



**Northampton School**  
*for Boys*

**Information for Applicants**

**for Admission to**

**Year 7**

**September 2017**



## FROM THE HEADMASTER

Welcome to this information booklet for boys seeking admission to Northampton School *for Boys* in September 2017. Further information, through the school prospectus and a series of videos showing life at the school, is available on the school website: [www.nsb.northants.sch.uk](http://www.nsb.northants.sch.uk)

This booklet contains all the essential information needed to apply for admission in 2017. It also includes information about the outstanding quality of educational provision at the school and reference to some of NSB's local, national and international successes of the last academic year. I hope you will read the booklet carefully, together with the vision shared in the main prospectus, in order to decide whether you feel NSB is the school most suited to your son, and at which he is most likely to give of his best.

Northampton School *for Boys* is an 11 to 18 school which offers single sex education to boys from Years 7 to 11 with girls admitted into the Sixth Form. In the summer of 2010 we became one of the first schools to choose to take up the freedoms associated with academy status. We have in recent years made huge investment in the buildings and facilities at the school, providing a fantastic learning environment which includes a recently opened multi-million pound swimming pool and dance facility as well as a completely refurbished music department which was opened in the summer of 2016. The facilities spectacularly combine the best in terms of tradition, allied to innovation and advanced technology.

Our aim is to ensure that provision at NSB allows all students to maximize levels of achievement both inside and outside the classroom and for students to be given outstanding levels of care, support and guidance as they navigate their way through the various key stages in their preparation for future career pathways. Our GCSE examination results are exceptional and our extra-curricular programme rivals any other provision nationally. Last year alone we were ranked as the highest performing state school in the country for competitive sport, winning national titles in rugby, football and rowing and various NSB musicians, actors and dancers performed on respective national stages to great acclaim.

Many of our students leave the school to go on to outstanding success in their chosen fields. This is as a direct result of excellent teaching and exemplary levels of student work ethic. We have extremely high expectations of all of our boys and we will monitor progress rigorously to ensure that each student is securing the achievement and personal development progress that is demanded of them. In short, if your son chooses to come here we will expect him to behave well and to work hard. I hope your son is willing to accept the challenges that NSB will give him.

We were delighted when Ofsted recognised our outstanding provision in our last inspection of 2014/15 when the inspectors graded the school as outstanding in all categories:

- \* Achievement
- \* Teaching
- \* Behaviour and safety
- \* Leadership and management
- \* Sixth Form

I hope you enjoy your visits to the school – the Presentation Evening and the Open Evening. If you are successful in gaining a place for your son, we will expect you to support the school and our policies and practices. These have enabled the school to become the popular and successful institution it is today.

**R. Bernard**  
**Headmaster**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Thank you for attending our Presentation Evening for admission to Year 7 in September 2017. At the Presentation Evening, you will hear from the Headmaster Mr Richard Bernard, the Chair of Governors Mr Peter Bason, the Deputy Headmaster i/c Admissions Mr Matthew Edwards and the Head Boy and Head Girl. You will also be given an invitation to attend the Open Evening on Thursday 6th October 2016 at a specific time. It is important that all parents and their son attend both a Presentation Evening and the Open Evening.

In recent years, the school has been heavily oversubscribed and these events are exceptionally well attended. There will not be an opportunity to view the site on the Presentation Evenings. You will have a tour on the Open Evening.

Please arrive in plenty of time. Parking is extremely limited, and despite being able to use the car park opposite the school, it is advised to use alternative methods of transport if possible. It is inevitable that there will be significant traffic delays, and street parking may be some way from the school.

The Admissions policy is set out in the next few pages. The policy, the notes on the admissions criteria, and the appendices to the policy should all be read carefully.

## **TERM DATES 2018-19** (provisional)

- Term 1 Tuesday 5 September to Friday 20 October 2017
- Term 2 Monday 30 October to Wednesday 20 December 2017
- Term 3 Wednesday 3 January to Friday 9 February 2018
- Term 4 Monday 19 February to Thursday 29 March 2018
- Term 5 Tuesday 17 April to Friday 25 May 2018
- Term 6 Monday 4 June to Friday 20 July 2018

Staff Training Days: 1 September 2017, 4 September 2017, 16 October 2017, 16 April 2018 and 29 June 2018

Bank Holidays: 7 May 2018

## **Admissions Policy for Admission to Year 7 in September 2017 and for In-Year Admissions for Years 7–11 in 2016 - 17**

Northampton School *for Boys* is regularly over subscribed. This Admissions Policy meets the requirements of the most recent DfE School Admissions Code. The timelines for the procedure must be adhered to and are outlined in Appendix A.

The school is a single sex school for boys aged 11-18, and admits girls into the Sixth Form. It is expected that ALL applicants support the distinctive ethos, policies and procedures of the school. Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) will be admitted to the school where the school – after consultation with the Local Authority – has been named on the statement of SEN or EHC plan as an appropriate provision. This may reduce the number of places available.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**ALL** students, including those applying for an aptitude place, who seek a place at the school under **ANY** criteria **MUST** complete an **NSB Supplementary Information Form** and submit it to the school by **5.00 pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, AS WELL AS** submitting the Local Authority Application Form to the Local Authority by **5.00 pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.**

**Admissions Number:** 210

The school can admit up to 210 boys in any one year. If the school is oversubscribed, places are allocated using the following oversubscription criteria:

### **Oversubscription criteria:**

These criteria are applied in the following priority order:

1. All Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC).  
(For full description see Note 1 on page 5)
2. Aptitude – 10% of places are awarded to boys with a demonstrated particular aptitude for Music and/or Technology, approximately half in each specialism.  
(For full description see Note 2 on page 5 and Appendix B.)
3. Sibling Link – where an elder brother/sister are on roll at the time of application and will still be on roll at the school when the applicant is admitted in September.  
(For full description see Note 3 on page 5.)
4. Children of staff directly employed by Northampton School *for Boys* where either or both of the following conditions are met:
  - a. where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
  - b. the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

5. The remaining places are allocated using a system of Norm Referenced Banding as described in the DfE School Admissions Code. **ALL** applicants to the school will take the same common ability test. The test will be used to place **ALL** applicants into five equal sized ability bands. An equal number of applicants will be selected fairly from each band using an approved process overseen by an independent third party.

