



NORTHAMPTON
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Headlines

Welcome back!



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome back to you all. It is lovely to have your children back at school. I hope that the winter break has been

restful, even for those who are returning to the prospect of mock examinations this January.

During the festive period, I travelled by train to London to meet up with old colleagues and friends. One of the things I noticed out of the window was the archetypal fusion of the old and the new - amidst the fields of rural Northamptonshire, I could see farm equipment juxtaposed with solar panels and the poly tunnels that characterise modern farming. It reminded me of the characteristics of a good quality modern education - an evolution of the new alongside the best of what has always constituted good teaching. It also reminded me of the importance of equipping our young people to be versatile, adaptable and innovative to a changing landscape.

One example of how we strive to achieve this at Northampton High is through the Reach Lecture series that takes place in the spring term. Miss Kilby, our Reach Coordinator, has created a programme of talks with an extensive range of subjects, from war in space to drug development for rare diseases, among a plethora of other topics. In 2023, when the initiative was first launched for students in Years 9 to 13, it aimed to interest and inspire the broadest possible audience and encourage our young people to

broaden their horizons and cultivate their skills of curiosity and critical thinking. Needless to say, it has exceeded our expectations. We are optimistic that this year's talks will engage our students even more, inspiring them to explore topics further through independent learning or tutor group discussions.

Additionally, our Reach programme is complemented by Reach reading weeks, during which there is no written work, allowing the students to immerse themselves in broader areas of interest in the week before a holiday. The aim is to motivate the pupils to select reading materials that pique their curiosity both during the reading weeks and throughout the holidays. For those interested, you can find recommended reading lists in the Library section of Firefly (<https://northamptonhigh.fireflycloud.net/library-1/library-homepage-1/readingschemes-and-recommended-reading>), which may serve as valuable resources for discussions with your daughter.

Spring, I believe, is my favourite of the three terms. It starts cold and dark, but ends with the days getting longer and warmer. It also ends with the Spring Art Collective Exhibition on Tuesday 19 March. This is not only a cultural highlight of our school calendar, but also a purposeful and enriching learning experience for our students. One of our Year 13 students, who has applied to study Illustration at university, eloquently encapsulates the value of her experience in her personal statement: 'My first submission was a simple piece depicting a handprint in mixed media. My skills as a practising and exhibiting artist enabled me to gain an insight into how it feels to be a professional artist. I was immensely proud of the experience and feedback I gained from my artwork. The subsequent entry had a narrative that my last one did not, a mixed-media piece that was conceptually inspired by a poem about the stars. With these experiences, I was able to not only advance my skills in Art, but also help those in need, which made it even more important and rewarding.' The Spring Art Collective presents a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness for a

worthy cause, Hope Centre Northampton, which our students and staff have selected as our whole school charity this academic year. We cannot wait to once again see the talented artists from Year 5 students and upwards, our teachers, support and operational staff and of course, many of our parents embracing this opportunity to submit items to the Collective, contributing to an impressive collection on display for a sell out capacity crowd. It is moments such as these, when the entire Northampton High community works together and being more than 10% braver, that make me so proud to be Head.

I am always impressed by the quality of performance of our pupils and their capacity to achieve so much. They work hard in lessons and in private study to ensure they capitalise on their abilities. Beyond the classroom pupils of all ages offer a courteous and enthusiastic welcome to our many visitors, they represent us valiantly on sport fields, perform with

aplomb on stage, tackle competition with flair and face the physical and intellectual challenges they encounter with courage and confidence. I am immensely proud of them and of the teachers and support staff who make such a wealth of opportunities available to them.

As we begin the new term, mock examinations have already started for Year 11 and Year 13 students and I wish them well. Another action packed term lies ahead and I look forward to seeing you at one of the many events this term, or at one of the Parents' Evening over the course of the term. For now, let me once again wish you a very Happy New Year. May all our pupils be the best they can be, with a thirst for learning, a zest for living, and a spirit of kindness.

I hope that all good things come to you and those you love in 2024.

