



Sixth Form Prospectus

A Sixth Form of Character and Excellence



School of
CHARACTER

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition



Northampton Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Welcome to Northampton Academy Sixth Form



Mr. Nat Parnell
Principal

Thank you for considering Northampton Academy Sixth Form. This prospectus will give you a flavour of what makes this Sixth Form such a successful, vibrant, welcoming and inclusive place of learning.

The motto of the Academy is 'The Best in Everyone' and we work hard with all of our students to enable them to achieve their full potential. In return, we expect hard work and commitment throughout their time in Sixth Form.

With a choice of over 25 subjects, you will be able to follow courses that interest you and suit your abilities, including A Level and BTEC courses. We offer a strong provision on STEM subjects with our newly launched 'Nucleus VI Programme for Aspirational Medical Students'.

Sixth Form students have exclusive access to a range of facilities in our dedicated state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre.

By the end of your studies at Northampton Academy, you will be prepared for progression to university, employment or training. You will be given specialist support with Oxbridge and subject specific entrance examinations for Russell Group Universities. We have a strong tradition of students gaining places at some of the UK's leading establishments, including Oxford and Cambridge University.

We are committed to the safeguarding and welfare of our young people, providing a safe and caring environment in which they can achieve the very best academic qualifications.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Academic Sixth Form of Character and Excellence.



Mrs Jane Rigby
Vice Principal - Sixth Form

Northampton Academy Values

We believe that, of the United Learning values, the three that best define Northampton Academy are Respect, Determination and Ambition. Our vision, mission, and our values have been arrived at after consultation with staff and students at Northampton Academy.

Respect

- Respect for others
- Respect for ourselves
- Respect for our environment

Determination

- Not giving up, especially during adversity
- Embracing the challenges of learning at a high level
- Supporting each other to achieve

Ambition

- Aiming to achieve the highest outcomes possible
- Aspiring to achieve the best jobs, college and university places
- Offering leadership opportunities for all

In addition to the Academy values we focus on our character values:

Tolerance

- Celebrating difference and diversity

Integrity

- Doing the right thing, when no one is watching

Community Service

- Character values that are necessary for engaged responsible citizenship contributing to the common good

These Character values underpin everything we do at the school and are seen across all areas of the Academy. Every decision we take, from appointing staff to creating policies and deciding student pathways is made using these values. We expect all staff to exhibit them and use them in their decision-making and we encourage all young people, and their families, to work within these values.



Meet The Sixth Form Team



Mrs Jane Rigby - Vice Principal, Sixth Form

I graduated from the University of Northumbria in Geography and Environmental Management, before studying a subsequent PGCE at Liverpool Hope University. I then embarked on my teaching career in the North East of England where I became Head of Geography in my second year.

I spent nine years as Head of Geography before becoming Head of Humanities, also taking up a number of whole school responsibilities.

I joined Northampton Academy in 2013 as Assistant Principal, I am now Vice Principal - Sixth Form. I am 100% focused on ensuring all post-16 students attain the grades and experience they need to go on to the best universities in the country. It is my absolute pleasure to work in an environment that has experienced rapid and positive change, being part of a team that really does promote 'The Best In Everyone'.



Miss Sogol Zaman - Head of Year 12

I graduated from York University in Toronto with a degree in Social Sciences before leaving Canada and heading to England. I have been teaching at Northampton Academy for nearly seven years during which time I have taken on numerous roles, including my current roles as Head of Year 12 and Head of Social Sciences.

I am passionate about teaching Psychology and Sociology. I have completed courses in leadership, coaching and I am currently completing my Masters in Education at the University of Northampton. Each course has challenged me in a unique way, providing me with a new and more innovative techniques to teach my subjects.



Dr. Seb Nye
EPQ Oxbridge
Coordinator

The EPQ gives students a chance to develop an independent project of their own choice. I oversee the qualification and teach students the necessary research and writing skills to make a success of it. I also help students who are applying to top universities, in particular Oxford and Cambridge.



Miss Emma Tustin - Head of Year 13

After graduating in Music at Durham University, I did my postgraduate training at the University of Cambridge. I have worked at various summer schools in the past, where I was responsible for UCAS. This included assisting students with personal statements, practising interviews, and then liaising and organising trips to a variety of top universities.

I then started here at Northampton Academy as a Music teacher, before being promoted to Head of Year 13.



