



Northampton Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Newsletter

Issue 8 - Summer 2022



School of
CHARACTER

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity

In This Issue

- Principal's Welcome _____ Page 3
- Get Connected _____ Page 4
- General News _____ Pages 5-7
- Recognition and Rewards _____ Pages 8-9
- Education With Character _____ Pages 10-15
- Community Matters _____ Pages 16-17
- Library _____ Page 18
- Student Leadership _____ Pages 19-22
- Art _____ Page 23
- Computer Science _____ Pages 24-26
- Performing Arts _____ Page 27
- PE _____ Pages 28-30
- Nucleus STEM _____ Pages 31-34
- Elite Sports _____ Pages 35-37
- Sixth Form _____ Pages 38-40
- Careers & Enterprise _____ Pages 41-43
- Term Dates _____ Page 44



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 Summer Newsletter

The last term saw the return to formal exams, and I could not be prouder of all the efforts of staff and students during this period. It was an incredibly stressful time, but the character shown by our students was simply outstanding. Thank you to all our parents and carers for all your support during that time.

We were proud to achieve the Silver Award in the National Teaching Awards for 'Secondary School of the Year'. We are not perfect, but this award is for all our community: students, staff, and parents/carers. We will find out in November if we are the overall winners.

So many great things have happened this term, from our Pride Month, amazing sports days, a return of our 'My Culture Day' and much, much more. These experiences, outside the standard taught curriculum, are all aimed at developing the character of our students. We have had a real focus this year on developing phronesis in our young people, so they make the right decisions, at the right time, for the right reasons. We see this happening more and more every day.

We are looking forward to the next academic year, once all of our community have had a rest. We are keen to get our parents and carers more involved in life at the Academy and also extend our work more in the community. One of our first ventures is a mass litter pick with the 'Wombles', which is in the planning process. We hope to see lots of our parents and carers joining us.

Martin Luther King said, 'Intelligence plus character - that is the true goal of education'. Hopefully, this newsletter gives you a real sense of what we are doing here. I have only touched on some of the many things that have happened this year; however, I am sure you will enjoy reading about all the events in this newsletter.

Have a restful summer break.

Chris Clyne
Principal



SECONDARY SCHOOL
OF THE YEAR - SILVER



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



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



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:

www.facebook.com/NorthamptonAcademy

Follow our Twitter feeds:

[@northacad](https://twitter.com/northacad)
[@NA_NucleusSTEM](https://twitter.com/NA_NucleusSTEM)
[@NA_NucleusVI](https://twitter.com/NA_NucleusVI)
[@NA_Character](https://twitter.com/NA_Character)
[@northacadPE](https://twitter.com/northacadPE)
[@NA_English1](https://twitter.com/NA_English1)
[@NASixthform](https://twitter.com/NAsixthform)

Follow our Instagram channels:

Main Account:

<https://www.instagram.com/northamptonacademyofficial/>

Library Account:

www.instagram.com/northacadlib

Follow our Linked In Profile:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/northamptonacademy>

Subscribe on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCJfKFQmV1Vi2cmktJcre6Q>

Northampton Academy to become Regional Character Hub

School will support other schools on their character education journey

Northampton Academy is to join a new initiative created by the Jubilee Centre of Character and Virtues. The Regional Character Hubs is a nationwide programme that will see clusters of exceptional Schools of Character play an active role in supporting other schools on their character journey.

The exceptional standard of character education displayed within Northampton Academy is recognised as having the potential to inspire and transform other schools. The Regional Character Hubs model will provide a framework for schools to access valuable insights and learnings from selected Character Kitemark schools.

The Regional Character Hubs initiative will enable regions across the UK to have clusters of outstanding Schools of Character committed to supporting other local schools to embed character education that is taught, caught, and sought. This principle is at the heart of the Regional Character Hubs model. Experience has shown that when schools are inspired and learn directly from other schools, it can bring about significant change.

In addition to this, the school will become a member of the National Group of Excellence in Character Education. This group will meet bi-annually to set the direction for the following six months and share their expertise.

The school will be attending a launch event hosted by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at The University of Birmingham on the 9th of March. The full-day event will involve training led by experts from the Jubilee Centre and a co-design workshop to shape how the initiative will be implemented.

Northampton Academy was accredited with the Kitemark Plus award in October 2021, having demonstrated that putting character and values front and centre of their educational experience is transformative. Students' actions and behaviours are guided by virtue, helping them make the right choices at the right time, enabling themselves and the wider society to flourish. The embedded Character Curriculum provides the bedrock for an increase in attainment, improved behaviour and attendance, reduced exclusions, and staff retention and levels of well-being rising.

Chris Clyne, the school Principal, said:

"We are proud to have been chosen to be part of this initiative and recognised as a National School of Excellence for Character Education. We look forward to working with many schools and supporting them as they look to develop their character programmes. This opportunity aligns with our vision of being recognised nationally and internationally as a school."

Further information from the Association of Character Education (ACE).

How will the regional character hubs work?

Schools that have demonstrated an exceptional standard of character education through the Kitemark process are invited to be a part of the small cluster of schools that make up their Regional Character Hub. These will be schools that have either been awarded the Kitemark Plus or found to be close to the Kitemark Plus standard.

Individual schools and their Regional Character Hubs will be responsible for implementing their strategy to support local schools on their character journey.

Will the regional character hubs ever come together?

Yes. Twice a year, all schools within the UK Regional Character Hubs initiative will join a National Group of Excellence to share best practices and receive leadership training. The first of these meetings will be on the 9th of March 2022, when the initiative is launched.

How will the regional character hubs and their offer be promoted to schools?

A dedicated Regional Character Hubs page will be developed for the ACE website. This will have an interactive UK regional map to direct viewers to the Kitemark Schools that make up their Regional Character Hub. A critical success factor will be how the participating Kitemark Schools also use their existing networks and contacts to promote the support they offer.



School of
CHARACTER

Allen Ford Roadshow Visits NA

Northampton Academy was delighted to host an event provided by Ford Dealer Allen Ford this week. The team brought a range of high-performance cars, including a Ford Mustang, showcasing the advanced technology employed within the motor industry.

Several Year 10 and 11 students enjoyed a presentation detailing available apprenticeship routes. These included Vehicle Technicians, Paint and Panel Technicians and Business Administration. Linda Baxter, Group Environmental Social Governance Manager, pointed out that opportunities to develop your role continue over time. Allen Ford endeavours to support young people in finding careers that meet their skill set and interests.

A lunchtime event followed, which was open to all students. They were able to check out the cars and ask questions to learn more about the motor vehicle industry.

The event was a fantastic success, enjoyed by everyone. We thank Linda for organising the event and the team from Allen Ford. We look forward to welcoming them back to the Academy in the future.



HPQ Study Skills Day

Some Year 9 students have participated in the Level-2 Higher Projection Qualification and visited the University of Reading for a study skills day. They heard from current academics and students and had a university tour. Completing the HPQ involves students working independently to pick a topic, thoroughly research the task, and then present their work through a c.2000-word essay and presentation. This is worth a GCSE. Students are supported by their supervisor, who adopts the coaching role. Mrs Tustin-Reeves has been very impressed with the attitude and dedication the students have shown throughout the project and looks forward to seeing their final essays.



Oxford Next Generation Programme

Some of our year 10 students have been accepted onto the 'Oxford Next Generation Programme', run by the University of Oxford. This programme is a collaborative outreach project being piloted by the Oxford for East Midlands partners. It works directly with accepted schools to offer high-ability Year 10 students the chance to engage with and learn about Oxford University, providing support for students right through to the point of University applications in Year 13. 'Oxford NextGen' began with a launch event this term, introducing the students to the programme and the University of Oxford. The programme will follow students through high school and sixth form involving visits to Oxford, advice regarding A-Level and degree choices, and opportunities to develop super-curricular skills. Mrs Tustin-Reeves stated that: *"We are very enthusiastic to be part of this programme and for the exciting opportunity this brings to our students."*



Northampton Academy Wins National Teaching Award

Students and staff at Northampton Academy celebrate after the Academy was announced as one of the country's 80 Pearson National Teaching Award Silver Award winners.

The Pearson National Teaching Awards is an annual celebration of excellence in education. It was founded in 1998 by Lord Puttnam to recognise the life-changing impact inspirational staff can have on the lives of the young people they work with.



The school has been honoured with a Silver Award in The Award for Making a Difference – Secondary School of the Year, in celebration of the exceptional commitment it shows to enriching the lives of its young people and developing good character. Accredited with the prestigious Kitemark Plus Award for character education, the Academy also supports other schools across the country in strengthening their provision.

As a Silver Award winner, the Academy is being honoured as part of wider celebrations for national 'Thank a Teacher Day', which brings together people across the country to celebrate the schools and colleges at the heart of our communities. The Academy is also shortlisted to win one of just 16 Gold Awards later in the year.

Chris Clyne, Principal at Northampton Academy, said:

"We are so pleased to have received this award which celebrates the inspiring efforts and dedication shown by our staff, parents and young people over the past year. Whilst the pandemic has been challenging for us all, I am extremely proud of how our school community has joined together and overcome any obstacles we've faced. It is a privilege to serve this community. We will continue to strive every day to nurture our young people and help them achieve their very best."

Sharon Hague, Managing Director of Schools at Pearson UK, said:

"Congratulations to today's Silver Award winners on their incredible achievement; they should all feel very proud of themselves. And thank you to all the incredible educators and support staff across this country who really do make our schools and colleges so special. I am delighted that we can take this opportunity to say how much we appreciate all that you do for the young people in your care."

