of the Kitemark Plus:

"It is amazing to be recognised for our continued efforts to provide a rich and holistic Education with Character at Northampton Academy. I am hugely proud of both our staff and students for their clear demonstration of our school's five pillars of virtue: respect, determination, ambition, tolerance and integrity."

"After such a challenging eighteen months, I am constantly impressed by the resilience and dedication of our students; as staff, our mission to ensure they develop an appetite for learning, as well as a strong moral compass is as important as ever. We look forward to continuing to develop this work and ensure our young people leave us with the skills, qualifications and attributes they need to succeed in the future."

Harleen Assi and Gary Lewis, on behalf of the Association of Character Education, following the school's success, said:

"We would like to congratulate students, staff and governors as this award clearly recognises the quality of learning and values-driven personal development programme enjoyed by all members of your school community."

"There is little doubt that the Northampton Academy can be considered one of the most successful schools in the country in terms of its character development programme and its direct impact on standards."



School of
CHARACTER

iPayimpact 
ONLINE PAYMENT PROVISION

**Our new cashless payment
system at Northampton
Academy**



'We Invest in Wellbeing' Silver Accreditation

Marking a successful start to the new academic year, students and staff at Northampton Academy are celebrating after the school received a 'We Invest in Wellbeing' silver accreditation from Investors in People.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in wellbeing Silver

Investors in People is an assessment framework that helps organisations ensure they are effectively managing and developing their teams and fostering a healthy workforce. By achieving this accreditation, Northampton Academy has proven that it meets the high standards set out in the framework and has been recognised for the effectiveness of its staff wellbeing strategy – designed to support staff inside and outside the workplace.

As part of its strategy, the school has introduced a variety of new enrichment opportunities to help improve staff physical wellbeing, including access to fitness classes, art classes and choir. The school has also adopted a flexible working approach for staff and circulates a weekly bulletin, signposting resources and useful apps to encourage positive mental health.

Alongside ensuring the wellbeing of its teachers and support staff, the Academy is committed to developing its young people into confident, well-rounded and ambitious individuals by delivering an Education with Character. This means giving students the opportunity to develop new skills, face challenges head-on and succeed through persistence and determination.

Testament to the success of the school's approach is this year's destinations for Years 11 and 13. 100% of the Academy's students who applied to university gained a place, with 42% going on to Russell Group institutions and six students accepting places to study medicine. The school also has a record number of students joined its Sixth Form this year, welcoming its former Year 11 students as well other young people from schools across the local area.



Paul Devoy, CEO of Investors in People, said:

"We'd like to congratulate Northampton Academy. Silver accreditation on We Invest in Wellbeing is a fantastic effort for any organisation and places the school in good company with a host of organisations that understand the value of wellbeing."

Commenting on the accreditation, Phil Swallow, Director of Wellbeing at Northampton Academy, said:

"It is very pleasing to know that we are making Northampton Academy an even better place to work where staff feel valued, trusted and respected. It is fantastic to receive this accreditation, and I look forward to advancing the wellbeing of our staff further. Happy staff can only improve the learning experience of our students."

Chris Clyne, Principal at Northampton Academy, added:

"In what has been an incredibly challenging past eighteen months, it has been very important to us to support the physical and mental wellbeing of everyone across our school community. I am therefore delighted that we have received this award which is a testament to the ongoing focus we have placed – and continue to place – on the wellbeing of our staff. We firmly believe that by investing in our staff and giving them the support they need, we will be able to provide the best possible learning experience to our young people."



Black History Month



This year, we took our first step in striving toward a more eloquent, inclusive, and open national narrative, starting with Black History Month.

While Black History Month maintains the essential job of highlighting the contributions and experiences of African and Caribbean heritage people in this country, it should not be a substitute for striving toward a more eloquent, inclusive, and open national narrative.

We are part of increasingly interconnected communities. The intersectionality of these communities means that it is becoming more obviously flawed to draw boundaries around groups contributions, experiences, and actions. Our choices - and

the relics of those choices don't seem to follow the boundaries of calendars or single categories of identity. Through decades of campaigns, struggles, and growth in the UK, we are making good strides in acknowledging and writing a more inclusive narrative of our history. This has been done in part by unearthing, augmenting, and reconstructing derelict voices and experiences. We've also diversified the voices that write and teach these histories.

This year, in a deliberate act, we decided to elevate the narrative to move past the reliance on one month as a 'catch-all' to represent the experiences, contributions, and voices of African and Caribbean heritage.

We did this by building on the work of activists, teachers, historians, and everyday people. We ask why we tell the stories we tell and what impact these stories have on young people? For example, as part of our Character Development Programme, starting in September and leading up to Black History Month - students explored topics of identity (Year 7), our obligation to others (Year 8), standing up for justice (Year 9) and human rights (Year 10).

We ask who or what is missing when we think our stories are complete? We asked questions about our own identities and biases in the histories we create and share. Finally, we asked: Why do we gravitate to stories of specific individuals, groups, and events? And, who might be left out of those preferences?

This year we amplified the stories of local people. Students listened to the Michael Phillips Chief Crown Prosecutor tell his story, and Sixth Form students heard from a former student, Tremaine Richard-Noel, Head of Emerging Technology and Automotive Acceleration Programme Director, who recounted his journey.



We elevated the narrative by asking students to advocate for more voices from diverse backgrounds while deconstructing the 'norm' against which we measure such diversity. For example, in our DEAR Programme (Drop Everything And Read), students read about inspirational, powerful, and positive young black role models. In addition, during October, we celebrated black music and culture in our 'Lunchtime Extravanzas'. For example, students sang and danced to music from Afro-beats, Reggae, American R&B and Hip-Hop. In addition, students read poems by Maya Angelo and Amanda Gorman.

Finally, we encouraged students to capture the moment in Art. We had a competition with the title 'Our Differences Unite Us' and below are the winning and second place entries.



First place is a soundtrack created by Ethan C in Year 7, scan the QR code to listen.

Joint second place was this abstract piece by Esther T (top of page) and a poem by Makeda S, both in Year 10 (left).

Generous Gift Donations for Cynthia Spencer Hospice

As part of our Community Matters programme, Northampton Academy staff, students and families supported Cynthia Spencer Hospice this Christmas by donating toys, games and books.

Cynthia Spencer Hospice staff held a Christmas Fair on 20th November and needed presents for Santa's Grotto. Cynthia Spencer will direct funds generated from the Christmas Fair to programmes that support family work with children who are losing a loved one. Donations will also go towards creating memory boxes, including a teddy bear and a special quilt made from fabrics belonging to family members.

