



Character Building

Issue 4 April 2021

- ◆ **Respect**
- ◆ **Determination**
- ◆ **Ambition**
- ◆ **Tolerance**
- ◆ **Integrity**

Welcome to Issue 4 of our Character Building Newsletter.



It has been a challenging time for everyone over the last year. The unprecedented events that have occurred have tested us all. However, it is in times of difficulty that our true character comes to the fore. This has been massively evident in our students at Northampton Academy. Throughout this entire period of uncertainty, they have met every single change with the determination and ambition for which they are known. During remote learning, our students were ready to go every day, showing incredible integrity to engage with their education, despite not being in a classroom.

We consider ourselves a school of 'character and excellence'. Never has this been as evident as over the past year. I am incredibly proud of every one of our students and the wider Northampton Academy community. I am pleased to now have students back in school, working towards their future and developing into flourishing individuals.

Character cannot be measured; if it could, it would be off the scale for our students over the last year.

Phil Swallow

Assistant Principal - Personal Development

Leading the way on Character Education

Mr Clyne, Mr Anderson and Miss Begum had the honour of delivering a webinar to other schools and institutions about our experience at Northampton Academy of Character Education. They discussed an extensive range of topics around how we embedded our values at the Academy, how character informs our decisions and how it is sought, caught and taught.



We have also had conversations with several other United Learning schools on our Character Education and Leadership programmes. We continue to strive forwards for excellence, constantly evaluating and seeking to improve the provision for students to show excellence in their character education.

Mushy- A True Inspiration

On Thursday 11th March, we were delighted to virtually welcome Musharaf Asghar to present a keynote address to our students. Musharaf is known to the public as *'the boy with the stammer'* from the television show *Educating Yorkshire*.

Musharaf spoke to our students about his journey from being told he 'would never speak again' to winning a National Television Award. He also spoke of his determination after accepting himself for who he is, to practise every day to improve his speech. Mushy has worked hard since then and has now overcome his stammer to the point where he has become successful as an inspirational speaker. Mushy also spoke about the importance of listening and how valuable it can be.



Musharaf Asghar

Our staff and students were enthralled by Mushy's talk, and he very kindly gave the students the opportunity to ask questions.

At Northampton Academy, we thank Mushy very much for his time, and we look forward to welcoming him back in future in person.

Mr Swallow

Bonita Norris Visit

During our character development lessons this year, students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 had the privilege of listening to a talk from Bonita Norris.

At 22 years of age, Bonita became the youngest woman to have ever completed the ascent of Everest. Since summiting Everest, Bonita has walked to the North Pole and attempted to summit K2 (the world's second tallest mountain).



Bonita spoke to the students about the climb, the determination it took, and how her ambition to reach the top enabled her to raise the sponsorship required to complete her dream.

Bonita also kindly took the time to answer some of the students' questions, such as:



'What did you want to be when you were at secondary school?'

'How do you go to the toilet on Everest?'

'How do you get into climbing?'

The talk was incredibly well received by our students. We look forward to welcoming Bonita again soon.



Best In Everyone Awards

Each month we ask our staff to nominate students in their subjects for a 'Best In Everyone' award. These nominations allow us as a school to celebrate the excellence shown by our students in their lessons.

As we near the end of the year, two important celebratory events are approaching. Firstly, the United Learning 'Best In Everyone' awards in which staff can nominate students for recognition at this national awards ceremony. Last year we were fortunate enough to pick up two awards, and we hope to surpass that this coming year.

Secondly is our in-house awards ceremony, where we have the opportunity to celebrate success at our school.

This awards evening will take place on Thursday 8th July at 7.30 pm. Details to follow but put the date in your diary.



Last year's national winners, Nathan (above) and Owen (right)



Going International

Working in partnership with our Nucleus STEM Stream, Northampton Academy has been fortunate enough to make a series of international links with other schools and institutions worldwide. These schools are in India, South Africa and Malaysia, and we are pursuing many more opportunities.