May Lee | Head

Academic, digital and cocurricular



Awards and achievements

Celebrating the achievements of as many pupils as possible has been a real focus since we introduced the 'High School Approach'

wheel and the intellectual characteristics that form the basis of the approach. It is perhaps worth restating the principles behind each characteristic:

Collaboration – we value shared experiences and trust those around us to support us in our learning

Curiosity – we strive to expand the limits of our learning and delight in the discovery of new ideas

Independence – we take the initiative and trust our instincts; we do not accept artificial limits to our potential

Perseverance – we keep trying when things go wrong and we celebrate the new learning this brings

Risk taking – we challenge ourselves academically and we do not see perfection as the ultimate goal.

I offer a big 'thank you' to parents and guardians for your help in encouraging your children to develop these characteristics through the work they do at school.

We hope you have seen improvements in the way we recognise achievements by focusing on these elements, for example, in the Speech Day at the end of the school year, or in our regular achievement assemblies. Of course, there is more that can be done to ensure that everyone feels their skills and achievements are properly celebrated. We will continue to work on this area and we are always happy to hear from you to help us to develop the praise and achievements processes in school.

Cocurricular

Key to developing the whole person in school, and part of our aim to ignite our pupils' imaginations and scatter their paths with opportunities so they can achieve their ambitions, are the extra and cocurricular opportunities we offer. We encourage pupils to take part in as many lunchtime and after-school clubs and activities as they feel are beneficial to them in the week.

We also encourage older pupils to run their own clubs and societies if they have areas of interest they would like to share. They should speak to the Reach Assistant, Miss Knight, if they would like to exercise their leadership skills in this way.

As mentioned by Dr Lee above, a highlight of the cocurricular offer at the school are the Reach Lectures which take place this term. Miss Kilby has put together a fabulous programme in this second year of the lectures, with external speakers far more prevalent, giving our own in-house experts a well-deserved rest after last year's performances!

Pupils in Years 9-13 are all expected to attend our Reach Lectures, although Year 11 and Year 13 are not required during the mocks and may miss a lecture post mocks if there is a planned study session involving a teacher at the same time. More information about the lectures can be found here on the school website (northamptonhigh.co.uk), or by contacting Miss Kilby. Perhaps you would like to contribute to the programme in future years? We would be delighted to hear from you.

Reporting changes

Some parents and guardians will by now have received reports including the new indicators referring to pupil progress and attitude to learning. You may recall from last year that we decided to change the indicators to more developmental language to help pupils better recognise their strengths and areas for improvement.

Discussions are ongoing in school as the changes are embedded this year, with the aim being that our reporting reinforces educational growth and personal development by building a sense of accomplishment and self-awareness whilst also reinforcing our philosophy of continuous learning. Ultimately, we hope the changes will help equip pupils with the skills and mindset to thrive academically and personally in the future.

As a reminder, I have copied the indicators and their definitions below - these are used across the whole school. Please note that the descriptors relate to each individual pupil, not within the context of the cohort, and aim to take into account personal

circumstances as well as the age and stage of each child. We hope the result will be documents that reflect and enrich parents and guardians' own understanding of their children. You should always have heard from us where outcomes appear to be of concern or worthy of further comment. Of course, please do not hesitate to contact teachers if you have any questions about comments or indicators.

Acquiring - Beginning to demonstrate the expected standard for attitude to learning, and/or knowledge, understanding and skills, at this stage. Able to acquire, recall and reproduce ideas.

Emerging - Shows an increasing ability to reach the expected standard for attitude to learning and/or knowledge, understanding and skills at this stage. Developing the ability to link ideas with emerging independence in thinking.

Enhancing - Reliably exhibits the expected standards for attitude to learning, and/or knowledge, understanding and skills at this stage. Shows a ready capacity to link ideas and demonstrates enhanced independence of thought.

Extending - Always demonstrates the expected standards for attitude to learning and/or knowledge, understanding and skills, often going beyond requirements at this stage. Shows an extended ability to apply learning in new contexts and consistently employs independent reasoning strategies.

Mastering - Displays an elevated attitude to learning and/or shows a deep level of understanding and expertise, going well beyond the expected standard at this stage. Able to apply learning with ease in familiar and unfamiliar contexts, and instinctively masters new concepts.

