



An Academy of Character and Excellence



Northampton Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Prospectus

September 2024



ACE School of

CHARACTER

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity

A Warm Welcome to Northampton Academy



I am delighted to welcome you to Northampton Academy. We are part of a group of academies, primaries, and independent schools called United Learning.

The United Learning motto is 'The Best in Everyone', and we wholeheartedly subscribe to this philosophy. Northampton Academy's vision and mission are simple:

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

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

Martin Luther King put it perfectly when he said: "Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

We fully subscribe to this at the Academy. We have a well-sequenced, aspirational curriculum for all, underpinned by excellent teaching and behaviour. We ensure that we are developing phronesis in our students so they can make the right decisions, at the right time, for the right reason.

Our outcomes are very strong at both GCSE and A Level. We are heavily oversubscribed in all year groups, and our highly academic Sixth Form of Character received record applications again last year. We were proud to receive an 'Outstanding' judgement in our March 2023 Ofsted inspection under the new framework:

'Pupils thrive at this school. They know that staff 'go above and beyond' to provide an outstanding education for them. Pupils are happy and feel safe.' (Ofsted, March 2023)

We are committed to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum with excellent enrichment and leadership opportunities at all levels. We are also delighted to offer our Nucleus STEM provision and an Elite Sports Programme; both will stretch our more able students in these areas. September 2024 will see the launch of our brand new Spotlight Performing Arts Programme; further information on this is available on pages 22 and 23.

We are now nationally recognised for our Character Development Programme, which we systemically deliver through assemblies, tutor time reading, lessons, PSHE and many other facets of the school.

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 and Nucleus STEM programmes, to an international level. I am excited to have such a dedicated staff body here to help us realise our vision. We will never settle for 'good enough' at Northampton Academy and always strive for excellence in everything we do.

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 every student at the Academy flourishes. I am proud to lead this diverse and unique set of students and staff at the school; our differences unite us.

**'The school has an exceedingly strong culture of safeguarding.
Leaders ensure that safeguarding arrangements are robust and fit for purpose.' (Ofsted March 2023)**

We exist to provide our students with equal or better life chances, 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. Please visit our website: www.northampton-academy.org for further information.

Mr Owen Jones
Associate Principal



ACE School of
CHARACTER





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 rewards 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.





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, Ambition, Tolerance and Integrity. Northampton Academy is fully inclusive and was awarded with the IQM Centre of Excellence Inclusion Award in March 2023. We 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."



Former Student, World Champion Boxer Chantelle Cameron Visit

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 Quality Mark Plus award for our work in this area, and 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.

“ There is an impressive personal development and character programme. Leaders consider the education of the whole child. Leaders have ensured that the school’s values permeate through everything that the school does. ”

Ofsted, March 2023

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.

“ Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain. They talk enthusiastically about the school's 'culture day'. Pupils are welcome to wear traditional clothes and share food from other cultures. ”

Ofsted, March 2023



My Culture Day

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 time line 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.

“Lessons are extremely well sequenced to ensure that pupils build on what they have learned before. Pupils develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum. Pupils achieve exceptionally well. ”

Ofsted, March 2023



Home Learning

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

All Home Learning tasks are set on our online platform 'Satchel:One', where parents and carers can monitor students' completion using their parental login. Students will be set a range of work to support their academic progress in each subject. A direct positive correlation exists between excellent completion of Home Learning tasks and positive academic progress.

Students will receive seven Home Learning pieces per week and have seven days of completion time for each task. This ensures that Home Learning is set consistently and allows students to manage their own time and deadlines independently. Parents and carers have access to students' Home Learning calendars and, therefore, can support students with managing their deadlines where required.

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 entry into our termly prize draws.

Parents and carers will be alerted if students are not completing their Home Learning and, thereby, are falling below our expectation. This allows us to work alongside parents and carers to encourage students to engage with the Home Learning process.