Former Secretary of State for Education, The Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi said:

"Congratulations to Northampton Academy on this incredible achievement and for the hard work and dedication which led up to it. Winning this award is impressive, well-deserved and shows Northampton Academy's commitment to helping students achieve their full potential."

Michael Morpurgo, celebrated author and former Children's Laureate, and President of the Teaching Awards Trust, said:

"For so many of us, it was someone at school who changed our lives, was at our side through challenging and difficult times, lifted us up when we were down, helped us find our voice, gave us confidence when we needed it most, and set us on a path that we have followed ever since."

"No matter who we are, school has touched our lives and played a central role in our childhoods. School is about so much more than learning, and we see that now more than ever. Schools really are the beating heart of our communities. Everyone who cares for our children in schools should be celebrated loud and clear on Thank A Teacher Day 2022."



BiE Awards Evening

Our annual 'Best in Everyone' awards celebration took place on Thursday 14th July. It was a fantastic evening, showcasing and recognising the incredible efforts of students and staff. Our winners have embodied our core values of respect, determination, ambition, tolerance, and integrity this year. The awards also recognise the development of students' character inside and outside the classroom.

It was a pleasure to welcome our guest speaker, local professional Saints rugby player Danny Hobbs-Awoyemi. Former Northampton Academy student Danny worked through Northampton Saints Academy and returned to Franklin's Gardens in the summer of 2020 after a four-year stint at London Irish.

Parents and carers should be incredibly proud of the winners for their achievement of being recognised in this way.



United Learning School Leader of the Year Award

Congratulations to Assistant Principal Amy Patterson who was named School Leader of the Year at United Learning's Best in Everyone Awards 2022, held at The Queens Hotel in Leeds.

Each year the awards honour individuals, teams and departments from across the group for the exceptional contributions they have made to school and community life. This includes recognition for standout academic successes, sporting and musical achievements, and commitment to leadership and service.

To take home this award, Amy was selected by the judging panel from a range of outstanding nominees from across the country. In honour of her win, she was presented with an engraved glass award.



My Culture Day

A Celebration of Diversity and Inclusion

At the end of the last term, Northampton Academy held its annual 'My Culture Day' to celebrate diversity across the school, inspired by the theme 'Our Differences Unite Us'.

The school, which was one of the first secondaries in the country to receive the National School of Character Kitemark Plus, works hard to ensure that it offers a warm and fully inclusive environment. Character Education is embedded into the Academy curriculum and wider culture and is epitomised each year by 'My Culture Day'.



As part of the day, students and staff proudly attended school in traditional or cultural clothing that they feel expresses their heritage in return for a small donation to the school's chosen charities. To give students an opportunity to showcase their traditional cultural dress and spark conversations about its meaning, Sixth Formers organised a fashion show at lunchtime, which was an energetic event accompanied by music and song.



Education With Character

Throughout the day, students took part in unique projects within their form groups where they learnt about the cultures and traditions of different countries. Students were also invited to sample street foods from around the world and add a leaf to a special 'Diversity Tree' detailing what inclusion means to them.

During the afternoon, students heard from retired British sprinter and Olympic gold medallist Jason Gardener MBE. Jason delivered an inspirational, online session where he spoke with students about teamwork and unity, the obstacles he has faced as a young boy and throughout his lifetime and the perseverance, determination, and ambition he needed to overcome them.

Carlington Anderson, Director of Character at the Northampton Academy, said:

"At Northampton Academy, we are proud to serve a diverse community and welcome students and staff from a wide range of backgrounds. Each year, our 'My Culture Day' is an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate these differences and what makes each of our students unique. Developing our young people into kind, respectful and socially responsible members

of society is key to what it means to deliver Character Education and ensure they are able to thrive in modern society."



Therapy Dog Nellie Joins NA!

Northampton Academy welcomed another Therapy Dog, Nellie, on her first visit to the school to join Lily, who already helps our students.

Nellie is a registered Pets as Therapy (PAT) volunteer dog. Following her training with her dedicated owner, she attended her Pets as Therapy Assessment at a local hospital in Northampton in October 2021. Nellie's assessment was to ensure she would be suitable for the role; she is well-trained, healthy, friendly, calm around new environments and people, and willing to be a Pets as Therapy (PAT) dog.

Nellie will be involved in all aspects of school life at Northampton Academy, including being out in the school's communal areas during break and lunchtime. In addition, she will be working with students in Study Support and the Library and comforting children when they need it. She is an excellent asset to both staff and students and is guaranteed to put a smile on everyone's face.

When she is not volunteering as a Pets as Therapy Dog, Nellie enjoys long countryside walks and weekly agility classes.

Follow her adventures on Instagram @nellietheshihpoo



Year 8 Poetry Workshop

On Tuesday, 22nd of March, our Year 8 Scholars students took part in a poetry workshop with local poet Steve Whitmill. Mr Whitmill talked about the meaning of poetry and his journey to becoming a published poet. He then shared some of his favourite work with the students and provided feedback on the poetry they had written for the forthcoming Social Justice anthology. The Scholars really enjoyed being able to put questions to a published poet. We will look forward to inviting more writers to provide workshops in the future.



Holocaust Memorial Day

This year the Academy marked Holocaust Memorial Day

Our theme was "One Day When We Realise That Our Differences Unite Us". At lunchtime on Thursday, 27th January, we held a Gallery Walk and Memorial Flames Campaign in the courtyard.

We believe that this process of reckoning or coming to terms with the history of the Holocaust and other genocides is one that continues today among historians, survivors and their descendants, politicians, citizens, and students.

As American author James Baldwin has said:

"History, as nearly no one seems to know, is not merely something to be read. And it does not refer merely, or even principally, to the past. On the contrary, the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do."

Baldwin suggests that we won't understand history or ourselves unless we consider how the past is 'present' in our world. And the Holocaust - which historians describe as not merely a significant moment in history but a 'collapse in human civilisation' and a 'symbol of evil' - exerts a potent force.

Author Eva Hoffman, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, has observed:

"Sixty years after the Holocaust took place, our reckoning with this defining event is far from over. Indeed, as this immense catastrophe recedes from us in time, our preoccupation with it seems only to increase."

Mr Anderson



Taking Pride In Our LGBTQIA+ Community

June is celebrated internationally as Pride Month, and here at Northampton Academy, we joined in the celebrations of our LGBTQIA+ community.

Purpose and Importance

Pride Month commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Riots, also known as Stonewall Uprising, a momentous event in LGBTQIA+ history. It's one of the first accounts of a significant movement that strives to accept the LGBTQIA+ community into society. People around the globe celebrate and commemorate the achievements of LGBTQIA+ people.

This year is particularly special, as it marks the 50-year milestone of Pride in the UK. In 1972, over 2000 people gathered at Trafalgar Square in London for the first-ever Pride march in the UK. Presently, more than 1 million people celebrate Pride in London alone. And events now take place worldwide in celebration of the LGBTQ+ community.



Our Students' Determination and Ambition

Our students, supported by staff, have worked tirelessly to put together one of the biggest celebrations of Pride our school has ever seen. As a result, students could peruse our 'Happy Pride' display, featuring colourful, educational, and motivational posters as they entered the school.

Special thanks to Y11 student Connor R, who has done so much work for the LGBTQIA+ community in this school. On his last day at our Academy, he had this to say: *"I am so proud of everything we have done. Thank you all."*

Northampton Academy's Pride March 2022

The big event of the month was the Pride March that happened during lunchtime on 30th June. It was organised by a great team of staff members, Mx Skelton, Ms Cechova, and Mr Anderson, with the support of many others. The students' ideas and plans for this event were the most ambitious we have ever seen.

Preparations for the march included daily arts & crafts workshops where students made placards and decorations to wear during the parade. The respect and tolerance I have seen during the workshops are note-worthy. Students were helping each other express themselves fully and freely. Many students attended more than half of the workshop dates.

On the day, 55 students marched through the school following a pre-planned route. After the march, I asked students for comments, and this is what they said:

"Best time of my life." – Lucas E (10E)

"Probably the best moment in the whole school year. So proud of everyone who showed their true self." – James E (9S)



Following the march, all Key Stage 3 and 4 students attended a Character Development Session about the importance of Pride and community. They could ask questions and learn more about why Pride Month is important and how much it relates to all our school values, especially regarding community building.

Staff Leading by Example

Many teachers and support staff from all over the school came to the march to support our students. English teacher, Miss Osmani said: "I am so proud to see so many of our students living their best lives with pride."



On 16th June, LGBTQIA+ students and allies participated in a creative writing workshop run by our Head of English, Miss Windridge. The prompt was to write a poem starting each line with "I am..." or "I am not". In a supportive atmosphere, students could express their identity and share their poems with friends.

Our library is very supportive of our LGBTQIA+ community, and Mrs Sullivan, our librarian, is a great ally, providing a variety of books on LGBTQIA+ topics and fiction featuring LGBTQIA+ characters. This month, we decided to expand our collection even more, and we are taking suggestions from students and staff for new books. These new books will contain a special plaque commemorating Pride Month 2022 in our school.

Closing Words and Looking to the Future

Mx Skelton, who has organised and supported our students every step of the way, said: *"Looking back at our students, I could not have been more proud. Well done, Northampton Academy!"*

I am also incredibly proud of what we have done this June, and I hope we will have the opportunity to do similar events in the future. We work tirelessly in the library and in the LGBTQIA+ club to plan with intersectionality in mind, leaving no one behind.