Assessments

Mock examinations for Years 11 and 13 will get underway in the first half of this term. We try our very best to replicate the 'real' exam experience, and our Examinations Officer, Mrs Michele Rimmer, has an excellent relationship with the students; her priority being to ensure they are relaxed and comfortable in the exam room. Mrs Natalie Beezley, Learning Enhancement Coordinator, works closely with Mrs Rimmer and her team of invigilators to ensure students have the right access arrangements, where these are needed.

In a change to our previous processes, we will now send students a consolidated results sheet for their mock exams. Parents and guardians will also continue to receive a tracking report as in the past. The evidence from educational research strongly suggests that students pay better attention to feedback if it is not accompanied by a grade or level. By giving them a single results sheet later in the process, this will replicate how they receive their actual results in the summer and, we hope, will encourage them to focus on feedback for improvement from their teachers when they initially receive their papers back. We are confident that our students are in the best possible hands and will emerge from the mock period feeling more confident and ready for the coming weeks and months in the lead up to the public exams themselves.

You may have heard that Ofqual and the DfE have not entirely ruled out the possibility of a return to teacher assessed grades (TAGs) at some point in the future, if there should be any return to the restrictions we saw in the recent past. Please rest assured that we are prepared for any such eventuality and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this or another aspect of the mock exam process.

Digacy

'Digacy' refers to all things digital in school, such as the use of personal devices, our support for online safety or the way pupils develop their future skills through the use of technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI). For example, we have recently adapted our Humanities Transferable Skills programme which aims to build higher-order thinking skills in Key Stage 3, to include an innovative unit looking at how AI will impact on them in the future. Most parents and guardians are aware that we use Google Classroom as our main support for pupil

workflow in the Senior School. Junior School pupils too increasingly benefit from this as they improve their digital skills in the older classes. I am sometimes asked about how the system works and to what extent parents and guardians are able to interact with Google Classroom. I hope the following points are of use when discussing this at home.

Firstly, Google Classroom does not offer direct parental access. This is to encourage pupils to develop their organisational independence and digital skills for themselves. However, our policy is to encourage families to work together and you should always feel comfortable asking to see your daughter's Google Classrooms. These should not be seen as secret and will include all the resources and feedback the teacher has shared on a given topic.

Importantly, communication with the teacher is greatly enhanced by the Google Classroom platform. This can be as simple as a reminder on the 'stream' to pupils to bring an item to the lesson, or it can be an individual voice message offering personalised feedback about a particular piece of work. Pupils are encouraged to use the communication tools themselves whenever they have a question. Teachers will not necessarily be able to respond immediately, but there is no need to wait until school starts to ask something about prep, for example. Resources can easily be added to a given assignment or topic, such as notes made during a lesson by the teacher. If your daughter would like something to be included, please encourage her to speak to the teacher so that this can be done - if it is useful for one pupil, it is likely to be of value to others!

Work can be delivered in multiple ways. Teachers will always be happy to mark and offer feedback on work that is 'handed in' electronically, if this supports a pupil's way of working. Please arrange to speak to your daughter's teachers or the Learning Enhancement Coordinator, Mrs Beezley, if you would like to discuss this issue further. As a member of the GDST, we have a number of advantages available to pupils in the EdTech arena, now including a full subscription to the popular 'visual communication' platform, Canva. Pupils can find out more here (<https://northamptonhigh.fireflycloud.net/360-degree-skills-based-learning/digacy-for-students/canva-for-pupils>). Many teachers in school are using platforms like this to support learning in the classroom and we have access to a superb team of EdTech experts at the GDST to guide and support us. If you would like to find out more about EdTech generally, our School Consultant Teacher, Mrs Debbie Hill, would be happy to discuss this with you.

Late prep and late stay in Senior School - changes

At the end of last term we made a few changes to the way late prep is managed to ensure pupils can make the most of the provision. Pupils are still able stay until 6pm free of charge and those in Years 7-11 are now registered between 3:45-3:55pm by the Librarian in the Dining Hall, where they can enjoy a drink and a piece of fruit, or their own snacks. Please note that pupils should not be in their form rooms at this time and will go to the Library together once they have registered.