(For full description see Note 4 on page 5 and Appendix C)

Note: Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4 will be applied strictly in the order stated above. Children allocated places under these criteria will also be included in the bands. These children will be allocated places from the bands first, before Criterion 5 is then finally applied. The total number admitted from each band will be equal. Selection by criterion 5 will be in line with the explanatory notes in Appendix C. Where in any criterion the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available in a band, a process of random allocation will be applied. Such process will be overseen by an independent third party.

**ALL** students, including those applying for an aptitude place, who seek a place at the school under **ANY** of the above criteria **MUST** complete an **NSB Supplementary Information Form** and submit it to the school by **5.00 pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, AS WELL AS** submitting the Local Authority Application Form to the Local Authority by **5.00 pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016**.

Students who wish to have the opportunity of gaining a place under the **Aptitude** criterion **MUST** return their **Aptitude Application (card issued by the school following 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 deadline)** to the school by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016**.

**ALL** applicants will be required to attend on the morning of **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016** in order to sit an ability test, the results of which will be used to both operate the banding system fairly and to provide valuable management information used for setting purposes. For details of the operation of the banding system see Appendix C.

**ALL parents will be informed by the Local Authority of the school allocated to their son on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.**

#### Admission of Children outside their normal age group

Northampton School *for Boys* will, in accordance with the School Admissions Code, consider requests from parents for their child to be admitted to a year group outside that of their chronological age. Parents should follow the usual admission procedures and make it clear on the application form that the request is for a place outside the normal age group. Parents should include relevant professional evidence to support such a request.

#### **Parental Right of Appeal**

Parents will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of Northampton School *for Boys*. The Appeal Panel will be independent of the school. The arrangements for Appeals will be in line with the School Admissions Code 2014. The determination of the Appeal panel will be made in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code 2012 and is binding on all parties. The school will prepare guidance for parents about how the appeals process will work and will provide parents with a named contact who can answer any enquiries parents may have about the process.

## **Notes on Oversubscription Criteria for Year 7 Entry:**

**Remember that ALL those seeking a place for a boy MUST submit an NSB Supplementary Information Form.**

Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs/Education, Health and Care plan will be allocated a place at the school where the school – after consultation with the Local Authority – has been named on the statement/plan as appropriate provision.

If oversubscribed, the criteria for allocation of remaining places are – in priority order:

1. ‘Looked After Children’ are those who are (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions at the time of making an application to the school. ‘Previously Looked After Children’ are defined for the purposes of the legislation as those who immediately after being in care became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order. (Parents must supply a copy of the relevant order as evidence of their child’s status.)
2. Aptitude criterion – this allows the school to offer 10% of places to boys who can demonstrate a particular aptitude for two of the agreed specialisms of the school – Music and Technology – in approximately equal numbers. Parents wishing to give their sons the opportunity to take up one of these 21 reserved places MUST return their aptitude test reply card by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016. For details of the procedures for allocation of these places, see Appendix B.
3. Boys applying who have an elder brother or sister who will still be at the school when the applicant starts in the September will take priority (ie the sibling is on roll at the school both at the point of application and at the point of admission). They will be allocated a place from the band in which they are placed by the common ability test. For the purposes of this criterion, ‘sibling’ is taken to include a step-brother/sister, half-brother/sister, or child who is adopted or fostered, in all cases providing they are living at the same address. Although their place is not dependent on the performance in the common ability test, all boys applying for a sibling criterion place are required to sit the test in order that the overall ability range of the intake reflects that of the applicants.
4. Fair allocation of the remaining places from each of the five equal sized bands based on the scores from the common ability test. Note that boys who sit the test or who provide a reason with supporting evidence for non-attendance will be considered for places before those who have not. For details of operation of the Banding process see Appendix C.

## **Late Applications**

Any Supplementary Information Form received after the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 but on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 will be treated as a late application. Applications received by the deadline will be considered before a late application. However, late applications will be treated in the same way regarding the Waiting List arrangements and applicants will also have the same opportunity to appeal against the school’s decision should they wish to do so. If a late applicant has not sat the admissions test then the primary school will be asked to allocate an estimated band of ability for the applicant to be placed in for random allocation and /or waiting list purposes if relevant.

## Waiting List Arrangements for Year 7

All parents who are unsuccessful in gaining a place at the school for their son will be sent information explaining how they may, if they so wish, place their child's name on the Waiting List.

From 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018, if a place becomes available in Year 7 (if the number of students in the year groups falls below the published admissions number of 210), it will be allocated to someone from the same band according to the over-subscription criteria in the Admissions Policy, not on a first-come, first-served basis. Banding arrangements will be maintained from the initial offer round and places will be allocated at random from the band in which a place has become available. If there is no-one on the Waiting List from the original band, the place will be filled by a child in the neighbouring band above and then below on an even basis. There will be a fresh round of random allocation for each place that becomes available.

Any late applications (applications for a place in Year 7 made between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 31<sup>st</sup> August of the offer year) or In Year applications (applications for a place in Year 7 made on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year of entry) that are unsuccessful, will also be added to this Waiting List if the applicant so wishes. From 1<sup>st</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> June in the year of entry, any In-Year applicants for a place in Year 7 will be added to the existing Waiting List by being randomly placed into the bands already on the List. They will be distributed evenly across the five bands, starting with band 3, then 1, then 5, followed by 2, then 4.

The Waiting List for a place in Year 7 will be maintained until 30<sup>th</sup> June of the year of entry.

