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# Northampton Academy

## Newsletter - Summer 2013

### Northampton Academy is one of the best schools in the country

Northampton Academy has been recognised as one of the top 20% of schools and academies nationally based on our Key Stage 4 value-added score.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of The Schools' Network, said, "Northampton Academy should be congratulated for their stunning performance as one of the best schools in the country in outperforming expectations for their pupils and improving their future prospects. These results are a testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at Northampton Academy and a vindication of their belief in high expectations, good teaching and ambition for every young person."

**SSAT** Inquire  
Inspire  
Innovate  
Impact

### Congratulations

Northampton Academy

In recognition of outstanding student progress

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive, SSAT

## Top 20% nationally 2013



Awarded to the top 20% of schools and academies nationally based on their Key Stage 4 value-added scores for students' achievement in 2012

**Sue Williamson:**

***"There is plenty that other schools could learn from Northampton Academy"***



Our very own London 2012 sculpture is unveiled

## Uniform update

For September we are beginning the transfer from the old United Learning Logo on our uniform to the new Logo. Whilst amending the uniform we have taken the opportunity to change to an improved blazer.

We have consulted with the Parents' Voice Group, staff, governors and students, and all groups have confirmed that the new blazer is a significant improvement on the current blazer.

The improvements are:

- A better fit and style. The old blazer is unisex. The new blazer has a boy's and girl's blazer and the design of the blazer is a modern style based upon the latest style of suit jackets.
- An increased number of sizes available. The new blazer has smaller blazers available in one inch size increases to allow for a better fit for younger students.
- A better material which should make the blazer last longer.

The major difference is the change in the colour to a much darker shade of royal blue. This change is to prevent any increase in cost. The darker shade is a stock colour whilst the old blazers were a special dye to achieve the bright blue, so the actual price of the blazer has not changed.

We anticipate the change from uniform with the old logo to the new logo will take approximately two years, and we understand that not all parents will want to buy a new blazer immediately. The new uniform stock will soon be available to order online ready for September, however the new blazer cannot be worn until September.

### Royal College of Music

We took a small group of students to the Royal College of Music. They ended up meeting Grammy Award winning group, The King's Singers!



**Gerri Rowe, Vice Principal: "We do not expect parents to buy a new blazer until their child requires a new one."**

We are holding all the old uniform stock with the old logo and this is available to purchase at reduced prices from school until it runs out.

The prices of the old stock are:

Item	Price
Blazer (sizes 26-32)	£15
Blazer (sizes 34-46)	£18
V Neck jumper (sizes 26-33)	£12
V Neck jumper (sizes 34-52)	£14
Polo shirt (sizes 22-33)	£5
Polo shirt (sizes 34-52)	£6

Old blazers are not available for new intake students in Year 7 in September who will be expected to wear the new blazer.

They can however wear other uniform items with the old logo.



The old blazer

The new blazer

## Higher Standards in September

In September, as we move forwards towards being an outstanding school, we will be enforcing higher expectations in terms of how students wear their uniform including:

- Wearing school trousers, not 'skinny leg fit' nor 'jean type'.
- Wearing skirts which are knee-length.
- Wearing all black shoes with black socks or tights – not trainers.
- Strictly following the rules for make-up.
- Strictly following the rules for jewellery and in particular no piercings other than simple ear studs.
- Strictly following the rules for acceptable hair styles.
- Not wearing hoodies and cardigans.

We will not be allowing hoodies or cardigans to be brought into the academy. They will need to be handed in to staff on duty at the door.

We will be working with students over this term to ensure that they fully understand the standards expected of them in September and we will send parents more details of the expectations with your child's final academic report in July.

## Barclaycard Skills Day

Our Sixth Form students enjoyed an incredible day at Barclaycard in July.

They enjoyed a tour, learned about careers and developed their skills.

We are extremely grateful to Barclaycard and Barclays for all of the support they give to our students.



## Sports Days

We held two amazing sports days. They brought out the best in everyone.





## Students enjoy the London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures 2013

The London Mathematical Society Popular Lectures present exciting topics in mathematics (and its applications) to a wide audience, and are suitable for all who have an interest in mathematics. Each year, the LMS Popular Lectures feature two lecturers who have been chosen for their mathematical distinction. Usually, there is one pure mathematician and one applied mathematician.

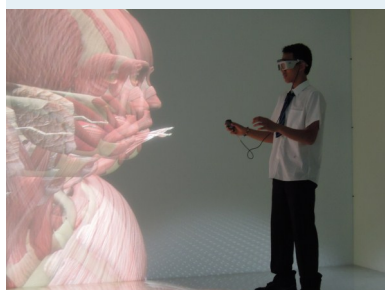
Northampton Academy Mathematics Department regularly runs a trip to the Popular Lectures. On this occasion Professor Ray Hill (University of Salford) presented 'Mathematics in the Courtroom', examining the role of coincidence, probability and statistics in criminal trials.