Jenny Standen, Charity Fundraiser, said: "Thank you so much to the whole school for your fantastic collection of children's gifts for the Cynthia Spencer Christmas Fair! We are bowled over. We estimate that the total value is about £850! These items will go to children to be loved; the money raised will ensure the hospice can continue to do its good work."

Christmas is a time of giving, and we were delighted to support this significant event. We thank the staff and families who kindly made donations.



Cynthia Spencer Tree of Love

As a school of Character, we recognise how important it is to share our love and respect for others.

At Christmas, celebrated those who mean a lot to us. This could be a family member, a friend, a teacher or someone in your community.

Working with Cynthia Spencer Hospice, we placed a 'Tree of Love' in the canteen area, and invited all students and staff to place a paper bauble on the tree. The baubles contained a space to write a short message to a person who is important to you. This could be in remembrance of a loved one. Baubles cost 50p and all proceeds went to Cynthia Spencer Hospice.



Record Amount Raised at Winter Fair

We held our annual Winter Fair on the last day of term as part of our continued commitment to social action. We also wanted to celebrate and reward our students for showing our values in abundance by being so determined, respectful, tolerant, and ambitious this year.

This year's Mufti theme was to wear a Christmas Jumper or Christmas colours (red, green, or white) in return for a £1 donation (£2 for staff). Funds raised went to our friends at the Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

Students were also asked to donate non-perishable goods in our 'One Tin Drive' for the Weston Favell Food Bank, or Christmas food items for the Hope Centre.

All had a great day, with activities such as; inflatable fun, penalty shootouts, nail bar, cake sale and popcorn and much more.

We want to thank everyone for your continued commitment and support to our values and contributions to the Winter Fair, the event raised £1459.82.



Students Plant Trees to Mark Call To Earth Day

Students at Northampton Academy joined together with individuals, schools and organisations across the world to raise awareness of environmental issues as part of CNN's Call to Earth Day.

Students supported the venture by planting seven different types of trees around the school grounds, including Forest Pansy, Crab Apple and Ornamental Cherry. The trees were planted by representatives from each year group who form part of the school's new Community Action Committee.

Organised by Claire Coles, Careers Manager at Northampton Academy, the tree planting initiative was designed to give pupils the opportunity to help improve their local environment and likewise grow something that will forever act as a reminder of their commitment as they progress through the school.

Nas Banahene, a Year 12 student at Northampton Academy, said:

"Trees play such an important part in our lives. Planting the trees around our school site today symbolised how much we, at Northampton Academy, appreciate our environment. Having green spaces supports our wellbeing and caring for our surroundings evidences our status as a School of Character."



Claire Coles, Careers Manager said:

"Our aim with this project is for students to appreciate their environment and realise the importance of ensuring green spaces are available to all. Students from our Community Action Committee were very keen to participate in this event and are committed to doing all they can for our planet."

"Encouraging our students to get involved in projects like this is all part of how we deliver a Character Education. As well as ensuring our young people have everything they need to achieve academic success, this means developing them into kind, respectful and socially responsible members of society."



Other plans made by the Community Action Committee include:

- Posters to go around the schools' waste bins that clearly show what is recyclable.
- Arranging a litter pick in conjunction with a local charity.
- Writing a poem to raise awareness of the importance of climate action.

Moustaches In Vogue for Movember!

A group of teachers at Northampton Academy, including principal, Mr Clyne ditched their razors in November in support of men's charity 'Movember'. They have raised over £1100 to make a difference in mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

Movember is a leading charity focusing on mens' health, focusing on the following:

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

The rate of male suicide is alarmingly high: 3 out of 4 suicides in the UK are by men. Movember looks at mental health through a male lens, focusing on prevention, early intervention and health promotion. By 2030, Movember is looking to reduce the suicide rate in men by 25%.

Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men in the UK. Globally, more than 1.4 million men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year. Across the country, there are more than 395,000 men living with and beyond the disease. Many are dealing with serious side effects from treatment. The charity has spent years immersed in prostate cancer research, pushing progress forward 50 years, by thinking differently, collaborating globally and investing quickly in what works. Movember aims to halve the number of men dying from prostate cancer and halve the number of men facing serious ongoing side effects from treatment by 2030.

Testicular Cancer

Testicular cancer strikes young and is the most common cancer in young men. At greater than 95%, the odds of survival for men with testicular cancer are better than good – but for some men, long-term treatment-related side effects, mean their quality of life is severely compromised. The Movember charity focuses on getting these predominantly young men back to living full and healthy lives. By 2030, Movember aims to halve the number of men dying from testicular cancer, and halve the number of men facing serious ongoing side effects from treatment.



Recognition and Rewards

BiE Awards Evening

We recently welcomed families to our annual 'Best in Everyone' Awards Celebration evening at Northampton Academy.

It was a wonderful evening dedicated to recognising the incredible efforts of our students when they showcase our values of respect, determination, ambition, tolerance, and integrity. Furthermore, recognising the development of students' character both inside and outside the classroom.

It was also a pleasure to welcome local professional Saints rugby players Lewis Ludlam and James Grayson, two people who embody our core values. Lewis and James entertained students, parents/carers and staff with an inspirational speech of how they have had to develop their character to achieve their goals in rugby and how proud our students should be to have been selected for such awards.

We hope everyone enjoyed the evening as much as we did. Parents and carers should be incredibly proud of the winners for their achievement of being recognised in this way and we look forward to the next awards evening next summer.

Mr Clyne, Principal said:

"The BiE awards is something we hold dear at the Academy. It is all about celebrating the values we look to develop in our students rather than about academic outcomes. The evening was brilliant and I enjoyed hearing our guest speakers, James Grayson and Lewis Ludlam, talking about how our values have helped them be successful in their sporting careers."



Students Complete Foundation Project Qualification

Students at Northampton Academy have worked hard to complete their FPQ students (Foundation Project Qualification) presentations. This was a culmination of over five months of work in which the students had to independently pick a topic they are interested in, research it, write a 1000-word essay and then present their findings to a group of their peers, parents, and teachers, including Mr Clyne and Mr Smith.

Some of the research topics involved included climate change, the legal and justice system, K-Pop, refugees, and the industrial revolution, to name just a few. Students spoke about how this process had built their character and enhanced their resilience after finding the process challenging, yet they were determined to finish.

All were very proud of themselves, as were Mrs Rigby, Miss Tustin and Mr Cook who organised the project.