// The school's curriculum is broad and ambitious in all three key stages and for all pupils, including those with SEND. //

Ofsted, March 2023

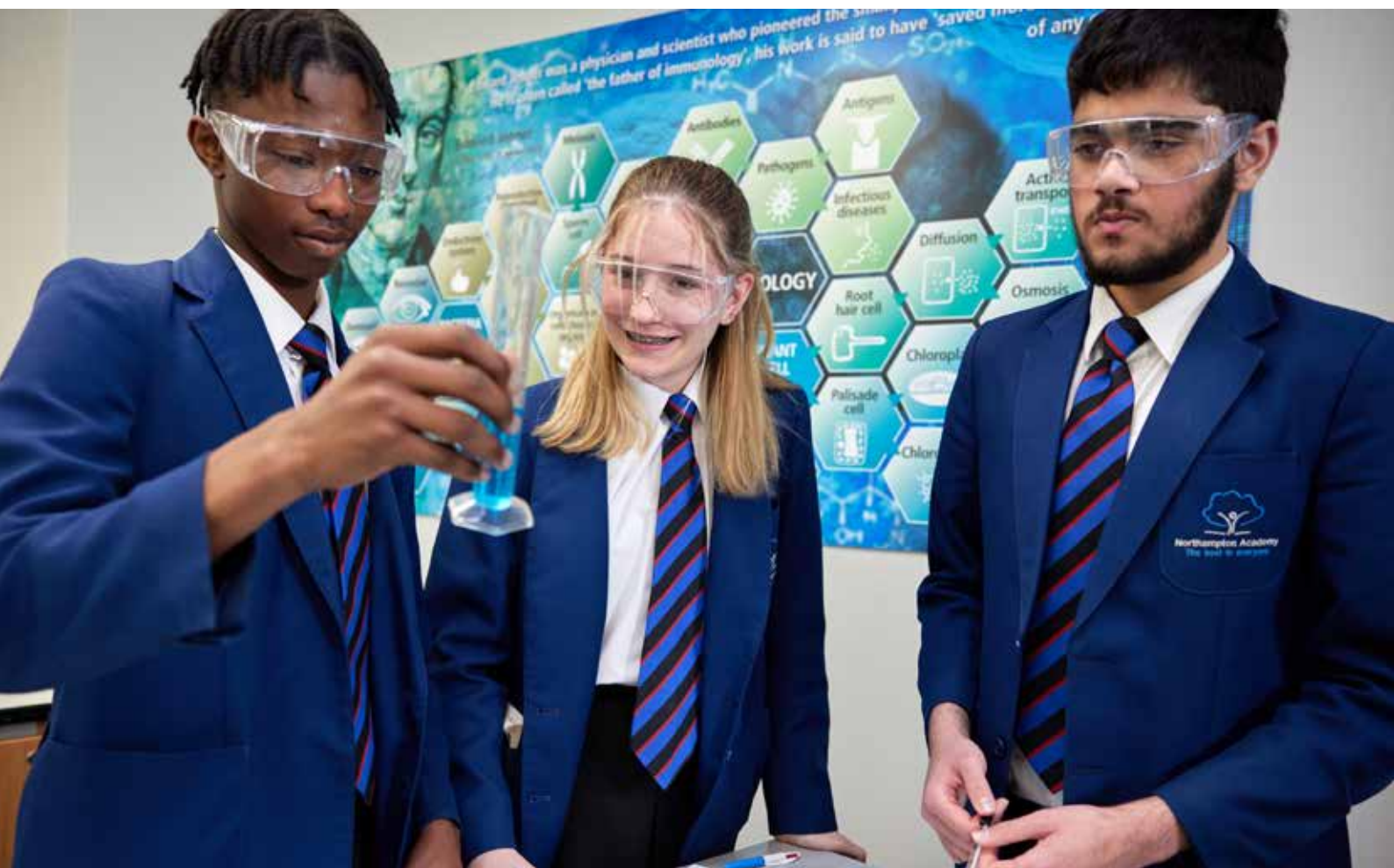
Rank Order Assessment

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.

“Teachers’ assessments are effective, and they use the information they collect extremely well. Teachers ensure that pupils deepen their understanding of the subject by swiftly addressing misconceptions and errors.”

Ofsted, March 2023





Careers and Enterprise

Northampton Academy is committed to providing an ambitious and highly aspirational careers education programme, information, advice, and guidance (CEIAG) to all students in Years 7-13.

Our extensive careers programme prepares our young people for the world beyond the Academy, showcasing the various opportunities available to our students and giving them the knowledge and skills they need to have an ambitious and fulfilling career.

We work very closely with further and higher education establishments to assist students in identifying the right education pathway to suit their individual needs and aspirations. In addition, we have strong links with local businesses and apprenticeship providers who 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 have a dedicated full-time careers advisor to support any student regardless of year group. All students who would like support and guidance are encouraged to book an appointment, and they can visit as often as necessary.

