



Message from the Principal

Welcome to our spring newsletter. You will see from the wide range of articles that we have had a very busy and productive few months.

The highly encouraging Ofsted report, which judged the school as **Good** following the visit in February, was a testament to the hard work and commitment from students and staff. As a school, we are always striving to outperform our previous best and it is gratifying that the inspectors mentioned this in their report. The inspectors praised the 'culture of high aspirations and ambition'.

As we approach 'The Final Countdown' for Years 11, 12 and 13 exams, it was really encouraging to see so many students attending the intervention sessions over the Easter break. We were pleased to welcome parents and students to the Year 11 Information and Revision evening, providing additional support and resources.

Over the Easter break, major work started on the state of the art extension for the new Sixth Form Centre which opens in September 2016. This will provide a dedicated Sixth Form only learning environment incorporating large lecture theatres, additional classrooms, an ICT/media suite and a larger common room.

The focus on high standards continues and we have seen awards presented across year groups for students using excellent DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) and outstanding presentation in their work.

Our students enjoyed a range of successes last term. The United Learning Best in Everyone Awards have just been announced and I am very pleased to say that two of our students have received awards for their exceptional performance and effort and will receive these awards from Jon Coles, Group Chief Executive at the ceremony in July. Our Year 9 team, who entered the United Learning Billion Ideas App competition, finished in second place and were a credit to the school.

Careers and Enterprise have been very active, ending last term with the 'Maximise Your Potential Day', providing all Year 10 students and the Sixth Form the opportunity to talk directly to over 45 businesses, equipping them with a greater understanding of the skills and qualities employers are looking for in today's competitive marketplace. Students will get the opportunity to test their skills in June when Year 12 embark on work experience.

The focus now is on the forthcoming exams and I wish our students all the very best.

Anne Hill

Important dates for your diary

Monday 2nd May 2016

May Bank Holiday

Friday 27th May 2016

Academy closes for half term

Monday 6th June 2016

Academy re-opens after half term

Friday 1st July 2016

Academy closed for Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 6th July 2016

Parent Voice Meeting 6-7pm

Wednesday 20th July 2016

Academy Closes for the Summer



Ofsted Inspection February 2016

Northampton Academy Congratulates

United Learning Best in Everyone Awards

For the second year running, we are very pleased to report that 2 of our students have been selected from over 400 of their peers for their exceptional performance and effort, as part of the annual **United Learning Best in Everyone Awards**:

- **Matthew Bates** (Year 12) for Leadership (for the second year running) nominated by Mr Champelovier
- **Mark Lwamusai** (Year 11) for Music Composition nominated by Miss Chapman

There will be an awards ceremony on Friday 8th July at the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds where students will be presented with their awards by Jon Coles, Group Chief Executive.

Congratulations to Matthew and Mark for their awards and outstanding contribution to their studies and to Northampton Academy.

Best in Everyone Award Winners 2016



Matthew Bates



Mark Lwamusai



7 billion IDEAS

7 Billion Ideas—#unitedlearningapp2016

United Learning have partnered with 7billionideas to promote entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and team work across United Learning schools, and introduce participating pupils to the world of coding with their app competition.

The competition, for Year 9 pupils involved 7billionideas' founders travelling around the country visiting 35 secondary schools in 20 days, running interactive assemblies to inspire pupils to have confidence in their own ideas. Their task was to come up with an idea for an educational app.

Northampton Academy had 47 teams enter the competition and we are pleased to report that three teams made it through to the second round (out of 5,000 plus students!) **Team idraw, Team Leaders and Team Educate** produced a 60 second video/advert. **Team Educate** made it through to the final at IBM in February. Team Educate's app was a fantastic idea to help students find work experience. They gave an outstanding performance and finished in second place (out of 444 teams who entered). **Congratulations to Year 9s Tadi, Dexter and Emma.**



Dexter said: "The competition really showed me that in order to get what you want, you need to work hard. It's also really important to listen to others and connect with them to help make your idea stronger. An idea can help to inspire and educate people but you need to make sure you are passionate and that you make other people believe in your idea as much as you do."