**If parents wish their child's name to be placed on the waiting list in subsequent years, they should make a new application for a school place by contacting the school and the Local Authority after 1<sup>st</sup> July in each subsequent year.**

**Offer Year** – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017

**Year of Entry** – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## In-Year Admission Applications Years 8, 9, 10 and 11

**An In-Year Admission Application is an application that is made for a place at Northampton School *for Boys* outside the normal admissions round of September Year 7 entry. Any application for Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 (or for Year 7 from 1<sup>st</sup> September onwards in the year of entry) is deemed as an In-Year application.**

The Local Authority co-ordinates all In-Year applications. To make an application for a place at the school parents must complete and submit **BOTH** the Local Authority application form for a school transfer **and** the Northampton School *for Boys* In-Year Application form.

Please note that Year 7 In-Year applications are dealt with as per the section above.

If a place becomes available at any time of the year which takes the number of students in Year 8, 9, 10 or 11 below 210 students and additionally there is no-one on the Waiting List for that year group, then the next applicant will be admitted to the school.

## **In-Year Applications Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 - Waiting List Arrangements**

Those parents whose In-Year application is turned down because the specific year group in the school is full (above 210) may put their son's name on the Waiting List (see below) and are also entitled to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel.

In the event that a year group is full, the school maintains a waiting list for students wanting a place in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. Where places become available there will be a fresh round of random allocation from the Waiting List in accordance with the oversubscription criteria 1, 3, 4 and 5. For oversubscription criterion 5 all students will be placed in the same band.

The Waiting List will only be maintained for the year group into which the application has been made and the list will be discontinued on 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. The waiting lists will be maintained from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June the following year, in line with the timelines that the Local Authority follows for In-Year admissions. In-Year applications made after 1<sup>st</sup> July will be considered for entry into the following academic year in September; i.e. if the parents of a Year 8 student apply on 1<sup>st</sup> July, they are applying for their son to join the school in September in Year 9. If unsuccessful, and if they wished, his name could be maintained on a Waiting List until 30<sup>th</sup> June the following year. At this point they would need to reapply for a place in Year 10.

**If parents wish their child's name to be placed on the Waiting List in subsequent years, they should make a new application for a school place by contacting the school and Local Authority after 1<sup>st</sup> July in each subsequent year.**

### **Decision by the Governing Body to go over the Published Admission Number**

As per the DfE School Admissions Code, paragraph 1.4, the Governing Body may choose to admit above 210 students in-year in any of the Year 7-11 year groups. Where this is the case, there will be a fresh round of random allocation in accordance with the oversubscription criteria 1, 3, 4 and 5 from the Waiting List in operation.

### **Appendix A – Timelines for the Admissions Procedure**

For entry in September 2017:

Wednesday 28 September 2016 and Thursday 29 September 2016	Presentation Evening (Surnames A-K) Presentation Evening (Surnames L-Z)
Thursday 6 October 2016	NSB Open Evening
Monday 31 October 2016	Local Authority preferences deadline (5.00pm)
Monday 31 October 2016	NSB Supplementary Information Form Deadline (5.00pm)
Tuesday 8 November 2016	Ability test appointments posted out Aptitude test reply cards posted out
Friday 18 November 2016	Deadline for return of Aptitude test reply cards
Friday 25 November 2016	Aptitude test times confirmed
Saturday 26 November 2016	Common Ability Test (for Banding purposes)
Saturday 10 December 2016	Technology Aptitude tests
Monday 19 December 2016	Music Aptitude test
Wednesday 1 March 2017	Local Authority notify parents of places

## **Appendix B – The Aptitude Criterion**

Northampton School *for Boys* is a Specialist School for Technology, and also has an acknowledged specialism and expertise in Music. The Secretary of State has agreed that 10% of places at the school should be allocated to boys with a particular aptitude in one or both of these specialisms, in approximately equal numbers. In order to allocate these places fairly, boys whose parents choose to seek such a place will be required to take a test designed to test aptitude for these areas.

After you have submitted your Supplementary Information Form by the published date you will be sent a card inviting you to apply for an “Aptitude” place. After you return the card a time and date for your son’s aptitude test will be sent to you.

Music Aptitude – your son will be invited to an individual short test (up to 10 minutes) with a music specialist at a specific time on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Your son will not need to bring a musical instrument.

Technology Aptitude – your son will be given a specific time to attend on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The test will be computer based (though will not require specific computer skills, other than familiarity with a mouse and keyboard) and done in groups of up to 50 students. There will be a 10 minute introduction to the test, and the test itself will take about 40 minutes.

Please note that there are no previous tests available. Neither test requires any preparation or revision.

**ALL parents seeking a place under this criterion must ensure they have submitted the Local Authority Application Form by 5.00 pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 AND the NSB Supplementary Information Form by 5.00 pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 AND the Aptitude Reply Card by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

## **Appendix C - The Common Ability Test and the Banding system**

**WE WOULD WISH TO REINFORCE THAT ALL APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE COMMON ABILITY TEST.**

The school is using a system of banding in order to ensure that there is access to the school for boys across the ability range. Since the school draws applications from across the whole county – and indeed beyond – and from independent as well as state schools, it is only fair to ALL applicants that the SAME ability test is used to allocate boys to bands, and is sat at the same time and under the same conditions.

The process used is one of Norm Referenced Banding with equal sized bands as outlined in the School Admissions Code 2014. The school will admit 10% of children selected on the basis of aptitude, and band ALL the applicants before determining the remaining places. Apart from students with statements of Special Educational Needs/Education, Health and Care plan or children in care or previously looked after, children who have sat the Common Ability Test and been allocated to ability bands will be considered for available places before those who have not. The Common Ability Test will be marked objectively. The scores will be placed in rank order, then divided into five equal sized ability bands. An equal number of applicants will be taken from each band to make up the full complement of admissions.

As the Admissions Number is 210, this gives 42 places from each band.

