



Message from the Principal

Welcome to our Winter newsletter. You will see from the wide range of articles that we have had a very busy and productive few months. We were very pleased to welcome nearly 1000 parents and students to our Year 6 Open Evenings for September 2016 intake and we had a successful Sixth Form Opportunities Evening for Year 11 and Year 12's on 12th November.

In a continued effort to raise standards at Northampton Academy, we are very pleased to report that uniform is improving and thank both students and parents for their efforts. Please continue to maintain

these high standards.

Our Careers and Enterprise programmes have been relentless last term with a wide range of events and programmes spanning across the year groups to provide students with enrichment opportunities. The most notable is the recent visit from MP Sam Gyimah, an outstanding accolade to Northampton Academy. Students were honoured and inspired to speak with the Minister and have their voices heard on their experiences and the value of the extensive enterprise programme at the Academy. We are also pleased to announce our partnership with Travis Perkins to add to our valued list of employers which support us with our enterprise activities.

The Academy library has also undergone a transformation and we are pleased to announce that the Accelerated Reader scheme is now in place and proving a huge success, ensuring the importance of reading is high on the agenda.

Our Student Council team is now elected and in place and I had the pleasure of a 'Question & Answer' session with them in December to discuss the issues that are important to them and their ideas for increasing high standards.

We have been pleased to see so many parents at our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 information evenings and the feedback we have received from parents has been hugely positive. Key stage 3 'Life after levels' addressed how teachers will be assessing and reporting moving forward with a change from 'Levels' to 'Key Performance Indicators'. This new system ensures students and parents will receive detailed information on specific areas for development.

Thank you to all the students and staff who supported our Christmas themed non-uniform day, the funds raised will be helping the families from the schools affected by the recent flooding in Carlisle.

I hope you had a relaxing Christmas break and wish you and your families a belated happy new year.

Anne Hill

Important Dates for your diary

Thursday 4th February 2016
Year 7 Subject Parents' Evening

Wednesday 10th February 2016
Year 10 Subject Parents' Evening

Friday 12th February 2016
Academy closes for Half Term

Monday 22nd February 2016
Academy reopens after Half Term

Monday 14th March 2016
Year 8 Subject Parents' Evening

Northampton Academy News



Northampton Academy is pleased to announce that they are now a Directly Licenced Certified DofE Centre. The official certificate was presented to Mr Walton by David Laing Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire.

Congratulations to all our 'Outstanding Students of the week'

Over the last month students from Year 7-11 have been recognised and awarded 'Outstanding Student of the Week'. They have been outstanding in the following four areas: **Achievement, Attendance, Behaviour and Punctuality.**

The Accelerated Reader Programme launches at Northampton Academy Library

Northampton Academy's Library has undergone some exciting developments over the last few months, with the launch of the nationally accredited **Accelerated Reader** programme which rolled out in October. In addition to this scheme, an update to the facilities including new IT equipment and seating provides a

really welcoming and comfortable area to read both as part of a class at lunchtime and after school.

Reading is a key priority in the Academy and it is recognised that there are strong links between

reading and achieving high academically. The Academy has invested in the Accelerated Reader programme for Year 7 and 8. Pupils will now have a weekly session in the library and complete quizzes.

The aim is not only to improve reading in the Academy but to improve comprehension. This scheme will encourage pupils to read more, enhancing their vocabulary and overall literacy skills which will translate through to their individual curriculum subjects.

Well done to all our winners who passed the AR Quiz target. One was chosen from each year group and won a Malteser Christmas Cracker. All students who reached their target put a star on the Library tree at the end of December.



Congratulations to the following classes who won a **Movie and Popcorn** English lesson at the end of last term. These classes achieved the highest percentage points by achieving over 85% scores on quizzes and met their reading points targets.

7B1 and 8B1

Northampton Academy Congratulates

JAMMIN THE HOOD

Students from Year 8 and 9 attended a celebration event on Wednesday 15th September for the project they have been involved with 'Jammin the Hood', a scheme to make a better and safer community.

'Jammin the Hood' was created through funding agency 'Groundwork' and Anne-Marie Lawson who supports young people. The aim is to give young people a greater understanding of how police and partner agencies work and their role in making safer communities, whilst also helping to change the negative perceptions that some people within the community may have of young people.



The project was open to all students in Year 8 and Year 9 and was launched at Northampton Academy in an assembly where students watched a video of the activities that the project offered and were invited to apply.

Interested students were interviewed and the 15 chosen students met every Wednesday from June through to September. During this time the students attended a two day residential trip to the leading residential activity centre, Kingswood which was fully funded by the project.