Congratulations to the Music Department for being awarded Music Mark
Northampton Academy's Music Department is very proud to announce their membership of Music Mark, showing the commitment to high quality musical education. Music Mark supports over 12,000 music teachers in the UK.



Events and Activities



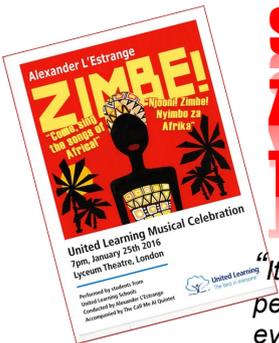
THE OPERA COMES TO NORTHAMPTON ACADEMY



"...it was education but so much more fun"

Stephen, Year 10

On 25th February Northampton Academy hosted a performance by the English Pocket Opera Company (EPOC) as part of an exciting national tour which has just been launched with United Learning. Students were treated to a performance of 'Opera Blocks'; an engaging, interactive show designed to break down the building blocks of opera. The students were then invited to take an active role in a Carmen performance. Miss Chapman and Miss Davenhill said *"the students and staff involved thoroughly enjoyed the visit from EPOC. Getting involved with the sing-a-long opera Carmen and watching (and laughing at) their teachers taking part in a brand new unscripted 15 minute opera, that they wrote collectively—was a particular highlight for the students."*



Students perform Zimbe! at the Lyceum Theatre



"It was great to take our students from Northampton Academy to perform in such a prestigious event with so many other United Learning schools. The students enjoyed the event so much, and performing with over 1,000 other students was an experience that they will never forget. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them." Miss Chapman & Miss Davenhill.



A day with a musician

Northampton Academy musicians were very pleased to welcome double bass player, Dave Ayre in February. The Year 11 musicians performed with a variety of instruments and spoke to Dave about his life as a professional musician. He has experience of many genres from baroque to classical to modern contemporary and jazz. He has been Principal in the Thames Chamber Orchestra and the Mid Wales Opera Company for many years and is Guest Principal for the London Festival Orchestra.



The Music Department had the pleasure of the company of Catherine Barker, Head of Music and Performing Arts for United Learning. She visited in February to experience the excellent music education at Northampton Academy.



TEEPing and Learning at Northampton Academy



TEEP = Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme

Our teaching and learning focus over the last term has been firmly fixed on 'Outstanding' with a big drive on improving the quality of learning environments across the Academy in our whole school 'Big Clean'.

Ensuring we have a fitting backdrop to showcase outstanding student work and further support our students to engage in high quality, deep learning has been a big priority and the Academy is looking great.

Staff have developed and discussed approaches to DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) as well as sharing outstanding outcomes through our whole school 'Bring and Brag' showcase.

To drive aspiration and reward students we have had 2 DIRT focus weeks this term and a whole school celebration of consistently high quality presentation with over 100 students across all key stages receiving an award.

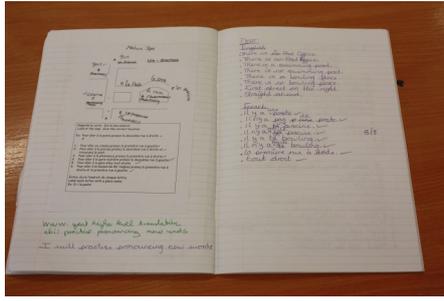
Why is marking so important?

The only way to become the best possible version of yourself is if you know how to be better.



#Love Marking and Feedback...

Remember purple = progress, keep digging the DIRT



'England at War' History Projects

Years 7 and 8 have produced some outstanding work in their History lessons this term. Their homework challenge was to 'be creative' with their reproductions of the Battle of Hastings (Year 7) and the English Civil War (Year 8) and they certainly excelled the



brief! Ms Ridgard's classes produced impressive model battlefields, tapestries and some even baked cakes to represent the theme.