In late prep, pupils should complete school work and may collaborate quietly if needed, or they may read for pleasure if they prefer. They can use their digital devices to access resources, but mobile

phones should only be used for checking messages about being picked up. Following late prep, pupils move into late stay from 5-6pm. Pupils may wait in the main foyer or work in a nearby classroom until they are picked up, or get the late bus. During this time, we do allow them to use their phones for recreational purposes if they wish. Pupils must remember to sign out of late prep/stay or we may need to contact home.

We hope these changes have improved the late prep/stay processes for staff and pupils. Please note that the earliest time pupils should be at school remains from 7:30am.

Henry Rickman | Deputy Head Academic

Junior School



Our autumn term was packed full of successes and growth. I would encourage you to read our Celebration Report to share these with us (<https://shorturl.at/zHRS7>). We ended the productive, positive

term with a crescendo of activity to celebrate the festive period together. Our Nursery and Preschool children enjoyed singing and crafting with their parents. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 entertained us with their performance of 'The Landlord's Cat' and pupils from Reception to Year 6 came together to present a magical Christmas celebration for a packed theatre to enjoy.

I thoroughly enjoy the occasions where we invite our parent community to join us in school. We have several opportunities planned for this term and I look forward to sharing these with you all. This term we are offering Twilight Forest School sessions at the start of term for our Key Stage 2 classes and are welcoming their parents to enjoy these unique, exciting opportunities with us. Forest School is popular all year round at Northampton High Junior School but sessions in the dark are going to be particularly exciting I am sure. The ever popular class

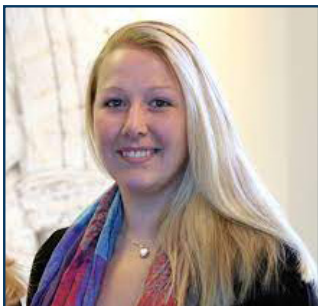
assemblies programme continues this term which provides valuable opportunities for the children to develop their self confidence and oracy skills. Mother's Day provides us with an occasion for the children to celebrate and thank the amazing women role models they have in their families and I am looking forward to facilitating this fast becoming annual highlight in our events calendar. The term will conclude with our annual Dance Festival at which all children from Reception to Year 6 will perform. The children will work hard over the coming weeks on their dance skills and routines and we look forward with anticipation to performing to you all on Tuesday 26 March.

The spring term is commonly referred to as the term in which we see the most progress for pupils. The first term provides children with an introduction to their new year group and the higher expectations, and they then springboard from this familiarity into the spring term and the rate of academic progress often sharply increases. This provides an exciting time in the classrooms as success breeds more success.

It promises to be a successful few months ahead and I'm looking forward to celebrating the successes together.

Emily Hair | Head of Junior School

Pastoral matters



With a rather soggy end to 2023 weather, we seem to have turned a corner and are embarking on a much brighter, if a little cooler, 2024. I sincerely hope that none of you have been too badly affected by

the flooding that we have seen in the area and hope that you have all enjoyed a restful and restorative break over the holiday.

We have some fantastic things to look forward to in the coming months and we were lucky to have some really lovely things to celebrate towards the end of 2023. As always, our House events were fantastic and a real showcase of how fantastic our community spirit is. House Storytelling and the Christmas House Plays (pictured opposite) were wonderful opportunities for the school to come together and build a sense of community and competition. My thanks and congratulations go to all those who took part in these and particularly the Sixth Form Heads of House who worked hard to create vibrant and polished performances on both counts. The judges on both competitions had an extremely hard task to decide on winning performances. The scores were incredibly close and we were thrilled by the creativity, ambition and talent on display in each case. I look forward to seeing what the term ahead brings for House events!

Our inaugural PSHE day was a huge success and we are extremely grateful for the open and honest feedback from the pupils on what they liked and what they feel we could improve on for next time. We will be taking this all on board as we think about the next time we run this event, next autumn.