All our links are at the fledgeling stage thus far; however, our students will be linking up with others around the world very soon. They will speak about their schooling and their experiences of being a young person in their part of the world.

Mrs Ashton, Mr Swallow and Mr Leafe have already been in touch with these schools and discussed some exciting plans for our students. We look forward to seeing these opportunities continue to grow and evolve as time goes on.

Developments- International partnership

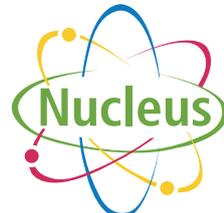


Trivandrum International School



Holy Family College

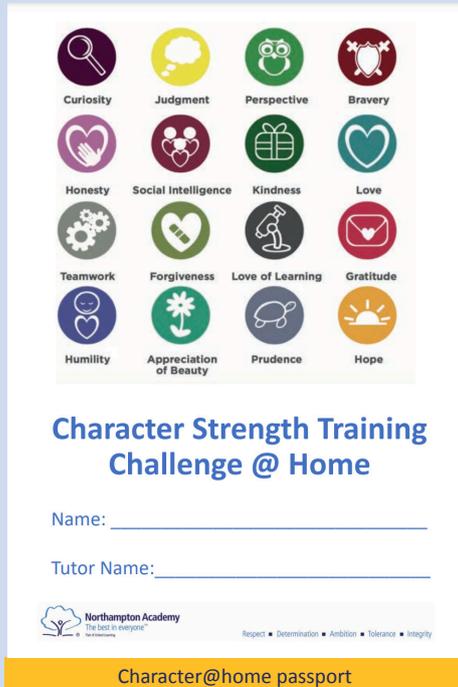
Potential partnerships in Dubai, Japan and Australia



Nucleus STEM Stream
Science • Technology • Engineering • Maths

Character@home

Throughout both periods of lockdown, our students have had the opportunity to complete their Character@home passports.



The graphic displays a grid of 16 character traits, each with a corresponding icon: Curiosity (magnifying glass), Judgment (lightbulb), Perspective (owl), Bravery (shield with sword), Honesty (hand holding heart), Social Intelligence (two people), Kindness (gift), Love (heart), Teamwork (gears), Forgiveness (heart with cross), Love of Learning (microscope), Gratitude (envelope), Humility (heart with arrow), Appreciation of Beauty (flower), Prudence (scale), and Hope (sun). Below the grid is a form for 'Name:' and 'Tutor Name:'. At the bottom, it says 'Northampton Academy The best in everyone' and lists values: Respect, Determination, Ambition, Tolerance, Integrity.

Character Strength Training Challenge @ Home

Name: _____

Tutor Name: _____

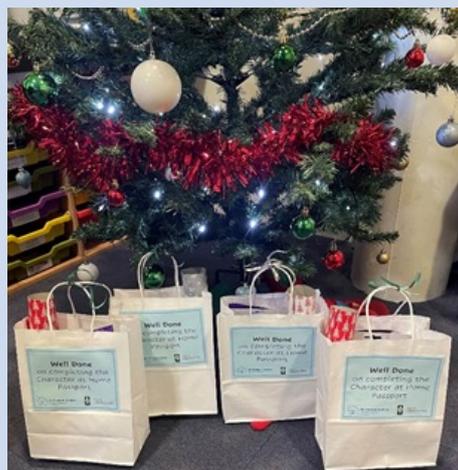
Northampton Academy
The best in everyone

Respect • Determination • Ambition • Tolerance • Integrity

Character@home passport

The programme allowed our students to demonstrate their character values when outside of school. Students were also able to engage with leadership opportunities at home to show their character by taking a more active part in the running of the house.