Recognition and Rewards

Northampton Academy Scoop Four Awards including Secondary School of the Year

Students and staff are celebrating after winning four awards at the Northamptonshire Education Awards 2021, including Secondary School of the Year

Northampton Academy were stand out winners at this year's Northamptonshire Education Awards, taking home four of the event's most sought-after awards, including Secondary School of the Year.

The annual event, organised by the founders of the event, All Things Business recognises the exceptional work of schools, departments, and individuals within the education sector across Northamptonshire and all those who work tirelessly to support the region's young people. Hosted at Northampton County Cricket Ground, the ceremony provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate the efforts and dedication of all those short-listed.

As part of the event, guest speaker Matthew Burton of the Channel 4 series Educating Yorkshire, spoke about the challenges and successes that school communities have experienced throughout the year, shining a spotlight on the many talented and inspiring individuals in the room.

Two members of staff at the Academy were also shortlisted for an award this year, with the school's Safeguarding Officer Debbie Reeve up for The Lifetime Achievement Award, and the English Department nominated for the English Team of the Year Award.

Awards won by Northampton Academy were:

- Secondary School of the Year
- Head Teacher of the Year
- Maths Teacher of the Year - Mr Dunkley
- STEM Award, which was won by the Academy's STEM department



Recognition and Rewards



Chris Clyne, Principal of Northampton Academy, said:

"Our school community has shown incredible resilience over the past two years and it's wonderful to see individuals and teams receiving this kind of recognition for their hard work, determination and perseverance. At Northampton Academy, we aim for excellence in all we do - guided by our strong values as a school and committed to delivering an Education with Character to each and every one of our young people. Thank you to all our students, staff, parents and carers for their tireless efforts and ongoing support."

Shreeja Ashton, Director of STEM at the school, said on receiving the STEM Team award:

"We are delighted to have won this award and to see our Nucleus STEM programme being recognised at a regional level. Nucleus STEM provides a unique learning opportunity for our young people to gain greater experience in STEM-related subjects and is something that we are always looking to grow and develop."

"Alongside offering this programme, our students have significant opportunities to take part in STEM activities outside of lessons, including through our outreach work with the University of Birmingham, University of Nottingham, University of Northampton and University of Plymouth. We are immensely proud of all our students and what they have achieved during their participation in the programme so far."



Kyle Dunkley who won Maths Teacher of the Year said:

"I felt humbled and honoured to be nominated for Maths Teacher of the Year award by one of my colleagues, and I never thought I would win. I feel blessed to be a part of such a supportive department and Academy made great by our amazing students. The students I teach each day, and the progress I get to see them make is so rewarding, and this happens thanks to the whole team. There are so many outstanding teachers at our school."



Recognition and Rewards

Northampton Academy Catering Staff Awarded 'Secondary School Catering Team of the Year'



In October, Northampton Academy's school catering team was crowned 'Secondary School Catering Team of the Year' by LACA, the leading professional body for providers of school meals.

Each year, LACA holds an Awards for Excellence to honour individuals and teams who continue to make a real difference in education catering. As part of the 2021 event, 12 awards were open for nominations with the winners announced at a special ceremony held in Birmingham last week.

Taking home one of the event's most prestigious awards was the catering team at Northampton Academy. Employed by Caterlink and led by Manager Caroline Beech, the team was recognised for their tireless efforts and commitment to providing school meals throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and the exceptional support they continue to show to the entire school community.

Despite the challenges schools faced across the country, the team went above and beyond what was expected of them to provide quality hampers to students in receipt of free school meals. They likewise continued to serve meals to vulnerable children, the children of key workers and staff who remained in school throughout the Lock down period. When the academy fully re-opened, Caroline and her team set up numerous food outlets in different areas of the school to ensure quality food was served to all students within their various bubbles.

Caroline Beech, Catering Manager at Northampton Academy, said:

"It is a privilege to be able to lead such a fantastic team and this award is a wonderful recognition of the hard work that goes into preparing and serving our students and staff. It has been a difficult 18 months with numerous changes to how we have been able to serve students during any lockdowns and later within their bubbles; however, I am proud that our team rose to the challenge on each occasion. Northampton Academy is a great school to work in, and we always feel supported by the staff. It is a pleasure to serve this fantastic community."

Your Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team

Introducing the Northampton Academy Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team:



Julian Smith
Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Debbie Reeve
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Nick Haig
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Phil Swallow
Designated Safeguarding
Officer



Carlington Anderson
Designated Safeguarding
Officer



Rob Hart
Designated Safeguarding
Officer



Joanna Smith
Pastoral Support Manager



Daisy Melville
Student Counsellor

For young people to thrive and reach their full social, emotional and academic potential they need to feel safe at home, in the community and at school.

There is a dedicated Pastoral Support Manager and Student Counsellor to meet their emotional needs. We also have an extensive Pastoral Team to support on a day by day basis.

Safeguarding is everyone's business!

Please refer to the safeguarding section on NA website:

<https://www.northampton-academy.org/information/safeguarding-policies>



Penelope Pancoust
Early Help Coordinator

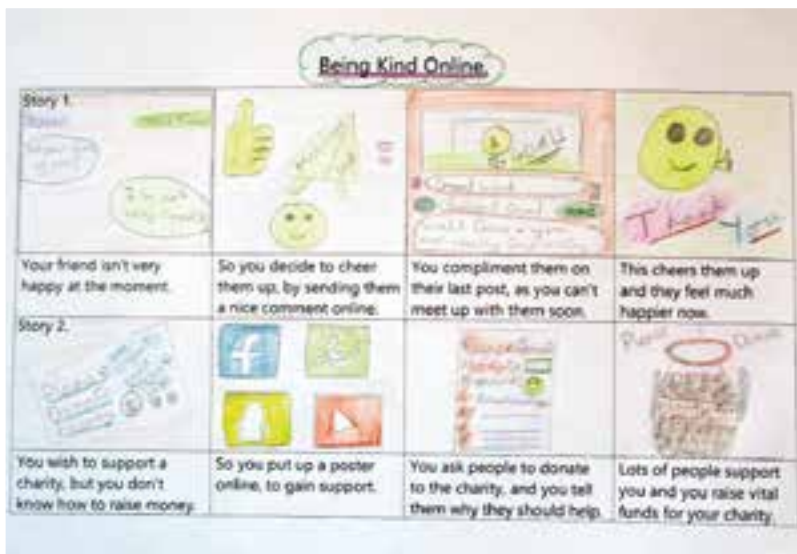
Digital Leaders

An article written by our Digital Leaders

In September, we were invited to become part of the Digital Leaders group after completing an application about our views on the online world. However, to become an official Digital Leader, we had to complete a 7-week training module about the different aspects of digital society.