First, any boys with a statement of SEN/EHC plan, or in Local Authority care or previously looked after will be allocated places from each band. Second, those offered an Aptitude place. Third, any boys with a sibling link (see definition above). Fourth, any boys who are the children of staff (see definition above), will be allocated places from each band. Finally, the numbers of remaining places in each band will be filled by allocating places in a statistically random order (as overseen by an independent third party) from the names remaining in each band. The random allocation will be generated electronically.

For example: If there are 450 applications, 5 of whom have a statement of SEN/EHC plan and whose needs have been agreed can be met at the school, and 2 of whom are defined as LAC or PLAC, this would leave 443 students for the remaining 203 places. Of these, 21 would be allocated under the Aptitude criterion. This would leave 422 students for 182 places.

Each of the equal sized bands has 90 boys. As an example, consider the middle band. The 90 boys might include one with a statement of SEN/EHC plan and one in Care and 4 with an Aptitude place. These 6 boys would be allocated a place. Of the remaining 84 boys, 7 might have a sibling link, and these 7 boys would be allocated a place. This middle band will have a total of 42 places (210 / 5), but 13 have now been allocated, leaving 77 boys still in the band. There are 29 places left in this band to be allocated on a random basis as described above to 29 of the remaining 77 boys. The same process is repeated in each band.

It should be noted that the Ability Test has TWO purposes – FIRST to assist us in allocating places at the school fairly, and SECOND to enable us to allocate ALL students who are to be admitted to the school to the correct ability range in the school's setting arrangements in Year 7. If a boy is unable to sit the ability test due to illness, then a doctor's note should be provided as evidence. In such cases, the parent must contact the primary school and ask them to provide the school with their advice as to which is the most appropriate of the 5 bands for their son. The boy will be allocated to that band before the random selection process is carried out.

Ofsted says...

*"The school fosters excellent relationships and tackles discrimination exceptionally well. School leaders make sure that students of all backgrounds and abilities have an equal chance to succeed."*

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF ‘A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE’**

Northampton School *for Boys* is the only state funded boys’ school in the county and occupies an extensive and attractive site within a mile of the town centre.

The school was founded in 1541 as a Grammar School when Thomas Chipsey, three times Mayor of Northampton, established a foundation for the endowment of a free school in Northampton. He was supported by a number of Trustees.

The original school premises were in Bridge Street, but in 1557 the church of St Gregory was adapted for use as a school. Northampton School *for Boys* remained here for over three hundred years until 1864, when it moved to the Corn Exchange.

In 1870, new premises were opened in Abington Square to provide education for 200 pupils. The school proved so popular that in 1911 new buildings opened on the present site with places for 350 boys. Growth continued and the school became a comprehensive school in the 1970s. Northampton was re-organised on a 3-tier model, with NSB being a 13-18 boys’ upper school. In 1992, the school became Grant Maintained – a status which was state-funded but free from LA control – but changes in legislation saw the school designated a Foundation School in 1999. During this period, the school became heavily over-subscribed.

The school was designated a High Performing Specialist School and has been judged ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted on four consecutive occasions. In June 2010, the secretary of state invited schools to adopt the freedoms of academy status. The governors unanimously approved the application and from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 the school became one of the first 25 secondary schools in the country to be granted Converter Academy status. In April 2012, the school was selected to become a Teaching School.

During the 1990s, collaboration amongst schools post-16 led to a small number of girls being admitted to the roll of the school which proved popular. The roll of the school is now over 1620 with around 510 in the Sixth Form. A very different school from the one Thomas Chipsey envisaged!

The buildings are a unique blend of Edwardian and modern architectures. The original buildings have been extensively remodelled to provide a high standard of accommodation. Original features have been restored in the recent building works, including a much improved reception area, re-modelled 1911 Hall and a student information desk in the Concourse.

Modern buildings house specialist areas for Science, Design Technology and ICT. There is a fantastic Sports Hall, Health & Fitness suite, and the superb Cripps Hall, housing a magnificent Theatre and music facilities.

The most recent buildings include a magnificent award-winning Concourse which includes a restaurant and Bistro and opens out into many new classrooms. A rubber crumb all-weather pitch, multi-use games area, jump pits and sprint area became available from September 2008. A teaching room for Food and an additional science laboratory – the Wolfson Laboratory - were completed in 2010. Finally, a new swimming pool, fitness laboratory and dance studio complex was completed in December 2014.

## THE SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins at 8.45 am and ends at 3.35 pm with a lunch break of one hour from 1.00-2.00 pm. The school has a teaching week of 26.25 hours – longer than in many schools.

## SETTLING IN

There will be an Induction Evening on 27 June 2017 for you to meet with members of staff, including your son's Form Tutor, followed by two Induction Days for your son on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th July 2017. This initial contact will be the basis for many years of communication between home and school. It will be an opportunity to sort out individual queries.

We place your son in a tutor group of approximately 28 boys. New friendship groups are quickly established. All members of the tutor group are in the same House.

During the first term you will be invited to the school with your son to meet his Form Tutor. Towards the end of the year, you will be invited to meet his subject teachers to discuss his report. Throughout the year you should follow his progress on-line. If at any time you wish to discuss your son's progress, you should not hesitate to contact his Form Tutor.

## HOUSE STRUCTURE

There are four Houses – Brightwell, Chipsey, Manley and Washington - each with a staff House Director. Each House has an elected student House Leader and two Assistant House Leaders. A number of House Seniors from Years 10 to 13 will be selected to help in the running of House activities.

Each form is allocated to a House, and elects a House Representative, who sits on the House Council, House Captain and Vice-captain. Houses have an associated colour, as shown by the NSB logo on the school tie. House competitions give many boys opportunities to develop their personal and social as well as their sporting and other skills.

<i>House</i>	<i>Forms</i>	<i>House Director</i>	<i>Colour</i>
Brightwell	H & P	Miss J. Davies	Yellow
Chipsey	I & Q	Mrs S. Bradley-Brophy	Light Blue
Manley	J & R	Mr M. Quinn	Green
Washington	K & S	Miss A. Clinton	White

Ofsted says...