Both the 'Big Sister, Little Sister' and 'Big Bear, Little Bear' schemes were launched before the holiday and the girls are excited to get involved with the mentoring opportunities that these programmes bring. Pancake races, treasure hunts and bingo are just a few of the activities planned to enable students across year groups to foster a sense of belonging, community and support.

This term we are hitting the ground running with our exam year groups entering the mock exam period, as soon as we return. This is a time of hard work and consolidation of their learning and it is not without challenge. If your daughter is in these year groups, she will undoubtedly experience some nervousness or anxiety around these assessments. For the most part, this is quite normal and is a healthy part of the preparation process. However, if you feel that your daughter is struggling with this and feelings of worry or stress are becoming overwhelming, please do get in touch with her form tutor so that we can support her and give suitable guidance as to how she can manage this more effectively. If you have any questions about the exam period or you would like to discuss your daughters coping strategies, please do get in touch with the pastoral team, and we will do our best to support you.



It goes without saying that we wish all the students the very best of luck in their mock exams this term, and we look forward to discussing their progress with you once they have concluded. I am really looking forward to the year ahead and there will be lots of exciting developments in the months to follow. For now though, a very happy New Year to you all and I hope the start of 2024 provides you and your families with opportunities for success and positivity.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming coffee mornings, parents evenings and information events in the first few weeks of the term.

Becky Kreen | Deputy Head Pastoral

Sixth Form



For Year 13, this term will be marked by mocks and university decisions. Almost all students have now received some offers from universities, but there will be plenty more over the coming weeks as the UCAS

deadline passes on 31 January. We have been delighted by the range of courses for which our Sixth Formers have already received offers. A small selection will give you a flavour:

- Computer Science at Oxford
- Veterinary Medicine at Surrey
- Digital Games Development at Brighton
- Law at Nottingham
- Pharmacology at Liverpool
- German & English Literature at Cardiff
- Theatre Arts at Derby
- Counter Terrorism, Intelligence & Cybercrime at Portsmouth

This range of courses is testament to our students' passions and interests. We wish them the very best in their mocks and look forward to advising them on their final choices.

For Year 12, the decision-making process gradually begins with a Higher Education Evening on Tuesday 27 February. Tutors and subject teachers will also be exploring options with students this term and there are plenty of GDST-supported opportunities to guide students independently. The GDST CareerStart programme (<https://sites.google.com/wes.gdst.net/gdst-connect/careerstart?pli=1>) (student account needed for link) is a particular highlight and I would encourage all Year 12 students to explore the options on offer. Some online events to look forward to include:

- Applying to Oxbridge | 23 Jan (all between 7-8pm)
- Careers in Performing Arts | 24 Jan
- Careers in Law | 6 Feb
- Careers in Sustainability | 21 Mar

Finally, we will invite Year 12 students to apply for positions on the Student Senior Leadership Team before the half term holidays and eagerly await their hustings at the start of the next half of term.

We look forward to meeting with parents at the Coffee Mornings on Thursday 18 January (Year 13) and Tuesday 23 January (Year 12).

Anton Viesel | Director of Sixth Form

School Operations



Transport

Regular bookings for the summer term open on Thursday 15 February 2024 (as per https://northampton-high.vectare.co.uk/cookie_add/?next=/disruption/1/).

For those who do not have a regular booking, ad hoc bookings can be made for occasional journeys on the vectare transport website: <https://northamptonhigh.vectare.co.uk/>.

Routes for September 2024 will be forecast later this term once incoming year 7 pupils have been offered places, and bookings will open towards the end of the spring term to enable plenty of time for families to book regular passes in advance.

If you wish to use transport from September 2024, and would like a new stop to be requested, please get in touch now so we can add this to the list. We offer a late service, departing from 17:15pm Monday-Thursday evenings. This can be booked by those with regular travel passes, or on an ad hoc basis. If you would like an additional stop added to the late service, we have more flexibility due to the bespoke nature of the demand-based late service, so please get in touch via contact@vectare.co.uk. Full details of the late service can be found here: https://northamptonhigh.vectare.co.uk/cookie_add/?next=/disruption/2/. If you have any questions regarding school transport, please get in touch with Vectare via contact@vectare.co.uk.