Year 7



Show My Homework

All parents should now have the login details for 'Show My Homework' (SMH). If you have any queries, please contact the Academy.

Using SMH, all teachers create and publish their homework online. Parents and students can log into their own personalised accounts and see only the homework relevant to them. You can review submission times, see grades and communicate with teachers.

As a parent, gone are the days of lost worksheets, illegible and missing instructions:

- ✓ All homework details are accessible 24/7 and can be read via the free iOS & Android app
- ✓ Monitor from a distance: Stay in the loop without being intrusive
- ✓ Enjoy peace of mind and never have to deal with late-night homework battles again!



With the success of Show My Homework, from September 2016 school planners will no longer be issued to students. If students would still like a diary/planner, they can purchase a copy from the school for 50p.

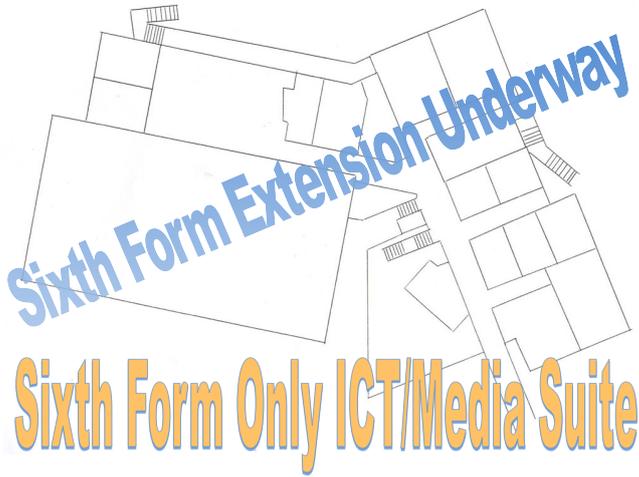
Year 12 Reader Leaders

Every Thursday, a selection of 'Reader Leaders' buddy up with students from the lower year groups to help them select books and provide reading support. This is a programme which is very beneficial for both the younger students and for the Year 12s, providing mentoring alongside improving literacy skills.





The exciting plans for the Sixth Form Centre are now well underway and will be completed over the May and summer holidays, ready for the new academic year in September 2016.



Two large Lecture Theatres

LARGER Common Room

The Sixth Form have had a very busy few months with UCAS applications and a host of enrichment activities including a number of University outings and guests visiting Northampton Academy, preparing students for the next step in their education, training or work. If students are still undecided about their post -16 education, the Sixth Form still welcome applications and are here to support and provide advice about Sixth Form life and subject choices. The Sixth Form team were very pleased with the recent Ofsted inspection and the positive feedback:

“Attendance and retention rates are high”

“Outcomes in the Sixth Form are good”

“88% of learners go on to university”

“The school boasts a record of 25% of those going to the prestigious Russell Group universities”

“The sixth form leader is committed to ensuring all learners receive the best support they can”

“No learners leave the school without employment, education or training placements”

The Student Voice

The Student Council have had a busy term, meeting regularly to discuss issues at the school that they would like to improve and have their voice heard. Elected students play their part in the Executive House Committee across all year groups including the Sixth Form.

A summary of the focus is as follows:

Simple Solutions. This is for any student who has any concerns at school regarding school life, friendship groups etc. The leaders of this are Hina Hothi and Mahima Haque in Year 11.

Courtyard usage at break time: Courtyard usage at break time is now available after the executive committee student council held question time with Mrs Hill.

Great 8 for students in lessons: Executive committee and House Council had a meeting to discuss the Great 8 for students in lessons. The focus is on how students can get the best out of their learning in lessons. This will then be discussed in all tutor groups in April 2016.

From May 2016 the key focus for the student council is:

Collaborative lesson planning: Students work with teachers from subject areas to help plan lessons.

Simple Solutions. This will continue this term and will be an ongoing support group.