Also, we are completing various projects to add to our digital portfolio, such as:

- We advertised digital leadership roles to Year 7 students.
- Created displays for the Computer Science department to reinforce the importance of thinking twice before posting on the internet.
- We helped Miss Davies write an assembly on online resilience. Here we spoke about different celebrity figures that have overcome online negativity to become role models for others. We also talked about different scenarios people may come across online, which require mental strength and online resilience to overcome. Then, we linked this to some of our core values such as determination, respect, tolerance and integrity.
- Recently we discussed fake news. We all agreed that fake news is an underrated topic of digital safety. We found that some schools tend to concentrate on issues such as cyberbullying and online hate, but not fake news. Fake news is becoming more and more frequent in the online world. We addressed this by planning and preparing a lesson for Year 7 about fake news and its myths and realities.
- We hosted a competition called 'A Kinder Internet'. Students had to create a comic strip about an act of kindness they have done or witnessed in celebration of World Kindness Day. We want people to appreciate the positives of the internet while being aware of any potential risks that can be present in our online world.



The winner of the 'A Kinder Internet' competition was Beth L
2nd place: Emilija A
3rd place: Felicia C



Sports Leaders

New Recruits

After weeks of advertising, we finally held our annual open audition to try out for the Northampton Academy Sports Leaders squad.

The squad has an outstanding reputation across the town for their fantastic leadership skills, and professional yet friendly approach. After nearly two years away from sport leadership activities, it is lovely to now have a full academic calendar of opportunities for our sports leaders. However, due to students moving up the school, we now find ourselves with a smaller squad than usual - as a result, it was time to recruit!

On Thursday, 1st October, our current leadership squad planned and led an after school session for new candidates. It was fantastic to see so many keen and passionate students turn up to try out for the much-coveted roles under the supportive and watchful eyes of our current team. We witnessed some excellent leadership skills on show and an abundance of our school core values alongside a genuine desire to learn new skills and make the most of new opportunities.

First Meeting of the Year

It was fantastic to welcome our new Sports Leaders to the team at our half termly meeting on Thursday 11th November. They were presented with their 'Sports Leaders' lapel badge. We highlighted the roles, responsibilities and expectations of their leadership role. They then collaborated in groups to develop their session plans for the upcoming Year 5 Multisport Festival, hosted at Northampton Academy. The leaders have full responsibility for planning, organising and delivering several sports sessions for the day, engaging with approximately 250 primary school pupils from our wider community.



Multisports Festival

On Thursday 25th November, we welcomed eight cluster primary schools to Northampton Academy for the annual Year 5 Multisport Festival. The event was planned, organised and delivered by our team of Sports Leaders. After spending an after school session working in teams to develop effective session plans, the leaders were keen to put them to the test. Fortunately, we were blessed with a bright and sunny (yet cold) day.

The Year 5 students were extremely excited to be finally allowed out of school to attend the festival. They were keen to see the Northampton Academy site and meet with the leaders. The festival was a great success, with all students participating in team building, fitness, tag rugby, handball and ultimate frisbee sessions. As always, our leaders were outstanding, demonstrating the school values of respect, determination, tolerance and resilience in abundance. The leaders worked hard to support and encourage the unsure/less able students whilst also engaging and stretching the more able. The festival finished with the leaders awarding 'Character Stars' to certain students who demonstrated our core values throughout. Overall, a fantastic event.

We look forward to welcoming the Year 4s for their Festival in February.

ARTiculation

ARTiculation is the Roche Court Educational Trust's nationally acclaimed public speaking initiative designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of visual culture.

ARTiculation engages young people aged between 16 and 19, regardless of background or experience, with art and develops their confidence and ability to express their opinions, thoughts and conclusions.

Discovery Days

Discovery Days are part of an outreach programme taking place in museums and galleries across the country. Designed to develop young people's ability to look, think and speak about art through research and questioning. They are fully funded through grants and donations and are open to schools from the state sector.

Northampton Academy Year 12 students collaborated with other Sixth Formers from Walton High in Milton Keynes to plan and deliver a presentation on critical and contextual art analysis.

This provided our students with a leadership opportunity, team building experience and honing their writing skills in preparation for writing their 3000-word essay 'The Personal Study'. A mandatory assessment unit at A Level.

Students each delivered a ten-minute presentation about a work of art, architecture or an artefact of their choice. Adjudicators then assessed each presentation as a whole, looking at content, structure, delivery and the speaker's original approach and unique potential.

This workshop supported students with their competition application, allowing pupils to rehearse and deliver their presentations to adjudicators in front of a live audience.

All students who took part were invited to join the ARTiculation Alumni programme. Alumni are given opportunities to gain work experience, speak in public, write for publications, and join the training and mentoring schemes.



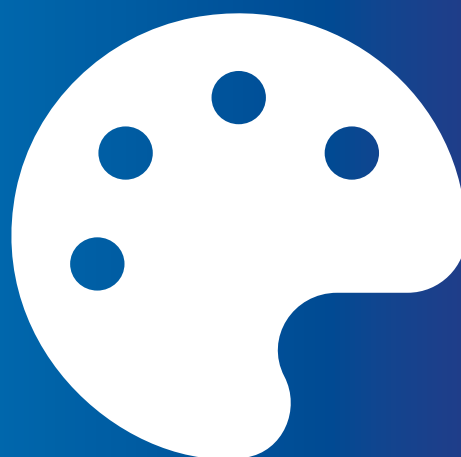


International Art Competition

Win a trip to Tokyo to represent the UK at the International High School Arts Festival

If you will be aged between 15 and 18 on 1st April 2022, you are eligible to enter the United Learning International Art Competition.

The winner will receive a round trip to Tokyo to see their work exhibited at the International High School Arts Festival. The 3 runners-up will also have their work exhibited in Tokyo.



How to enter

Ask your art teacher to upload a high-quality digital photograph and a brief description of your piece onto the Hub. Your artwork has to be flat with maximum dimensions of 100cm x 100cm. The submission deadline is **Friday 21st January 2022**.

The winner will be decided by social media voting, United Learning's art network and executive team as well as professional artists.

Good luck - get creative!

Computer Science News

Bebras UK

Some of our KS3, KS4 and KS5 students have taken part in this year's Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. Students are tasked with completing different logical thinking puzzles for 40 minutes.

We have had five students whose results put them in the top 10% nationally, winning a Gold Star award and invited to participate in the Oxford Computing Challenge in February.

