

NIA 6 Updates



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

Attendance Matters

Attendance continues to be a key focus at NIA6, as we know it has a direct impact on student progress, confidence, and future opportunities. Every lesson counts, particularly at this stage of the academic year, where students are preparing for assessments and making important decisions about their next steps.

Year 12 Attendance Data:

- Late Marks (this week): 22

- Late Marks (previous week): 23
- Attendance (current): 90.8%
- Attendance (previous week):”

Whilst punctuality has improved again this week, attendance remains an area for improvement. Every lesson missed is a missed opportunity to learn new content, consolidate understanding, and receive support from teachers. Research consistently shows a strong link between attendance and academic achievement, and students with higher attendance are more likely to achieve their target grades and progress onto their chosen university, apprenticeship, or career pathway.

As we move towards the end of the academic year and begin preparing for Year 13, we encourage all students to make every lesson count and finish the year strongly.

World Cup attendance initiative



As the tournament moves into the knockout stages, congratulations to the teams that have successfully progressed to the next round. With every match now becoming a must-win fixture, the competition is becoming even more exciting.

A reminder that students assigned to the top three teams will receive prizes as a reward for their attendance. The key message remains clear — the better the team's attendance, the greater their chance of success.

The competition has created a fantastic buzz around the Sixth Form and has encouraged students to think carefully about the positive impact that attendance and punctuality can have. We look forward to seeing which teams continue their journey through the knockout rounds and ultimately lift the NIA6 World Cup trophy. Good luck to all remaining teams!

Work Experience

This week has been Work Experience Week at NIA6, providing students with a valuable opportunity to experience the world of work first-hand. Students have been completing placements across a wide range of sectors, including dentistry, pharmacy, retail, education, chartered surveying, and legal services.

Work experience plays an important role in helping students develop the skills and attributes that universities and employers value most. It allows students to build confidence, improve communication skills, gain an understanding of workplace expectations, and explore potential career pathways. For many students, it also provides an opportunity to confirm future ambitions or discover new areas of interest.

Throughout the week, the Sixth Form Team and Mentors have been checking in with students and employers, and we have received some fantastic feedback regarding students' professionalism, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn. It has been wonderful to see students embracing new challenges, developing their independence, and making a positive impression in their placements.

We would like to thank all the employers who have supported our students this week and helped provide such meaningful opportunities.

"I have been doing my work experience with West Northamptonshire Council as part of the Workplace Safari. This week has been filled with many insightful sessions, helping me to learn more about the council and the services it provides.

At the start of the week, we had an induction where we learned about what the council does for the residents of West Northamptonshire and the different departments that work together to support the community.

Throughout the week, we had people from different areas of the council come and speak to us. We had a session with Kate and Roberta from Public Health, where we learned how they care for the residents of West Northamptonshire through their three pillars: promotion, protection and prevention. We also took part in a group activity where we designed a health campaign. During the session, we explored the skills needed to work in public health, as well as the different career pathways and routes into the profession.

We also had a session with Chloe and Anna from the Community Development team. They explained how they work with local communities to meet the needs of residents and make Northamptonshire a better place to live. We completed a group activity where we designed a more accessible community for different groups of people based on a given scenario.

Another session focused on Human Resources, where we learned how they support employees and help create a positive and comfortable workplace for everyone.

We also attended sessions about careers in care, social work, as well as a tour of some of the regeneration projects taking place across Northampton.

During the week, we visited the library and discovered that it offers much more than just books. We learned about the wide range of services available to the public and the regeneration work taking place there. We also visited the museum and art gallery, where we explored the exhibitions and learned about Northampton's famous shoe industry in the Shoe Gallery.

My highlight of the week was visiting County Hall. We experienced what the court process was like in the 16th century for people who have committed crimes and learned how cases progress in court. We acted out different courtroom scenarios, and I was chosen to be the judge, which meant I got to sentence the defendants. It was incredibly exciting and gave me a much better understanding of how the courts operated.

Throughout the week, we have also been working on a video project about our Workplace Safari experience for future students who may apply. It has been an exciting project that has challenged our creativity, teamwork and video editing skills.” - Jennifer

Work experience student testimonial

This week, one of our students has been completing a work experience placement supporting reading lessons across the school. Working with students from a wide range of countries and language backgrounds, they have been helping pupils develop their understanding of texts and build confidence in their reading skills.

The placement has involved supporting students who speak a variety of languages, including Romanian, Somali, and Ukrainian. When students have found unfamiliar vocabulary challenging, technology and translation tools have been used to help explain meanings and improve understanding.