Mrs L Hawkins, Director of BASS



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MEDICAL STUDENT



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



At the end of March, students with a particular interest in studying medicine from Year 10 visited the University of Birmingham. They experienced the Medical School for the day, speaking with staff and students and making full use of the medical equipment. The students had a great experience and a taster of the world of medicine.



Maximise your potential day



On the last day of term, Year 10 dressed for work for the day and took part in 'Maximise Your Potential Day'. This annual event provides students with the opportunity and experience to talk to a wide range of employers, colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers. We were very pleased to have 45 businesses attend with 80 industry representatives and thank them for giving up their time to speak with and inspire our students. Students were very pleased to receive feedback from the employers they spoke to, providing positive comments on their mock interviews and advice for improving their interview techniques.

Students took part in a carousel of activities including presentations on life skills, mock interviews, STEM activities, mentoring and some industry specific visitors including the leather works from Northampton University and a photography workshop from Ben Films.

Year 12 helped to facilitate the day and also took the opportunity to network with the industry representatives.

Building a partnership with



Andy Garrett and a team from Travis Perkins Plc made the official partnership launch with Travis Perkins and Northampton Academy at a Year 11 assembly in March. This is a very exciting opportunity for students to gain work experience, apprenticeships and careers with this leading brand in the future and we were delighted to be the school that they have chosen to partner with.





Experiencing the world of work

For one or two weeks in June, Year 12 students will be stepping into industry to complete work experience in a variety of sectors. This experience is always valuable to them. We are always looking for companies that offer good quality work experience placements; if you work for a company that maybe able to offer placements, please get in touch with the Academy by emailing Mrs Betty directly: karen.betty@northampton-academy.org



Apprenticeship Carousels



Students have had the opportunity to meet with a wide variety of apprenticeship companies over the last few months at drop-in lunchtime sessions. Thank you to 3aaa, HOET, Starting Off, Stunited and National Citizen Service (NCS) for meeting with our students to provide information and advice on post-16 options. These companies offer a diverse range of apprenticeship routes from IT and Business to Hair and Beauty, with NCS offering programmes to build essential life skills.



Nick Cartwright from the law school at Northampton University delivered a talk to Year 11 and 12 students on studying law.



STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

Northampton Academy welcomed visitors from a range of STEM industries. Year 12 heard from industry representatives from engineering, the Highways Agency, Northampton University and IT, sharing their experiences about the skills required in their sectors.



Giving something back



Well done to everyone who took part in the Sport Relief Mile 2016
YOU raised £1,283.67 !!

Students took part in a variety of extra-curricular sports activities after school to raise money for Sport Relief.



Northampton Academy raised £1,114.27 for the Willow Foundation in memory of ex-pupil Emma Clayson, who recently lost her battle with cancer. The money was raised through the mufti day on Friday 18th March. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Thank you to students and staff who donated Easter eggs for the Salvation Army, organised by Hollie and Alysha from 9D01. The eggs were donated to children who would otherwise not have received one.



Stamping Out Mental Health



252 stamps



On 23rd February in support of Mental Health Awareness Week, the Pastoral Team organised a **Stamp Out Mental Health** stand at break and lunchtime. The event encouraged students to talk about mental health issues and show their support by having their hands stamped with a message of support. Throughout the day 252 hand stamps were made to students and staff and the event was a great success.

There are a number of support resources to help students with any issues relating to mental health, anxiety and general well-being.

Although this event is an annual one, it was also a good chance for the Pastoral Team to meet with students and promote their drop-in sessions, encouraging students to come and talk to the team.



Sports News



Northampton Academy is very pleased to announce that **Khanya Leshabela** in Year 11 has been offered an apprenticeship at Leicester City Football Club. Khanya joins the club following the completion of Year 11.



This is a fantastic opportunity for Khanya who has always excelled at sports at Northampton Academy and shown commitment. The PE department and the Academy are very proud of his achievement and wish him all the best for his future apprenticeship.