Mr. Jason Rush
Assistant Head of Year

As Assistant Head of Year, I am responsible for attendance, punctuality and standards across the whole of the Sixth Form and can be found on the main entrance each day. I am also a teacher of History.



Mrs Sharon Dunkley - Sixth Form Administrator

As Sixth Form Administrator, I am responsible for several parts of our students' journey post-16, from enrolment through to university or apprenticeship. I work closely with the Sixth Form team, to ensure an appropriate working environment as well as working with parents in supporting their child through the post-16 process.

My door is always open to assist students in any way I can, and I consider myself privileged to work with the young adults of Northampton Academy, who inspire me every day with their many achievements.



Mr. Kyle Dunkley
Key Stage 5 Data

I am responsible for setting target grades, monitoring progress made throughout the year and many other data-related jobs. The Head of Year will use this data for various reasons including identifying students who require intervention and support. I also lead KS5 Maths.

Our Sixth Form Centre

At Northampton Academy, our Sixth Formers have exclusive use of our £1million state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre. The centre has a large lecture theatre and a number of dedicated classrooms, all with interactive screens and Wi-Fi connectivity. There are two dedicated Sixth Form IT suites, plus an interactive workroom where students can access external courses and take part in remote lectures. Sixth Form students have their own separate library for silent study and a spacious workroom where they can study and take their breaks between classes.

Sixth Form Expectations

As a student in the Sixth Form, you will have personal responsibility for:

Hard work and commitment

We really want you to succeed; we will set you individual learning targets, and subject and tutorial staff will monitor your progress regularly. You must attend all your lessons and complete all homework and actively engage in independent study. This is, of course, the basis for success, achievement and enjoyment.

Contributing to the life of the Academy

Part of the role of a Sixth Form is to help its students become fulfilled, mature and 'rounded' young adults. We will expect you to play a full part in the life of the Academy through engaging in extra-curricular activities and programmes, and taking on positions of responsibility across the whole of the Academy within the Student Leadership Team.

Acting as role models for the younger pupils within the Academy

As the senior students within the Academy, we will expect you to show leadership, maturity and responsibility. We will expect you to play your part in promoting the ethos and values of the Academy, particularly in terms of care, tolerance, hard work and excellent behaviour.



Which Subjects Should I Study?

Your subject choices should reflect not only your study interests and academic strengths but also your long term higher education and career intentions. Remember that employers and university admissions tutors expect you to have developed a specialism in particular subjects, but also want you to demonstrate a 'breadth' of knowledge and skills drawn from a number of different subjects.

We offer a wide variety of courses, some of which you will have studied up to Year 11 and others which are brand new and only available in the Sixth Form.

There are some subjects which have a traditional exam focus and there are others where the assessment is project-based and is continuous throughout the course. It is important to make the choices that are right for you.

The number of subjects studied will be dependent on individual aptitude. Each student is individually guided on subject choices. However, the most important factor in achieving success in Northampton Academy Sixth Form is selecting the most appropriate courses. Advice and expert guidance is always available from your subject tutors, the Sixth Form team and our dedicated, expert Careers and university department, located within the Sixth Form area.

// No learners leave the school without employment, education or training placements. //

Ofsted Feb 2016



Pathway to University



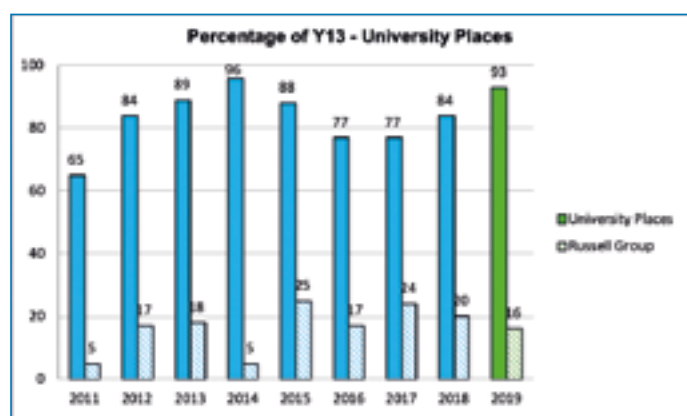
We are very proud of our flourishing Sixth Form which, year-on-year, has seen results improving and students moving on to top universities or highly skilled apprenticeships.

