

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.

Research consistently shows a direct link between attendance and achievement. Students who attend regularly are more likely to achieve their target grades, develop positive study

habits, and successfully progress to university, apprenticeships, and employment. Every lesson missed is a missed opportunity to learn new content, receive feedback, and consolidate understanding.

Opportunities

Students interested in pursuing a career in law should consider the following opportunity from **Young Professionals** and **Freeths**, one of the UK's leading law firms.

This virtual event provides an excellent opportunity to:

- Learn directly from legal professionals and recruiters
- Gain insight into careers in law
- Develop understanding of the application and recruitment process
- Strengthen university and apprenticeship applications
- Improve commercial awareness and understanding of professional services

Event Details

Date: 27th August 2026

Location: Zoom

Time: 10:00am – 2:30pm

Who can attend: Year 12 and Year 13 students

Applications will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so students are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Please click on the link below to apply:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Freeths_Virtual

NIA End of Year Awards 2026

NIA6 students were also celebrated at our annual end of year awards on Friday.

Congratulations to everyone who received an award in recognition of their hard work, achievements and contributions throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of you all.



Work Experience

A week on from Work Experience Week, we have been reflecting on the incredible experiences our students have had across a wide range of sectors. Placements included farm sanctuaries, finance, photography studios, healthcare settings, retail businesses, education, surveying, and many more.

Work experience plays a crucial role in helping students develop employability skills such as communication, teamwork, resilience, professionalism, and problem-solving. It also provides valuable evidence for UCAS personal statements, university interviews, degree apprenticeships, and future employment applications.

In addition, work experience is an excellent example of a **super-curricular activity**. Universities increasingly look for evidence that students have engaged with learning beyond the classroom and developed a deeper understanding of their chosen subject area.

“For work experience I was working on a farm sanctuary located in Raunds. From Monday to Friday we worked from 9am to 3pm, we would clean after the animals, we would feed them and on Friday we moved the sheep and goats to a different pen. On Monday we helped Sharon with the barns, we shovelled hay that was used for the open day viewing from the day before we came. Volunteering at the sanctuary helped me understand and appreciate farmers and sanctuary’s more, and it also helped me gain more resilience, responsibility and patience. I enjoyed working on this sanctuary as the people running it were really understanding and overall really nice to talk to, it also felt very rewarding feeding and helping the animals.” - **Amber and Kotryna**

“I had a really positive experience at my work placement, Commsave Credit Union, over the week I was there I visited Finance, Customer Service, Marketing, Member Experience, Loan and Fraud departments. I took part in the work in each department like approving loan applications, handling finance transactions and customer service.

I sat on team meetings and also shadowed staff dealing with customers, I enjoyed getting a detailed look on how each team work together to form the business.

It gave me a clear idea of what a life in finance looks like day to day and really helped me have a clearer idea towards my future career path!

Thanks a lot for arranging it!” - **Muad**

“My experience at Photomafia Studios was absolutely phenomenal. Every day of the week, I was doing hands-on work, learning more about managing a photo studio as a whole, and a very realistic flavour of workplace expectations.

For my first two days at work, I was (for the most part) taking pictures. As part of a partnership with an organisation, I was asked to walk around Town Centre with a camera they provided for me. I spent about 2-3 hours taking pictures, and the rest of my shift organizing and editing all the pictures. On Wednesday, I then uploaded all the pictures to the organization website, where people could purchase those pictures for their own use. Alongside helping to repaint the studio walls and clean up the studio.

On Thursday, we were meant to have a studio hire, but due to the heat it was cancelled, as we didn't want our models looking sweaty in professional headshots. So, I spent the day managing finances and sending invitations and letters for future events, alongside managing inventory.

Friday and Saturday, we had many studio hires. Studio Hire is effectively when a third party rents out the studio space for their own use. Most of my day was spent assisting them around the studio. I also took behind the scenes recordings and pictures that I later edited and uploaded onto the Photomafia Studios website.

Overall, I got to have a fantastic experience. I learned a lot, experienced even more. Definitely made the right call by revisiting the studio this year.” - **Ammaar**





UCAS Applications – Year 12



The Sixth Form team is delighted with the progress Year 12 students have made with their UCAS applications this year. The key stages of the application process have now been completed, including account creation, university research, application guidance sessions, and initial personal statement planning.