Happy Pride,
Ms Cechova (she/her)
Library Assistant



Sensory Garden Working Bee!

Northampton Academy would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Sensory Garden project and those who took part in our 'Working Bee' on Saturday, 21st May.

English teacher Lisa Ullmann, who led the project, gives some background on how it all started:

"In September 2022, during a Teacher Training Day, preparing to start a new academic year, I heard our Director of Character and Director of Business talking about creating a garden, so I asked if I could be involved."

"A rough design idea was drawn up, and I offered to take them to a local garden (Quinton Rectory Garden) to show them what we might aim for on a smaller scale. After the visit, we agreed that we needed a professional garden designer as we wanted to get it right. Unfortunately, this worked out to be too expensive so the next thing I knew, I had agreed to design the garden myself."

"I have always believed that a walk through a beautiful garden is likely to help most people feel more relaxed, and the smells, sounds and colours of the planting will help to influence this. There is growing evidence that the benefits of sensory gardens can be considerable to mental and physical health and wellbeing. The NHS has, since January 2019, officially included social prescribing in its Long Term Plan. Sitting in a garden is crucial for some people as they engage mostly at a sensory level when cognition is compromised. For others, the emotional response to gardens makes a difference to health and wellbeing, helping us feel calmer and happier. This is what I set out to achieve with our school garden. I worked on the design in my spare time in the evenings and at weekends."

"I knew that I wanted it to be a community project, so I reached out to Workbridge, established 41 years ago in Northampton. Workbridge offers a vocational pathway for people with mental illness, autism, learning disabilities or brain injuries and provides people with opportunities to gain skills and build confidence. I visited the Lead at Workbridge, Helen Bass, several times as

I wanted to support this wonderful charity by purchasing all our plants through them. I also reached out to Verity Williams from Travis Perkins, who not only agreed to donate 5 tonnes of chip bark but turned up on the day of our first ever community Working Bee with two colleagues who worked tirelessly to put plants in the ground for us."

"On the day of the Working Bee, staff, parents and students from all key stages turned up and worked diligently to create our sensory garden. We even had members of the wider community come along to help those whose children do not attend our school, but had heard we needed a hand to get some 800 plants in the ground. It was a real team effort to complete this project, and it was fantastic to see so many people join together to make this possible. All there is left to do now is for staff and students to enjoy the space"



Supporting Cynthia Spencer Hospice

We welcomed Jenny Standen, Lynn Ryan and Gerry Clanfy-Tipton from Cynthia Spencer, who received a cheque from Northampton Academy students. Cynthia Spencer is our Charity of the Year. The hospice recently supported two students, Anu and Lily by providing them with work experience, giving them an insight into how the charity is run. We raised £519.94 for Cynthia Spencer during last year's Winter Fair.

Jenny said: *"We are all extremely grateful that you have chosen to help our Hospice. Your gift will enable us to continue to support more local people and their families when they need it most. Our vital services are only made possible by the generosity of our local community, who currently provide 30p of every £1 we spend on care. So, thank you; we really value your support."*



In addition, we were delighted to hand over a cheque for £86.00, raised in a hamper raffle. Year 7 student Angelina was delighted to win the hamper.

Nas, a Year 12 Careers Ambassador welcomed the opportunity to support and present the cheque to one of our local charities. She said: "It was a joy to hand over the cheque. As a student of Northampton Academy, the event showcased the school's character and its values."



World Book Day 2022

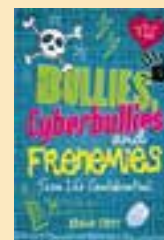
On Thursday 4th March, we celebrated World Book Day. As a school that celebrates and encourages reading, this is an event we look forward to every year.

Throughout the day, students listened to the story 'Paradise' by Tim Collins at the start of each lesson. In addition, there were competitions, including a creative writing challenge to write the next chapter of 'Paradise' (further details available from the library). Also, a 'Who's Reading' competition, where students guess the member of staff hidden behind a book. In addition, several staff members dressed up as characters from well-known books.

We thank the author Dan Freedman, who recorded a special message for our students. Free copies of his book 'Born to Play', part of the Jamie Johnson series, were available to Year 7 students to collect from the library. Dan is a regular contributor to our 'LitFest' events.



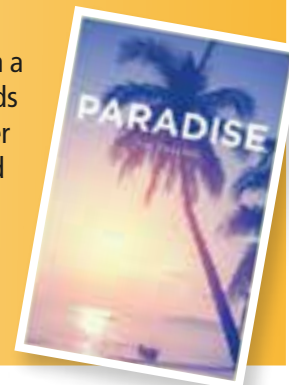
Our Digital Leaders have chosen some books relating to social media and being online for World Book Day.



World Book Day 2022 – Competition Winner

Congratulations to Widad S (Y7), winner of our World book Day creative writing competition. Widad won a £10 Amazon Voucher for her continuation chapter of Paradise by Tim Collins, part of the Young Adult Reads series, published by Badger Learning. The whole school shared the story, about a girl who gets the offer of living on another planet (Paradise) for a short time, but discovers a sinister twist. The story was divided into five parts and listened to at the beginning of each lesson throughout the day.

[You can read the winning chapter here >>>](#)



Meet Our Library Leaders

At the beginning of the academic year, we recruited a new team of Library Leaders. Students from Years 7 – 11 were invited to apply and went through an interview process with Year 12 Senior Leaders Nicole T and Annie V. The team are following a structured training programme developed by the School Library Association (SLA), mentored by Nicole and Annie, who have been part of the Library Team since they were in Year 8. They are all now on their way to achieving their first award. Those involved demonstrate all our core values within the varied and exciting tasks they undertake, from the integrity used when issuing books to other students, to their determination and ambition supporting the vision and goals of the library. The group make a valuable contribution to the running of the Library, and it has been wonderful seeing their individual characters develop and their confidence grow as the year has progressed.



Digital Leaders Deliver Lesson on E-safety to Year 6

Throughout the year, two of Northampton Academy's digital leaders, Ashiki and Cameron, have planned to deliver an e-safety session on a topic of their choice to a local primary school.



Ashiki and Cameron contacted their old primary school, Ecton Brook, and asked if they could deliver a session on Digital Footprints and creating social media accounts to the Year 6 cohort. Headteacher, Mrs Archer, was delighted to let them teach the lesson to all three Year 6 groups. Ashiki and Cameron have shown outstanding leadership and organisation skills while planning and delivering the lessons.



Ashiki said: *"This has been a thoroughly enjoyable and enriching experience because we have been able to visit the wider community and reach out to the younger cohort – some of whom will join us at this school in September. In addition, we were able to educate them on a vital topic for today's society which is becoming increasingly digitalised."*

STEM Leaders

We have appointed three STEM leaders in year 7. They are Vraj, Nasia and Juanita. We are looking forward to their contributions and being excellent role models in STEM.



Sports Leaders Leadership Academy

During February half term at Northampton Academy we were delighted to welcome the Sports Leaders from the County Leadership Academy to attend our first face-to-face session of the academic year. It was great to issue all the leaders from across ten schools with their LCV Leadership Academy Hoodies, which were worn with pride by all.

The day incorporated the following elements:

Team Building

Given that this was the first time we had gathered this year's cohort of leaders, the students needed to get to know each other. So we took them out of their school group comfort zone through some fun activities. Mrs Carter-Morris led two great activities: Winter Luge and Spaghetti/Marshmallow tower building, to encourage the students to work together.



Cricket Practical

Northants County Cricket Club provided two coaches who delivered a session focussing on cricket skill games practice. The Year One Leaders were then given a resource card and asked to set up and teach the cricket activity to the rest of the group. Year Two leaders were asked to set up a Dynamos Cricket game to mimic what they will be required to do at the County School Games Finals in July. All the leaders did really well.

When reviewing sessions, the STEP principle was used:

Space - Is the area appropriate for the activity?

Task - How can you change the activity?

Equipment - How can you adapt the equipment for the needs of the children?

People - How do you group children quickly? Where are they positioned?



Session planning and next steps

Following further team-building activities, including two-person bobsleigh, the leaders reviewed and critiqued a series of anonymous session plans that the leaders had written and submitted. This exercise allowed the leaders to see how others had approached the task and the content they included, hopefully allowing them to consider what needs to be included in their future session plans. Leaders were then grouped by their schools, providing an opportunity to start their medium-term planning for their in-school projects. This time together was precious, allowing the leaders to discuss and finalise their plans before approaching their in-school mentor to confirm their start date, cohort, etc.



The final part of the session separately grouped the Year One Leaders and the Year Two Leaders. Year One Leaders met with Mrs Carter-Morris to discuss their roles and how they will use the Wonder Woman resources to deliver the Get Active Festival at the Summer School Games on Thursday 7th July 2022. Miss Lawrence met with the Year Two Leaders to discuss their roles before the County School Games Cricket Finals and their positions on the day. All leaders were advised that there will be an additional face-to-face session over the Easter holidays – this session will intend to provide some Cricket Officiating training and First Aid training. All Year One Leaders were given their County Leadership hoodies.



Sports Leaders Gain National Level 1 Qualification



On Thursday 31st March, the newly recruited Sports Leaders undertook their theoretical elements of the Sports Leaders UK- Level 1 Qualification for this academic year. This nationally recognised qualification focuses on developing their leadership skills and behaviours, along with the practical requirements for successful sports leading, such as effective planning,

adapting sports activities, communication and teamwork skills. The students had a fantastic day, demonstrating outstanding skills and determination to improve and develop their knowledge.