Sixth Form students are supported with personal tutors, UCAS guidance and mentoring from businesses such as Barclaycard. They also have access to a first-class enrichment and careers programme, detailed later in this prospectus. Students will all have the opportunity to work with employers and also to mentor younger learners.

Year 12 students are expected to complete work experience, further enhancing their skills and experience for further and higher education or the workplace. The full range of options are explored to focus on the best interest of the individual student including apprenticeships, vocational courses, employment with training or A Levels.

Sixth Form Outcomes

- 82% went to university (100% of those who applied)
- All others went on to high quality jobs and apprenticeships
- 14% Russell Group universities
- 99% pass rate A* - E
- Average Grade C
- 15 x A* attained in A Level Mathematics



Caring, Welfare and Support for Students: A Learning Partnership



Support for Students

As a full-time student you will be a member of a tutor group and meet your tutor daily. The Academy's tutorial system is designed to help you achieve your full potential, support your attendance and punctuality, assist with applications for Higher Education and encourage your personal and social development. Your Personal Tutor will be important during your time in the Academy Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form staff, including the Head of Year, tutors, administrative staff and other guidance and support staff, are all here to support you through your time with us. Your success will be achieved through a strong, three-way partnership between us, the Academy staff, you and your parents/carers. They too have a significant role to play in supporting your progress and full attendance.

Your day will be from 8.40am to 4.30pm. Some personal time is given as a privilege in Year 12 and this will normally include a morning and an afternoon where you would be able to work and research independently off-site.

Our Vision

“ To be a Sixth Form of character and excellence. To provide a unique and extraordinary experience that sets us apart: locally, nationally and internationally. ”

Education with Character

At Northampton Academy, we firmly believe in developing the character of our students through our Character Development Programme. We became only the second school in the country to be awarded the prestigious School of Character Kitemark in recognition of the work we do in this area.

Whilst we are proud of the important focus we place on academic excellence, we believe that students need a breadth of opportunities and experiences in order to become confident, well-rounded and ambitious young adults. Throughout their time with us, students are expected to contribute to our school community and to society.

We want students to step outside their comfort zone and try things they would not normally do, to persist in the face of difficulty and to become resilient in overcoming obstacles.

Our curriculum and enrichment programmes are systematically planned with opportunities to develop character values. In addition to our very wide range of extra-curricular clubs, our students enjoy workshops, university visits, talks from inspirational speakers, as well as opportunities to collaborate with their peers at United Learning schools across the country. We also encourage our students to continually reflect on what good character is and how they can develop themselves further.

We use our core values of Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity as part of our daily language. Our character values underpin everything we do at the school and are seen across all areas of the Academy. We are proud to deliver an Education with Character; an education which challenges, inspires and excites our students and prepares them for the ups and downs of life.

Our Mission:

“ Providing a safe, caring and exciting environment for young people. Putting young people at the centre of every decision. Developing ambition, confidence and resilience through a relentless focus on opportunities and standards. ”



Careers, Enterprise and Enrichment



Team Building

At Northampton Academy, we offer a wealth of opportunities for enrichment in Year 12 and 13 to support the academic subjects and provide valuable skills and experience Post 18.

Mentoring/Support and University Guidance

- Coaching for University Aptitude Tests—ENAT, BMAT, UK Cat and more
- Bespoke Oxbridge Programme
- Pre U Skills Programme - delivered by qualified and experienced tutors
- UCAS Support - support and coaching for UCAS delivered by Russell Group Universities; University talks and attendance at Higher Education Conferences
- Extended Project Qualification
- Realising Opportunities - a mentoring programme to help students raise their expectations for university places
- Higher Education Conference

Careers and Enterprise

- Work Experience (Year 12)
- Enterprise Ambassadors (Year 12)
- Breakfast With a Professional
- Workshops with Barclaycard, Travis Perkins and Smurfit Kappa
- NCS - voluntary programme for Year 11 & 12, which focuses on their personal and social development, that includes challenging activities and self-designated social development that will benefit their local communities

Sport

- CSL - The Community Sports Leader, Level 2 builds on skills from the Junior Sports Leaders Level 1 allowing students to develop their skills in Primary Schools
- HSL - The Sports Leaders UK Level 3 award in Higher Sports Leadership is designed to develop the leadership skills of students. As a practical based course, students will build on their experiences from their Community Sports Leadership Award, and use skills within the wider/local community. This qualification also carries UCAS points
- Football Team and Basketball Team