Dr Vicky Neale (University of Cambridge) tackled some Pure Mathematics Number Theory, discussing sums of important sequences such as the prime numbers and the square numbers. This sold-out talk gave our Sixth Form students a taste of University level mathematics.

Sixth Former James Adams said, "I greatly enjoyed attending the Popular Maths Lectures due to the fact that the lecturers, Professor Hill and Doctor Neale, managed to deliver dynamic presentations that allowed for an interesting and enlightening view into both the real life applications of mathematics, and the more abstract. I was particularly enthused by Dr Neale's simplification of complex mathematics that allowed everyone in the audience to follow. Overall I think that attending the lectures was extremely worthwhile and gave a great insight into the mathematics that could be studied in my future."

### 3D visualisation

A group of our "Able & Talented" science students enjoyed a fantastic day spending time in the immersive 3D visualisation centre at Northampton University.



### Success at the National Enterprise Challenge

Our Enterprising team "Ed-venture" came fifth in the National Enterprise Challenge. They performed extremely well together, were very professional and had a memorable product. We crossed London with a mock-up of a full size telephone Box and Djembe drums, and were interviewed on the red carpet by a number of local stations plus the BBC.

As well as joining in a Q&A session with Lord Alan Sugar, the highlight of the day was meeting Ben McBean, an inspirational ex-Marine who lost an arm and part of a leg in Afghanistan.

Our proud team were Ezra Mina, Alex Ward, Karish Raja, Debbie Olowoyo, Bronte Cole and Dhruvil Patel (Standing in for Bolane).



## London 2012 sculpture is unveiled at Northampton Academy

As part of celebrating and commemorating the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games for the pupils of the Northampton Town Schools, a torch relay was held and an art legacy was created.

Primary school pupils from across the Northampton Town Schools designed sculptures as part of the art legacy. Five of these sculptures were commissioned and created and one of them has been installed at Northampton Academy, entitled "Joining the Pieces".

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, the anniversary of the torch relay, we were joined by Jancis Walker of the Youth Sport Trust, Gary Sheppard of Northamptonshire Sports Partnership, Shaun Dowling, United Learning's Head of Sport and Natalie Lawrence from the Northamptonshire School Sports Partnership as we unveiled the sculpture.



We were delighted that the designer of the sculpture, Patryk Malachowski, a year 6 pupil from Vernon Terrance Primary School, was also present alongside his parents, class teacher and Noel Blakeman, the artist who made the sculpture.

Principal Anne Hill represented the school alongside PE staff Mr Windsor and Mrs Carter-Morris.

Our final VIP guest was Cage Boons. Cage is a student at Northampton Academy and is ranked as the number 1 triple jumper in his age group in the UK. He joined us before heading straight off to the English School Athletics Championships, the fourth largest athletics event in the World. It has been televised live by SKY Sports since 2008.

## Cage Boons

The day after the sculpture was unveiled Cage competed in the English Schools Championships.

He was very pumped up for the event, with his sights set on gold and his first international vest!

In the first round he jumped a solid 13.73m and was looking set to improve in the following rounds.

However disaster struck in the second round as Cage pulled his hamstring during the take off phase of his jump.

Cage had to sit out the rest of the competition, lying in 2<sup>nd</sup> place until the final round when two other competitors jumped massive personal bests to pip him to the medals, leaving Cage in 4<sup>th</sup>!

Cage was absolutely devastated, especially as his recent PB of 14.43m would have secured him the gold.

So for now, its back to the drawing board, recovery and get ready for his comeback at the UK School Games in September.

Despite his disappointment he remained a fantastic ambassador for our school and our county throughout.

## Absence

We take absence seriously.

We target intervention with students whose attendance falls below the Academy target of 95% or better.

We use "truancy call" which is an automated message system that will keep ringing parents to request explanations for absence. If a response is not received letters are sent home to resolve reasons for absence and reduce likelihood of future absence.

This has had a positive affect on attendance patterns.

## Reports

The latest student reports are available to view on the Insight Reporting System. To log in, please follow the link on the Insight page on our website and use your username and password.

If you need any assistance, please contact us using the email address on the Insight Information page.

The Insight page is only one click away from our homepage or directly at: [www.northampton-academy.org/insight](http://www.northampton-academy.org/insight)

## Northamptonshire County Schools Challenge

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July a group of year 9 students presented their business idea at the Northamptonshire County Schools Challenge Final at the Lighthouse theatre Kettering.