SPORTS JOURNALISM TEAM

Team Leader: Matthew Bates

The first team of sports journalists has been chosen:

Year 7: George Thompson and Nathan Dorman

Year 8 Oliver Woolley

Year 9: Anthony Marriot

Our sports reporters have been busy this term covering all the matches. The reports can be found on the Northampton Academy website under 'Sports News'.

Intersports Competition, current leaderboard:



1st Place: Spencer 288

2nd Place: Dryden 279

3rd Place: Doddridge 245

4th Place: Tull 212

5th Place: Arnold 202



SPORTS NEWS

Northampton Academy represented the Northampton district in February at the Level 3 (county) games:

Year 8 Sportshall Athletics Team

Finished 4th out of 10 and only 1 place from a medal.

Year 9 Badminton Teams

Boys finished a brilliant 3rd and received their bronze medals (pictured). The girls team finished 7th place.

Year 10 Girls Badminton Team

Finished 7th place.

Congratulations to all



Youth Sport Trust

Wellbeing.
Leadership.
Achievement.

PE2020 Active Health Minds and the Youth Sport Trust delivered the Northamptonshire 2016 'Young Health Champions Conference'.

Who are our Young Health Champions? Young Health Champions are Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils that have an interest in leading active lifestyles and are passionate about making a difference to the health and well-being of their peers. Our pupils come from a select group of our superb sports leaders.

What did the young people learn from the conference? They were able to develop their knowledge and understanding of key health issues affecting them today and how to promote a healthy active lifestyle to their peers in school.

This conference gave an insight and helped them begin to support young people to lead and inspire their peers to improve health and well-being and in turn achieve a better school.

The students will now look to implement their ideas in school and try to make a difference to their peers.

Mr Windsor

Sports Leaders and Northampton SSP

Northampton Academy Sports Leaders 2016



Northampton Academy students are shown undertaking KS1 Multiskills training from Northamptonshire Sport coaches in preparation for L2 and L3 Your School Games.



Northampton Academy Cluster Update



In absolutely horrific weather conditions, Northampton Academy Young Leaders helped to deliver a Level 2 Quicksticks practice session for pupils in our cluster. The leaders were very motivated and gave excellent coaching to the Blackthorn Primary pupils.

Another Level 2 practice session which took place was the tri-golf for Year 3 and 4 pupils. The feedback was great stating that the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the practice and got to complete the course that they will do at the competition.

The cluster has also been involved in some Level 2 competitions this term; one such event was the Cross Country held at Abington Park. It was amazing to see so many pupils from our cluster running the course; they showed determination and dedication.

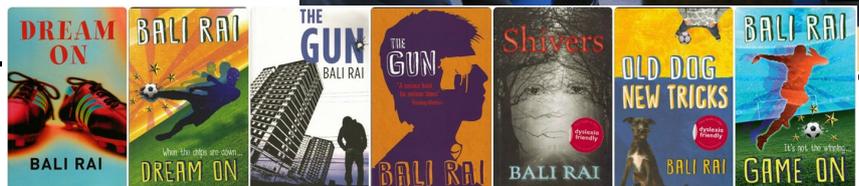
We have more exciting plans for next term including the re-arranged Year 3 Multisport Festival ran by the Northampton Academy Leadership pupils and the Level 2 practice sessions for the Years 5/6 Kwik Cricket competition.



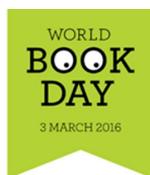
Library News

Author Visit: Bali Rai

On Tuesday 1st March, Northampton Academy Library was delighted to welcome author Bali Rai to visit our Year 9 students to provide inspiration in writing and enthuse them about the joy of reading. Bali Rai is an award winning writer of teen fiction. He shared with the students his passion for writing and the first book that inspired him to become an author: *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* written by Sue Townsend.



Accelerated Reader
 Congratulations to our
18 Millionaire readers
 so far this year



As part of **World Book Day**, Northampton Academy Library ran the Big Book Giveaway at the end of last term. Years 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to exchange their world book day tokens for a range of fiction.