Through this experience, our student has gained valuable insight into the importance of communication, patience, and adaptability when working with young people from diverse backgrounds. Reflecting on the experience, they commented on how rewarding it has been to see students make progress and grow in confidence.

They highlighted their belief that success is possible for everyone who is willing to work hard and persevere, regardless of the challenges they may face. The placement has provided an excellent opportunity to develop skills in communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and working with others — all of which are highly valued by universities and employers.

We are delighted that our student has embraced this opportunity so positively and demonstrated the professionalism and commitment that we encourage at NIA6. We look forward to hearing more about the experiences and achievements of all our students as Work Experience Week comes to a close.

"One of my highlights of my work experience was building a good rapport with the students. I had the opportunity to teach a Year 8 Religious Studies lesson on Buddhism. As I study Buddhism at A Level, I was able to share some additional context to support their learning. Rather than simply referring to the "Cycle of Suffering", I introduced them to the Buddhist term **Samsara** and explained its meaning. I also told them that the Buddha's birth name is **Siddhartha**, and it was really great to see the students confidently using these terms throughout the lesson. The week before my placement, my A Level class had visited a Buddhist monastery, so I was able to share some photos from that trip. One of the students was particularly excited to see a picture of me showing a monk Jujutsu Kaisen. After that, her involvement in the lesson grew more apparent. It was a great conversation in general, and it helped the students see that learning about religion involves meeting real people and experiencing different cultures first hand." - Larisa





UCAS Applications – Year 12

Year 12 students are continuing to make strong progress with their UCAS applications. Most students have now created accounts and begun engaging with the process.

Students will soon begin focusing on their personal statements, and it is important they understand how to write effectively.

Key advice for writing a strong personal statement:

- Clearly explain why you have chosen the course
- Provide evidence of interest, such as reading, work experience, or wider research
- Reflect on what you have learned from your experiences
- Structure writing clearly and professionally

How parents can support:

- Encourage students to discuss their ideas out loud
- Help proofread drafts for clarity and accuracy
- Support research into universities and courses

- Encourage good time management and deadlines

Students should also be using Unifrog to research courses and explore career pathways to ensure they are making well informed decisions.

Students are also encouraged to visit the NIA6 library, where a range of university prospectuses are available to help them compare courses, institutions, and entry requirements as they begin making important decisions about their future.

Taster Days

Over the past two days, NIA6 has welcomed prospective Year 12 students for our September 2026 Taster Days. These events provided students with an opportunity to experience Sixth Form life, meet new people, and begin preparing for the exciting transition from Year 11 to Year 12.

The day began with an introduction to NIA6, followed by a range of activities designed to develop critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. One of the highlights of the day was the Balloon Tower Challenge, where students worked in teams to build the tallest free-standing tower using only balloons and tape.

The challenge encouraged students to:

- Work collaboratively as a team
- Communicate effectively
- Think creatively and strategically
- Demonstrate resilience when plans did not go as expected
- Develop leadership and problem-solving skills

Students quickly discovered that success depended not only on having a good idea, but also on listening to one another, adapting to challenges, and ensuring every team member contributed. These are all skills that will support them throughout Sixth Form, at university, and in future careers.

Alongside the team-building activities, students attended a range of subject taster sessions including Psychology, Sport, and Mathematics, giving them valuable insight into Sixth Form study and helping them make informed decisions about their courses for September.

It was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm, engagement, and ambition from our future Year 12 students, and we look forward to welcoming them to NIA6 later this year.



Thought for the Week

“Experience is not what happens to us; it is what we do with what happens to us”

This week’s thought for the week links perfectly to our Work Experience Week and the many opportunities our students have embraced throughout the year. Experience alone does not guarantee growth or success. What truly matters is how we reflect on our experiences, what we learn from them, and how we use that knowledge to develop ourselves. Two students can complete the same work experience placement, but the student who asks questions, takes on challenges, reflects on feedback, and actively learns from the experience will gain far more from it.

Work experience is valuable because it allows students to step outside the classroom and apply their skills in real-world situations. It helps develop confidence, communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and professionalism. It can also help students confirm career ambitions or discover new opportunities they may not have previously considered.

As we reflect on the experiences of this week, we encourage all students to think about:

What have I learned?

What skills have I developed?

What would I do differently next time?

How can I use this experience to help me achieve my future goals?

The most successful people are not necessarily those who have the most experiences, but those who make the most of the experiences they have. As you continue your journey through NIA6 and beyond, remember that every opportunity is a chance to learn, grow, and take another step towards your future.