*"Students make outstanding progress across a range of subjects. They make exceptional progress in mathematics, where standards are particularly high."*

## THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

We believe in setting. For teaching purposes, most lessons will be taught to groups of boys with broadly similar abilities. Setting arrangements are based on Key Stage 2 information that we gain from the DfE/primary schools and our own admissions test. We may also consider other information received from feeder schools and Cognitive Abilities Test scores (CATs). Student setting is constantly reviewed and as a result, set changes can and do take place during the year. We operate subject-specific setting from Year 7 to Year 11.

We believe that all boys should follow a balanced curriculum. In Year 7 your son will study English, Maths, Science, Design Technology, ICT, History, Geography, RE, PE, an Expressive Arts carousel of Visual Art, Music, Drama and Dance and a Modern Foreign Language of either Spanish, French or German.

During Year 9, he will choose which subjects are to be studied through to external examination. He will study a core entitlement – including a foreign language as well as English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics for many), a Humanities subject, core PE (non-examined) and Citizenship (non-examined). There are further GCSE choices that can be made including Design Technology, PE, IT, Computer Science, Drama, Dance, Art Photography, RE and Music.

## THE MOST ABLE – Gifted & Talented Programme

All students have a right to a challenging and appropriate education. If students have ability or abilities beyond the large majority of their peer group, they need a specialised curriculum and provision that goes beyond the normal lesson environment and allows them to stretch and be challenged.

At Northampton School *for Boys* our aim is to consider the following three key components when looking at our most able, gifted and talented students;

**Discover** - Discover the potential by recognising and identifying able, gifted and talented students.

**Nurture** - Nurture the ability, gift and or talent by providing them with work that is matched to their needs and challenging opportunities to inspire learning and higher order thinking.

**Succeed** - Help students to succeed by motivating them to take opportunities to further develop their skills and talents in an environment that monitors progress and supports their everyday intellectual, social and emotional needs.

## NSB Honours Programme

The Honours Programme is a tailored academic programme of curriculum, enrichment and guidance, designed to equip high-achieving students with the knowledge and support needed to progress to a leading UK university.

We have been recognised nationally for the excellence of our provision and were designated an Ambassador School by the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth.

This programme is open to the top 30 able, gifted and talented students in each year group. This is the pinnacle of academic achievement for the students. Whilst being a member of the Honours programme each student will have access to a programme of inspirational and motivating talks, seminars and lectures along with cultural trips aimed at providing opportunity for our most able students to extend their learning in an exciting and innovative ways. Each Key Stage Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator will have responsibility to devise and oversee this programme to include monitoring and mentoring students.

## **ADDITIONAL INTERVENTION TEAM AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

We recognise that every student has individual needs, and has every right to the best possible educational opportunity. Our Assistant Head with responsibility for Inclusion and Welfare and our SENCo organise targeted interventions for boys with additional needs. These are delivered as additional interventions outside of lessons to ensure rapid progression. **It is important to note that at NSB we do not have Teaching Assistants.**

### **ASSESSMENT**

Boys are continuously assessed in all subjects using a variety of techniques, often involving learning for tests and examinations. Your son's levels of attainment will be reported to you through termly reports and an annual Parents' Evening. Each year group has a comprehensive end of year examination programme. Parents are encouraged to monitor progress throughout the year using our confidential on-line system.

### **THE SIXTH FORM**

The school has a thriving Sixth Form of about 510 students. Around 70% of our Year 11 pupils stay on to study academic courses. Some 400 students from other schools – state and independent – attempt to secure places available to external students annually. Sixth Form students have a major role in the school, the House system providing a focus for links with the younger boys. They help with counselling and advising boys, coaching and organising teams, as well as managing the large student body during breaks and lunchtimes.

### **DESTINATIONS**

<b>Y13</b>	Higher Education	64%	<b>Y11</b>	NSB Sixth Form	67%
	Gap year	18%		Northampton or Moulton College	23%
	Apprenticeship	15%		Other School or College	5%
	Further Education	3%		Apprenticeship	5%
	Unknown	0%		Unknown	0%

### **ATTENDANCE**

All students are expected to attend every school session unless the absence is due to:

- illness – notify reception by telephone - 01604 230240 - on the first morning of absence. Send a written note from you the parent to the form tutor on his return;
- permission having been granted following a written request at least 5 days in advance, (e.g. a dental/hospital appointment where unavoidably in school time);
- school-organised activity (e.g. a visit, sports fixture).

### **FAMILY HOLIDAYS**

In accordance with government regulations the Headmaster cannot sanction holidays taken during term time. This means that any requests from parents for holidays will have to be rejected and if any parents do take holidays during term time, the register will have to be marked as an unauthorised absence (code G).

This is in line with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2006. In addition, The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007 set out the procedures for issuing fixed penalty notices (fines) to each parent who fails to ensure their child's regular attendance at school. Parents must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days. Please be aware of this when making holiday bookings.

The term time dates for the forthcoming year can be found on the website.

## BEHAVIOUR

“All students are expected to show good manners and consideration for others at all times, whether in or out of school.” Respect must be shown to all by all.

This statement reflects the tone of the Behaviour Policy which has been developed in partnership with students, parents and staff. It emphasises that students should act as members of a civilised community, showing high standards of behaviour. They have a responsibility to themselves and to other people. If accepted codes of behaviour are infringed, students may be placed ‘on report’ to a teacher or may be required to stay for detention. We expect all parents to accept such detentions as an appropriate sanction for their son, but 24 hours notice will be given.

Teachers and parents work in partnership. We address problems early and, if necessary, you will be invited to meet with a teacher, Curriculum Team Leader, Form Tutor, Year Team Leader or a member of Senior Staff, depending on the nature and severity of the problem.

