



An Academy of Character and Excellence



Northampton Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Prospectus

2022 - 2023



School of

CHARACTER

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity

A Warm Welcome to Northampton Academy



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

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

At Northampton Academy, 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 alongside our Elite Sports Programme, both are designed to 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 our great work to a national level, and in some cases, like our Character Programme and Nucleus STEM, 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. 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. Our differences unite us.

Our robust student behaviour system is simple and easy to administer. This 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. I will always work collaboratively with my staff to find solutions.

I hope you find the information in this prospectus helpful. In addition, please visit our website and follow our social media channels to keep updated with what is happening at the Academy.

Chris Clyne
Principal



Education with Character



We firmly believe in developing the character of our students through our Character Development Programme. We are holders of the prestigious School of Character Kitemark Plus award for our work in this area. We are also a Regional Hub school for excellence nationally.

While we are proud of the important focus on academic excellence, we believe students need many other opportunities and experiences to become well-rounded young adults. We prepare them to be ready to be our next generation of lawyers, doctors, teachers or other ambitious career paths they choose. We expect students to contribute to our school community and society throughout their time with us. They are encouraged to step outside their comfort zone and try things they would not normally do. To persist in the face of difficulty and become resilient in overcoming obstacles.

Our curriculum and enrichment programmes are systematically planned to develop character values. In addition to our extensive range of extra-curricular clubs, our students enjoy workshops, university visits, talks from inspirational speakers, and opportunities to collaborate with their peers at United Learning schools across the country.

We 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 our praise system encourages students to display these virtues. These character values underpin everything we do at the school and are visual across all areas of the Academy. However, it does not stop there; we explore several values spanning civic, intellectual, moral and performance virtues. During their time with us, students complete a 'Character Passport'. The aim is to 'graduate' at the end of Year 11, having completed the challenges contained throughout their time at Northampton Academy.

We are incredibly proud to deliver education with character, which challenges, inspires and excites our students, preparing them for the ups and downs of life. We look to develop phronesis in our students, where they make the right decision, for the right reason, at the right time.

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 '**The Best in Everyone**' ethos.

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 five that best define Northampton Academy are Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity. 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 our praise 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

Tolerance

- Ability and willingness to accept the existence of opinions or beliefs that are different from our own
- Understanding that not all situations and issues are binary
- Willingness to embrace diversity of religion, race and culture

Integrity

- Doing the right thing, even when nobody is watching
- Being honest with yourself and others, even when in the wrong
- Having strong moral principles

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 balanced range of learning experiences for each student to enable them to build a bank of rich knowledge. Our personalised curriculum, in conjunction with excellent teaching, impacts positively on learning and progress. The curriculum is carefully sequenced in every subject area to ensure that students build on previous knowledge and deepen their understanding. 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 English, Mathematics and Science curriculum complemented by History, Geography, Computer Science, Languages, Design Technology, Art, Drama, Music, Religious Education and Physical Education. Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) are set by ability in the core subjects. In addition, they study the options they will have chosen at the end of Year 9 from an extensive range of academic and vocational subjects.

All students and parents have access to a Curriculum Intent document which includes an overview for every subject and a medium-term plan for each subject. These overviews provide a timeline of what is being learned, and when, for each subject in every year group. These documents are available on the Academy website for parents and students to access from home. They are designed to encourage active participation and support the learning that is taking place in the classroom. By looking at the curriculum overviews, parents can support the work done in school by re-visiting any lessons students have missed.

<https://www.northampton-academy.org/curriculum/our-curriculum>



Teaching and Learning



At Northampton Academy, our teachers combine their expertise with evidence-informed techniques to maximise students' learning opportunities. Our approach is underpinned by Rosenshine's Principles (such as providing model answers for students to learn from). In addition, we use many of Doug Lemov's 'Teach Like A Champion' techniques (for example, all students showing their ideas to the teacher via their mini-whiteboards). All teaching methods employed at the Academy are underpinned by research showing the impact of the above. As a result, students will experience 'consistent classrooms' – regularly enjoying similar teaching techniques across the curriculum.

Teachers plan their lessons to ensure they provide appropriate support and challenge for all students. This means that all students can access the tasks whilst effectively challenging the more able in the classroom, ensuring no learner is left behind.

“ Leaders have ensured that the curriculum is highly ambitious. This has improved the breadth of qualifications that pupils study for. ”

Ofsted, Nov 2019

Home Learning



Home Learning is a vital part of school life that supports the academic progress of students alongside developing character traits such as determination and resilience.

All Home Learning tasks are provided on our online platform 'Satchel:One', where parents and carers can monitor students' completion using their parental login. Students will have weekly opportunities to achieve praise letters for fantastic efforts and good completion rates with their Home Learning. These positive letters will enable them to be entered into termly prize draws.