Exam Preparation—The Final Countdown

Revision Tips

Ask people to test you. With regular testing, you will discover how much you know AS WELL AS how much you have left to learn.

Stick revision notes around the house

Remember to refer to your revision guides.

Remember that your teachers are here to help and answer any questions you may have.



Make sure you have a quiet place to study.

Take regular breaks. Short bursts of revision (30-40 minutes) are most effective.

Make time to create a revision timetable.

Academy Notices



IMPORTANT: FIXED PENALTY NOTICES FOR TERM TIME ABSENCE

Please be advised that from 22nd April 2016, Northamptonshire County Council is changing its policy on unauthorised absences. The time frame for parents receiving a fixed term penalty notice has reduced from 10 to 5 days or 10 sessions. Please be aware that all holidays are now unauthorised unless for exceptional circumstances which will be at the discretion of the Principal.

Appointments with Staff at Northampton Academy

If you need to contact a member of staff at Northampton Academy, there are a number of ways you can do this:

1. By email (staff email addresses are on Northampton Academy website) or can be requested from reception. Staff will respond to your email within 48 hours.
2. By telephone to arrange an appointment or leave a voicemail /message for the member of staff to contact you.

If you would like to have a face to face meeting, please ensure that you call the Academy first to make an appointment with a member of staff. Staff will often have extra revision sessions with students, meetings etc. after school and therefore may not be able to meet with you without prior arrangement.

REMINDER: Mobile Phones and Electronic Equipment

A reminder of the mobile phone policy that has been communicated to parents/carers by text and email at the start of the term is as follows:

Mobile phones are not permitted in classes, assemblies, tutor time and in A-E block. If a student is found using a mobile phone, they will be asked to put their phone away in the first instance. If a student refuses, then it will be confiscated. The phone will be returned at the end of the day or the parent/carer will be asked to collect it.

Mobile phones are permitted at lunch and break time in the courtyard, canteen and playground areas only. Persistent offenders will be banned from bringing their phones into the Academy.

Thank you for your support

Mark Taylor, Assistant Principal, Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare

YOUR VOICE THEIR FUTURE

Thank you to all our parents that joined us for the Parent Voice meeting on Tuesday 23rd February. If you would like to attend a meeting and to “**make your voice heard**”, please see below the next date:

Wednesday 6th July 2016, 6-7pm in the Library

Term Dates 2016-2017

Autumn Term 2016

- Teacher Training Day - Thursday 1 September 2016
- Teacher Training Day - Friday 2 September 2016
- Academy Re-opens - Monday 5 September 2016
- Year 7 should arrive no later than 8.40 a.m.**
- Years 8-11 will have individual academic review meetings**
(10 minute slots only with parents and then depart. Students must be in full uniform)
- Year 12 will start at 9.30 a.m. and finish at 2.30 p.m.**
- Year 13 are not required to attend**
- Academy Re-opens - Tuesday 6 September 2016 **(All students)**
- Years 7-13 should arrive no later than 8.40 a.m.**
- Academy Closes - Friday 21 October 2016
- Teacher Training Day - Monday 31 October 2016
- Academy Re-opens - Tuesday 1 November 2016
- Academy Closes - Tuesday 20 December 2016 **at 1.00 p.m.**

Spring Term 2017

- Teacher Training Day - Wednesday 4 January 2017
- Academy Re-opens - Thursday 5 January 2017
- Academy Closes - Friday 10 February 2017
- Academy Re-opens - Monday 20 February 2017
- Academy Closes - Friday 31 March 2017

Summer Term 2017

- Teacher Training Day - Tuesday 18 April 2017
- Academy Re-opens - Wednesday 19 April 2017
- Academy Closed - Monday 1 May 2017 (Bank Holiday)**
- Academy Closes - Friday 26 May 2017
- Academy Re-opens - Monday 5 June 2017
- Academy Closes - Friday 21 July 2017 **at 1.00 p.m.**