These students are Oliwier R (Year 13), Holly C and Denisa Z (Year 10), Matthew T and James E (Year 9). Congratulations!



Hour of Code

Hour of Code kicks off during Computer Science Education week each year when teachers around the globe choose fun activities for students to learn about Computer Science and programming. During December, students enjoyed participating in the Hour of Code.



**Celebrate
computer
science
everywhere!**

Anyone, anywhere can
organize an Hour of
Code event. One-hour
tutorials in over 45
languages. No
experience needed.



CyberFirst Girls Competition



CyberFirst Girls Competition is an opportunity to discover the exciting world of cyber security aimed at Year 8 girls. The challenges are split into five categories: Cyber Security, Logic & Coding, Networking, Cryptography and Speciality.

We have two teams this year who had until the 8th December to complete as many challenges as possible. The teams are:

- Ana N, Alyssa N-L, Keeli R and Jessi P.
- Amy W, Electra M, Eugenia M and Habibat O

Good luck, girls!



Bletchley Park Virtual Girls Session

Year 9 girls who have expressed an interest in choosing Computer Science as a GCSE option have been selected to participate in a virtual session run by Bletchley Park. This session gives a virtual tour and a codebreaking activity based on an actual key event in World War Two. The event takes place on January 14th 2022.



Computer Science Enrichment

Lego League

Some of our Year 7 students are taking part in the 2022 Lego League competition. They have to design, build and program a Lego robot to do specific tasks. This year's theme is Cargo Connect, which focuses on the future of transportation.

Minecraft Education

One of our Year 7 subject leaders, Zakarya T, wanted to have a Minecraft enrichment club where he could create new projects and play with friends. The club is run on Tuesdays after school for KS3 students and has become very popular! This club is run by two Computer Science Sixth Form, Oliwier R and Kai D.

GCSE Programming Club

If you need some extra help with programming in Python, there is GCSE programming club running on a Thursday lunchtime for GCSE Computer Science students. This club is run by two Sixth Form subject leads, Marisa and Kayla, who have experience in programming with Python as they currently study it at A Level.



Scholars' Stream

Launched in November 2021, Northampton Academy Scholars Club is for Year 8 students who love reading, exploring big ideas and want to excel. Students on the Scholars Stream have applied and been successful at interview.

Students on the Scholars' Stream must be in the top 100 English Rank Order and have excellent classroom and home learning engagement. They

enjoy a termly programme of after-school activities including a mini-lecture, seminar and presentation evening style events.



Frankenstein Seminar

Students on the Scholars' stream took part in a seminar was focused on an extract from the classic gothic novel 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley. Students discussed archetypes of villainy and how they can be applied to both Dr Frankenstein and his monster. They also discussed how the story fits into different definitions of crime and who the real villain is according to the readers' perception.

It was an incredibly fruitful discussion, and all of the students displayed a deep conceptual understanding of villains and criminality.





History Stars of the Term

The History team are so proud of you all, showing the Academy values, of Ambition and Determination. Keep up the amazing work. Here are some of our shining stars this term:

Year 7 - Ergi S
Consistently showing real determination in History.

Year 7 - Erin M
Showing real determination in History and Home Learning. Well done Erin.

Year 7 - Roxi T
Outstanding work in History. Well done, Roxi.

Year 9 - Paige L
Puts a huge amount of work into her lessons and has improved her attainment.

Year 7 - Bea T
Outstanding work in History. Well done Bea.

Year 8 - Nathan R
Consistently outstanding in his effort and attainment in his History lessons.

Year 8 - Sonny QS
For his strong Ambition to complete his work to a high standard and really engage with the material.

Year 7 - Spencer R
For this ambition and integrity in his attempts to improve his engagement and attainment in History.

Year 8 - Ella G
For her ambition and determination to succeed in History. Ella has shown real drive to complete her work to the best of her ability at all times.

Year 9 - Jay R
For his excellent determination to complete his 16-mark end-of-topic assessment response to a high standard, writing one of the very best in the class.

Year 9 - Abigail C
Working really hard in her end of topic test showing determination to improve her WAG. Well done Abigail.

Year 10 - Liam M
Always going above and beyond in History to complete work to a very high standard.

Year 10 - Elliot W
Consistently outstanding in his effort and attainment in his History lessons.

Year 13 - George B
For his strong start to his NEA work.

Year 11 - Demi J
For her determination to improve in all aspects of her History studies this year.

Year 11 - Caitlin H
For her ambition and integrity in organising and preparing her revision well ahead of her mocks.

Year 10 - Emily C
For showing integrity, ambition and determination in abundance with her exemplary efforts with Home Learning.

Y11 - Joshua H
Consistently outstanding in his effort and attainment in his History lessons.

Year 12 - Jana D
For her determination to meet her ambitions and making an excellent start to her A Level History course.

Year 13 - Peter T
For his strong start to his NEA work.



Northampton Academy Presents A Christmas Cracker!

Huzzah!! What an amazing show!!!

On Thursday, December 9th we were treated to the return of A Christmas Cracker, Northampton Academy Performing Arts' annual celebration of our many talented students.

The evening was a colourful mix of Music, Drama and Dance and truly showed off the vibrancy, diversity and character of our school. It was a pleasure to welcome a live audience once again. The evening was enjoyed by all and Northampton Academy would like to thank all the parents, carers, staff and students involved in this year's incredible Christmas Cracker show.





Performing Arts

National Dance Champion

Congratulations to Remaya B who took part in the BB TSA National Dance Competition and emerged as National Champion in Poise. She didn't stop there though, she also placed in the following:

- 2nd place in Dance Twirl
- 4th place in Duo
- 4th place in Fancy strut
- 4th place in Solo twirl



Are you a parent?

Have you heard of Parent View?



Parent View is an online questionnaire for you to give your views about this school at any time of the year.

At the time of an Ofsted inspection, parents are also invited to give inspectors their views using **Parent View**.



It's easy. It's quick. It's time to log on.

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Students Enjoy New Boxing Sessions

We are delighted with our new PE curriculum at Northampton Academy this academic year. We have introduced new and exciting activities to offer all students, including Boxing classes. We are pleased to welcome Team Shoe-Box, who are now a part of our fantastic PE team at Northampton Academy, delivering exciting lessons as well as offering an after school Boxing Club to our students.



New Self Defence Enrichment Club Proves Popular

It was brilliant to welcome Bex, our new Martial Arts/Self Defence coach to Northampton Academy to run our new enrichment club.

