



An Academy of Character and Excellence



Northampton Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Prospectus

2020 - 2021



School of
CHARACTER

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity

A Warm Welcome to Northampton Academy



I am delighted to welcome you to Northampton Academy, which is part of the United Learning Trust.

Our motto is 'The Best in Everyone', and we wholeheartedly subscribe to this philosophy.

We are committed to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum that includes excellent opportunities for enrichment and leadership at all levels. We are also delighted to offer our unique Nucleus STEM provision in our newly refurbished STEM area and our Elite Sports Programme, both of which will stretch our most able students.

Our outcomes are strong at both GCSE and A Level, and we are currently over-subscribed in every year group. We were proud to receive a 'Good and improving' judgement in our November 2019 Ofsted inspection under the new framework.

'Northampton Academy continues to be a good school. There is enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school could be judged outstanding if we were to carry out a section 5 inspection now.'
(Ofsted, Nov 2019)

Character education is important to us, and we have achieved national recognition for our Character Development Programme. We deliver this programme systemically through assemblies, tutor time reading, lessons, PSHE and many other facets of the school. We base our character programme around our five 'Pillars of Virtue'; Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity.

'Character development is at the heart of the school's work'
(Ofsted, Nov 2019)

As a school community, we work together towards our vision of being an 'Academy of Character and Excellence'. We are looking to expand the great work we have already done to a national level, and in some cases, like our Character Programme and Nucleus STEM Stream, to an international level.

We are fully committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of our young people; it is at the heart of what we do. We ensure that every decision we make as an organisation puts our students first. We are a fully inclusive school and ensure that every student has the opportunity to flourish.

The student behaviour system is simple, easy to administer in lessons, and takes the burden away from teachers, who can focus purely on their core purpose of delivering excellent lessons.

'The school's high expectation of learning without disruption is reflected in exemplary behaviour'
(Ofsted, Nov 2019)

We exist to provide our students with equal or better chances in life, and it is my role to ensure that I create the environment for this to happen. I operate with an open-door policy and welcome anyone to contact me regarding any concerns, and I will always work collaboratively with my staff to find solutions.

I hope you find the information in this prospectus useful; you can also visit our website and follow us on Twitter and Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening at the Academy.

Chris Clyne
Principal

*Photography in this prospectus took place before the Covid-19 social distancing measures were put in place.



School of
CHARACTER



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 third school in the country to be awarded the prestigious School of Character Kitemark in recognition for 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 of 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.

Our 'Pillars of Virtue'; Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity are part of our daily language and we encourage their use in classrooms by using our praise points system. These character values underpin everything we do at the school and are seen across all areas of the Academy. It does not stop here though, we explore a number of values spanning across civic, intellectual, moral and performance values.

We are incredibly proud to deliver an education with character, which challenges, inspires and excites our students, preparing them for the ups and downs of life.

The Best in Everyone



Part of United Learning

Northampton Academy is a proud member of United Learning, a unique group of independent and state schools committed to providing excellent education through which all students are able to progress, achieve and go on to succeed in life. We work collaboratively to achieve their ethos **'The Best in Everyone'**.

This ethos supports our 'Pillars of Virtue'; Respect, Determination, Tolerance and Integrity. Northampton Academy are fully inclusive and welcome and respect students and staff of all faiths and backgrounds.

Further details about United Learning can be found on our website.

Our Vision:

" To be an Academy of Character and Excellence. To provide a unique and extraordinary experience that sets us apart: locally, nationally and internationally. "

Our Mission:

" We exist to provide the students of the Eastern District with equal or better life chances than any student in the UK. "

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 values have been arrived at after consultation with staff and students at Northampton Academy. We use these values as part of our daily language and encourage their use in classrooms by using the rewards points system.