Through inspirational career platforms and career lessons, 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. 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. All subjects have woven careers through their curriculum, offering students a link from what they learn in the classroom to the opportunities available.

We continue to ensure students leave Northampton Academy as confident, ambitious, and high-achieving individuals. With the knowledge, experiences, skills, connections, and guidance they have gained at the Academy, whether they leave us at Year 11 or Year 13, students are empowered to make well-informed aspirational decisions, now and in the future.

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 Key Stage Director and a Deputy Key Stage Director, who will offer support and guidance. 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.

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.

“ The behaviour of pupils is exemplary. They are respectful, well mannered and polite. They exhibit the school’s values of respect, determination, ambition, tolerance and integrity.”

Ofsted, March 2023





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.



Matilda Jr. Production

Student Leadership

"The student leadership team exists to help embed our values, develop character and be the voice of all students to affect positive change at Northampton Academy."

How does this work?

Our Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputies and Prefects lead the whole Student Leadership Team in varying activities to help maintain excellent standards and implement positive change in our school community. These activities include school functions, speeches, school Student Voice meetings and other higher-level school duties requested of them. They are clearly identifiable in school and are the ultimate role models of our character values.

Student leaders from every level attend Open Evenings, perform break and lunch duties, participate in interview panels, and several initiatives in and around our school and local community. They are approachable, decisive and mature students who demonstrate excellent character daily.



Prefects



Library Leaders



“ Pupils relish taking responsibility as school leaders. For example, they can be digital leaders, promoting e-safety across the school, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) leaders, sports leaders or well-being ambassadors. ”

Ofsted, March 2023

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

Northampton Academy Elite Sports Programme offers students with an exceptional talent for football or netball a unique opportunity to develop their ability holistically in conjunction with their mainstream curriculum.

Open to students in Years 7-10; 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 qualified and experienced external coaches and 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.

Applications for The Elite Sports Programme

Only students who have secured a place at Northampton Academy for the academic year of 2024 can apply. Applications will open on our website in April 2024 after allocation day.



In addition to the initial application process, a 4-week trial will place in September 2024 to aid the selection of squads for each year group for football and netball. When selecting our students, in addition to ability, we also consider their attendance, behaviour and character (which underpins their attitude to learning).

After the recent launch of our brand new netball training court, we have exciting plans for our football facilities in the coming year.

Further information is available on our website:

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<https://www.northampton-academy.org/elitesports>



Nucleus STEM Stream

Nucleus STEM Stream 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 excellent facilities in our dedicated STEM area.

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 countries 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.

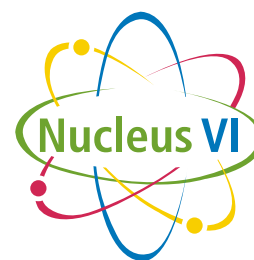
Further information is available at www.nucleus-stem.org





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.



New for September 2024!

Spotlight Performing Arts Academy



"To provide the students of Northampton Academy extraordinary opportunities and exposure to performing arts and culture both within and outside the curriculum."

We are very excited to introduce our new Spotlight Performing Arts Academy. Spotlight is a brand-new programme, which will welcome its first cohort in September 2024. The Spotlight Performing Arts Academy is a unique programme that will focus on developing the passions and interests of students within all strands of Performing Arts, namely; Music, Dance and Drama. This programme is not just about the performers - but will suit aspiring directors, managers, choreographers, and composers too.

In addition to the newly renovated dedicated Performing Arts area, which boasts two drama studios, a Mac Suite, Practice Rooms and Recording Studios, there will be a new Dance Studio and an Amphitheatre.

All Key Stage 3 students at Northampton Academy receive Music, Dance and Drama subjects as part of their curriculum; however, as a member of Spotlight, they will receive further opportunities through an extended day with extra-curricular opportunities in all aspects of these subjects, which will also include exciting projects with the Royal Shakespeare Company and its representatives.

All Spotlight Academy students will work towards an Arts Award qualification during their journey through school, one at each Key Stage. This qualification will aid them in developing their knowledge and understanding of their chosen art form and build essential skills for success in 21st Century life.



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2022 - 2023



How to Apply for a Place at Northampton Academy



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



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@westnorthants.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.

Principal: Mr Chris Clyne
Wellingborough Road
Northampton
NN3 8NH
t 01604 210017

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

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