Health & Safety

We remind all parents accessing the school site by car when collecting or dropping off pupils, that we do not have any designated drop-off/pick-up zones, and that all cars should be parked in a marked bay. Please note the long bays in front of the school must be kept free for school minibuses and MPVs and are not to be used by cars at any time.

Catering

Luke Smith (Customer Experience Manager), April Jones (Chef Manager) and the catering team invite parents to join us for breakfast in the dining room, which is available daily from 07:45-08:20am - card payments are accepted. If you have any feedback around our catering provision, please feel free to get in touch with Mr Smith or Mrs Jones via catering@nhs.gdst.net.

Estates

Over the coming year we will be working towards our AstroTurf pitch replacement. This is a facility that is used by students across the entire school, and after twenty years now requires a replacement surface - in addition to funding from our lettings revenue, we are also continuing fundraising towards this project. Upgrades to our estates (outside of general maintenance) are funded through lettings revenue where the site is open to various external organisations at evenings and weekends. Luke Smith (Customer Experience Manager) and Jackie Rose (Lettings Coordinator) have been very busy arranging bookings to make full use of our fantastic facilities, and in turn improve lettings revenues which benefit all pupils at the school. In addition to our site facilities, we are now able to offer full hospitality as required

to meet the needs of any hirers, from hot drinks after a sports match, to hot lunches for 250 people, or ice cream and a bar for theatre performances. Our theatre can hold over 600 people, and we have recently hosted various conferences, theatre performances and shows for large numbers. If you would like more information on our facilities, please contact Mrs Rose at lettings@nhs.gdst.net.

Please share with family, friends, colleagues who may have interest in our premises for commercial events, and please also remember to support our regular organisations listed below, as all revenue is reinvested back into our facilities to benefit students:

Northampton Swimming Club are based here after school Tuesday-Friday for lessons available to all through the Queen's Cross Connect Programme. They also use our facilities for squad training at evenings and weekends, with some swimmers going to compete at regional, national level and beyond. During the holidays, they also run intensive courses here. More information can be found at <https://uk.teamunify.com/team/reczznsc/page/lesson-registration>

Kings Camp run Sports camps in our Sports Centre here during the holidays for children aged 5-17. There are a range of different activities and sports which can include badminton, football and swimming. Older children also learn to coach as well if they want to be a rookie coach. Visit <https://www.kingscamps.org/venue/northampton-high/> for more information.

Pauline Quirke Academy run a Performing Arts Academy based here every Friday (from 19 January) and Saturday, with both a morning and an afternoon session for students aged 4-18. For further details of PQA Saturday sessions, please get in touch with Alistair and his team here (<https://www.pqacademy.com/academies/pqa-northampton/>).

NMPAT continue their weekly Saturday Morning Music Centre here within the school music department from 09:15am-12:15pm. Details can be found at (<https://www.nmpat.co.uk/ensembles-and-music-groups/saturday-music-and-arts-centres/queens-cross-arts-centre/>).

Sinead Loughnane Academy offers a comprehensive range of dance classes for children from the age of 3 up to and including adult classes. Classes on offer include Ballet, Tap, Modern, Greek, Commercial Jazz, Musical Theatre and Contemporary. Students are also offered the chance to train to become teachers. Please email sineadacademy@gmail.com.

Alex Hume | Director of Finance & Operations

Fundraising update



At Northampton High, charity fundraising is central to the life of the school. It is the students who drive the fundraising and we have to be mindful of how many charity events and activities we are able

to sustain as part of our calendar. Our Deputy Head Girl for Partnerships and part of the Student Senior Leadership Team (SSLT) - this year, Risha B in Year 12 - canvasses pupils and staff at the beginning of the year, proposing a range of local charities as potential recipients of the school's fundraising efforts for the year, with all pupils and staff voting on their preferred local charity. This year, the chosen charity is Northampton Hope Centre (<https://www.northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/>), whose work helps people experiencing disadvantage, hardship, homelessness, addiction and mental health struggles to help themselves.