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

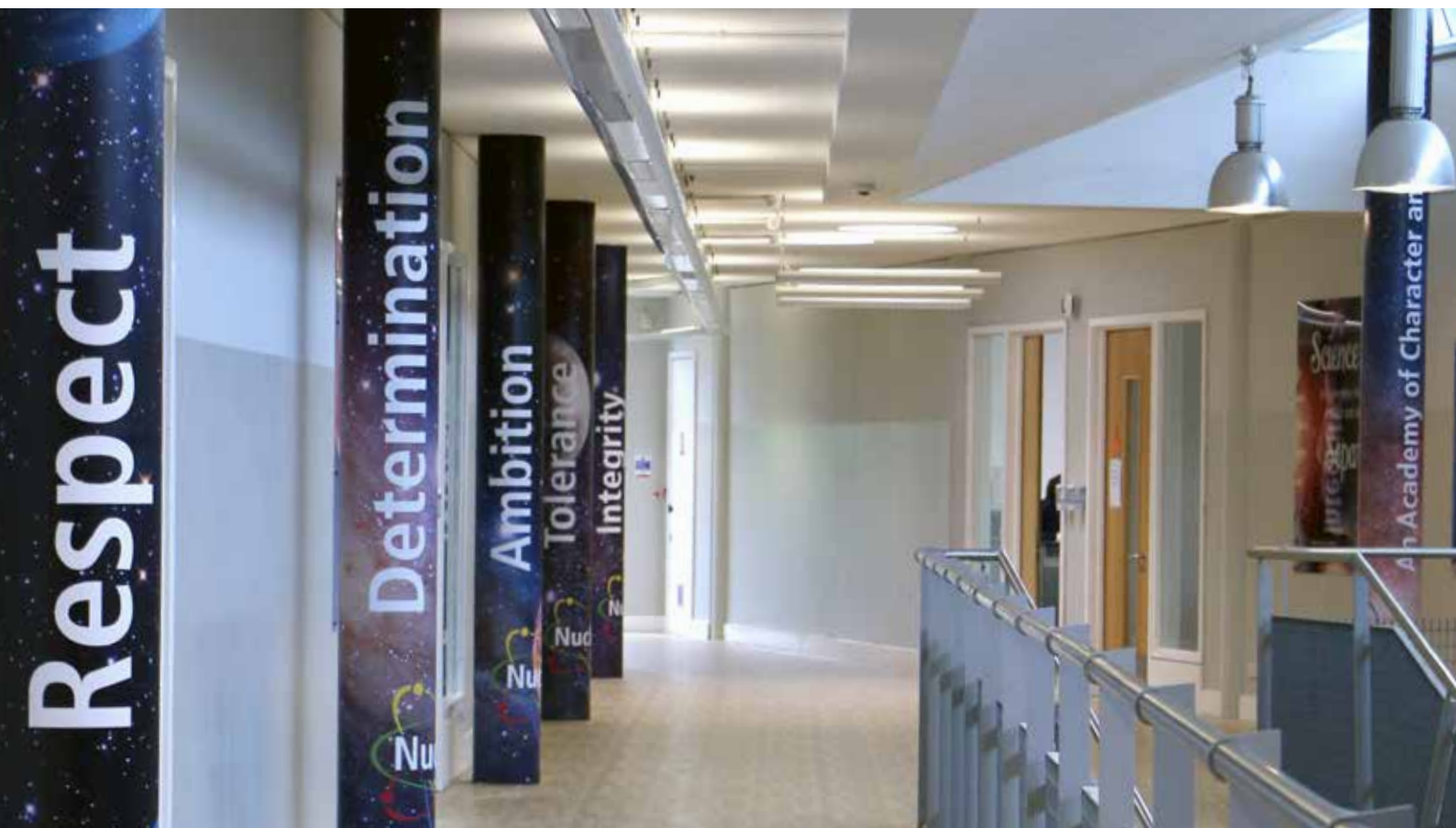
- Doing the right thing, when no one is watching

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 and use them in their decision-making and we encourage all young people, and their families, to work within these values.



A Curriculum with Character

The curriculum at Northampton Academy comprises a broad and innovative range of learning experiences for each student, to enable them to make the best possible progress and fulfil their academic potential. Our personalised curriculum offer, in conjunction with excellent teaching, impacts positively on learning and progress. This allows all our students to respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing world. In turn this enhances each student's self-esteem and emotional wellbeing and promotes British values in conjunction with an understanding and appreciation of cultures and beliefs different from their own.

In the first three years (Key Stage 3), students follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics and Science, complemented by History, Geography, Computer Science, Languages, Design Technology, Art, Drama, Music, Religious Education and Physical Education. In Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4), they are set by ability in the core subjects and study the options they will have chosen at the end of Year 9 from an extensive range of subjects offered, both academic and vocational.