We had good attendance from the girls who had signed up, and it was brilliant to see them engaging so positively with the fitness and skill work taught in the session. We look forward to seeing their skills and confidence grow across the term.



Year 7 Girls Sportshall Athletics

On Monday the 8th November, the girls Year 7 Sportshall Athletics Team travelled to NSG to compete in the annual Town Championships. Competing in a range of throwing, jumping and running events, the girls demonstrated a keenness to learn, determination to succeed and fantastic teamwork and support of each other. The competition was fierce, with many experienced competitors attending; however, our strong performances secured us a very respectable 4th place overall in a field of 8 teams. Congratulations to the girls who uphold our school character values in abundance at the event.



PE Stars of the Week

Here are some of this term's PE stars who have been awarded the title for their outstanding determination and PE performance during the Autumn term.

Congratulations to Shardana, Megan, Abi, Erin, Paige, Ethan, Chloe, and Torie.

First Nucleus Engineering Lecture with Jessica Gagen

On Thursday 11th November we welcomed Jessica Gagen to the Academy who delivered the latest in our Nucleus STEM Lecture programme, and the first Engineering specific lecture.

Jessica is currently a final year student of MEng in Aerospace Engineering. She explained the different types of engineering fields and some of the applications of these in everyday life, as well as the careers available within these fields. Jessica also discussed her journey into engineering and echoed Northampton Academy's values as being key to success in any field.



Jessica then talked about one aspect of engineering in which she is working – the development of non-pneumatic tyres. She explained the different stages in any development process that engineers have to go through, as well as the applications and benefits of this research.

Nucleus VI Engineering Students Visit Silverstone

Our Nucleus VI Engineering students visited the Silverstone Interactive Museum earlier this term. They learned about various careers within F1 and engineering in general, including mechanical and aerospace engineering.

They also discovered what they will need to do now to progress into careers in these fields and had the opportunity to forge links with the University of Wolverhampton. Overall it was an exciting and insightful day for them.

Structural Engineer Visit

Year 10 and 12 STEM students enjoyed a virtual interaction with STEM Ambassador, James Kirkham.

James is Senior Vice-Chair of ICE East Midlands, Chair of the Education and Inspiration Committee for ICE East Midlands and Principal Structural Engineer at Mott MacDonald.

James provided details of his careers journey and insights into projects he has worked on. Students were invited to ask their own questions, ensuring they maximised the information available. The Careers Department would like to thank James for his time and Daniel Stanyard from the Institute of Civil Engineers for organising the event.



Alumni Student Visits Nucleus VI

Former Northampton Academy student Katy Ashby visited our Nucleus VI Engineering students to talk about her life at university studying engineering. She spoke about her experiences as a second-year university student studying an Integrated Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Her talk covered the modules on her course, the importance of work experience, her time on industry placements as part of her course, and university life in general. All the students found this extremely valuable, especially given that Katy is an Alumni student.

Premier Experience for Elite Sport Students

The Elite Sports students had a truly wonderful experience when Premier League referee André Marriner visited to give an inspirational talk.

André spoke with the students for one hour about why he chose a career as a referee, what a typical week looks like, and the level of preparation involved before a match. He discussed and took questions from students on the highs and lows of his career and the resilience needed to deal with certain situations and setbacks. He was asked, "What do you believe are the key ingredients of the best players you have shared a pitch with?" Which led to a Character v Talent debate. He also talked about the benefits of VAR.

The Year 7 Football Squad were ecstatic when he announced that he would be refereeing their Year 7 County Cup game versus Wootton Park after the event!



Match Report:

After Wootton Park took an early lead, Northampton Academy got into their stride with some effective attacking football, which led to a 5-1 lead at half-time. The boys completed excellent performance in the 2nd half with the addition of three more goals. The goal scorers demonstrated the teamwork that had been on show throughout the game. André Marriner complimented both teams after the game. He commented on the levels of respect shown to each other and the high standard of football. On this occasion, he did not need to give out any yellow or red cards - a testament to the exemplary behaviour of both teams on the pitch.

Final Score

Northampton Academy 8 - Wootton Park 1

NA will play the winners of NSB v PW in the County Cup semi-finals in January.

Special Report by Shakeer S - Year 13

Andre Marriner, Premier League Referee, came to Northampton Academy and personally refereed our Year 7 Elite Football Squad in their match against Wootton Park. The boys showed vigour, and he was very impressed with their performance and techniques throughout the game. He noted their exceptional skills and believed that they could make it as professionals when they are older.

Mr Clyne and Mr Hollyhead, who were both spectating the match, agree with Andre and believe that the boys showed 'real potential' in their sporting abilities, should they continue down this path, it could lead to successful careers in the future.

Northampton Academy would like to thank Andre for his time and for creating a once in a lifetime experience for the team.



Y7 Elite Netball Shine in First Fixture Victory

The Year 7 Elite Netball Squad travelled to Duston on Tuesday 23rd November. Given that it was their first competitive fixture in this years Northants County League season, all thirteen girls contributed during the four periods.

After three minutes the team were trailing 1-0, and by half-time, the score was 2-2. With a performance of great determination, team spirit and respect for the game, the girls pulled back the score in the second half to win the match.

The Duston School's coach commented that the girls were a credit to Northampton Academy.

Final Score: The Duston School 2 – Northampton Academy 6



Double Win for Years 9 and 10

Students from Northampton International Academy visited Northampton Academy to open the Year 9 and 10 Northants County Netball League campaign.

Year 9

The Year 9 squad made a strong start at the beginning of the game and continued to build confidence and performance to win 15 goals to 2. Individual defence skills have been the focus for the last five weeks, and it was rewarding to see the new defensive skills implemented effectively and consistently. The squad showed growth as players and as a team which is very encouraging for future games.

Final score 15-2

Well done to both teams, who supported each other on and off the court, showing good sportsmanship with their opponents, reflecting the ethos of being part of our Elite Netball Squad.

Year 10

This squad are strong and athletic, and the control of their speed of play from the initial weeks has shown positive growth. Two Year 9 players were played up into the squad and seamlessly complemented the Year 10 team.

Final score 22-10



Sixth Form

Local MP Visits Politics Students

Thanks to Michael Ellis, MP for Northampton North, who visited us to speak to our Sixth Form politics students. He spoke about his route into politics and what he does on a day-to-day basis, before taking questions from the students.



UCAS Applications

All this year's UCAS applications have been completed being, totalling 103, of which five students are applying to Oxbridge. Four students have already been invited for interviews and nine have applied for medical courses.

Many students have already received their offers to some of the most prestigious universities in the country.