// Leaders want pupils to develop strong personal values of determination, respect and ambition. They have planned a curriculum to develop pupils' character. //

Ofsted, Nov 2019

Rank Order Assessment

We are constantly looking for ways to help students achieve excellent outcomes and boost motivation. To this end, we have introduced a system called Rank Order Assessment. Each term, we provide students, parents, and carers with their rank order amongst their peers, taking into account their academic performance based on summative assessment and their attitude to learning, including classroom engagement and Home Learning. Rank Order Assessment enables students to clearly understand how they can improve in all areas of Academy life and has proved to be a successful tool.

Students have described how they constantly try to improve on their previous position throughout the year. It is important to note that Rank Order is based on the summative assessment that takes place twice a school year. However, the formative assessment takes place across nearly every lesson and is vital in quickly addressing misconceptions.

“ Pupils are eager to learn. They have high expectations of themselves and are consistently motivated by high-quality teaching. ”

Ofsted, Nov 2019



Careers and Enterprise



A key priority is to provide students with the knowledge, experiences, skills, connections, and guidance, empowering them to make well-informed aspirational decisions, now and in the future. Accordingly, Northampton Academy is committed to providing a careers education programme, information, advice, and guidance (CEIAG) to all students in Years 7-13.

The careers programme significantly prepares our young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences ahead. We collaborate with further and higher education establishments to offer independent advice and assist them in identifying the right career path to suit their individual needs and aspirations. In addition, we have strong links with local businesses and apprenticeship providers. They offer support through mentoring services, innovative workshops, and practical careers and enterprise days, giving students an insight into the 'world of work' that awaits them in years to come.

We encourage Key Stage 3 students to consider and explore their skills and qualities to identify their personality type. They can then relate it to career paths that best suit the kind of person they are. Workplace visits are incorporated into the programme to provide first-hand experience of the world of work.

Following this initial exploration, Key Stage 4 students receive employability guidance, from creating their first CV to preparing for an interview, further/higher education, and employment. Many subjects have woven careers throughout their curriculum, which continues to develop across all subjects.

We continue to ensure students leave Northampton Academy as confident, ambitious, and high-achieving individuals. They are well prepared for their next step into Sixth Form, apprenticeships or college and beyond to university, employment, or training. You can find further information about careers and guidance at Northampton Academy on our website: <https://www.northampton-academy.org/information/careers-and-enterprise>





A Safe and Supportive Learning Environment



Our character values are at the heart of everything we do; they are not just laminated but lived. We have built our high standards of behaviour and conduct for all students around these values, and we encourage our students to demonstrate each value daily. In addition, we take great pride in our strong pastoral care and safeguarding systems. These are in place to ensure that each 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. Students also have a Deputy Key Stage Director and a Key Stage Director, who will offer support and guidance to all students. Our Wellbeing Team hold daily drop-in lunchtime sessions for students. They offer 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 expect students to wear their uniforms with pride and be excellent ambassadors for Northampton Academy in the local community and beyond.

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

Ofsted, Nov 2019

Year 7 Outside Area

A dedicated Year 7 Play Area is out of bounds to older students. This area is extremely popular with picnic benches, a ball play area, table tennis and football tables. 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 daily to support students with any issues.

Character Enrichment Opportunities

Character Enrichment is a significant part of the Northampton Academy experience. Students can develop their character, learn new skills, and experience various activities outside their formal learning environment. We promote our enrichment timetable, and students are encouraged to embrace the opportunities that offer real breadth over the course of the year.

We aim to develop our extra-curricular activities to offer classic enrichment opportunities, including music, drama and sports, as well as new and exciting clubs such as gaming, robotics, and coding.

In addition, when students reach Year 9, they are eligible to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. A highly esteemed and rigorous programme designed to challenge their physical fitness, leadership, teamwork skills, personal development, and community projects.

Our approach to enrichment also provides students with the opportunities to attend focused enrichment trips throughout the year. We carefully plan each trip to ensure character development, in line with the Academy values or to enhance their learning experience.



Leadership Opportunities

"We exist to ensure that we equip our students with the tools and opportunities to be leaders of the future in modern society. We want to empower students to make a difference and to be part of a change that they wish to see. The student leadership team exists to support others in the community, be the voice of the students and affect change."

How does this work?

Our leadership system is divided into three tiers. The first tier is the Student Leadership Team, who organise the high-level leadership activities in school, running and maintaining the actions and outcomes of the Student Council.

Our Head Boy, Head Girl and Prefects engage with school functions, speeches, School Council meetings and other higher-level school duties requested of them. They have a noticeable presence around the school, are clearly identifiable and are the ultimate role models of our character values.