In extreme cases, the Headmaster has the power to exclude a student for a fixed term or, on rare occasions, permanently.

**For details of the full Behaviour Policy, please see the School website.**

## EXPECTATIONS AND STANDARDS

- Students are expected to show good manners and consideration at all times
- Students must wear school uniform correctly at all times
- Students must walk inside school buildings, keeping to the left especially on stairways
- Students must not answer back
- Eating is not allowed in classrooms or between lessons
- Only bottled water is allowed in classrooms
- Litter must be placed in the bins provided
- Students are not to interfere with the belongings of other students or staff without permission
- Homework is to be completed by the time set
- Mobile phones must be switched off in lessons and between lessons
- All school property is to be treated properly
- Any form of bullying (including homophobic bullying) is totally unacceptable
- Foul language is unacceptable
- Aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated
- No graffiti
- No gambling
- No racism
- No sexism

Ofsted says...

*"The behaviour of students is outstanding - they feel very safe and know how to keep themselves safe."*

*"Teachers have high expectations of students' behaviour, effort and standards and have excellent knowledge of their subjects."*

## **SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS 2015-16**

NSB named as Top Boys State School for Sport 2015 in Great Britain by School Sport Magazine.

Four students gained International honours, in basketball, table tennis, boxing and kick boxing.

### **Football:**

National Champions - Under 15 PlayStation Open Cup

Under 12B and Under 15B teams reached the National Quarter Finals

Under 14, Under 16 and Under 13B reached last 16 stage of National competition

County Champions at U12, 14, 15 and 16

U13 squad toured at Easter to Phoenix and Los Angeles, USA

### **Rugby:**

National Champions – Under 18 NatWest Vase

Under 15 reached the last 16 stage of the National NatWest Cup

Midlands State Schools Cup Winners at Under 14

### **Basketball:**

Under 15 squad National Finalists – losing to Holy Trinity School, Sussex

Under 13 and Under 14 squads reached National Semi-Finals

Under 17 reached National Quarter Final

Under 19 reached last 16 stage of National competition and Under 12 were crowned Town and County Champions

U13 squad toured at Easter to Phoenix and Los Angeles, USA

### **Cross Country:**

Junior Boys placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the National Finals at Bedford in December

Junior and Intermediate Boys teams crowned Town League Champions

Minor, Junior and Intermediate Boys teams won Town Championships

18 NSB students represented Northampton in the County Championships and 12 of these represented Northants at the Inter-Counties Championships. 8 went on to reach the English Schools' Championships at Nottingham

### **Athletics:**

Inter Boys – Town, County and Midlands Champions, placed 10th at the National Track & Field Schools Cup Finals

Junior Boys – Town and County Champions, placed second at the Midlands Championships

22 students represented Northampton at the County Championships and 7 were crowned individual County Champions

8 students represented Northamptonshire at the Inter-Counties Mason Trophy

3 students reached qualifying standard for the prestigious ESAA Track & Field Championships at Gateshead

### **Cricket:**

Under 15 squad crowned County Champions. U14 County runners up

Under 15 squad toured to Grenada, West Indies, at Easter

### **Tennis:**

U15 squads crowned County League Champions

U15 squads currently at the Midlands stage of the National competitions

### **Golf:**

Golf team 16th place in the National Schools' Golf Team Championships at Woodhall Spa, Lincs

18 students competed in the NSB Golf Championships at Overstone Park Golf Club in July

### **Water Polo:**

Under 15 reached National Championship Semi Final tournament

Year 7 reached Southern Final of the National Cadet Polo Championships

NSB is now the Regional Training Centre for polo and a venue for England training weekends

### **Indoor Rowing:**

National Champions – Under 12 Concept2 Indoor Rowing League

U12/13 and U15/16 squads crowned Town Champions and County Champions

School competed at National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships – Year 7 student crowned

Individual National Champion

### **Table Tennis:**

Alex Ramsden individual County Champion, National Champion and England international

### **Hockey:**

A well-supported club at Key Stage 3

Under 18 mixed squad entered Wednesday night adult league at Moulton College

### **Softball:**

U13 squad crowned County Champions

### **Netball:**

A well-supported club with a vibrant series of inter-school games throughout the winter period

### **Inter-House Sport:**

56 competitions across the range of age groups and activities.

Whole school Sports Day, with every student in Years 7 – 10 active and Year 12 students leading

## **ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS**

GCSE results in 2016 were outstanding with attainment and progress being far in excess of figures for all students nationally and especially in comparison to all boys nationally.

Post-18 all of our students go on to employment, education or training with the majority attending prestigious Russell Group universities including Oxbridge.

## **DRAMA PRODUCTIONS – 2015-16**

September 'Sweeney Todd' - Sixth Form Production

October 'Insane in the Brain' - Drama Lab

December 'The Crucible' - Senior Drama Production

February Expressive Arts House Competition

March 'Les Miserables' Musical production (Y9-13)

July 'Holes' - KS3 Drama production

July Arts Awards and Celebration Evening - Visual Arts Exhibit and Dance, Drama and Musical entertainment

"I'm Still Me", the nationally acclaimed LGBTQ awareness performance, created by Mrs Greenaway, was performed at the Northants Education Conferences. The professionally filmed DVD version was launched during anti-bullying week in November as a countywide resource for schools and youth organisations.

"Walk a Mile in My Shoes", a Theatre-in-Education piece looking at issues surrounding bullying and strategies to combat it, written by Mrs Greenaway and performed by NSB students was performed at the Lowdown countywide Anti-bullying Conference and received the Northamptonshire Youth Ambition Arts Award in July.