Psychology Conference

Sixth Form Psychology students attended a conference in October.

The psychology conference was very intriguing since we were able to hear from eight different psychologists from various fields and profession. Learning about each aspect of psychology has showed me that it is not restricted to a particular field, but rather encompasses a vast variety of possibilities.



This opportunity helped me to learn about all of psychologist various applications; I really enjoyed professor Arjune Sen's presentation on epilepsy and how seizures affect thinking, I also enjoyed Dr Maja Kutlaca's presentation on allyship and social psychological approach to collective action and social change, in fact I enjoyed all the talks.

One aspect of the seminar that I like was how the lectures provided me a preview of what I may study in the future. Even though we had just recently began studying the topic, I was able to grasp it and put what I had learned in class to use. Ultimately, the conference was enlightening.

Dominion Yr 12

The Psychology conference was a wonderful opportunity to hear from different psychologists, who offered amazing insights into many different fields of psychology. One presentation I really enjoyed was Professor Blakemore's presentation on the 'Teenage Brain'. Her research focused on the development of social cognition and decision-making in the human adolescent brain. She also went on to explain how her research also applied to animals - which I found fascinating. Another reason I enjoyed Professor Blakemore's presentation is because I felt I could relate with what she shared, having witnessed such decision-making in myself and my fellow peers, which is useful as I'm now more aware of the reasons behind some of my decisions. This helps people, specifically adults, to understand teenagers better instead of always demonising them... As a teenager, I really appreciate this!

Morenike Yr 12

Gracie Meets Clinical Radiographer as Competition Prize



After achieving a runners-up place in the summer NHS, 'You Name It! Art Competition', Gracie H was awarded the prize of meeting Clinical Radiographer Ben Elstob. Gracie's ambition is to be a Radiographer, and meeting Ben provided an excellent opportunity to find out more about his role.

Gracie's ambition is to be a Radiographer, and meeting Ben provided an excellent opportunity to find out more about his role. Gracie was able to put questions to Ben, including: "Which other health professionals do you work with?" and "Which skills and qualities would I need to develop to do your job?" Ben advised Gracie to focus on learning as much about the body and bone structure as possible. He also recommended shadowing a Radiographer once she was old enough to apply for the programme.

After the session, Gracie concluded: "My experience of talking to Ben has helped me to decide what I want to do in the future. Ben inspired me after hearing him confirm how much he enjoys what he does. Even when his days are tough, he still gets through the day and ensures patients feel safe and welcome. Thank you for the experience." After being presented with her award, she added: "I enjoyed entering the competition. I didn't think I would come runner up! But the reward was an amazing opportunity. It was an amazing opportunity to speak to a radiologist and gave me a great insight into my future career, and I'd like to thank everyone involved!"

Organiser Laura Watts said:

"It was a pleasure to receive Gracie's entry for the 'You Name It! Art Competition' to name Northamptonshire's new health and care career academy website. I can see that great thought and time went into Gracie's design. It showcased the pride Gracie takes in her work, the positive and compassionate views she takes of the NHS, and its care to the local community. Thank you, Gracie."

Northampton Academy Careers Department would like to thank Ben Elstob for generously giving his time and Laura Watts, Project Manager, Northamptonshire Health & Care Partnership, for organising the session.



Breakfast with a Professional

Northampton Academy Sixth Form students were delighted to welcome Gary Pettit, Managing Director at PBC Business Recovery and Insolvency to our first 'Breakfast With A Professional' session of the year.

As a Licenced Insolvency Practitioner, Gary shared his career journey, and the skills employers look for in young people. Navigating into employment can be a challenging time for young people, and Gary highlighted how our students might prepare for the workplace by developing their interpersonal skills.

We would like to thank Gary for his time, his insights provided valuable information for our students to consider.



BTEC Sports Students Visit

Kieron Wicks, Education and Employability Manager of the Derby County Community Trust delivered a presentation on the careers available in the football industry to students studying BTEC Sport. Kieron has coached around the world and shared his experiences with our students. He talked through a range of careers linked to football, from medicine to marketing, health and social care to human resources. He advised students on the rewards available, the progression and development opportunities, and things to consider - the unsociable hours and the time spent travelling missing family events.

Kieron invited students to ask questions, which included queries on salary, career availability and planning, all of which Kieron answered, providing in-depth knowledge for students to take away.

The Northampton Academy Careers and PE Department would like to thank Kieron for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit us and delivering an excellent insight into the opportunities available to our students.

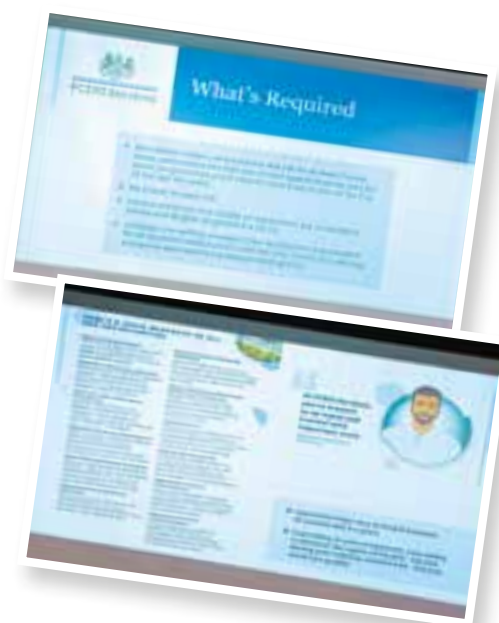
Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office Talk

Talent Outreach Lead of the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office, Mandy Browning, visited Northampton Academy students. She shared information about the work she and her colleagues undertake on behalf of the government.

The FDCO Services protect UK interests worldwide and are primarily a STEM organisation. Areas of work include detecting listening devices in government buildings, building embassies all over the world, radars for the MoD and delivering high-security packages to 168 countries. In addition, they support the IT for Downing Street to provide Covid updates, set up servers that store sensitive data, design and install security systems.

Mandy shared that they are a top 100 apprenticeship employer and offer placements once per year. There are apprenticeships in 12 different areas of the business, from Level 2 to Level 4. Based in Milton Keynes, they are accessible to students in Northamptonshire.

Mandy offered a great insight into the opportunities provided by this government department, detailing opportunities in career development and travel. We look forward to working with Mandy again in the future.



University Open Day Map

University open days form a vital part of students' exploration of higher education.