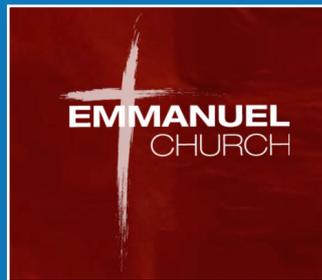
Several students have engaged with this opportunity. It is heart-warming to see how much our students value their character education both in and out of school.



Character@home Goodie Bags

Working with Emmanuel Church

This year we have been delighted to welcome the Reverend Haydon Spencely to our governing body. Haydon has been a keen contributor to the school through the last year and has regularly provided students, staff and parents with his 'Thoughts for the Week' through our website. Rev Haydon regularly linked these thoughts and ideas to our character values. We know many students and staff took great solace in listening to Haydon's musings on various subjects.



We are delighted to be working with Emmanuel Church on a new Youth Club project for some of our students in Years 7 and 8. This opportunity will allow students to learn valuable life skills and develop essential character traits in a non-school setting. Thank you so much to Mellany Edfe, who has been working with us on the project. We are very excited to see where it takes us.



Reverend Haydon's assembly before lockdown



[Find Reverend Haydon's virtual assemblies here >>>](#)

My Culture Day 2020

On Thursday, December 17th, we celebrated 'My Culture Day' at Northampton Academy. It was a fantastic way to end the term and a wonderful celebration of the diversity we have at the Academy.

Students began the day reading an extract from 'Refugee Boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah.

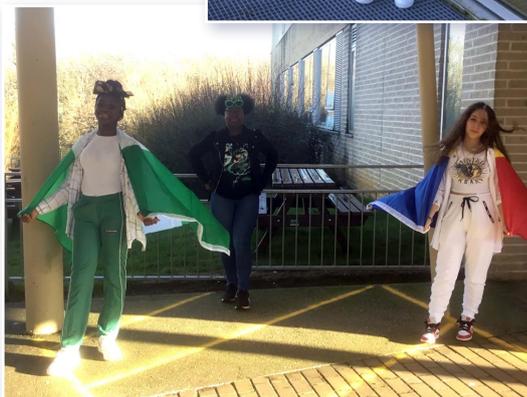
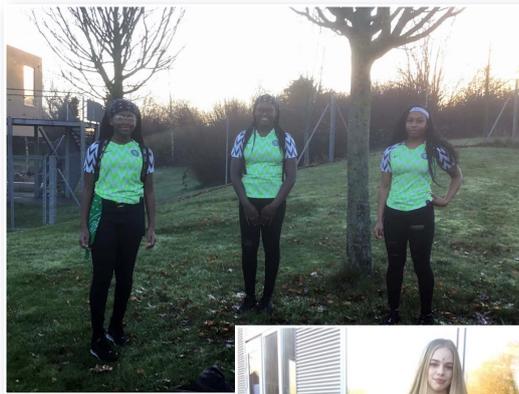
Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to hear some insights into the cultures of some staff at the Academy. Students also heard from the students and the principal at Trivandram International School in Kerala, India, with whom we will continue developing links in 2021.

There was an opportunity to try some food from different cultures produced by our canteen staff, including treats ranging from vegetable curry to Piri Piri chicken; lamingtons to toad-in-the-hole. At lunchtime, some students watched a group of Year 10 students perform some Bollywood dancing which Mrs Ashton ably supported.

We were also delighted to announce a huge number of student leadership opportunities, more of which will be coming in the new year. We were pleased to announce our Junior Anti-Bullying Leaders in Years 7, 8 and 9, our new Wellbeing Ambassadors in Year 9 and the elected students to form our Student Leadership Team (STLT). This has been driven in school by Mr Leafe and will continue to grow into next year.

It was a phenomenal and positive end to a challenging term.

Phil Swallow,
Assistant Principal
Personal
Development





Student Leadership

This year at Northampton Academy, we have seen a significant drive on student leadership. Mr Leafe, our Student Leadership Co-ordinator, has led the initiative and has given our students even more opportunities to demonstrate their leadership values. As part of our charter to offer all students leadership opportunities, below is a selection of some of our most prestigious and newest opportunities.

