



NIA Community Newsletter 9th to 13th February 2026

Message from the Executive Headteacher



Executive Headteacher's Weekly Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this half term, I am delighted to share some important news about our leadership team. This week, we welcomed Ms Perkins into the role of Head of Primary School. She embodies our EMAT vision that “Every child deserves to be the best they can be...” and has already demonstrated her unwavering commitment to our pupils, our staff, and the wider community.

Under her leadership, I have every confidence that the quality of teaching, learning, and care within our primary phase will continue to flourish.

This half term has been another period of genuine transformation across the school, reflected in the richness of learning and community engagement captured in our newsletters. I remain deeply grateful for your ongoing support—it makes an enormous difference to what we are able to achieve together.

There is nothing more for me to add except to invite you to enjoy this week's news and celebrations, and to wish you all a safe, restful, and well-deserved half term break.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Serráo

Executive Headteacher

NIA 6 Updates



All of the previous NIA6 newsletters can be found in the news section on the [Sixth Form](#) website.

Well done NIA6

This week in Sixth Form has truly reflected the spirit, dedication and character of our NIA6 community.

We have continued our focus on celebrating effort and commitment. Students with 100% attendance, as well as those achieving an impressive 97%, were entered into a prize draw for an Amazon gift voucher. In addition, students who achieved two continuous weeks of excellent punctuality to both school and lessons alongside 100% attendance have enjoyed a well-deserved dress down day today. These rewards recognise the professionalism and consistency we expect as students prepare for life beyond Sixth Form.

Across subjects, we have seen exceptional commitment. Miss Payne shared wonderful news about our historians, who delivered outstanding religion presentations this week. Their quality of work has been described as amazing, and they have consistently demonstrated excellent collaboration and dedication to group work. We are exploring a fitting reward to recognise their sustained effort and teamwork.

Our Sixth Form Character Award of the Term was presented to a student who has made remarkable improvements in their work ethic since the beginning of the year. Their growth, determination and maturity now truly embody the character traits we aspire to see in all NIA6 students. This transformation has been inspiring to witness and thoroughly deserved recognition.

Beyond the classroom, Sixth Form students have embraced community and culture. We have been selling heart-shaped lollipops to show appreciation for one another while raising money for charity. Ramadan decorations are proudly displayed, and students have enjoyed marking this important time together. On Friday, we look forward to celebrating the Lunar New Year by welcoming students and staff dressed in gold, yellow and red.

Students have also been benefiting from wider enrichment opportunities, including today's Careers Fair at NIA, organised by Miss Tandoh. Events like these play a vital role in helping students make informed decisions about their next steps.

A reminder that after the holiday there have been adjustments to the mock examination timetable. All BTEC examinations previously scheduled for the afternoon will now take place in the morning. Please ensure students arrive by 8:30am for morning exams and 1:00pm for afternoon exams, and report to the theatre at NIA.

Finally, our thought of the week: *Success and failure are not the end points in life. What matters most is our determination, resilience and courage to carry on.*

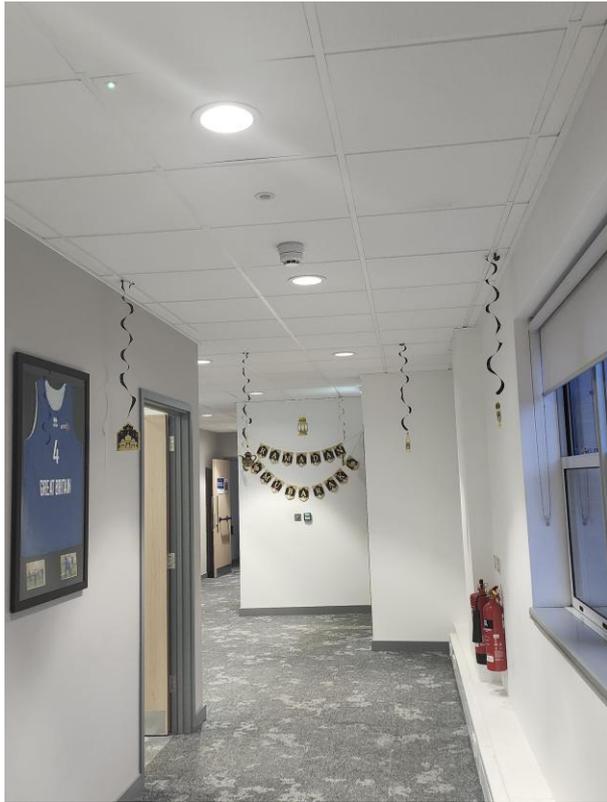
This message is especially important at this stage in the academic year. Success is not simply about grades; it is about growth, effort and the willingness to keep improving. Equally, setbacks do not define our students. Moments of difficulty, disappointment or challenge are part of every journey. What truly shapes future outcomes is how we respond. Determination helps our students stay focused on their goals. Resilience enables them to recover from challenges and learn from mistakes. Courage gives them the confidence to try again, to ask for help when needed, and to step outside of their comfort zone.

We are proud to see these qualities developing in our Sixth Form students every day, and we will continue to nurture them as they prepare for their next steps beyond NIA6.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

The Sixth Form Team





NIA6 students hear about nursing career opportunities

We welcomed Lorna Mayles, a passionate educator, nurse advocate, and strategic leader currently working as Head of Students and RCN King's Nursing Cadets at the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) this week. With extensive experience in healthcare education and mentorship, she has been instrumental in inspiring the next generation of nurses through innovative leadership programmes and student engagement initiatives. Lorna discussed her career journey and the four fields of nursing and midwifery with Sixth Formers interested in the career.



Barclays Life Skills programme

This week NIA6 learners took part in the Barclays Life Skills programme which aims to unlock skills and employment opportunities and support young people in developing vital employability and financial skills they need to succeed at work.

Learner Tariq Ali said: *"As a Year 12 student, taking part in the Barclays Life Skills programme has been incredibly beneficial for me. Working alongside students from other schools and participating in team workshops, I was able to strengthen essential transferable skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving. These are skills I can use in sixth form now and carry with me into university, apprenticeships or the workplace. The advice on CV writing and interview techniques has also given me a real advantage when applying for opportunities like work experience and summer schools. Overall, the programme has boosted my confidence, motivation and preparation for my next steps."*



Careers Fair

Learners enjoyed having some time to look around the annual NIA Careers and Futures Fair on Thursday. The fair was a great chance to speak to businesses and higher education colleges and universities about career aspirations and training opportunities available. They also attended sessions on attending university and what university life is really like.











Work experience opportunities

Work experience is a key part of the sixth form curriculum and provides students with valuable insight into the world of work, helping them to develop skills that will support their next steps after sixth form.

When work experience takes place

Work experience placements can take place throughout the school year on Friday afternoons during enrichment. In addition, all students will take part in a formal work experience week, which will begin on Monday 6th July.

How to sign up

Students can sign up for work experience placements via the Unifrog website. If any support is needed with finding a placement or completing the process, students should see Mrs Silvestre, who will be happy to help.

Why work experience matters

Taking part in work experience allows students to:

- Develop key employability skills such as communication, teamwork, and time management
- Gain confidence in professional environments
- Explore career pathways and make informed decisions about future choices
- Strengthen CVs, personal statements, and apprenticeship applications
- Build independence and professionalism expected by employers and universities

We strongly encourage all students to engage fully with work experience opportunities, make the most of the support available, and approach placements with commitment and enthusiasm.