On Thursday 9th June, the new Sports Leaders met to complete their Sports Leaders UK - Level 1 Qualification. The group have worked really hard on the course's theoretical and practical elements, demonstrating their hugely improved leadership in the recent Primary Multisport festivals they have planned and delivered. The Students will be certificated with this national award to take them forward in further development and training in the future. WELL DONE ALL!



Primary Multisports Festival



During April, the NA Sports Leaders welcomed Year 3 students from eight Cluster primary schools to participate in the Year 3 Multisports Festival. The leaders had committed time before the event to plan both the event logistics alongside the sessions they would be leading. When we learned a student with significant physical disabilities was attending, the leaders stepped up to the challenge, demonstrating a determination to organise sessions which were accessible to all students.

The event ran seamlessly, with Year 3 students enjoying Dodgeball, Handball, Tag Rugby, Fitness, and Team Building sessions. As always, the NA leaders did both themselves and the school proud, demonstrating our character values in abundance.

Following the event, we received a lovely email from Abington Vale Primary School that said:

"I just wanted to send you a little email to thank you for today's event. The feedback from the adults and children was that it was brilliant; they all loved it. The adults said they were incredibly impressed with your young leaders with Clara. They said the leaders were enthusiastic, adaptable and generally fab with her, and she thoroughly enjoyed herself. It is great that she has the same opportunities as everyone else."

Community and Volunteering Hub

A group of Sports Leaders, who have been part of the County Sports Leadership Academy this year, were tasked with setting up an extra curricular club for a selected cohort of students and running this independently over a half term. The girls chose to create a "Physical activity club for Year 7 & 8 girls who have been affected by the lock-downs, demonstrating a lack of confidence within PE". The leaders coordinated every aspect of this club, from student selection/invitation to club publicity and planning and delivering six exciting sessions focusing on engagement and fun.

The club was highly successful, with the group of girls attending every session, developing in confidence, fitness and skill level, but most of all enjoying being physically active. None of the girls who attended had ever been to an extra-curricular club before and are now keen to access other opportunities, all down to the work of the leaders.

The leaders did a fantastic job and were exceptional role models, so a huge well done to Zenna, Alexandra and Becky, assisted by Shardana.



Student Leadership

'Game On' Football Leaders

Congratulations to the student leaders who have just completed the Barclays Game On Football Programme. They have worked extremely hard since September, planning and organising football tournaments to deliver to girls across the school.

The organisation congratulated the students on the programme's success within Northampton Academy, and we all look forward to what the girls will do next. The students are now signed off and will be awarded their Girls' Football Youth Sports Award within two weeks. Well done to Elizabeth, Tolani, Damola, Summer, Rochelle, Grace, Vendija, Lilly, Maisie, Maria, Skye and Widad.



Last year's Leaders continuing their work by running enrichment programme.

Ewa and Emilija, who completed the 'Game On' football leadership programme last year, have been developing and building on their leadership skills by planning and delivering Football sessions during the girls' extra-curricular Football Club throughout the autumn and spring term. They have shown outstanding commitment and dedication to the programme, elevating them to positions of responsibility and respect from within the group. Great work, girls; keep it up!



Kurling

On Tuesday, 25th of January, a team of Sports Leaders headed over to Benham Sports Arena to lead and officiate in the 'Northampton Town Primary Kurling Tournament'. The leaders had undergone hours of training and coaching in preparation for this opportunity and were keen to test their new skills and knowledge. The day was a great success, with the leaders demonstrating their excellent knowledge, communication skills and teamwork to ensure the event ran smoothly and fairly. It was particularly pleasing to receive a glowing email from the tournament organiser regarding the young leaders:

"I have had the pleasure of working with 10 of your Sports Leaders today who were deployed to officiate at the Northampton School Sport Partnership KS1 and KS2 New Age Kurling Competition. They were nothing short of outstanding ambassadors for the school."

"As with things currently, we had a few schools drop out last minute or not turn up, but this did not phase them; they simply adapted to the changing fixture schedule and continued to do what was asked of them to an exceptional standard. Their behaviour was impeccable, and the way they liaised and spoke to the primary staff and the competitors, many of whom had special educational needs and/or disabilities, was commendable. I look forward to being able to work with them again in the very near future."

As a result of such a great performance, the NA Sports Leaders were invited to attend the County Winter Games to officiate the County Competition. It was fantastic to see them highly self-motivated and organised, role-modelling outstanding leadership skills throughout the competition. Well done to all the students involved; yet again you have represented Northampton Academy, clearly demonstrating all of our core values. Our leaders who took part were; Matthew B, Shardana M, Rinalds V, Janis R, Katie M, Abbie C, Alexandra O, George M, Callum U and Zenna O.

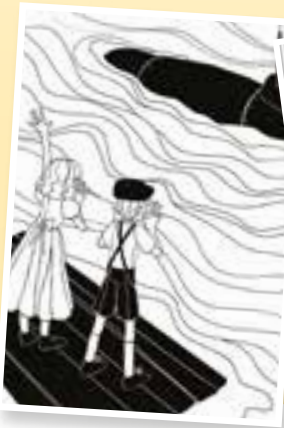


Mrs Carter-Morris

Student's Illustrations Published

The Northampton Academy Art department is very proud to announce we have a published illustrator in our midst!

The Year 10 student has demonstrated absolute professionalism working to a brief to produce the illustrations and the cover art for Author Steve Whitmill's latest book, "The Adventure Story Book", which is being published and will be available to purchase shortly.



Anastasija Shines in Articulation Competition

Sixth Form Art students participated in the national Articulation public speaking competition. This annual competition is open to Sixth Form students from across the country. Anastasija, in Year 12, was our representative at the regional heats taking place at the Milton Keynes MK Art Gallery.

Anastasia delivered an excellent speech in front of a live audience, explaining the social and political meaning behind the conceptual artwork 'Can't help Myself' by Chinese artists Sun Yuan and Peng Yu. In addition, Anastasia delivered a thought-provoking and insightful analysis of the work of these collaborative artists, demonstrating our character values of determination and ambition.

During the event, there was stiff competition, with eight schools in the UK's Central and East Anglia areas taking part at the MK Gallery. In total, 124 schools across the country take part each year. At the regional heats, each student had to create a PowerPoint and present a ten-minute discussion about their chosen art topic before answering questions at the end.

This is the second year Northampton Academy has participated in the Articulation event. Last year we saw Jess in Year 13 deliver an excellent virtual talk about English reportage photographer Steve McCurry. This year Anastasia continued to uphold our character values of determination and ambition with confidence by presenting to her peer group in class and at the MK Gallery.

Although Anastasia did not proceed to the grand final, to be at the National Gallery in London, she did exceptionally well and was a credit to the Academy.

Mr Ambrose



Robocon Competition

Over the Easter holidays, Miss Davies took five Year 10 students to compete at a Robocon event in Cambridge.

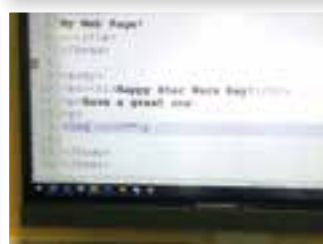
Isaac, Jae Jae, Ryan, Patrick and Janis worked to design, create and program a robot to do a specific challenge. They were the only team at the event to use lego. The CMR surgical research and development office sponsors and The Technology Partnership thought this to be very creative and inventive.

Isaac took the lead on the programming, and Patrick learnt how to solder electronics. The team got through to the final rounds, competing against three other groups and finished in 4th place. The whole team made a fantastic effort, showing their determination throughout the day.



Creating Digital Futures - May the 4th Be With You!

A group of year 10 GCSE Computer Science Students went to Northampton College for the day and took part in sessions which encouraged them to think about different careers in Computing. The sessions had a *Star Wars* theme and included branding an e-sports logo, sculpting a monster using 3D web based software, learning to code a website using HTML and working in a TV studio using a green screen to fly themselves through space! The event showed the students that hobbies like gaming, computing and social media are no longer just past times and they are genuine career choices leading to a world of different opportunities.



'Ladies that Lunch' Computer Science Event

A careers event, 'Ladies that Lunch', was held for Year 9 girls interested in taking Computer Science for their GCSEs to give them some insight into the type of careers available to those who take this route. This event was part of our celebrations of International Women's Day.

We welcomed some female visitors who have careers in the computing industry. They took the time to sit and talk with the girls about their experiences working in a traditionally male-orientated sector.

One of our Sixth form students and subject leads in Computer Science, Marisa, who is the only girl in Year 13 Computer Science, took part in the event, speaking with the girls about her choices to study Computer Science at both GCSE and A Level and her plans to continue studying the subject at university.

We would like to thank all the visitors who took part in this event.

Students gave some great feedback after the event:

"I think that today has made me feel more open to the idea of a career in computing and made it seem a lot less intimidating." - Ellie-May

"It has made me feel quite calm and relaxed, and I now have an understanding of IT and Computer Science opportunities." - Leah

"The event has made me feel more open to Computer Science jobs. I hadn't even thought of it before." - Paige

"It was lovely to see all these successful women in Computer Science careers" - Georgia



Tech Girls

Some of our KS3 students took part in a workshop which encouraged them to think about how we can use apps to support our environment. The students were asked to design an application to promote female hygiene products. The students were separated into four different groups and each group took a unique approach when designing their apps. These included filter options which encourage users to choose more environmentally friendly materials, whereas others focused on carbon footprint, encouraging them to shop local.