Over the 3 month programme the group collectively volunteered over 400 hours of their time within the local area. They have undertaken work with elderly residents, volunteered on community focused events within their local community and been given insight into how different police departments operate.

As a result of their activities, they have helped dispel the stigma surrounding young people and have actively challenged negative perceptions of young people.

The final celebration event was very enjoyable where the 15 students shared their favourite parts of the programme and all students received a certificate. A special award was given to one student, Rhianna McFarlane in Year 9 who had shown the most care and consideration for the elderly residents, worked extremely hard and supported the other 'Jammers'.

KS5 Drama and Theatre Studies Performance—14th October 2015

The Sixth Form Drama and Theatre Studies candidates performed their mock exams to a wonderfully supportive audience of over 60 family and friends in the studio theatre. There was a high standard of professionalism across the board and we are particularly proud of the work of those students giving their first public performance. Year 12 students showed off their growing histrionic qualities and Year 13 students made very confident impressions with their developing devised work. We look forward to further performances of high quality.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On 9th October, the Study Support Centre was transformed into a cosy cafe, welcoming guests and serving delicious cakes and drinks to Northampton Academy staff.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event by baking or eating the cakes! Thank you to our students who worked hard serving customers and helping set up the event.

The event was a great success and raised £141.



Sixth Form Focus

Year 12 students from the Debating Society and those who study History visited Northamptonshire County Hall to take part in European Democracy week.

Megan Dee describes their day of debates: "We were split into groups mixed with students from NSG, NSB and Moulton School and shared our knowledge on the EU, British values and multiculturalism. This gave us the opportunity to further our understanding of current affairs which helped improve our debating skills."

Before the debates started we were given the opportunity to discuss current affairs with the Chairman of the County Council, Phil Larratt, who chaired our debate, County Councillor Danielle Stone, Sally Keeble (MP) and Emma McClarkin MEP.



The debates that took place were based around current issues such as immigration, the refugee crisis, radicalisation and British values.



Extra recognition was awarded to Emmanuel Otuyelu, who was named Best Male Debater because of his thought provoking improvised responses during each of the four debates."

Year 12 also has a Debating Society. In the last week of term they made their first public debate, with a festive topic 'Should Christmas be banned?' The motion was carried.

Debrett's Foundation Networking Event—Healthcare



Sixth Form students attended a networking event in October organised by the Debrett's Foundation at Moreton Hall school in Shropshire. Students met like-minded peers with a passion for science to share ideas and ambitions. Dr Edwin Borman, the Medical Director of the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, welcomed the students with an inspiring talk centred on his own remarkable and varied experiences, and was joined by professionals from a wealth of backgrounds including general and emergency medicine, nursing, optometry, dentistry, veterinary medicine, forensic odontology and geriatric care.

6 Year 13 students spend an intern day at Barclaycard, enhancing their business skills.



Sixth Form Leadership Team 2015/2016



Introducing the 2015/2016 Sixth Form Leadership Team.

Head Boy: Dimuthu Perera Head Girl: Bolanle Sorunke

Deputy Head Boys: Muzzy Tijani, Karish Raja

Deputy Head Girls: Ezra Mina, Sarah Johnson

Leadership team: Kieron Seymour (Lead Student), Solomon Kachere, Usmaan Mukhtar, Robert Paskevics, Jade Wright, Maddie Brian, Dana Craddock, Amy Whelan, Fikayo Erinoso, Abbie Hughes, Tyra Jakachira

Sixth Form Opportunities Evening

The prospective Sixth Form Open Evening took place on Thursday 12th November and welcomed Year 11 students from both the Academy and other Secondary schools to an informative talk by key members of staff. Our Year 12's were also invited to attend as the evening was combined with a careers fair, providing an excellent opportunity for students to talk with Universities about their future plans. We would like to thank: Birmingham, Nottingham, Northampton, De Montfort Universities plus Hot Courses and the National Citizen Service.

Students have also received talks on Student Finance and apprenticeships as part of their careers programme.

Year 11 Ambassadors and Student Council

Year 11 Ambassadors—a Time to Shine, by Mr Ward—Head of Year 11

At the end of Year 10, Mrs Anderton and I invited students from the year group to apply for the Year 11 Ambassador Programme. Mrs Anderton and I narrowed the field to twenty five candidates who were invited to interview. The quality on show in the interviews was truly impressive.

Twenty three Ambassadors were appointed and the group are now responsible for running a range of initiatives and taking responsibility for events relevant to Year 11.

The group have formed a Leavers' Committee who will work with the Prom Committee to organise: Leavers' Assembly, Hoodies and a Yearbook.