Students are now entering one of the most important stages of the process: continuing to develop their super-curricular profile and refining their personal statements over the summer.

Super-curricular activities are activities that take students beyond the classroom and demonstrate genuine interest in a subject area. Examples include:

- Reading books, journals, and articles related to a chosen course
- Attending university taster days and lectures
- Completing online courses
- Listening to relevant podcasts
- Undertaking work experience or volunteering
- Conducting independent research
- Visiting museums, exhibitions, and conferences

These activities are invaluable when writing personal statements because they allow students to explain not only what they have done, but also what they have learned and how those experiences have influenced their future ambitions.

Year 12 students have made excellent progress so far, with the majority now having UCAS accounts set up and actively engaging with the process. Many students have already begun drafting and refining personal statements and are starting to build strong evidence for future applications.

Parents can continue to support by:

- Discussing university and career options with students
- Encouraging engagement in super-curricular activities
- Reviewing drafts of personal statements
- Supporting organisation and meeting deadlines

Students should continue using Unifrog to research universities, compare courses, and explore future career pathways. They are also encouraged to visit the NIA6 Library, where a range of university prospectuses are available to support informed decision-making.

CCF trips

The Combined Cadet Force continues to provide students with exceptional opportunities to develop leadership, resilience, teamwork, independence, and confidence outside of the classroom.

Through a range of adventurous activities and leadership experiences, students are challenged to step outside their comfort zones, work collaboratively, and develop skills that are highly valued by universities, employers, and the armed forces.

This is what our students had to say about their recent experiences:

“On our CCF trip to Weymouth last week we participated in a range of activities such as a level 2 powerboating course for some cadets, with others spending the week doing a range

of other sports including sailing, windsurfing, paddle sports, mountain biking and rock climbing. We found these activities enjoyable and even gained a licence from our powerboating course. In our free time we were able to go swimming in the sea with Miss Cook and some of us worked towards our Bronze Rookie lifeguarding qualification and had a really fun karaoke night featuring solos from Mr Pether. Overall, we had a really fun week away and gained some valuable skills and experiences.” - **Sixth form CCF**

“This work experience took place in Exeter, and I worked alongside Royal Marine cadets from across different boarding schools and with currently serving Royal Marine Commandos.

The purpose of this work experience was to develop leadership and personal skills of senior cadet NCOs and instructors, taking part in multiple military style activities.

These included section level and troop level attacks, troop commanding and leading sections.

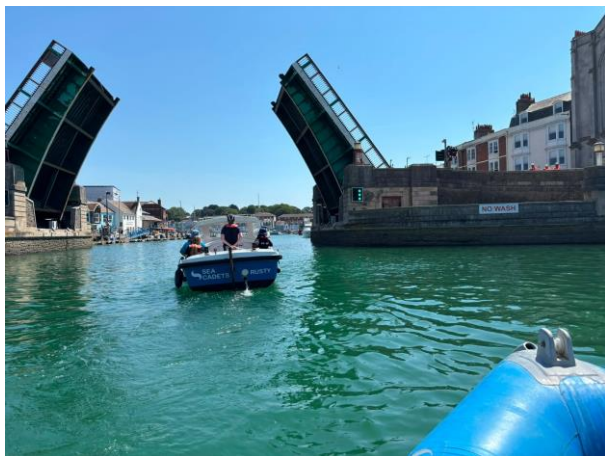
We also got an insight of what it takes to get the "green lid", by taking part in the swimming tests, bottom field assault course and the endurance run involving the "sheep's dip", tunnels and St Peter's pool. These are only small parts of the actual 30-week commando course, and it was a fantastic opportunity to have a peak of what's waiting for those who pursue this career.

We also took part in sailing, raft building and high ropes, as part of our leadership and teamwork training.

From this work experience, I have learned that no matter what your weaknesses are, as a leader you should always push everyone in the team to do better than what they can.

"team first, oppo second, self last" is a mindset that everyone should have, and its one that I always lived by.” - **Victor**





Spotlight on subjects

As we reach the end of another successful year, we wanted to ensure that every subject offered at NIA6 had an opportunity to be celebrated. Our curriculum continues to grow, with additional subjects being introduced in September, ensuring we can meet the needs and aspirations of all students.