They had created their own film and theatre company and were asking dragons for funding. One of the dragons was so impressed by their presentation that they made a special effort to find them and congratulate them on the job they did.

The group had created a thirty second Drama that was designed to be turned into a You tube advertisement to raise awareness of the Sophie Lancaster foundation.

Our team was Lauren Girvan, Paige McKenzie, Sophie Baxter, Mason Dolivera, Rosa Reid, Matthew Bates and Michael Zydonic. They are pictured alongside Police and Crime Commissioner Adam Simmonds.



## Absence to be granted only under exceptional circumstances

From September 2013, schools may not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. **Therefore the Principal can no longer authorise holidays or extended leave.**

This is the result of amendments that have been made to the 2006 pupil registration regulations in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, which will come into force on 1st September 2013. The 2013 amendments to the 2006 regulations remove references to family holidays and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days.

In addition from September 2013 Northampton Academy will be pursuing penalty notices with parent(s)/guardian(s) where a pupils' school attendance is at an unacceptable level. This is in line with amendments that have been made to the 2007 penalty notices regulations in the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013. These amendments will come into force on 1 September 2013.

Furthermore, if the absence is not authorised then the pupil may be deleted from the roll after 20 school days. In such an event the parent/guardian(s) would have to reapply for a place at the Academy.

## Free School Meals

If you register for free school meals then we will get extra funding to put towards the cost of educating your child and your child will get a free meal every day they are here. Your child doesn't even have to eat the meal!

### How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the “Parents” section on our website for a list of qualifying benefits.
2. Registering is really quick and easy.
  - The easiest way to register is to text ‘FSM’ followed by your full name, date of birth, National Insurance Number or Asylum Seeker’s Support Number, your children’s name(s) and Northampton Academy to 60622
  - You can apply online at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)
  - You can apply by calling 01604 366656
3. If you are eligible Northamptonshire County Council will let you know. If you aren't, they will let you know why and how you can appeal.
4. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £350 a year) and the school gets extra funding.
5. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal. As long as you are registered, the school still gets extra funding.

**Registering for Free School Meals will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.**

Free School Meals are administered by Northamptonshire County Council on behalf of Northampton Academy. Please give them a call on 01604 366656 if you would like to discuss the scheme.

## The CILIP Carnegie Award 2013

A group of enthusiastic and committed readers recently took part in the 2013 Carnegie Award Shadowing Scheme.

The medal is awarded each year to the author of an outstanding book for children. There were eight shortlisted books this year and the group were determined to give them all a go!

The winner was announced as *Maggot Moon* by Sally Gardner and students were presented with a certificate for taking part.

Vice-Chair of CILIP Barbara Band said: *“Shadowing inspires children to read and get excited about outstanding books, developing the literacy skills that will underpin their lives and help them to reach their potential.”*



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are pleased to be offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award for all year 9 students in 2013/14.

More information will be coming out next year but please see [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) in the meantime



## Summer School!

We are pleased to have secured funding from the government to offer a free of charge Summer School to our new year 7 students who are eligible for Free School Meals.

The government believes that pupils eligible for Free School Meals regularly under-perform compared to their peers. Attainment gaps widen as they progress through school so this specific intervention helps prevent these young people from falling behind.

Contact us to take part!

## Northampton Academy

Northampton Academy is a high performing secondary school rated "Good" by Ofsted in 2013.

Later in 2013, we were recognised in the top 20% of schools and academies nationally based on our Key Stage 4 value-added score.

In 2012, we celebrated our best ever GCSE results. Here are some of the highlights:

**55%** of our students achieved five or more A\* - C grades including English & Maths

**96%** of our students achieved five or more A\* - C grades

**7%** of our students achieved the English Bacalaureate

## Key dates:

Thursday 15th August

A' Level results day

Year 13s - come in at 8:30am

Year 12s - come in at 10am

Thursday 22nd August

GCSE results day

Year 11s - come in at 10am

Year 10s - come in at 2pm

Monday 19th August

Summer School begins (see page 7)

Friday 23rd August

Summer School ends (see page 7)

Tuesday 3rd September

Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 4th September

Teacher Training Day

Thursday 5th September

New term begins for Students in years 7 and 12

Year 7s - must be in school by 8:40am

Year 12s - must be in school by 9am

Friday 6th September

New term begins for all remaining students

All students - must be in school by 8:40am

Friday 4th October

Teacher Training Day

Monday 28th October

First day of half term holiday

Monday 4th November

Academy reopens for all students

Friday 20th December

Academy closes for Christmas holidays

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