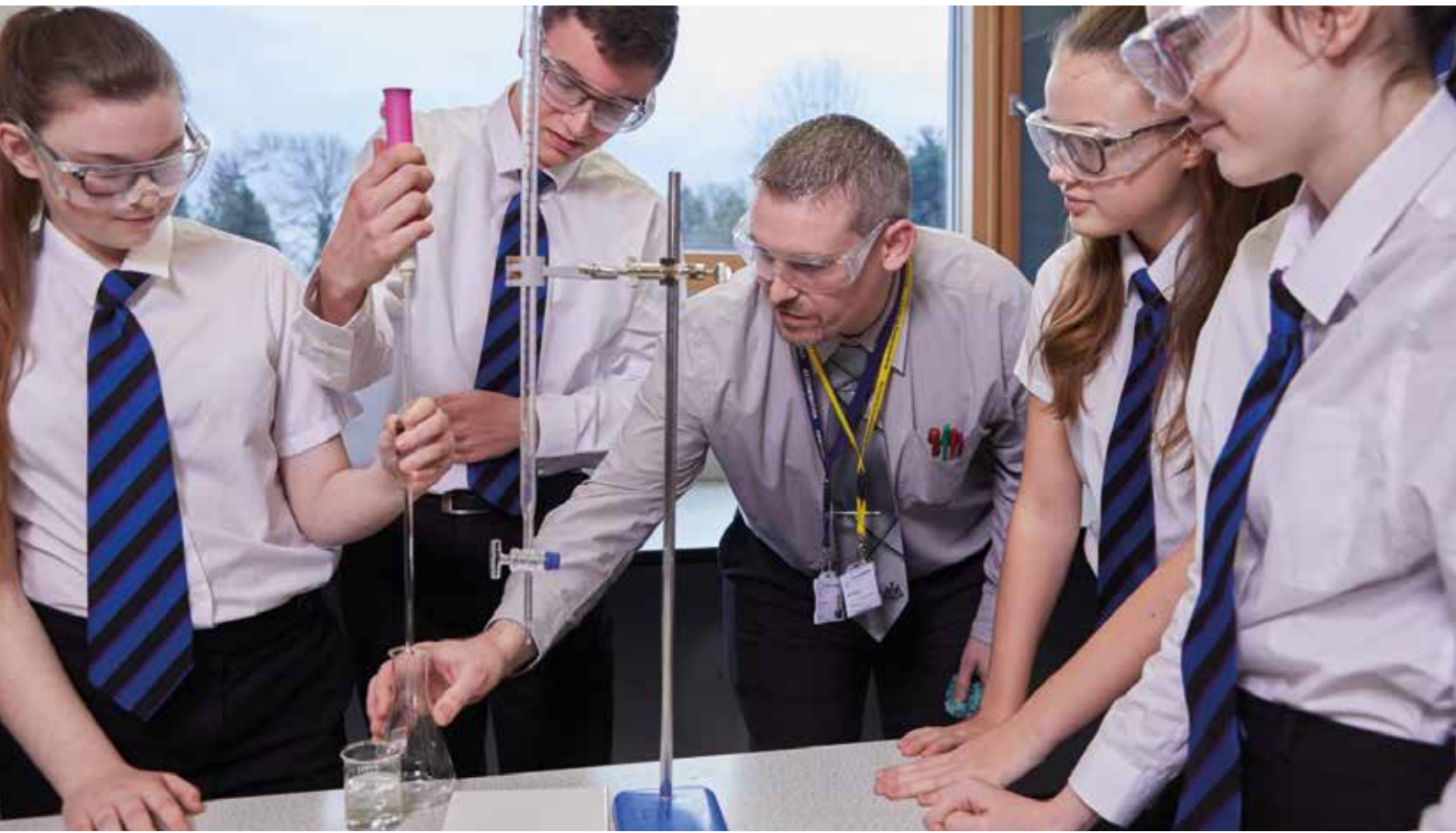
Rank Order Assessment

We are constantly looking for ways to help students achieve amazing outcomes and to boost motivation. To this end we have introduced a system called Rank Order Assessment. Each term we provide students, parents and carers with their ranking order amongst their peers, taking into account their grades, attendance, punctuality, behaviour and attitude to learning.

Rank Order Assessment enables students to have a clear understanding of how they can improve in all areas of Academy life, and is proving to be a successful tool. Students have described how they are constantly trying to improve on their own previous position throughout the year.



Teaching and Learning



At Northampton Academy, our highly skilled and experienced team of teachers are encouraged to develop their own style of delivery in order to maximise effectiveness in the classroom. There are, however, a number of common features to every lesson, which include: teachers meeting and greeting students at the door and giving them a task to immediately engage in; learning objectives being shared with students; previous learning being reviewed on a regular basis so that it can be remembered and applied successfully.