To support awareness of open day opportunities, the Careers Department has created an interactive University Open Day display. Using QR codes to access open day registration pages, Year 12 students are able to book onto both virtual and actual open days, helping evaluate and shortlist universities to apply to in Year 13. Year 13 students may use the display to visit any universities they have applied to but not yet visited.



Biochemistry Lecture

NA Careers and KS5 Biology Department would like to extend our thanks to Dr Alex Lehner, PhD, FHEA, Senior Lecturer of Human Nutrition, for providing a lecture on Biochemistry. Nucleus VI students were invited to learn more about the opportunities for research and careers linked to this fascinating area of science. Dr Lehner demonstrated how the subject could be linked to various undergraduate degrees, including Biomedical Science, Pharmacology and Sports and Exercise Science.

He shared his thoughts on how research is developing the technology required to determine the length of the population's healthspan and whether interventions influence peoples' quality of life.

Dr Lehner asked students to consider the importance of learning how cutting-edge technologies work, and how they can be used to develop new ideas to solve the health problems faced by future generations. Dr Lehner provided an in-depth view of his career journey and the steps to reach his current position.

Insights such as these allow our students to evaluate their aspirations and plans. The lecture was a fantastic opportunity for our students to consider this potential pathway and learn about an area of science vital to supporting ongoing research.



Alumni Wall

Our Alumni wall has been updated to show the variety of universities our students have progressed on to after Year 13.



Apprenticeship Success!

Max D, a former Year 11 student has successfully gained an apprenticeship with Mattacola Carpentry Ltd. Keen to dive straight into work; he has demonstrated enthusiasm, resilience, and a 'can do' attitude. We wish him all the best in his carpentry career.

Forbes Featured Alumni Presents to Students as Part of Black History Month

Northampton Academy was delighted to host a virtual talk from Alumni, Tremaine Richard-Noel as part of our Black History Month celebration programme.

Focusing on his career journey, Tremaine presented an overview of his current role as Programme Director for the NGH Automation Accelerator. He also shared how he has achieved success. Tremaine is listed in Forbes Magazine as one of the 30 top leaders under 30 in the healthcare category, through the application of key values: respect, ambition, and determination; echoing our values at Northampton Academy.

We would like to thank Tremaine for generously providing his time and thoughts.

[Tremaine's presentation can be viewed here >>>](#)



Travelling Alumni Delia Talks of her Experiences

Northampton Academy was delighted to welcome former student Delia, who completed her A Level studies with us in 2019. She then transferred to the University of Hertfordshire to study International Business with a Language. Having studied Spanish at GCSE and A Level, Delia opted for a year abroad as part of her degree, and she now resides in Madrid. Delia generously offered to return to the Academy to share her experiences with our current Year 12 students, during a short visit back to the UK. Delia confirmed that her love of 'travelling, exploring different cultures and learning new languages' inspired her to spend a year abroad.

Year 12 students heard about the challenges of moving away from home, adjusting to new situations, and learning to become independent. They also learned about the opportunities available, the fantastic people Delia has met, and the obstacles she has overcome over the past three years. Delia's advice for anyone interested in following a similar path would be to research thoroughly, ensure you seek advice from family and friends and ensure you have a timeline for planning. The paperwork required for travel can take some time to process.' However, Delia encouraged other students interested in travel to make it part of their education.

We are delighted to confirm that Delia will be returning after the Christmas break to host a Year 12/13 lunchtime drop-in to support any students considering a year abroad. Delia will be available to answer questions and provide advice. We want to thank Delia for her continuing support and wish her well during her year in Madrid.

Kieran's University Talk to Maths Students

Northampton Academy A level Maths and Further Maths students were invited to a presentation hosted by Alumni, Kieran Mason. Kieran left Northampton Academy in 2019 to study Maths at the University of Warwick. Kieran was keen to return and share his experiences with the next generation of potential Maths's students.

Kieran provided advice on how to evaluate post-18 options and prepare for adult independence. He admitted that Sixth Form to university had been a 'big jump' both academically and in practical terms! Stepping up to manage workload and live independently proved be a steep learning curve!



Delia and Kieran

In a section entitled, 'What I wish I'd known', Kieran admitted that exploring his degree topics ahead of his course would have been a big help in preparing for study and advised Sixth Form students to take this opportunity to prepare for their degree courses. He also stated that studying Maths at a university such as Warwick is challenging, the workload intense and shouldn't be undertaken without having a passion for the subject. However, there are great opportunities to meet and learn from other students, both national and international.

Warwick has provided opportunities for Kieran to develop skills in a variety of areas. In his final year, Kieran is taking a teaching module and plans to return to the Academy to undertake work experience. He has recently made links with traders and hopes to learn about careers within the stock market to evaluate potential opportunities in this area.

Staff and students would like to extend our thanks to Kieran for taking time from his studies to visit, and share this vital information with Sixth Form students. Advice from Alumni is invaluable, as they impart up to date insights which allow current students to make well-informed decisions.

Term Dates 2021/2022

Term Dates 2021 - 2022

Term 1

Teacher Training Day	-	Thursday 2nd September 2021
Teacher Training Day	-	Friday 3rd September 2021
Academy Opens for Year 7 & 12	-	Monday 6th September 2021 at 8.40
Academy Opens Years 10, 11 & 13	-	Tuesday 7 th September at 8.40 am
Academy Opens to Years 8 & 9	-	Wednesday 8 th September at 8.40am
Teacher Training Day	-	Friday 8th October 2021
Academy Closes	-	Friday 22nd October 2021 at 3.15pm

Term 2

Academy Opens for All Students	-	Monday 1st November 2021 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Thursday 25th November 2021 at 3.15pm
Teacher Training Day	-	Friday 26th November 2021
Teacher Training Day	-	Monday 29th November 2021
Academy Opens for All Students	-	Tuesday 30th November 2021 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Friday 17th December 2021 at 3.15pm

Term 3

Teacher Training Day	-	Tuesday 4th January 2022
Teacher Training Day	-	Wednesday 5th January 2022
Academy Opens for All Students	-	Thursday 6th January 2022 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Friday 11th February 2022 at 3.15pm

Term 4

Academy Opens for All Students	-	Monday 21st February 2022 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Friday 1st April 2022 at 3.15pm

Term 5

Teacher Training Day	-	Tuesday 19th April 2022
Academy Opens for All Students	-	Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 8.40 am
Academy Closed for Bank Holiday	-	Monday 2nd May 2022
Academy Opens for All students	-	Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Friday 27th May 2022 at 3.15pm

Term 6

Academy Opens For All Students	-	Monday 6th June 2022 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Thursday 21st July 2022 at 3.15pm

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity

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