## **MUSIC ACHIEVEMENTS 2015 - 2016**

- National Concert Band Festival - several NSB music groups performed in regional event held in London. Both Big Band and Big Band 3 achieved Gold Awards
- National Festival of Music For Youth - Symphonic Winds, Big Band and our vocal group Quintessential were invited to perform in this festival in Birmingham. Big Band and Quintessential gained nominations for prestigious Partnership Awards
- All three Big Bands worked with post graduate students from Trinity College of Music for a Jazz Day working with Nikki Isles, Simon Purcell and Gareth Lockrane
- GCSE students had the opportunity to hear and perform for Anna Markland (former winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year)
- Big Band go bi-annually on tour to Los Angeles/Florida – the last tour in 2015 was a huge success giving the pupils a great opportunity to work with College students from LA!!
- Many students are part of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain and several students also attend the Junior department at both the Royal College and the Royal Academy
- Over the past few years we have had international groups come and lead workshops and concerts, these include The Real Group, The Swingle Singers and Gordon Goodwin and his band – just last week all three Big Bands played in our first concert of the year (Jazz@ The Cripps) with Alex Ridout (winner of the BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year 2016)

### **Regular Music Activities in School**

Concerts are given each half term in The Cripps Hall Theatre together with performances by individual groups in the local community.

Over 30 groups rehearse weekly with access for all Year 7 to Voice Male and Choir. Singing is such an important factor of musical development - so much so that the whole year group sing in our two Christmas Concerts. Instrumentalists will be involved in Wind Band, Big Band III, Junior Saxophone Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Stringfellas, Kings of String (our new Intermediate String group) and Percussion Ensemble.

### **DANCE – 2015-16**

External events attended:

#### Street Dance:

UDO Worlds 2015 in Glasgow

SOAR UK Street Dance Championships 2016

#### Contemporary Dance:

NDance – Derngate Theatre

MYDance – (Youth Dance England) in Birmingham

#### All Dance Styles:

NSB Arts Awards Evening

Junction 16 Dance Show

Northampton Town Dance Event

Workshops with Zec Luhana (Boy Blue Entertainment)

Workshops with BalletBoyz (USA)

## **CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT**

Here are some of the extra-curricular activities that run on a regular basis in Year 7; a wider range is available in later years, with older students running clubs and activities.

Athletics	Cricket	Modern Languages
Badminton	Cross Country	Music clubs
Basketball	Drama	Reading
Chess	Football	Rugby
Choirs	Gymnastics	Technology
Computer clubs	Homework club	

## **UNIFORM**

We are proud of our students, who are fine ambassadors for the school, and we hope they will grow to be proud of their association with Northampton School *for Boys*.

We believe that wearing correct school uniform – correctly - is an essential part of developing a sense of pride in self and school. We expect parents to give their full support to the school in implementing our uniform policy.

Parents who for financial reasons feel they may have difficulty in meeting uniform requirements should approach the Assistant Head: Inclusion and Welfare (KS3). Any such approach will be treated in confidence.

- Black School Blazer with Badge\*
- Blazer badge and Year Stripe\*
- Charcoal Grey/Black Trousers
- Plain White Shirt
- School Tie with House colour logo\*
- Black Shoes
- School V-necked Pullover (optional)\*
- School Rugby Shirt (reversible)\*
- School Rugby and/or Football shorts\*
- School T-shirt with motif (White, Red or Blue)\*
- School Rugby Socks\*
- Rugby/Football Boots
- Training Shoes (for PE and Drama only)

Items marked \* are available from the school shop in Student Reception.

## **SCHOOL MEALS PROVISION**

The school has an excellent Restaurant and Bistro offering a range of healthy options. A superb variety of hot and cold meals is available. Breakfast, cooked or cold, is available from 8.00 a.m. and various hot and cold refreshments are available at break.

The school operates a cashless catering system. Parents can use a credit card to put money onto their son's account via the school website or, in emergencies, boys can put cash into a machine in the concourse. Carrying large amounts of cash is discouraged.

Boys may bring packed lunches, but these must be consumed in designated areas.

## **STUDENTS' PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Do not send your son to school with large sums of money or valuable items. The school cannot and will not take responsibility for items lost, damaged or stolen. **Parents are strongly advised to include such items on their own insurance policy.**

If mobile phones are brought to school they must be turned off during and between lessons. They must NOT be used for personal calls during the day. In emergencies, students can use the school phone system at Student Reception.

Phones **must not** be used to record or send images of students or staff. Any instances will be dealt with severely. The school does not accept liability for the loss of any mobile phones, and their presence in school is **entirely** at the student's own risk.

## **STUDENTS' ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

There is no universal personal accident cover, but arrangements **are** made for children involved in 'work experience' activities. Insurance is arranged by the school for visits abroad and for any visits involving an overnight stay. Parents can check with the Finance Office for detailed information. Parents can arrange insurance on an individual basis, if they want additional cover for their children.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Northampton School *for Boys* believes that equality of opportunity should be promoted for all.

We operate in a society in which there is widespread discrimination. We believe that the school is a powerful vehicle for promoting positive values. We will take action to challenge prejudice and discrimination against groups and individuals, whether on the basis of race, age, gender, or sexual orientation.

Our aim is to develop a school which acknowledges and respects the diversity of society.

## **OPEN ACCESS TO RECORDS**

All records maintained on students are open to the student concerned and their parents and guardians. Notice must be given in order that reference to other individuals can be removed, as under the Data Protection Act.

Occasionally we record information offered by parents and others which will not be accessible to students. In the case of students over the age of sixteen, information given by them may not, at their request, be made available to parents.

Ofsted says...

*"Students enjoy outstanding opportunities to take part in clubs and activities. This helps to build the excellent relationships between students and staff which are at the heart of students' highly successful learning."*

## HOME LEARNING POLICY

We believe that Home Learning is essential for academic success:

- It can improve students' thinking and memory.
- It can help students develop positive attitudes, study skills and habits that will serve them well throughout their lives.
- It can encourage students to use their time well, to learn independently and to take responsibility for their own learning.
- It can help students improve self-discipline, time management and organisation and creates responsibility.