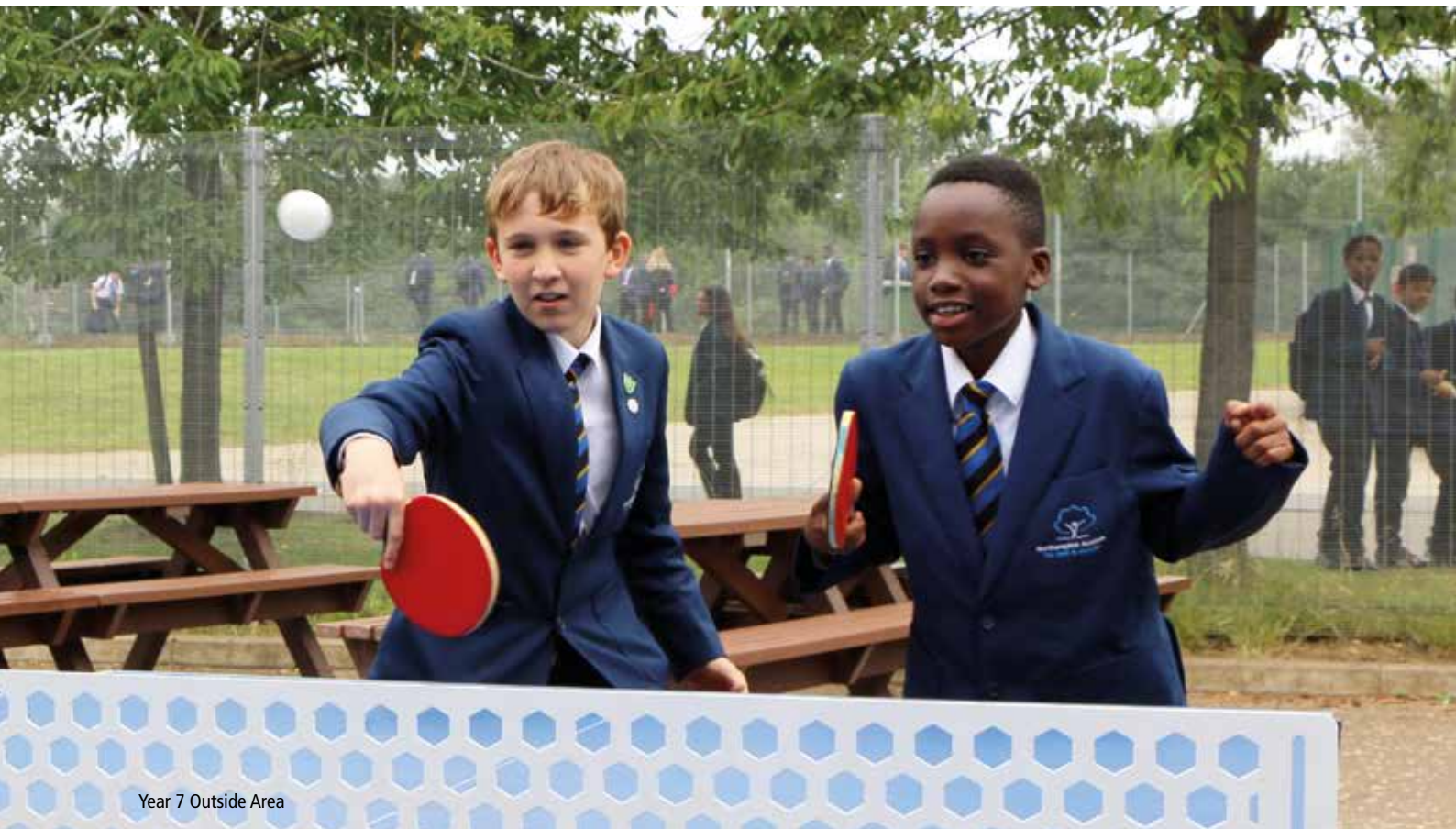
Our teachers are all trained and use the Rosenshine Principles within their teaching practice, to ensure we maximise the learning experience and outcomes for all students. Lessons are planned to ensure that all students can access the tasks but also to ensure that the most able in each classroom are effectively challenged. Every teacher at Northampton Academy is strongly committed to these standards.

All students and parents will have access to a curriculum plan for every subject. These plans provide an overview for each subject in every year. They aim to embed the 'big ideas' and state the knowledge, skills and understanding that all students are expected to be taught. The curriculum plans are available on the Academy website for parents and students to access from home. They are designed to encourage active participation and to support the learning that is taking place in the classroom. By looking at curriculum plans, parents can support the work done in school through further enrichment activities or independent study.