Each Ambassador is responsible for forming a link with a different Department in order to enhance Learning across the Academy.

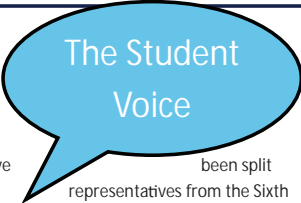
The ICT Team have begun creating an Ambassador email group through which ideas and communications can be shared.

Ambassadors are preparing for sixth form life, University and careers where Leadership skills and the ability to collaborate and work independently are

crucial. Mrs Anderton, Miss Sinclair and I are very proud of our Ambassadors and we look forward to celebrating their numerous achievements over the coming year and beyond.



The Year 11 Ambassadors raised £150 in under an hour with their charity cake sale. The money raised will be split between Children in Need and the Year 11 fund and the cakes proved very popular at break time on Friday 4th December.



The Student Council have been very busy this term, electing the Executive House Team and discussing the key projects that they are going to focus on next year. The Student Council team consists of over 100 members who meet each term. The student council have been split into year groups with each team having representatives from the Sixth Form Leadership to support them. The elected Executive House Council Committee will feed back in Tutor time. 13 members of the Student Council had the opportunity to speak in assemblies to introduce themselves and their agenda items which they took to a 'Question and Answer' session with Mrs Hill in December.



Sixth Form/YR 7	Sixth Form/YR 8	Sixth Form/YR 9	Sixth Form/YR 10	Sixth Form/YR 11
Boianle Sorunke Sarah Johnson	Keiron Seymour Tyra Jackichria	Ezra Mina Dimithu Perrera Uzmaan Mukhtar	Dana Craddock Amy Wheelan Jade Wright	Muzzamil Tijani Fikayo Erinoso Abbie Hughes Soloman Kachere
Izzy Ashby Lauren Marriott Ohene Anafo George Berrill	Danny Livingston-Marks Lee Carroll Riyana Raja	Malcolm Atonga Tyreese Dangare Natasha Cook	Taylor Adams Harry (Henry) Taylor Laura Mitchinson	Bailey Ashby Mahima Haque Hina Hothi

Giving something back

Over the last couple of months, Northampton Academy has made a number of charitable donations:

£1,203 was raised from the Christmas Themed non-uniform day on Friday 18th December, the cake sales and henna tattoo stall; organised by the Student Council. This also include the **£78** detailed below from the Nurture Christmas Fair. This money went to the families affected in the Carlisle Academies affected by the recent floods.

£1,126.79 was raised from the non-uniform day on 20th November and split as follows:

- £500 Stroke Association
- £313.39 Alzheimer's Society
- £313.40 Northamptonshire ACRE Charity

Plus the TEEP Christmas Fair (see page 7) **£222.37** (split between Restore Northampton and Cynthia Spencer Hospice).



★

£78 raised for charity

THE GREAT NURTURE CHRISTMAS FAIR!

Year 7 and 8 Nurture Groups organised event

Competitions

Cake stalls

Fantastic effort, well done to everyone involved

Welcoming back Alumni

Alumni City Designers come back to visit Northampton Academy

Mrs Cowley was very pleased to welcome back two former Northampton Academy students who studied textiles at A level. They both graduated from Birmingham University after completing successful fashion degrees and are now working in London as designers. Rachel Chan is working as a fashion illustrator/designer for an award winning company called 'No Uniform' who design uniform for high class restaurants and hotels. There is also a couture part of the company that has just designed Cheryl Cole's dress that she wore in the recent X Factor final. Albana Myrtari works as a junior designer for 'All Saints' design department in Selfridges in London. Congratulations to Rachel and Albana, we wish them the very best in their careers and hope they return to the Academy in the future to inspire up and coming fashion designers here at Northampton Academy.



In our **Careers and Enterprise** newsletter we include details about the Northampton Academy Alumni Network that is being formed with Future First. If you know of former students, please ask them to visit the Northampton Academy website which contains the link to join the Alumni. It only takes a few minutes to register your details or go to www.futurefirst.co.uk

TEEPing and Learning at Northampton Academy



Our focus over the last term has been challenge. TEEP Champions have delivered a carousel of activities to drive challenge ranging from developing ideas through tubelines to a challenging homework takeaway menu.

We have looked at Socratic questioning and Tarsia to drive this. We have launched the Northampton Academy Great 8 for staff and the focus for our students has been on presentation and increasing the quality of their work. Exemplary student work is displayed on the notice boards throughout the Academy and inspiring other students to learn from their peers.