Games Careers Week

<https://gamescareersweek.org/>



Games careers week took place from 17th - 26th June, and to take part and offer the students some insight into careers in gaming, daily notices were set on Show My Homework for students to see different jobs in gaming. These included Animators, Programmers, Designers and E-sports.

If you are interested in creating games and playing them, there are plenty of online tutorials and software to learn from. Here is a link for **GameMaker**: <https://gamemaker.io/en/learn> You will need to make an account and download GameMaker at home. This is FREE if you choose the free option.



Summer Challenge! Can you design a create your own game?



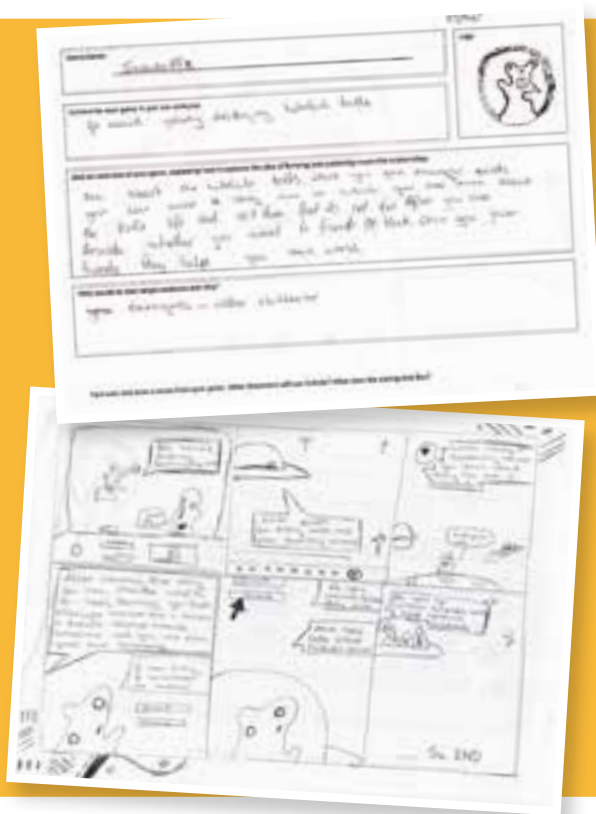
This year, Safer Internet Day had a theme of exploring respect and relationships online. To celebrate and educate students, our Digital Leaders delivered an assembly on the topic to years 7-10. They also ran a competition to

design a game with a focus of respect and relationships online. During the week, a display board was presented in the canteen of different ways we should be respectful online. We also asked students to sign an emoji to show their support of creating a safer internet.

Esther T won the Safer Internet Day competition with her sketch. Zakarya T was runner up. Digital leaders have found books relating to safer use of social media and being on line. These books are available to borrow from the school library.

Pledges

KS3 students were asked to write a pledge to say what they would do to ensure they are safe online and how they would help to make the internet a kinder place. These have been displayed in one of our computer rooms.



A lesson on Fake News

Two of our Digital Leaders, Ashiki and Cameron, have created and delivered a lesson to our year 7 STEM students on Fake News. They taught the students that everything you read online may not be true and how to spot unreliable information.



Geek of the Week

We have launched a new award in Computer Science to celebrate all the students that have been working hard in lessons. Students are nominated for this by one of the Computer Science teachers and this can be achieved by creating an outstanding piece of home learning or demonstrating excellent character values within lesson. Well done to everyone who has achieved our Geek of the Week award so far! Can you be our next Geek of the Week?



Music Inspiration for Kai

Year 11 student Kai is a keen musician looking to develop a career in music. Hearing from young people already treading this path is a great way to create an awareness of the industry. Kai recently met up with Luke, who is currently studying for a Music Performance degree at the Institute of Contemporary Music in London.

Kai was able to ask questions about the importance of research ahead of making future education and career decisions. Luke affirmed that thorough research is vital in ensuring that you can make well-informed decisions and suggested Kai attend industry and university open events, both online and in person. He also highlighted the value of networking, creating new contacts who will help secure gigs and other music-related employment. The music industry is built on interpersonal engagement, and as such, Luke advised Kai to develop his time management and interpersonal skills. In Luke's experience, musicians and promoters will promote and support those who continually offer a professional service and are easy to work with.

Northampton Academy Careers Department would like to extend their thanks to Luke for giving his time and sharing his experiences with a fellow musician.



Open Mic Night

This term saw a jam-packed 'M Society', Northampton Academy's very first open mic night! The evening was a roaring success, with over 20 individuals performing to an audience. Performances ranged from rock bands, solo classical piano, acapella singing, a guitar-off and even spoken word poetry. This created the opportunity for staff and students to come together in a celebration of music. It was amazing to see the confidence and passion growing in our students and supporting one another, even if this meant pushing themselves out of their comfort zone. We are very much looking forward to the next one and hope to see even more wonderful performances.

Miss Carney



Knockout Visit From World Champion Boxer

Chantelle Cameron, a professional world champion boxer in two weight classes, visited Northampton Academy to speak to a cohort of Year 8 students regarding the importance of hard work, determination and ambition.

Chantelle is a local girl, who attended Northampton Academy herself. The students were truly inspired by her story, but more importantly, by her passion and drive to succeed. Character is something we pride ourselves on developing here at Northampton Academy, and the importance of this was reflective of Chantelle's personal attributes and success.

We want to say a huge thank you to Chantelle for coming in to speak to our students; it was indeed a 'knock out' performance that they will remember for a long time to come.



Northamptonshire County Athletics Championships 2022

Following successful performances at the recent Town Athletics Championships, Northampton Academy had six students invited to participate at the County Athletics Championships representing Team Northampton. The students proudly donned their red Northampton vests and headed over to Rockingham Athletics Track, Corby, on Saturday 11th June to compete. The event saw some excellent all-round performances. Our students displayed great character and competitiveness throughout the day.

Their determination was rewarded with the following results:

Alexandra (Year 10): Inter Girls Discus - 1st place (COUNTY CHAMPION 2022)

Isaac (Year 9): Junior Boys 80m Hurdles - 2nd place

Shae (Year 10): Inter Boys Javelin - 3rd place

Eddy (Year 9): Junior Boys Shot - 5th place

Cleo (Year 9): Junior Girls 75m Hurdles - 5th place and Junior Girls Long jump 5th place

Congratulations to all the students who took part. Alexandra and Isaac qualified for the the Inter-Counties Championships in Stoke on Saturday 18th June, representing Northamptonshire.



Year 7 Athletics Success

The Northampton Academy Year 7 Athletics Team travelled to Corby for the Town Athletics Championships. Most of these students are new to the sport, yet they performed exceptionally and displayed great determination and team spirit.

Due to outstanding performance the following students have been selected for the County Finals on 4th July - the biggest number of qualifiers Northampton Academy has ever had in this event, all of these student placed top three in their respective events:

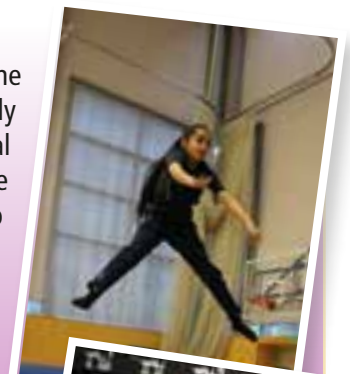
- Ziras T (hurdles - 1st)
- Jaydn N (200m - 3rd)
- Dami O (long jump - 2nd)
- Lucas S (discus 2nd)
- Modechai L (100m - 2nd)
- Prisha P (long jump - 3rd)
- Yasmeen P (200m - 2nd)
- Emily J (high jump - 3rd)
- Maisie H (javelin - 2nd)
- Divine A (hurdles - 2nd)

Congratulations to everyone involved.



**THIS
GIRL
CAN**

The 'This Girl Can' week was an opportunity to celebrate all of the girls in our school and promote the benefits of being active. Not only does this provide our bodies with exercise, but the social and mental benefits of exercise are huge. We started this project to give the girls a wide range of clubs that we don't have all of the time to allow them an opportunity to experience a wide range of activities. The week was a huge success where we had girls from every year groups who attended daily. It was lovely to see those students, who do not usually take up these opportunities, celebrate girls.



Matthew Swims in County Championships

Huge Congratulations to Matthew who recently competed in the County Swimming Championships. Matthew performed brilliantly achieving many personal bests.

Key results included:

50m - Back: 4th in the county
100m - Back: 4th in the county
200m - Back: 5th in the county
200m - IM: 4th in the county



Gold Medals for Evie!

Congratulations to Evie who recently competed at the Regional Series 2 Cup Qualifier, performing brilliantly to secure both Individual and Team Gold Medals. She has one more regional qualifier on the 5th June and if all goes well she will be competing in the Regional Cup Final in Sheffield on the 2nd-4th September. Good Luck Evie.



Gymnastics Competition

In June, we entered our first National Gymnastics Competition in Stoke-On-Trent. The girls performed an acrobatics routine, an individual floor routine as well as a vault. The girls performed phenomenally and our pair routines placed 6th out of 24. Well done to Amelia, Prisha, Ana Maria and Dhanshri.