Home Learning will address key subject knowledge, subject specific skills and will contribute to literacy, numeracy and communication skills and to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and examination specific skills.

Home Learning may take a variety of forms including:

- written assignments as part of coursework, project or topic work;
- reading tasks for a specific purpose;
- learning tasks, e.g. spellings, vocabulary, and preparing for termly assessments and examinations;
- rehearsing, practising, creating, making;
- group, pair or individual work;
- collecting materials and information as research.

Students will make use of a variety of sources of information to complete tasks including:

- subject textbooks and exercise books;
- the school library;
- the internet;
- the VLE (virtual learning environment).

To assist all pupils to organise completion of Home Learning the school will:

- post all Home Learning set on the school website and send daily emails to parents/carers updating them on Home Learning set;
- provide all students with a planner where tasks and self-reflection/feedback can be recorded
- publish information for parents about expectations in a letter to parents during the first term
- publish subject specific Home Learning policies on the website which will give guidance on the amount of time to be spent on Home Learning and the types of tasks for each year group.

Home Learning is an important aspect of learning that will aid progress. Teachers will award a grade each term which will be recorded on the Data Report; outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate (descriptors will be published on the website and in planners). Parents will be contacted if a student falls below a 2 and interventions and strategies put in place.

If you feel that too much or too little Home Learning is being set, you should contact your son's Form Tutor. Home Learning for Year 7 will have a staggered introduction across subjects over the first term to ease transition from Year 6.

Occasionally, you may have concerns about the progress of your son. Should this occur, let us know, because we believe that most problems can be resolved quickly. Similarly, if there is anything you are particularly pleased about, we would be pleased to hear from you.

## GCSE RESULTS 2016

Subject	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Total
Art & Design	4	11	11	28	12	6	1	0	0	73
Biology	11	35	30	21	9	3	1	0	0	110
Chemistry	19	34	24	20	6	6	0	1	0	110
D&T Product Design	5	34	77	67	21	6	1	0	0	211
Drama	4	13	22	9	6	0	0	0	0	54
English Language	12	26	59	71	35	0	0	0	0	203
English Literature	1	28	86	55	23	10	0	0	0	203
French	5	8	15	11	17	12	1	0	0	69
Geography	13	31	31	20	16	5	0	0	0	116
History	19	22	24	12	12	3	2	0	0	94
Information Technology	1	5	4	13	5	0	0	0	0	28
Mathematics	40	52	57	47	13	3	0	0	0	212
Music	3	5	8	6	5	2	2	0	0	31
Photography	0	2	16	20	6	3	1	0	0	48
Physics	27	33	28	15	5	2	0	0	0	110
Religious Studies	1	12	15	13	4	3	0	0	0	48
Science (additional)	4	9	39	26	13	4	7	0	0	102
Science (core)	1	15	34	22	17	9	4	0	0	102
Spanish	4	6	12	35	26	12	0	0	0	95

### EXAMINATIONS ENTRY POLICY

The overriding entry policy of the school is that all students, regardless of ability, should be entered for examinations in all their regular subjects for which there is a final examination paper. In very rare cases, where the student does not produce the requisite coursework, a decision may be made not to enter him for that examination. Once examination entries have been collated and finalised, a Memorandum of Agreement is sent to the parents for the examinations for which their son has been entered.

Students who have completed a course of study leading to an examination will be entered for that examination if they:

- have produced work required by the Exam Board e.g. Coursework, Controlled Assessments
- have attended regularly
- stand a chance of passing the examination at A\*-G and have demonstrated that they have worked to the best of their ability
- have signed a Memorandum of Agreement which requires them to repay any examination fees if they do not take the exam or if they fail to comply with items (a) and (b) above.

## GCE A LEVEL RESULTS 2016

Subject	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
Art	0	2	5	0	1	0	0	8
Biology	3	9	11	13	6	3	2	47
Chemistry	3	6	7	8	9	3	1	37
Computing	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Design Technology	0	1	3	3	2	0	0	9
Drama	0	0	3	9	1	0	0	13
Economics	0	5	6	4	5	5	1	26
English Language	1	2	8	10	1	0	0	22
English Literature	2	4	4	4	4	0	0	18
French	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Further Mathematics	2	2	4	2	1	0	0	11
General Studies	0	0	4	5	7	4	3	23
Geography	1	4	8	7	9	2	0	31
Government & Politics	0	1	3	4	0	1	0	9
History	0	6	11	16	5	0	0	38
Mathematics	9	16	14	19	13	5	6	82
Music	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	7
Music Technology	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	5
PE Studies	0	1	1	3	2	0	0	7
Photography	0	1	3	3	3	0	0	10
Physics	0	5	9	6	5	3	3	31
Psychology	5	7	12	17	3	2	1	47
Religious Education	0	4	5	3	1	0	0	13
Sociology	0	3	6	6	0	0	0	15
Spanish	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	6

A copy of the press releases relating to the 2016 examination results can be found on the school website by following the “**latest news...**” link.

## GOVERNORS

### GENERAL

Mr P Bason - Chair  
Mrs Y Edwards  
Mrs M Kay  
Mr T O'Connor  
Mr A Hakes  
Mr P Webb  
Mr J Beswick  
Mrs M Walker  
Mrs M Jamieson

### CO-OPTED

Mr A Thomson

### PARENT

Mr N Martin  
Mr I Polnyj  
Dr F Thompson  
Mrs H Bliss  
Mr M Ebsworth

### STAFF

Mr P Loughney (Teacher)  
Mr R Bernard  
Mrs A Shaw

### CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

Mrs A Roberts

*We look forward to welcoming you to the school for the Open Evening on Thursday 6th October.*

*You will be able to submit your consideration form – the first stage of seeking a place at the school – if you so wish, on the Open Evening.*

*Additional information about the school and videos showing more about the school, its ethos and students are available on our website:*

*[www.nsb.northants.sch.uk](http://www.nsb.northants.sch.uk)*