A Level Physics

A Level Physics develops analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, mathematical confidence, and scientific understanding. Students explore fascinating topics including mechanics, electricity, particles, waves, and astrophysics while applying their knowledge to real-world situations.

The subject supports progression into careers and degree courses such as engineering, astrophysics, architecture, computer science, data science, mathematics, medicine, and many other STEM disciplines. Universities and employers highly value Physics due to the logical thinking, resilience, and analytical skills it develops.

“I am a student studying a level physics, the course explores how the world works through mechanics, electricity, waves and particles. Physics has been both challenging and enjoyable and has helped develop my problem solving and mathematical skills and as well applying what I learnt in real situations. Even though the course is harder, I find the subject rewarding and interesting.” - **Lorena**

BTEC Level 3 Law

BTEC Law provides students with an excellent understanding of the legal system and how law impacts society. Through studying areas such as family law, criminal law, and dispute resolution, students develop analytical, communication, and evaluative skills that are valuable across many professions.

The qualification can lead to careers in law, policing, social work, public services, human resources, business, government, and a range of professional services. It also provides a strong foundation for higher education pathways.

“I have really enjoyed studying BTEC Law, particularly family law, as it has given me a much better understanding of how the legal system aims to achieve equality for everyone. Within family law I have studied topics such as marriage, divorce, cohabitation, child arrangements and financial settlements, which have shown me how the courts carefully balance the rights of everyone involved while still making decisions that are fair. One of the most interesting aspects for me has been learning about how protecting children is one of the court's highest priority. I have explored how the safety and welfare of the child is the main consideration in family law cases and how the courts use the welfare checklist to ensure decisions are made in the child's best interests. Studying family law has helped me appreciate the importance

legal systems play in protecting vulnerable people and promoting justice within families.” -

Amber

Business

At NIA6, students have the opportunity to study both A Level Business and BTEC Level 3 Business, allowing them to choose a pathway that best suits their learning style and future ambitions.

Both qualifications develop a strong understanding of how organisations operate and cover areas such as finance, marketing, operations, and human resources. Students gain valuable transferable skills including communication, problem-solving, teamwork, decision-making, and commercial awareness.

Business qualifications can support progression into a wide range of careers, including management, entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, accounting, human resources, and economics, while also providing a strong foundation for university study and apprenticeships.

“Business has been going well so far, and I have enjoyed learning more about how businesses operate and the decisions they make to become successful. We have completed units on Finance and Marketing, which have helped me understand how businesses manage their money, plan for the future, attract customers, and respond to changes in the market. These topics have improved my confidence in the subject and helped me develop useful skills such as communication, problem-solving, organisation, and analysing information. I believe studying Business will benefit me in the future by giving me knowledge and skills that can be used in a wide range of careers. It has helped me understand how businesses work and has prepared me for future opportunities, whether that is further education, employment, or possibly starting my own business.” - **Hamse**

A Level Sociology

“A-Level sociology is a subject helping students to understand how society functions and why inequalities exist. The course goes through the influences that shape human behaviour, institutions, and different perspectives on key issues affecting society. We’ve studied a wide range of topics this year such as Families and Households, Socialisation, Identity and Culture, Inequalities and Research Methods. Throughout the course we learn, evaluate, skills while learning to apply sociological theories and evidence to contemporary issues for essay writing.

This Year in Sociology, we have successfully completed Units 1 and 2 and have made excellent progress. I am confident unit 3 in Year 13 will be complete in time and have time to revise. We regularly do exam-style practice questions, which has helped us develop our exam technique and become much more confident under exam conditions. As a result, I feel very confident going into my exams.

Our teacher uses a range of effective revision strategies, including Frayer Models and our Green Grids. For example, in inequalities the Green Grids provide all the key PEEL points needed for each inequality topic, making it easy to structure high-quality answers. I have found these resources incredibly useful because they are clear, easy to revise from, and ensure we include enough detail to achieve the best marks possible.

Recently we have been finishing off our topic on Research methods where we regularly practise exam questions in class. This has helped us become much more confident in structuring responses and preparing for our exams. In our other lessons, we have been studying Inequalities, exploring the different factors that contribute to inequality within society and evaluating different sociological perspectives. Much of our learning is centred around exam practice, which is extremely useful in preparing us for next year. “ - **Lena**

New Sports Equipment at NIA6

This week, we were delighted to receive some new sports and recreational equipment for students to enjoy during break and lunch times at NIA6.