Bright Face has been the buzzword this term. Everyone in our Academy staff community is a role model for our students and a key responsibility of this important role, is that we lead by example every day. Role modelling positive behaviour to our students, staff and wider community has a significant impact on fulfilling the strong ethos of our Academy.



Northampton Academy celebrated World Teachers' Day on 5th October.



Northampton Academy distributed over 1000 thank you cards to staff and the pupils watched the clips in Reflection Time.

"I would like to thank you for helping me progress and completing some tasks that I could not do without help in this short time at the Academy"

"I would like to thank you for being a great tutor. When I first came here I didn't know anyone, and you made me feel comfortable"

Congratulations to

Andrea Powell for winning the 'Bright Face' Award for last term



'Bright Face' commendations also go to: Jim Chanot, Jane Hawkins, Rob Smith and Lisa Hawkins.

A film was made of the teachers sharing their reasons on camera for why they decided to teach and what they love about teaching. Students watched the films in Reflection Time.

Christmas TEEP Challenge Fair—sharing great practice and raising money for charity

Our teaching staff put on their Christmas jumpers and got into the spirit at the TEEP Challenge Fair on Monday 14th December. Each Faculty had a stand which showcased the great work their students had been working on alongside welly wanging, pottery sculpting, head massages, cakes



stalls and the popular Heads Up! Christmas edition—all in aid of raising money for Cynthia Spencer Hospice and Restore Northampton (Foodbank). Thank you to everyone for making such a fantastic event and raising £222. 37! *Thank you from the Teaching and Learning Team*

Well done to everyone who entered the Poetry House Competition in December. The winners are:



	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Year 7	Theoni Tevera 7S2	Maria Gheorghie7D02	Natasha Roast 7D02
Year 8	Luke Stoner 8S1	Luke Stevens 8T1	
Year 9	Jack Hamblly 9A2	Bryon Warwick 9AC	Leon Bartlett 9A1
Year 11	Kellyanne O'Reilly 11T1		

Sports News



Girls just want to have fun (in their new fitness sessions!)

A new after school club has been formed for girls of all ages at the Academy. The first session in the last week of term proved a huge success and will continue this term.



Sports Inter House Competitions Are Here!!!



- 1) Attend an extra-curricular PE club (refer to timetable)
- 2) Compete in games against other houses
- 3) Win points for your house

9th November – 17th December



Current leaderboard for the Intersports Competition:

- 1st Place: Spencer 288
- 2nd Place: Dryden 279
- 3rd Place: Doddridge 245
- 4th Place: Tull 212
- 5th Place: Arnold 202

Competition restarts on 22nd February 2016

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'.

Sign up to be one of our roving 'Sports Reporters'. Cover home and away fixtures and whole school sporting events. Use your Literacy skills to describe the excitement of the game! See your work included on the website. See PE Staff for further information.

Olympian inspires students to succeed with 'Getting to the start line'

London 2012 Olympic Volleyball Player, Maria Bertelli, has mentored Northampton Academy students in preparation with managing stress and exam preparation last year and is back to help more students.



Sports Leaders and Northampton SSP

Northampton Academy Sports Leaders 2015/2016

Northampton Academy have invited students to apply to become **Sports Leaders** in all year groups including the Sixth Form. Students had to demonstrate leadership skills and qualities to gain their Sports Leader positions.

The Youth Sports Trust Award allows the students to be mentored through the programme and we are very pleased that our 2015/2016 cohort will be the first group to experience this support as we are one of only eight pathfinder schools in the country invited to deliver this in its first year of existence.



Student Aspiration Squad Project

On Tuesday 20th October, Northampton School Sport Partnership hosted the celebration of the Student Aspiration Squad Project funded by the Big Lottery Fund and hosted at Northampton Academy. The project delivered an extra curricular programme to raise young people's aspiration, achievement, confidence and ability to work in a team. Students from 6 primary schools that took part in the programme fed back to the group on what they had gained from the experience, with awards presented to students at each school who had gone the extra mile.



Events and Trips



A Cracker of a Show!

On Tuesday 15th December, students from across the Academy performed together in the festive show, **Christmas Cracker** in front of an audience of 200 family, friends and staff. The show was packed with singing, dancing and music played by the orchestra. There were two fantastic drama performances **'The Robbed Reindeer'** performed by the Drama Group and an adapted version of **'A Christmas Carol'** performed by the Sixth Form Drama Group, providing a true Christmas spirit to the night.

It was a great way to draw the term to an end, thank you to all the students and staff who worked hard to produce such an outstanding show. Thank you to staff who donated prizes and to the audience who gave generously and supported the show. The profit from the raffle went to the Emanuel Centre Foodbank.