The Prefects attend Open Evenings, perform break and lunch duties, take part in interview panels, and participate in mentoring and charity work as a minimum. They challenge any poor behaviour around school and are approachable, decisive, mature students, who demonstrate all of the school's core values.

**" Pupils gain leadership skills every year through carefully planned activities.
For example, they become anti-bullying ambassadors and serve on the student council. "**
Ofsted, Nov 2019

Anti-Bullying Leaders





Library Leaders

The second tier of leaders run their appropriate clubs and lead initiatives in their chosen areas to enhance the values across the student body. This tier comprises the Student Voice Ambassadors, Wellbeing Ambassadors, Anti-bullying Ambassadors, Community Action Committee and Library Leaders.

The third tier is a whole school tier that captures the Student Leaders who are not in the leadership team. Each student has the opportunity to take up a given leadership role through clubs, for example. However, natural leaders within the student body should be recognised and given the tools and opportunity to lead their peers in the school values.

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

Northampton Academy Charter - We Promise

1. To provide a safe and caring environment
2. To explicitly develop students character at every opportunity
3. To put students at the centre of every decision we make
4. To never settle for 'good enough'
5. To always respond to parents within 48 hours



Elite Sports Programme



"A unique programme that allows students the privilege to access specialist coaching that they wouldn't experience in mainstream provision; underpinned by the development of Character and Excellence in Sport."

Developing Character and Excellence in Sport

Elite Sports is a unique programme that allows students the privilege to access specialist coaching that they wouldn't experience in mainstream provision, underpinned by the development of character and excellence in sport.

Northampton Academy Elite Sports Programme currently offers 85 boys and girls with an exceptional talent for football or netball a unique opportunity to develop their ability with a holistic approach in conjunction with their mainstream curriculum.

Open to students in Years 7, 8, and 9, each athlete will have a specially adapted timetable that includes extra training sessions before, during and after their regular school day at specific times of the week.



The exclusive programme, directed by our Head of Elite Sports, offers students:

- Football or netball coaching from highly experienced and qualified external coaches and current staff.
- Individual player development programmes.
- Extra timetabled football or netball training sessions.
- Strength and conditioning sessions.
- A direct pathway to Category 1, 2 & 3 Football Club Academies and Northants Storm Netball Club.
- Opportunities to represent Northampton Academy as a squad in county and national competitions.

Only students who have secured a place at Northampton Academy for the academic year of 2022/23 can apply. In addition to the initial application process, a 4-week trial takes place in September to aid the selection of squads for each year group for football and netball.

Further information is available on our website. <https://www.northampton-academy.org/elitesports>



Nucleus STEM Stream

Northampton Academy is home to Nucleus STEM Stream. This is a unique 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 recently refurbished H block facilities.

Nucleus STEM students are expected to play a full and active role in the Academy's extra-curricular programme. As well as a vast range of sporting and performing arts opportunities, the extra-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 country's most renowned institutions. Nucleus students are expected to attend all lectures to develop their aspirations and give them a flavour of the lecture-style teaching they can expect 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 on the programme.

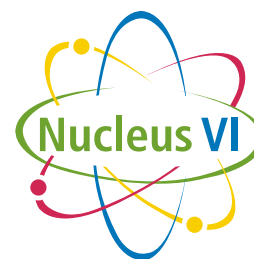
Further information is available at www.nucleus-stem.org



Nucleus VI Programme



Nucleus VI Programme for Aspiring Medical Students and Aspiring Engineers



"Providing a unique learning opportunity, to aid students with natural aptitude and desire to attend medical school and excel in the field of medicine, or to study and excel in the field of Engineering; underpinned by Northampton Academy's core values of Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity."

Our Post-16 Nucleus VI programmes are designed to support applications for those wishing to study Medicine or Engineering at University.

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/Engineering. Within these highly competitive fields, expert guidance and the correct opportunities are essential. Our Nucleus VI team have worked very hard to secure the correct experts to provide guidance for students in our programme. Working with local medics and engineers, we provide the support with applications and entrance exams needed to obtain places on these courses; as well as relevant work experience and additional guidance.

This is a unique and highly competitive opportunity for students studying in our Northampton Academy Sixth Form. Applications for Nucleus VI are made at the same time that a student applies for a place in our Sixth Form; and all students, including external applications, will be considered. There is no requirement to have been part of the Nucleus STEM Stream in Years 7-11.

How to Apply for a Place at Northampton Academy



Fill in the form online at <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions>

Online applications are encouraged where possible. However, if you do not have internet access, please contact the West Northamptonshire School Admissions Team either in writing, by telephone, or by email using the information below.

School Admissions Team
West Northamptonshire Council
Angel Street, Northampton NN1 1ED

Telephone: 0300 126 7000
Email: admissions.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk

Further admissions information can be found at <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions>



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

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity

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