Other/Subject Related

- Nucleus VI STEM Medical Programme - for Aspiring Medical Students
- Prayer/Contemplation - the Faith Room is available for worship of all faiths. We have a student run Christian worship group, who engage in discussion, have guest speakers and discuss issues relevant to themselves
- Reader Leaders and Peer Mentoring programme
- Music Club - open access to Mac suite, use of technology both in the Mac suite and in the studio to work on composition. Various other musical opportunities including: rock and pop bands, drumming and vocal groups
- Choir
- Strategic Thinking
- EAL Mentors
- Team Building
- Sixth Form Socials
- Sixth Form Prom



Sports Leaders

Our Students



Prendia - Year 13

What do you like about Northampton Academy?

Being a part of the school since Year 7 has enabled me to develop myself, not only academically, but has also helped me improve my character and sense of individuality. As the school is heavily focused on the best possible outcomes for every student, I have always appreciated the number of new learning opportunities presented by the teachers who are ready to encourage you every step of the way.

Why did you choose Northampton Academy Sixth Form?

Northampton Academy Sixth Form caters for every student and subject, providing fundamental resources and an exceptional environment for learning. Not only are you surrounded by productive students, but you are also influenced by the Sixth Form staff, who make sure you are just where you need to be.

Why would you recommend Northampton Academy to future Sixth Formers?

In my own experience, the jump from GCSE to A Level can be extremely stressful with the pressure of making important decisions. However, with the supportive nature of Northampton Academy, you are never left to feel alone or as if you have no one to talk to. The Sixth Form staff are very dedicated to their students and are as enthusiastic about your ambitions as you, and are there to ensure you are both comfortable and successful.

What are your career plans?

I am hoping to take a gap year to travel to many different places including Japan and Thailand. I am then aiming towards attending university to study Mathematics and Computer Science. Upon receiving my degree, I would like to explore more the field of Software Engineering.



Ibik - Year 13

What do you like about Northampton Academy?

Not only has Northampton Academy encouraged me to be the best that I can be, the guidance provided by supportive staff has enabled me to aspire for greatness, pushing me to be better each day, which has fuelled my motivation for success.

Why did you choose Northampton Academy Sixth Form?

Attending Northampton Academy prior to Sixth Form, I have experienced the capacity of the staff members first hand. Being surrounded by unique characters, Northampton Academy has been able to cater for all religious beliefs with each student and teacher encouraging everyone to be themselves, to help build the perfect environment. Each department has a fully equipped team, perfect to provide an array of opportunities and transferable skills that would be useful in whatever career path chosen after Sixth Form.

Why would you recommend Northampton Academy to future Sixth Formers?

I believe Northampton Academy Sixth Form to be a place that welcomes and encourages diversity with varying individual strengths whilst also helping students develop new transferable skills, useful in whatever path is chosen after Sixth Form. Northampton Academy is a school worth attending as I have never received such care and opportunities provided for me. This is truly a place for growing into an ambitious, successful adult.

What are your career plans?

After Sixth Form, I plan to attend university to study Neuroscience. Upon receiving my degree, I wish to pursue a career in Pharmaceutical Science.

Student Leadership Opportunities

Leadership skills at every level are vitally important for young people. These qualities will help you develop a persuasive ability to influence others in a positive fashion. Improving your confidence and ability to promote yourself during interview is crucial in your preparation for the journey beyond Sixth Form to university, employment or training.

Northampton Academy Charter - We Promise

- Leadership opportunities for every student, every year
- A safe, caring and exciting environment
- To uphold the core values of Respect, Determination and Ambition in everything we do



Andrea - Head Girl

As Head Girl, I have the responsibility to guide the Leadership Team and become a voice for Sixth Form students. Having been a student at Northampton Academy from Year 7, I hold great pride in this position, which allows me to embody the values of Respect, Determination and Ambition. This role is imperative in representing everything the school stands for, through embracing the character programme and ensuring that every pupil feels safe, supported and listened to. As Head Girl, I work closely alongside the Leadership Team and teachers, which helps me promote the importance of growing and striving for the best results, both academically and in terms of character development. Making a difference within the Sixth Form and having the student voice heard, is crucial in order to have a flourishing body of pupils and makes this role extremely important and worthwhile.