Drama Theatre Trip to Gaslight



On 22nd October, 30 Drama students attended a performance of **Gaslight** at the Royal Theatre. The riveting performance included

heart-stopping moments in this 20th century version of a Victorian thriller. There were very occasional strange links between digital technology and melodrama, but overall the production was a success, particularly the intensity of the acting.

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.



7 billion IDEAS

Northampton Academy had 47 teams enter the competition and we are pleased to report that three teams have made it through to the second round (out of 5,000 plus students!) **Team idraw**, **Team Leaders and Educate** have produced a 60 second video/advert and the opportunity to go through to the final in February 2016. The winning team will be supported in bringing their app to life! This is an exciting live project for students to be involved in.

Good luck to the teams at Northampton Academy.



No ordinary Maths lesson for Year 7

Pupils in Year 7 had the opportunity to work with Nationwide Transformation Trust. They had to plan their own stadium by applying maths to

everyday scenarios. They managed a budget, designed stage layouts, estimated quantities for catering and compiled a playlist. This was a great experience for students to learn in a creative atmosphere, students also had the opportunity to present their ideas to the rest of the year.



Term Dates 2015-2016 and Notices

AUTUMN TERM 2015

Academy Closes	-	Friday 23 October 2015
Academy Re-opens	-	Monday 2 November 2015
Academy Closes	-	Friday 18 December 2015 at 1.00 p.m.

SPRING TERM 2016

Teacher Training Day	-	Monday 4 January 2016
Teacher Training Day	-	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Academy Re-opens	-	Wednesday 6 January 2016
Academy Closes	-	Friday 12 February 2016

Academy Re-opens	-	Monday 22 February 2016
Academy Closes	-	Thursday 24 March 2016

Teacher Training Day	-	Monday 11 April 2016
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SUMMER TERM 2016

Academy Re-opens	-	Tuesday 12 April 2016
Academy Closed	-	Monday 2 May 2016 (Bank Holiday)
Academy Closes	-	Friday 27 May 2016
Academy Re-opens	-	Monday 6 June 2016
Teacher Training Day (Group CPD Day)	-	Friday 1 July 2016
Academy Closes	-	Wednesday 20 July 2016 at 1.00 p.m.

Do you want to be involved in your child's education?
Do you want to shape the Academy's future?

Your Voice Their future

Thank you to all our parents that joined us for the Parent Voice meeting on Tuesday 8th December. If you would like to attend one of our future meetings and to "make your voice heard", please see below future dates:

Tuesday 23rd February 2016 and Tuesday 10th May 2016, 6-7pm in the Library

Northampton Academy Uniform Reminder

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with our continued drive to ensure high standards at Northampton Academy. There has been a significant improvement with students wearing the correct school uniform for the past term, which we expect to continue. If there are any issues regarding uniform, please refer to the Academy website which has information on uniform expectations.



Richard Scott, Senior Vice Principal

PREVENT/CSE Info available on website

For more information go to the Northampton Academy website under Parents.

Show My Homework

We are in the process of trialling a new online homework calendar called 'Show My Homework' (SMH).



Using SMH, all teachers create and publish their homework online. Parents and students can log into their own personalised accounts and see just 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!

More news, competitions and clubs

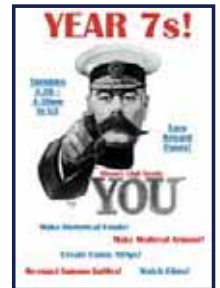


Year 9 students have entered into the Step into the NHS competition. The competition encourages young people to think about the breadth of opportunities open to them in the world of work, and, more specifically the NHS. The NHS is the largest employer in Europe and the fifth largest in the world with more than 350 careers available. Students worked through four difference phases to research their career, job description and design a job advertisement to complete their entry. Results will be announced by the end of March 2016.



There are a wealth on Enrichment Clubs after school each week. There is a new **Fun Science Club** every Thursday for KS3 where students will get to experience hands on science experiments in teams and compete each week to be the winning group.

The **Year 7 History Club** runs every Tuesday and provides students with the opportunity to make castles, stage battles and look at some real historical artefacts. Come and find out more!



On Wednesday 11th November, 18 cadets from the Anzio Detachment and 1 Cadet from the Gibraltar Detachment paid their respects by parading in their ACF uniform in the courtyard at Northampton Academy. Following the reading of a poem by the Sixth Form, the parade led by Staff Sergeant Instructor (SSI) Michelle Grimes (who is also a member of staff at the Academy) stood to attention for the 2 minute silence and playing of the Last Post and Reveille.