Prefects



Our Year 11 students continue to be leaders within the school as Prefects. We have recently appointed seven new Prefects to join our Year 11 Prefect team. Year 10 applications will be opening in the summer term for your chance to be a Prefect.

Student Leadership Team (STLT)



One of our most prestigious opportunities at Northampton Academy is to be part of STLT, which mirrors our schools Senior Leadership Team. Students elected three representatives from their year group to share their views on important events in the school. STLT has already impacted the school on wellbeing, careers and remote learning. Decisions that they have made have been implemented across the entire school.

Wellbeing Ambassadors



Recent times have been challenging, and sometimes it is easier to speak with one of our peers rather than an adult. Our Wellbeing Ambassadors are there to act as a link between our students and the trained professionals who work with us both within and outside the Academy.

Anti-Bullying Leaders



Our Anti-Bullying Leaders ensure that students within the school have access to the help and support they need and lead on anti-bullying projects within the school. This year we have recruited Junior Anti-Bullying Leaders, so we now have representation in every year group.

STEM Leaders



Our Nucleus STEM Stream forms an integral part of the school's character and ethos. Our STEM Leaders take ownership over projects within STEM. They are also working closely with some of our international partners on topics such as sustainability and climate change.

Empowering Young Women Leaders

Year 12 girls attended an 'Empowering Young Women Leaders' pilot workshop delivered by Dr James Underwood and Miss Truc Thanh Truong.

It provided our young females with the opportunity to think critically about the types of leaders they want to be. It taught them the skills needed to become successful as future leaders.

Students were asked to reflect on their individual experiences and set personalised goals to accomplish the first step to becoming the leaders they envisioned themselves to be. Students took part in many debates and even got the chance to coach one another.

Both speakers described our students as 'one of the most thoughtful, reflective, engaged, welcoming and positive groups we have worked with'.

Well done Year 12, and thank you to our exceptional speakers.

Miss Zaman



Year 12 Students



Year 12 Students Take Part in Coaching Programme

Several of our Year 12 students have completed the first ever Sixth Form Academic Coaching Programme at Northampton Academy. Students will soon take part in the second phase of the programme.

They will receive a full-day of training in the 'train the coaches' phase, allowing our first-ever qualified student coaches to lead the Student Coaching Programme at Northampton Academy.

Here are some of our fantastic student testimonials:

"What I found most useful and enjoyable about the coaching programme is that it provides a 1-1 session, which helps you get feedback to improve your weakest areas."

"I highly recommend taking part in the coaching programme to anyone because it engages you with its unique one-on-one feedback with lots of encouragement. Coaching allows you to define your career goals realistically." Isata D

Applications for the second cohort of students is now open for submission.

Fantastic job Year 12!

Miss Zaman





One of the first schools in the country to be awarded the prestigious 'School of Character' kitemark



School of CHARACTER

Character Values at Northampton Academy

Civic Values

- Service
- Neighbourliness
- Citizenship
- Community awareness
- Volunteering
- Social justice

Intellectual Values

- Reflection
- Focus
- Critical thinking
- Reason and judgement
- Curiosity
- Resourcefulness
- Open-mindedness
- Wisdom
- Creativity

Moral Values

- Courage
- Compassion
- Gratitude
- Justice
- Honesty
- Humility
- Modesty
- Self-discipline
- **Tolerance**
- **Integrity**
- Friendliness
- **Respect**
- Trust

Performance Values

- Resilience
- Perseverance
- **Determination**
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Confidence
- Motivation
- **Ambition**
- Problem-solving
- Communication

Visit www.northampton-academy.org/character and follow our Character Twitter account [@NA_Character](https://twitter.com/NA_Character) to stay up to date with our character news.

Respect ■ Determination ■ Ambition ■ Tolerance ■ Integrity

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



NORTHAMPTON ACADEMY



School of CHARACTER

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