Homework

Each subject will aim to set their homework on a particular day each week (e.g. English every Thursday), with at least a week usually given to complete the task. Much of this homework will involve learning knowledge that will then be tested in lesson. We encourage all parents/carers to be actively involved in helping their son/daughter to do homework. We are increasingly focused on providing homework that is suitable for parents/carers to get involved with helping their child revise or practise key skills.

A Safe and Supportive Learning Environment



We have a strong focus on maintaining high standards of behaviour and conduct for all students built around our character values. We take great pride in our strong pastoral care and safeguarding systems, which are in place to ensure that each individual student feels safe and confident in their learning environment.

Each student will have a Form Tutor as their first point of contact and every year group has a non-teaching Learning Manager, who is there for additional support. Our wellbeing team hold daily drop in lunchtime sessions for students, offering counselling and confidential advice on issues such as stress, relationships, change, loss or other distressing events in their life.

We have a strict uniform policy and students are expected to wear their uniform with pride and be excellent ambassadors for Northampton Academy in the local community and beyond.

Year 7 Outside Area

There is a dedicated Year 7 Play Area which is out of bounds to older students. Complete with picnic benches, ball play area, table tennis and football tables, this area was extremely popular last year. Students have the option to spend their break and lunch times here or mix with the older year groups in the main areas. The Year 7 Play Area also has Prefects and Anti-Bullying Leaders present every day to support students with any issues they have.

*Currently, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, all year groups are in special 'zones' and Year 12 are using this area. When restrictions are lifted in school, we will return to having the Year 7 Play Area.

Aspiring to the Future

Northampton Academy is committed to providing a programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) to all students in Years 7-13. The careers programme provides a major contribution to the preparation of our young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences which lie ahead.

We collaborate with further and higher education establishments to offer independent advice to students and assist them in identifying the right career path to suit their individual needs and aspirations.

Strong links have been forged with local businesses and apprenticeship providers, who generously offer support through mentoring services, innovative workshops and practical careers and enterprise days, providing students with an insight into the 'world of work' that awaits them in years to come.

Key Stage 3 students are invited to consider and explore their own skills and qualities in identifying their personality type, relating it to career paths which best suit the type of person they are. Workplace visits are incorporated into the programme to provide first-hand experience of the world of work.

Following on from this initial exploration, Key Stage 4 students receive employability guidance, from creating their first CV, through to preparing for interview, further/higher education and employment.

Northampton Academy Careers Department offers Sixth Form students a programme of events and mentoring designed to enhance their knowledge of university and degree apprenticeships by working with a wide range of industry and university partners.

We continue to ensure students leave Northampton Academy as confident, ambitious and high-achieving individuals, who are well prepared for their next step into Sixth Form or college and beyond to university, employment or training.

Further information about careers and guidance at Northampton Academy can be found in the Careers & Enterprise section on our website. <https://www.northampton-academy.org/information/careers-and-enterprise>



Maximise Your Potential Day

Enrichment Opportunities

Enrichment is a very important part of the Northampton Academy experience, ensuring students have the opportunity to develop new skills and talents outside their formal learning environment. We always aim to develop our co-curricular timetable to not only offer classic enrichment opportunities such as music, drama and sports; but also new and exciting opportunities including gaming, robotics and coding.

A range of seasonal sports is on offer each term in teams comprised of students from their key stage groups.

When students reach Year 9, they are eligible to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which is a highly-esteemed and rigorous programme designed to challenge their physical fitness, leadership, teamwork skills, personal development and their community involvement.

In addition to this there are numerous enrichment trips available throughout the year, ranging from theatre or cinema, activity based, and educational day and residential trips. Each trip is carefully planned to ensure the development of student's character in line with the Academy's values, or to enhance their learning experience.

*At the current time enrichment clubs are restricted due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Leadership Opportunities



Student leadership is an important part of developing our students character and helps prepare them for life beyond Northampton Academy. We offer a range of leadership opportunities across the school whether it be within their form groups, subject-specific leadership or through our wide-ranging enrichment programme.

Our pledge is to offer every student a leadership opportunity, every year. We are proud that 100% of our Year 7 students had at least one leadership role last year and over 50% of them had two or more leadership roles. We track this rigorously and ensure that any student not accessing opportunities is picked up and given a role.

The pinnacle for student leadership in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 are the Year 11 Prefects. They act as role models for all students to look up to and embody the values we look to develop in our students. Recognisable by their purple ties, the Prefects have been chosen after going through a rigorous interview process.