PE Stars of the Year

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



Congratulations to Angelina Cimpoeu, Tolani Akanmu, Nyle Trebilcock, Simar Parhar, Jack McGirr, Faiz Hafidh, Alexa Gherasimov, Reece Baughan, Jessi Puka, Ellie-Mai Wright, George Thompson, Kaydence Purvis, Jor'el Maitland, Luca Curtis-Foster, Abi Coombs, Torie Bull, Megan Dimmer, Ethan Bird, Aishat Lawal, Erin Lynch, Chloe Pounds, Shardana McCrudden, Robert Boreham, Paige Durling and Luke Newton.

PE - Best In Everyone

Freya Ward, Sadie Kelly, Ross MacNaught, George Thompson, Kristupas Dambrauskas, Jor'el Maitland, Abbie Thompson, Dorcas Ogunsanya, Rahmatallah Asifat, Tosin Ireoluwa, Geisi Myftari, Ben Pagington, Caitlin Harrison, Becky Laine, Poppy Sherlock, Reece Baughan, Abi Coombs, Tolani Akanmu, Thomas Cheshire, Dins Steinmanis, Tillie Archer, Summer Linnell, Eve Tarr, Chloe Walker, Emilija Abrutyte, Akeem Sadiq, Molly Adams, Israel Green, Zenna Osei, Josephine Duke, Raul Tudor, Medeea Mihalea, Nathan Raszeja, Talia Keet, Dimitrie Iba, Deyonce Myers, Marvin Tavengwa, Keegan Wanjuki, Ana Maria Nicolae, Sean Fraher-Riley, Spencer Roberts, Edward Phillips, Summer-Rose Baine-Gibbons, Olivier Swales, Denis Caliman, Dominic Davies.

STEM Lecture Programme

We have had a variety of external and in-house speakers who have been delivering lectures to our students. Mr Jones initiated the lecture programme this term. Mr Haig, who had worked in disaster management, talked to students about the various rescue missions he has been part of and his experiences choosing this career. Students had a lot of questions to ask.



We were pleased to welcome Helen Schmidt-Joshi to Nucleus STEM as part of our lecture programme. Helen is a technical support engineer from Atlas Copco. She delivered a lecture to students covering her roles in engineering both past and present. Students thoroughly enjoyed the interaction and came away feeling inspired. We extend our thanks to Helen and her team.

Tim Searle is a freelance animator known for his work on *Danger Mouse*, *Have I Got News For You*, *The Catherine Tate Show*, and many more came to discuss his animation career. This was an excellent opportunity for students who are investigating careers the different areas of computing.

STEAM Northants

Our Year 9 students had the opportunity to participate in STEAM Northants at the University of Northampton to take part in interactive exhibitions, hands on activities and to explore the many subjects of science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths.



Fantasy Wings

Through British Airways and FantasyWings 22/23, we have a few sponsored spaces for our students on the 22/23 programme for schools. The programme looks to increase diversity in the aviation and commercial air pilot industries. The programme creates opportunities for young people from under-represented ethnic backgrounds to participate in expert-led workshops, conferences, mentoring and real flight training.



Year 7 Share Cultural Experiences with Taiwan School

As part of our International School Partners programme, Year 7 students have linked with the Affiliated Hospitality Senior High School of National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism in Taiwan.



Fourteen students from Form 7S linked up with twenty-one students from the school in Taiwan, enjoying their first introductory session two weeks ago. The students were able to link up again this week to share their culture with each other. We look forward to our next meeting on the 10th of June. We are excited to see where this connection takes us and what our students will learn from this opportunity

Student Reflections

Hi! I am Niki, part of the Nucleus STEM stream and I have enjoyed all the subjects I am studying. I have learnt Maths and Science in more detail, where my teachers have taught me content from GCSE or even A Level.

As part of STEM, we are encouraged to further develop skills such as leadership; therefore, students have decided to start their own clubs. One of these clubs is the Astronomy Club, which I am a part of. We do amazing presentations and learn about astronomy, physics, and other subjects. We also have had the opportunity to attend various lectures throughout the year, such as game development, engineering, astronomy, and medicine. Besides the lectures, we are expected to attend a 6-week course after school linked to a specific STEM subject. There is a multitude of courses varying from designing robots and programming to investigative science and even dissections!

I was delighted when I was told we could also learn various musical instruments as part of the programme. So far, I have had piano and drums lessons each, focusing on learning songs for exams. Still, these lessons also help us improve in our music lessons which we have every two weeks.

We have been part of an international exchange with a school in Taiwan, where I had the opportunity to meet with students in another country. We shared conversations with the students in Taiwan about our school days. It was a unique opportunity for me. At the next meeting, we are planning to talk about our countries.

Coming to Northampton Academy has given me a unique experience of being part of the Nucleus STEM Stream. I look forward to seeing the new Year 7 students joining the STEM Stream in September.
Niki 75



Investigative Science

During Investigative Science, we have been examining various animal organs and understanding the different parts of these, as well as their functions in the organ systems. Our first session consisted of dissecting a pig's eye and exploring the various aspects of it, including the lens, ciliary muscles, optic nerve, and sclera. We then looked at the heart of a lamb and each of the four chambers whilst discussing the purpose for each one and why our heart is, arguably, the most crucial organ in our body. Additionally, we were able to observe the heartstrings and some of the major veins

and arteries that lead out from our heart, along with the difference between the two ventricles. Most recently, we have examined a pair of kidneys and their role

in removing toxins from the body. In this analysis, we looked at the distinct parts of the kidney, such as the capsule, medulla,



renal vein, artery, and the two types of blood vessels found there (cortical and interlobular). From the time spent in our extracurricular investigative science course, we have all

widened our understanding of biological make-ups and thoroughly enjoyed seeing these different organs up close.
Aarya, 95

Six-week Co-curricular Modules

As a part of the STEM program, there has been a recent addition of co-curricular six-week courses per half term to further our education in the STEM subjects and allow us to put our knowledge into practice. The current ones include investigative science, engineering, stop-motion animation, understanding genetic markers, and programming.
Izzy and Matthew, 95

Understanding Genetic Markers

In the first lesson of the understanding genetic markers six-week program, we started to learn about DNA (or deoxyribonucleic acid). DNA is a molecule that carries genetic information; four bases have the information: a, g, c, and t. We also learnt about DNA's double helix structure. Also, a couple of sessions later, we started a practical where we had DNA and then five other pieces of DNA. The DNA was placed in wells in some gel and separated using electrophoresis (the pieces are separated using electricity). The DNA is then stained with a dye that attaches to specific sequences of bases; then, we could see which of the five pieces matches the first piece of DNA. This is DNA profiling. We learnt that identical twins have the same profile and that more evidence is needed when convicting for a crime as DNA profiles are not enough. I enjoyed doing this as it was fascinating to learn about how DNA works, and the practical was helpful in understanding it better.
Lola, 85

Stop-motion Animation

The Nucleus STEM co-curricular has been excellent so far. Although we've only experienced some of the many activities this year due to Covid-19, they have been very interesting.

By far, our favourite has been the 6-week Stop Motion Animation Club. Within this, we are determined to design and finish a short animation film. We've developed strong skills during this club, including co-operation, determination, patience, teamwork, and problem solving, to name a few. Our topic for our film is climate change. This subject is very important to us, as it's a rising topic in today's society. Our message is how climate change affects us all and how we can make changes to help reduce further destruction of our planet.

Furthermore, this has been an excellent experience for us to gain skills we didn't have before. It's educational, and we also get to have fun!

Maisie & Phoenix, 8S



Brilliant Club

A recent addition to STEM has been the Brilliant Club, in which a cohort of Year 9 had the opportunity to learn about the history of the Windrush generation and the factors involving the recent Windrush Scandal in 2018. There was an external partnership with a professor who worked with the Year 9s to teach them about the Windrush, including when the ship Empire Windrush docked, marking the beginning of this pivotal point in history.

Students worked one-on-one with their mentor, receiving feedback on their assignments and learning how to correctly write and structure an essay. Their final 1500-word essay was surrounding the question, 'What does the history of the Windrush generation tell us about the different understandings and experiences of belonging in Britain, in the time after they arrived and during the Windrush Scandal?'.

The students explored various factors and themes surrounding the Windrush generation, such as racism, migration, legal British nationality, and whether they felt they were considered British citizens. These are complex topics requiring the analysis of different laws and acts passed to comprehend the history of this generation fully. Overall, students learned many different from Brilliant Club, including; what universities are like, how to write a university-style essay, how to interpret and analyse sources and information, and the importance of history in understanding our present and modern living.

Aarya, 9S



Lego League Robotics Competition

This year, the theme of the annual First Lego League competition was cargo connect. In the Nucleus STEM Stream at Northampton Academy, we were lucky enough to attend this event.

Our team of eight displayed our school's core value of determination to overcome challenges using our problem-solving skills.

There were many different elements to this project: the three vital components were the robot, the code, and the innovation project. Our challenge was for our robot to deliver cargo to different forms of transportation or target locations around our given field. In the current day and age, everyone depends on transporting goods for their daily needs. As more demands are placed on the transportation systems, we will face challenges unless we find new ways or improve existing methods. This is what inspired our design and innovation project.

Our plans underwent many different prototypes, with the design constantly having to be adjusted, reworked, and changed when new complications arose. With that, the code had to consistently be changed as it depended on the foundation of the robot. For example, the robot started with two wheels and two arms. Then it changed to four wheels, and we completely forgot it needed an arm! So our plan constantly changed until we all agreed that the final design was the best possible outcome it could be.