Students can now make use of:

- **Table Tennis**
- **Pool Table**
- **PS5 Gaming Area**

These additions provide students with even more opportunities to relax, socialise, and take a break from their studies during the school day. Recreational activities such as these can have a positive impact on wellbeing, helping students to manage stress, build friendships, and maintain a healthy balance between academic work and downtime.

We are pleased to see students already making great use of the new equipment and look forward to continuing to develop the Sixth Form social spaces in response to student feedback. The Sixth Form Team would like to thank students for using the facilities responsibly and helping to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone.

A final word from the Sixth Form leadership team for the year

“Throughout the year, we have been led student assemblies on important topics like mental health and managing exam stress and also taking a break from the screens as well as gathering feedback through student survey. We also represented the school by attending the Students-by-Students conference where we exchanged ideas with student from other schools on social media the good and bad. We also represented our school at the Pupil Parliament at Castle Academy, where we shared what it's like being a student leader and why it would be good to have them in their schools. Our role also involved welcoming students and families at the school's Open Evening, where we spoke about our experiences at sixth form. We also took part in the interview process for our new Pastoral Lead. This

was really important moment as we felt as though our sixth form team really valued our opinions as students. Being part of the Student Leadership Team has helped us grow both personally and as leaders. Throughout the year we have developed our confidence when speaking in public, our communication skills and learned the importance of teamwork and collaboration. We have also gained a deeper and better understanding of leadership by listening to the views of our peers, representing their voices, and working alongside staff to help bring about change.” - **Jennifer**

A Final Thought for the Week

“Transitions are a time for reflection and a time for looking forward”

As we approach the end of the academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on how far our Sixth Form students and staff have come.

At the beginning of the year, we welcomed 40 Year 13 students and over 100 Year 12 students into our new Sixth Form building. This was a huge step forward for both the Sixth Form team and our students. With such a significant change came many challenges, including managing movement between two buildings, introducing a new enrichment programme, establishing a mentoring programme, and helping students settle into what Sixth Form life would look like. However, as we look back now, it is clear just how much has been achieved.

One of our key priorities this year has been ensuring that student voice remains at the heart of everything we do. The feedback, ideas, and experiences shared by our students have driven many of the changes and adaptations we have made throughout the year. Whether this has been through the development of our enrichment offer, improvements to Sixth Form life, or the opportunities we provide, our students have played a vital role in shaping the NIA6 experience.

Our Year 13 students have worked incredibly hard, and every student has received offers from the university of their choice. Our Year 12 students have all completed a work experience placement, with some securing fantastic opportunities that have continued beyond their placement week.

We now offer more subjects than ever before at NIA6, and this provision will continue to grow to ensure that we meet the needs and aspirations of all our students. Alongside this, we have developed a comprehensive enrichment programme that is bespoke to our students and shaped by their interests, ambitions, and feedback.

Throughout the year, we have provided a wide range of opportunities to support students in planning their futures. We have taken the entire cohort to the University of Northampton and the Birmingham UCAS Discovery Event, helping students explore the many pathways available to them after Sixth Form.

There have also been many opportunities for students to contribute to and celebrate our wider community. We have held charity events supporting a variety of causes, and our Student Leadership Team has successfully organised celebrations such as World Book Day and Culture Day. We have recognised student achievements through reward events, including a bowling trip for students who successfully passed their GCSE resits, and we celebrated excellent attendance through our World Cup initiative.

While all of these achievements are important, our biggest celebration is seeing the progress our students have made throughout the year. Their growth, resilience, and determination have been outstanding, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished. The confidence our students now show in sharing their views, taking on leadership roles, and helping to shape the future of NIA6 is a testament to how much they have grown, both academically and personally.

We will continue to support our Year 11 and Year 13 students on Results Day, and in September we look forward to helping our current Year 12 students as they begin Year 13 and work towards achieving the best grades possible. At the same time, we are excited to welcome a new cohort of Year 12 students and begin another successful year at NIA6.

As we close this academic year, I would like to thank our students, staff, parents, and carers for their support. The successes we have celebrated this year have been built on collaboration, ambition, and a shared commitment to excellence. We look forward to building on these foundations and achieving even greater success next year.” - **Mrs Silvestre**