There are many other leadership opportunities available including Form Time Leaders, Subject Leaders, Sports Leaders, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Stonewall Champions and Peer Mentoring.

Further details are available on our website: www.northampton-academy.org/studentleadership

Northampton Academy Charter - We Promise

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



“ Pupils feel very safe in this school. They told us that bullying is extremely rare.”
Ofsted, Nov 2019

Elite Sports Programme



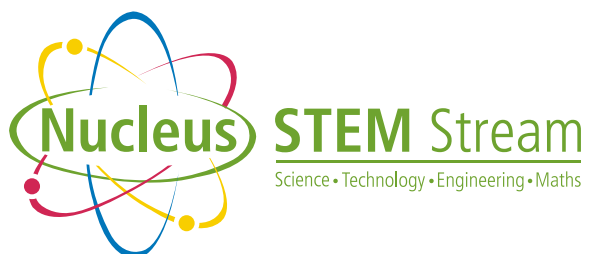
Developing Character and Excellence in Sport

Northampton Academy's Elite Sports Programme provides an exciting opportunity for students who have a gift for football or netball to become a part of an elite squad to represent the school at local and county level.

Elite Sports students will be able to further develop their skills through a programme that will be incorporated into a specially adapted curricular timetable. The Elite Sports programme gives students access to specialist coaching and nutrition lessons, alongside regular strength and conditioning sessions to build on what they would experience in mainstream provision.

Only students who have been offered a Year 7 place at Northampton Academy for September 2021 will be eligible to apply. As this is an Elite Programme, spaces are limited. Entry is by application only and will require students to take part in a trial, followed by an interview.

This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for our students and is unique among schools within the surrounding area. Further information is available on our website. www.northampton-academy.org/elitesports



Nucleus STEM Stream

Northampton Academy is home to Nucleus STEM Stream. This is a fantastic opportunity for students with a natural aptitude for learning and a keen interest in STEM subjects (Science, Mathematics and Computer Science) to study these subjects in much greater depth and at a much faster pace. As well as the accelerated and enhanced curriculum covered in the STEM subjects, students have access to our newly refurbished H block facilities.

Nucleus students are expected to play a full and active role in the Academy's co-curricular programme. As well as a vast range of sporting and performing arts opportunities, the co-curricular programme allows students to experience a wide range of other additional options, ranging from forensic science and anatomy to robotics and programming as well as other life skills such as cooking and statistics. Nucleus students have complimentary peripatetic music lessons available to them.

Alongside our Nucleus STEM Stream runs our Nucleus Lecture Programme, delivered by respected academics from some of the countries most renowned institutions. Nucleus students are expected to attend all lectures to develop their aspirations and give them a flavour of lecture-style teaching that they can expect when they arrive at university.

Once a student has been allocated a place at Northampton Academy, they will be able to apply to enter the Nucleus STEM Stream. They will then need to complete an aptitude assessment as well as undergo an interview to demonstrate their passion for the subjects to earn their place in the stream.

Further information is available at www.nucleus-stem.org



Student Voice

Another important leadership opportunity available is Student Voice. At Northampton Academy, we listen to what our young people have to say and, where possible, we act on what they tell us. Student Voice representatives are voted for by their peers, with a selected representative from each form group. Regular meetings are held and students are actively encouraged to come along and get involved in the meetings and event planning.

As a voice for the students, Student Voice representatives can be approached with any issues or suggestions regarding the school, whether it be the facilities, the environment or any new ideas they have.

The Principal, Mr Clyne regularly holds Q&A sessions with Student Voice, giving them the opportunity to ask questions and put their ideas forward.

In response to student feedback, we have installed extra lunch outlets to reduce queuing times and new table tennis and table football facilities have been placed in the courtyard. In addition to this, the PE changing areas have been refurbished and toilets are being upgraded in each block around the school.

“All pupils feel included in the school community and believe they can contribute to it’s future.” Ofsted, Nov 2019





How to Apply for a Place at Northampton Academy



Fill in the form on-line at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions

Online applications are encouraged where possible, if you do not have internet access you can fill in a [paper application](#) which can be obtained from the NCC Admissions Team and should be sent to:

School Admissions,
Northamptonshire County Council
One Angel Square
Northampton
NN1 1ED

Further admissions information can be found at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions

The deadline for applications is 31st October at 5pm.



NORTHAMPTON
ACADEMY



School of
CHARACTER

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