During this time, two team members worked on our innovation project, which was entirely based around sustainability and green transportation. First, we created a short 5-10 minute presentation based on our 'Project Spark'. We also had to develop or improve a piece of equipment, a technology, or a method of transportation to solve your specific problem. Finally, we decided to blueprint how our sustainable vehicle would look. The lead-up to our project was trial and error, research, and repetitive testing. Some aspects were quite tedious, but every single element ensured that what we brought to the competition was the best version we had. Also accompanied by the most developed code and a well-researched and presented innovation project.

However, this did not prepare us for the unexpected obstacles we faced on the day. Upon arrival at the Institution of Engineering and Technology in Coventry, many challenges arose, and we had to think quickly about how to solve them. One of these obstacles was that our robot had died, and when we changed the batteries, all of the code was wiped entirely from it, meaning that we had to recompile and reupload all of it. We also found out that all of the other teams had been preparing for an extra month and a half compared to us and had a much more advanced level of code and robot structure. Despite the unforeseen complications, we were determined to pull together as a team. We ensured that when it came to our robot game (the central part of the competition), we had a somewhat functional program and stood a chance of having a positive outcome.

At the same time, we also had to present our innovation project and answer questions surrounding our robot, the innovation project, and the process. We were questioned on how each team member contributed, the design process, how we worked as a team and how we displayed our school's core values throughout our preparation. The consistent display of our school's core values won us the overcoming adversity award in



this competition. Although we didn't win overall, our portrayal of Northampton Academy's principles was just as significant to the outcome. Even though the competition itself was extremely stressful, from this experience, we have all developed our resilience, determination, tolerance, and patience. Considering the difficulties we faced, we have all built up our character and have learnt what to expect next time to ensure we win first place.

Regardless of the challenges, both on the day and during the build-up, this fantastic experience gave us all so much value. Despite all the coding, robot building, and innovation project being done by the students, none of us would have been able to do it without the support of Mrs Staff and Mrs Ashton. Lego robotics was an incredible experience with so many valuable lessons, and we cannot wait until next year's competition.

By Aarya L, Year 9



Elite Sports End of Term Report

Since October last year, we have been delighted with the continued individual development of our young 85 (football and netball) athletes across all seven squads.

We are equally excited by the growth of our new pathways for our aspiring pupils in Football (Aston Villa, Birmingham City, Derby County, Leicester City & Northampton Town) and Netball (Northants Storm). For example, after Easter - Kelly Washington, the Head Coach for Northants Storm, led the week's training for all year groups. This was a tremendous opportunity to showcase their ability and learn from another top-level coach.

On the court, all four of our Elite Netball teams have excelled in their league programme, with some outstanding individual and team performances. All four groups (Year 7 -10) finished in the top two of their leagues, with Year 8 crowned league champions. Other highlights have also been the Year 8 and Year 10 girls winning the County Plate events (at KBA) and advancing to the County Cup play-offs.



On the football pitch, our Year 8 and 9 teams have trained very well, and their desire to improve as individual players and people has been a joy to part of, as the fundamental skill of someone is to be an outstanding character. Meanwhile, the Year 7 squad reached the 5th Round of the National Cup, along with the County Cup final (after an incredible semi-final win at NSB). Furthermore, they rounded off the season in style by winning the County League, having won all their games.



Notably, the coaches who work with our athletes at Northampton Academy and in their respective representative training squads/matches have been delighted with their character, attitude and intensity.

After 30 weeks of training and competing in 52 matches, the Elite squads' athletes and coaches are now in the Programme's reviewing, recharging and planning phase. This is an integral part of any successful learning loop. A leading Sports Psychologist (Mairi Mulvenna from the University of Northampton) and two high-level national athletes visited. This was to help our students understand how to apply techniques learned to aid their development and, ultimately, their performance.

Plans are also afoot for the 2022-23 Elite Sport Programme, where we are working on some exciting initiatives. The 4-week assessment block across each of the age groups will kick off our Programme in September, and the 50 applications from the new year 7 cohort will be joined by our current athletes. The process is robust, and along with the students' technical, physical, social and tactical ability, selection for the Programme will be underpinned by mutually agreed criteria of attendance, behaviour and character.



Year 8 County Netball Plate Winners!

The Year 8 Elite Netball Team played in the Under 13 County Netball Plate on the 23rd February 2022 at Kettering Buccleuch Academy. Northampton Academy was up against 11 other schools from Northamptonshire.

Northampton Academy won all five games in the group rounds, scoring 30 goals in total and only conceding four. The girls from Northampton Academy played exceptionally well, displaying much progress in their netball skills learnt since September. All team players worked tirelessly as a team and showed great sportsmanship.



Northampton Academy faced Northampton International Academy in the semi-final, winning 5-1, then they progressed to the final to play against Northampton School for Girls.

The final was a tense game as players were tired after already playing six games without a break. However, the players showed great character strength and fought hard to keep and win possession and came away winners by 5-2.

All players should be proud of their achievement and their faultless representation of our school.



County Cup Competition

As winners of the Under 13 Northants County Plate Competition, the Year 8 Elite Netball Squad automatically qualified for the under 13 Northants County Cup competition.

The girls knew the competition would be challenging, and although they lost five of their six games, they didn't give up and played some textbook netball.

Northampton Academy's last game against Northampton School for Girls showed the character and tenacity of the players. The squad was determined to win, and with great teamwork and determination, they finished on a high, winning the game 4-2. Northampton Academy came 5th overall.

By Michele Hudson - Lead Netball Coach



Year 9 &10 Netball Win County Plate

The Year 10 Elite Netball team competed in the Under 15 Northants County Netball Plate against eleven other schools. The group rounds saw Northampton Academy win five out of their six games, drawing their last match 5-5 against a strong Sponne School squad. However, the 15-0 win against Corby Business Academy resulted in the Northampton Academy school being the overall winners, allowing them to progress to the afternoons Under-15 Northants County Cup Competition.

The Northants County Cup Competition would be a difficult afternoon, playing against players in teams who play for netball franchises such as Wasps and Loughborough Lightning. Northampton Academy's first match against Wellingborough School was a fantastic game, and the girls held onto a 5-5 draw. Despite losing the remaining games of the afternoon, the squad played exceptionally well against tough opposition, and they came away with aspirations to improve and play at this higher level of netball.

By Michele Hudson - Lead Netball Coach



Year 7 Football League Champions

On Thursday, 5th May, the Year 7 Elite football team completed their league campaign with a resounding win at Thomas Beckett. Every member of the 14-man squad had the opportunity to gain valuable game time and contribute to a strong performance. The character of the team was evident throughout.

In winning their sixth and final league game, the team has recorded a 100% record and has duly been crowned Champions of the Northampton Boys County Football League 2021/2022.



Sixth Form

Sixth Form Area Re-vamp

Over the Easter break the Sixth form Area was the latest area to be updated with new graphics to reflect the diversity of our school. The idea came from the students themselves, with character quotes and graphic style chosen by the Leadership Team

The Careers and Enterprise Department also had a revamp with bright and inspiring graphics showing our core values, with character quotes related to careers. These are the latest to join the already updated areas of the canteen and reception areas. Look out for other departments as they receive a face lift over the coming months.



Year 12 Oxbridge Cohort

The year 12 students in the Oxbridge programme have had the chance to visit the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford. They spent both days touring around the city and each of the colleges before speaking to students and staff at each university. Some of the sessions the students attended included information on how to apply to Oxbridge, writing personal statements and the financial side and support available for students while studying at university. The students found it extremely useful.

Mrs Tustin-Reeves, responsible for the Oxbridge programme, said: *"The students were excellent role-models when visiting both universities and it was great to see them get so much out of each visit".*



Harvard Book Prize

A massive congratulations to Genevieve in Year 13, who is the recipient of the Harvard University Book Prize. This is given to an outstanding student who is academically excellent, exhibits exceptional personal qualities and makes a significant contribution to the school or community. Mrs Tustin-Reeves presented the award to Genevieve in assembly. Well done, Genevieve.



Reading List Foundation Prize

A massive congratulations to Natasha in Year 13, who is the recipient of the Reading List Foundation Prize. This is given



to a student who has an exemplary work ethic and attitude to learning. It means that Natasha will get books funded for her

throughout her first year of university. Mrs Tustin-Reeves presented the award to Natasha in assembly. Well done, Natasha!

Year 12 EPQ Students University Series



Some of our year 12 students have chosen to complete a Level-3 Extended Projection Qualification. Not only have they visited the University of Reading for a study skills day, which included sessions on critiquing sources and referencing, but they have also had a number of sessions

from academics at the University of Southampton and University of Leeds. They have also received 1:1 support from a university academic on developing their research questions and they are now in a strong position to write their essays up on Summer. Completing the EPQ involves students working independently to pick a topic, thoroughly research the task, and then present their work through a c.5000-word essay and presentation. This is worth half an A-level and can mean students get reduced offers from university. Students are supported by their supervisor, who adopts the role of a coach. Mrs Tustin-Reeves, who leads on the course, has been very impressed with the students' current progress and topics chosen.

Goodbye to Year 13

It was with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to our Year 13 students this year. Over the last two years students have overcome great obstacles and demonstrated their resilience. Some



highlights of their time during Sixth Form have been the joint bowling trip, the Christmas shopping trip to Birmingham and the various fundraising days, which have raised money for a number of charities including Save the Children and Mental Health Awareness. The majority of students have secured offers for their top choice universities, which include a large proportion of Russell Group, and some offers for medicine/dentistry. Students all received a farewell and good luck card from the Sixth Form Team.