Robert - Head Boy

Having joined Northampton Academy as an external student, I found the school very supportive and I very quickly felt at home. As Head Boy, it is my responsibility to ensure the Sixth Form environment is both a safe and comfortable place to prosper. Along with the rest of the Leadership Team, I work with the staff and students to create an accepting and understanding atmosphere that everyone can be part of. I strive to make sure everyone's individual learning styles are catered for to ensure that no one ever feels restricted in reaching their highest possible potential. With emphasis not only on excellence, but also character - we seek to develop our students not only academically but personally. With a calculated mix between independence and support - Northampton Academy ensures that with the right level of determination - anyone can achieve their goals.





“Providing a unique learning opportunity to aid students with natural aptitude and desire to attend medical school and excel in the field of medicine; underpinned by Northampton Academy’s core values of Respect, Determination and Ambition.”

Nucleus VI is the Sixth Form equivalent of Nucleus Gifted STEM Stream. It is designed to aid students with a natural aptitude for science and a desire to attend medical school.

The process of applying for medical school is very rigorous and requires a serious commitment of both time and effort over an extended period. Our Nucleus VI team will be available to help students every step of the way with their applications to give them the best possible chance of gaining a place at a top university to study medicine.

With only just over 10% of applicants gaining a place at medical school, expert guidance and opportunities are vital.

At Nucleus VI we have worked very hard to secure advice and guidance from the best people around, to provide our applicants with the best opportunities and give them the highest chance possible of gaining a place on a very competitive course.

This exciting new venture for Northampton Academy could be the extra push that students need to realise their ambitions. Places in the Nucleus VI cohort are very limited to allow the extra attention that is required to meet the demands of applying to medical school.



Nucleus VI



Entry Requirements

To gain entry onto Nucleus VI, students will need to achieve:

- Grade 8 - 8 in Double Award Science or Grade 8 in both Biology and Chemistry
- Grade 7 in Mathematics
- Grade 6 in English Language
- An average GCSE grade of higher than 6.5

Students will be interviewed by Head of Nucleus STEM, the school Principal and a doctor to assess their suitability for a place on the Nucleus VI programme.

Subject Choices

Students entering Nucleus VI must study both Biology and Chemistry at A Level as well as 1 other A Level subject, BTEC qualifications are not permitted. We advise against studying more than 3 A Levels to allow students to improve their portfolio of experience for applying to medical school.

What Nucleus VI Offers...

- Guaranteed work experience within a GP surgery in Northampton
- Guidance on application to the NGH/KGH work experience programme (must be over 17 years of age)
- Assistance in organisation of volunteering and extra-curricular activities to improve the application
- Regular contact with medical professionals to discuss the application process and careers in medicine
- Tuition for the UKCAT/BMAT
- Personal statements reviewed by STEM tutors, doctors and university admissions tutors
- Assistance with finding and applying to appropriate summer schools
- Individual mentoring throughout the application process
- Small cohort of other medical applicants to support throughout the application process

If you would like to know more about the Nucleus VI programme, please get in touch through our email address nucleus@northampton-academy.org or visit our website www.nucleus-stem.org

How to Apply for a Sixth Form Place



We use an online application service for our Sixth Form, which will be available via our website during the application window www.northampton-academy.org/sixth-form-admissions.

Applicants will be invited for an advice and guidance interview with a member of the Sixth Form team during the process. Following this, you should receive a conditional offer of a place, which will be subject to you achieving the necessary grades and entry requirements.

Before making any final decisions you will also have the opportunity to experience taster sessions from your chosen subjects. This will help you select appropriate courses.

It is a good idea for you to read through this prospectus, the course booklet, and our admissions policy thoroughly to check which courses are available and the criteria required for your chosen subjects.

Bursaries are available to support eligible students. Further information is available at the Sixth Form office.

Please ensure your application reaches us by Friday 17th January 2020 at the latest. We will be holding advice and guidance meetings with students during February 2020, after which conditional offers will be published no later than Friday 28th February 2020.

We welcome applications from both internal and external students.

Please visit www.northampton-academy.org/sixthform for all the latest information.

Principal: Mr. Nat Parnell
Wellingborough Road, Northampton NN3 8NH
t 01604 210017
f 01604 773830

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