As reported in High News (8 December 2023), the major event for raising funds took place on 1 December 2023 - the Annual Christmas Fayre. Our Christmas Fayre raised no less than £3,231.55 this year with £2,447.16 being donated to the Northampton Hope Centre with the proceeds from

the raffle, tombola, silent auction and Santa's Grotto. A further £784.38 was raised for the school's Astroturf project from proceeds of the festive refreshments and pitch fees from the Christmas Market.

While we try to focus on whole school charity initiatives - including the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Food Bank Collections for the Trussell Trust, Children in Need, the British Legion's poppy appeal, Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day in just the last few weeks - individual fundraising also takes place regularly in school, for example sales of baked goods and accessories to raise money for Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, pre-loved clothes, freshly baked cakes and a book sale in aid of the Red Cross' humanitarian support for Israel and Palestine, amongst other important student-led initiatives. Through these charity drives, we all have a heightened sense of how fortunate we are, and learn to reach out to one another, supporting those in need who do not have access to the life chances many of us take for granted.

This term's activities raised funds totalling an incredible £6,063 for a range of charitable causes! A huge thank you to all parents, pupils, staff and friends for contributing to this impressive total, but also for supporting us in our wider outreach efforts.

Amanda Wilmet | Director of Marketing & Admissions

Staff news

We were sorry to say farewell to the following colleagues during the autumn term 2023:

Miss Aylin Doerpinghaus - Subject Leader German
Mrs Harkirat Kaur - Teacher of Theology and Philosophy (maternity cover)
Mrs Carly Scott-Evans - Year 3 Class Teacher
Mrs Jess Jackson - Chef
Mrs Faye Brockwell - Catering Assistant
Mrs Heidi Prigg - Cleaner
Mr Stephen Greenhow - Minibus Driver

We thank them for their contributions they have made to the life of the school and wish them bright and fulfilling futures.

The New Year brings new staff to the Northampton High community and I have no doubt that you will get to know them over the coming weeks. We extend a warm welcome to new staff joining us in the spring term 2024: (overleaf)

Mrs Mauneen van der Merwe - Teacher of Physical Education, part-time fixed term (maternity cover)
Miss Catherine Upham - Teacher of Physical Education, part-time fixed term (maternity cover)
Mrs Liesel Murphy - Teacher of Science, full-time
Miss Alyesha Ingrouille - Subject Leader German
Mrs Nicola Baker-Jones - Database and Examinations Administrative Assistant
Ms Thea Deacon - Peripatetic Theory and Composition Teacher

We offer them all a warm welcome and wish them a happy time here in Northampton High.

We are very happy to welcome Miss Tahla Robinson, our Subject Leader for Theology and Philosophy, back from her maternity leave and look forward to her continued contributions to the richness of life at Northampton High.

Governor news

We are sorry to announce that Mrs Sharn Nandhra has resigned from her role as a Governor, effective autumn term 2023, due to personal reasons. Mrs Nandhra was initially appointed as a Parent Governor in March 2021 and transitioned to an independent Governor in September 2022.

Her vast expertise and valuable experience have been instrumental to the school and the Governing Body. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs Nandhra for her unwavering dedication and contributions throughout the years she has served on the Governing Body.

Term dates

2023-24

Spring term 2024	Monday 8 January 2024	Spring term starts
	w/c Monday 19 February 2024	Half term (1 week)
	Wednesday 27 March 2024	Spring term ends (12 noon)
Summer term 2024	Monday 15 April 2024	Summer term starts
	w/c Monday 27 May 2024	Half term (1 week)
	Friday 12 July 2024	Summer term ends (12 noon)

2024-25

Autumn term 2024	Wednesday 4 September 2024	Autumn term starts
	w/c Monday 21 October 2024	Half term (2 weeks)
	Friday 13 December 2024	End of autumn term (12 noon)
Spring term 2025	Tuesday 7 January 2025	Spring term starts
	w/c Monday 17 February 2025	Half term (1 week)
	Thursday 3 April 2025	End of spring term (12 noon)
Summer term 2025	Wednesday 23 April 2025	Summer term starts
	w/c Monday 26 May 2025	Half term (1 week)
	Friday 11 July 2025	End of summer term (12 noon)