Mrs Tustin-Reeves, Head of Year 13, stated *"It has been a privilege to work with these students over the last two years. I wish them the best in their future pursuits and are looking forward to seeing their success on results day"*.



Wellbeing Empowerment Club

The Wellbeing Empowerment Club began the week following Easter when a group of Sixth Form students created an extra-curricular club to make positive and impactful change throughout our school. Our main goal was to begin within the Sixth Form Common Room, where we aimed to create a space where our peers felt they could express themselves. We took a quote that emphasised the power of individual voice representing uniqueness and originality within students, which we embedded within a design we created. We spent some weeks cutting letters and shapes to bring our ideas together. We plan to bring more inspiration to the school through designs promoting positive wellbeing.

Matilda R, Jessica N, Abbie T, Madison C, Habibah K, Denisa D, Diana M, Anastazja P, Peace O, Tish W

Article by Matilda R



Anaesthesiology Meeting

Deborah D would like to say a big thank to Will Beech, for hosting an on-line Professional Zoom meeting at Northampton Academy in the Careers Office.

Deborah who is interested in a career in anaesthesiology, was lucky to speak to Will who is currently an anaesthetist registrar training to be a consultant in New Zealand, which is the other side of the world, an eleven-hour difference.

Deborah said: *"I am truly thankful for the unique opportunity; it was an amazing to talk to someone who has the same interests in medicine and passion for anaesthesiology as myself. We both discussed the importance of mental health and how easily it can be looked over for doctors. Will enlightened me on his journey into his chosen career and how he balanced his mental health and career to be able to have a healthy work life balance. He educated me on the difficult and challenging journey it is to become a doctor, but this only motivated me more".*



Briggs & Forrester Visit DT Department

National Apprenticeship Week commenced with a presentation by Briggs & Forrester team members.

Year 10 Design Technology students were introduced to the company, hearing about the local and national building projects Briggs & Forrester has completed. These include Northampton General Hospital, Northampton College, and Project Angel. The company provides building services for various sectors, from healthcare and education to sports and leisure.

The team, consisting of Anya, Andy and Adam, was keen to showcase their high-quality apprenticeship pathways, including craft and technical routes. Technical apprentices rotate through various business departments, gaining insights into multiple roles. This allows apprentices to consider all pathways before making longer-term career decisions.



Travis Perkins Apprenticeship Workshop

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, Year 10 GCSE Business students attended an event with our enterprise partner Travis Perkins.

Travis Perkins delivered a session to expand our students' knowledge of apprenticeships and all they involve. Apprentices with Travis Perkins, Phil, Portia and Mel provided insights into their daily working lives. In addition, the apprentices invited students to ask questions to broaden their understanding of this rewarding, hands-on route.

Our visitors shared details of their route into the company, the application process, the skills they have developed and the opportunities available to them in the future. Students will use these insights to evaluate their post-16 options next year. We thank Verity Williams, Early Careers Manager, for organising this event and Phil, Portia, and Mel for giving their time and knowledge to ensure our students know the available pathways.

Breakfast With A Professional - DFA Law

Rachel Adams, a solicitor and partner of DFA Law firm, visited Northampton Academy as our latest 'Breakfast With A Professional' guest. Year 11, 12 and 13 students attended to hear how Rachel attained her current position.

Rachel was keen to impress upon students that a career in law is achievable by anybody willing to apply themselves to study and eager to develop skills by undertaking new challenges. Rachel also confirmed that a university law degree is not the only route into the profession. Rachel studied English at university, preferring to study a subject she was passionate about before studying law as a post-graduate qualification. Some people study law whilst working in law practices, whilst others may opt for a degree apprenticeship. The important message is that there are different ways to succeed in a career in law.

The session concluded with a brief Q & A session. In answer to a question about making your CV stand out, Rachel confirmed that employers favour applicants who can evidence their skills and experiences alongside their qualifications. Rachel advised cultivating various work experiences alongside gaining high grades to develop interpersonal skills ready for the step into employment.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science Presentation

Roz Bird, Chair of the Silverstone Technology Cluster, presented to our Nucleus STEM students celebrating The International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Roz's presentation chartered her career and life, highlighting how her resilience and stamina underpinned every stage of her success. Great messages for the next generation to hear. Roz continued by highlighting the breadth of career opportunities at Silverstone Park, showcasing the range of companies focusing on products and services from AI to wearable technology! Northampton Academy Careers Department and Director of STEM, Shreeja Ashton, would like to thank Roz for her time.



Geographers Hear About Climate Change Bsc at UoN

Year 10 and 12 Geography students received a presentation from Greg Spellman and Danielle Bird from the University of Northampton. Greg, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science and Danielle Bird, Energy Officer, discussed the effects of climate change. In addition, they detailed how universities support students to study subjects to combat society's problems.

The University of Northampton's Climate Change BSc explores this vital subject's environmental, socio-economic, and political aspects. The course prepares students with the understanding and skills to work in the expanding climate change sector. This is Greg and Danielle's second visit to the Academy. We thank them for their time and for sharing their insights into this fascinating subject.

Year 10 Eversheds Visit

Following on from the delivery of the Employability Programme last term, Year 10 students received a presentation from Dominic Ayres, a Marketing Specialist who currently works for the international law firm Eversheds Sutherland. The presentation highlighted how studying English at GCSE applies to your life and career. Dominic covered the importance of effective communication in the workplace, the role English plays in the hiring process and how vital it is to create your personal brand.

These factors will elevate students' chances of gaining that dream job, course, or work placement. We must remember that our verbal or non-verbal language communicates our values and integrity. Thanks to Dominic for his time and for sharing his expertise and experience.



Year 7 Zak Inspired by Gaming Graduate

Year 7 student, Zakarya has impressed Northampton Academy staff with his high enthusiasm for engaging in school life as well as demonstrating our core values of determination and ambition. Following Zak's confirmation of interest in careers in the Gaming sector, Zak met with Game Design university student Oscar Wright. During their meeting, Oscar advised Zak to develop his skill base by taking on new challenges. Oscar admitted that playing games led him to consider how they are programmed and created he then looked into the companies and people that produced them.

Youtube tutorials taught him how to code and create games and characters. Oscar shared his knowledge about the skills that have helped him to succeed in his studies. Time management, organisation, teamwork and coding knowledge. Oscar advised Zak to work hard at school and develop his coding and programming alongside his studies.

Zak promptly organised not one but two after-school clubs without letting the grass grow under his feet. With the assistance of Miss Davies, he focused on implementing a coding challenge. Zak invited other students interested in gaming and coding to create a new game using Scratch software. The second after-school club centres around Minecraft and focuses on creating a safe and creative space for students with a shared passion.

Zak was pleased to see that both clubs offered students an opportunity to build social skills and provide an opportunity for students to develop an awareness of what they were good at. In addition, Zak stated that running both clubs is an excellent way to build his leadership skills. Encouraged to consider how he might view leadership in the future, Zak commented:

"I believe that people in charge should be known as 'leaders' instead of 'bosses'. Bosses might tell you what to do, but leaders are more likely to work with and guide you."



Business Language Champions

Business Language Champions invited Year 9 students to participate in a workshop to challenge their French-speaking skills.

The 'Glastonbury Goes Global' workshop introduced students to careers within the event management sector, exploring marketing, technical stage management, and travel roles. In every aspect, competence in other languages can help forge an exciting career. Students completed a series of tasks relating to organising an international music festival. Along the way, they practised leadership, team building, and communication skills and used their language knowledge by practising spontaneous speaking.

These events broaden students' understanding of how curriculum learning links with future options. Our thanks go to Sally Fagan of Business Language Champions and her team of volunteers for encouraging our students and supporting them through the workshop.

Business Language Champions business-language-champions.co.uk

Term Dates 2022 – 2023

Term 1

Teacher Training Day	-	Thursday 1st September 2022
Teacher Training Day	-	Friday 2nd September 2022
Academy Opens for all Students	-	Monday 5th September 2022 at 8.40 am
Teacher Training Day	-	Friday 7th October 2022
Academy Closes	-	Friday 21st October 2022 at 3.15pm

Term 2

Academy Opens for all Students	-	Monday 31st October 2022 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Thursday 24th November 2022 at 3.15pm
Teacher Training Day	-	Friday 25th November 2022
Teacher Training Day	-	Monday 28th November 2022
Academy Opens for all Students	-	Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Friday 16th December 2022 at 3.15pm

Term 3

Teacher Training Day	-	Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Teacher Training Day	-	Wednesday 4th January 2023
Academy Opens for all Students	-	Thursday 5th January 2023 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Friday 10th February 2023 at 3.15pm

Term 4

Academy Opens for all Students	-	Monday 20th February 2023 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Friday 31st March 2023 at 3.15pm

Term 5

Teacher Training Day	-	Monday 17th April 2023
Academy Opens for all Students	-	Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 8.40 am
Academy Closed - Bank Holiday	-	Monday 1st May 2023
Academy Opens for all Students	-	Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Friday 26th May 2023 at 3.15pm

Term 6

Academy Opens for all Students	-	Monday 5th June 2023 at 8.40 am
Academy Closes	-	Friday 21st July 2023 at 3.15pm

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity

Principal: Mr Chris Clyne
Wellingborough Road
Northampton
NN3 8NH
t 01604 210017
f 01604 773830



e enquiries@northampton-academy.org
www.northampton-academy.org