



NATIONAL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Advent Newsletter

Christmas address from Mr Brailsford – Headteacher

Every term, we have the pleasure of sharing many of the wonderful things happening both within our Academy and out in the community. This season gives us a special opportunity to celebrate, to recognise the importance of inclusivity, equality and diversity, and to not only reflect on the months gone by but also look ahead with excitement for the future.

As you will see throughout this newsletter, our students continue to embrace the rich and varied opportunities available at National—from creative, engaging teaching and learning, to inspiring visits, trips, arts and sports activities. It has truly been a successful term for the school. I hope we can all take a moment to appreciate the dedication of our students, staff and parents and guardians who help make our Academy such a special and unique place at the heart of Hucknall.

Our Academy remains proud of its outstanding reputation across Nottinghamshire for offering a holistic educational experience that enriches children's lives in so many meaningful ways. Everything we achieve, we achieve together. This includes working closely with our community, valuing your feedback and ensuring you feel involved at every step.

Thank you, sincerely, for your continued and overwhelming support. I hope you can see the powerful part you play in our success and how deeply we appreciate your involvement throughout the year. As the term comes to a close, I would like to wish the entire National community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please stay safe, enjoy the break, and I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2026. And who knows—perhaps, like last year, we'll return to a dusting of snow!

Warmest wishes,

Mr Brailsford - Headteacher

'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Christingle Services

On the 10th and 12th December, year 7 students took part in Christingle services at St Mary Magdalene's Church in Hucknall. This was the culmination of their Religious Studies topic focussing on how Christians believe that Jesus is 'the light of the world' and how he calls on his followers to also be a 'light' for others.

In their RS lessons, students had learnt about the symbolism of the Christingle and how the different parts reflect some central Christian beliefs, as well as how the service is used to support the work of the Children's Society. The Children's Society is a UK charity, who work with young people across the country to help them transform their lives.

On the day of the service, students assembled their own Christingle before braving the weather to walk down to the church. The service was led by Reverend Helen and our Academy Chaplain Lucie and involved moments of reflection as well as several quizzes, before culminating in the lighting of the Christingles. I am pleased to say most Christingles remained uneaten until the end!

Mr D Willey - Teacher of religious studies



Christmas Tree Festival

A small group of Inclusion students took part in this year's Christmas Tree Festival. The Hucknall Christmas Tree Festival takes place every year at St Mary Magdalene's Church, with participants from various local organisations, schools and community groups. This year, the students came up with the idea of using their tree to highlight children's rights. The students made gingerbread style people out of card, decorated them and wrote a statement on the front such as 'I have a right to be listened to', 'I have a right to be safe.' The students worked very hard to make the tree look great, and four students enjoyed taking the tree down to the church on Wednesday 3rd December, to get it ready for the festival. Our students did a great job in representing the school by taking part in this local community event.

Miss A Clark - Learning Support Assistant



Christmas Concert

The Academy's annual Christmas concert took place on Monday 15th December at St Mary Magdalene Church, Hucknall at 6pm. The evening featured some of the school's finest musicians and performers, including singers and guitar, piano and violin players. It was a joyful celebration of Christmas, as we sang carols and listened to readings from students and Lucie our Academy Chaplain. We were also treated to a song from the upcoming Academy show, *Our House*, debuting in February.

Mr I Baggott - Teacher of Music



Christmas Jumper Day

Elevate, our group of year 11 boys, who are raising awareness around young men's mental health, organised a Christmas jumper day on Friday 19th December, the last day of term. Students (and staff!) were able to wear their Christmas jumper, for a voluntary suggested £1 donation via ipay. Proceeds will be donated to Young Minds - a charity supporting young people's mental health.



Chaplaincy

Hello! I'm Lucie, the Chaplain, I started here at the Academy in September. I'm here to offer a welcoming space for anyone who needs a chat, a moment of calm, or simply a friendly face. My door is always open.

Our Chaplaincy team has been busy this term—building links with the local community and offering students opportunities to grow in confidence and leadership through ARCH Ambassadors and collective worship. Many students have also helped shape our daily thoughts and weekly reflections, bringing creativity and insight to school life.

In November, year 7 students took part in Prayer Week, exploring a range of reflective spaces designed to help them think about their emotions, the wider world, and their place within it. The feedback was fantastic, with students asking us to run it again soon!



Every Wednesday lunchtime we host a lively drop-in group called Rooted where students can play games, enjoy snacks, ask big life questions, and explore where faith might fit into their world. It's wonderfully loud, full of laughter, and we regularly welcome more than 30 students.



As Christmas approaches, we're busy with Christingle celebrations, carol services, joyful assemblies, and even a school-wide hunt for hidden stars. It's a lovely reminder that joy often appears in unexpected places—sometimes we search for it, and sometimes it's shining right in front of us, just like in the Christmas story and the journeys people took to find hope and light.

My hope for you this Christmas is that, amidst the busyness, you discover glimmers of joy and experience a truly wonder-filled season.

Mrs L Hutson - Academy Chaplain

German Christmas Markets Trip

On Tuesday 25th November, 30 of our year 10 students travelled to Germany, with 5 of our staff on a joint trip between our ADT and MFL departments. They had a very early start to catch the 8 o'clock ferry from Dover to Calais - it was quite a windy and rough journey. They drove across France and Belgium reaching Aachen in Germany at 4pm.

On Wednesday they started their day with a visit to the Lindt chocolate shop followed by a tour of the beautiful Aachen Cathedral - the oldest in Northern Europe. Aachen Cathedral is best known as the capital of Charlemagne's Frankish empire. The Cathedral hosts lots of medieval artifacts including the shrine of Charlemagne who was buried in the cathedral in 814AD. It is also well known for its Gingerbread "Printen". When walking around, Aachen gives you a journey through different centuries, it has medieval buildings, Gothic churches, beautiful architecture houses and delightful fountains. Students then completed an apprentice style challenge - having to find five specified items including a Christmas decoration, all for under 10 euros. In the afternoon they went off to explore the Christmas markets and went bowling in the evening.

On Thursday they went to the Lindt Chocolate Factory and museum in Cologne to learn about the history of chocolate making, followed by a walking tour of the city. Cologne is a beautiful city which spans the Rhine river. The main landmark is the High Gothic Cologne Cathedral with its twin spired towers that loomed in the clouds. They then took a trip to the Ludwig Museum, which hosted masterpieces by Picasso. Once back in Aachen, they competed in Mr Brown's famous quiz. Finally, on Friday morning it was a 9am departure ready for the long trip home. The students enjoyed their cultural experience of Germany and it was a great way to begin the Christmas festivities.

Mrs K Hickman - Teacher of MFL



Community Action Group

On Friday 12th December, ten year 11 students delivered a Christmas themed afternoon to the residents of Annesley Lodge care home. The students planned this afternoon themselves, and delivered a Christmas quiz, Christmas bingo, and they took wooden decorations for the residents to decorate. The students acted maturely, and the staff are always grateful when they spend time with the residents. Hopefully we will get to visit again before year 11 leave.

This Christmas, the community action group wanted to help those who are less fortunate than us in their local community. They chose to support the Salvation Army toy appeal and have collected numerous toys to donate – the support has been amazing. The group also organised a cake sale so they could raise money to buy even more toys to donate. It has been heartwarming to see these students want to help their local community and be so involved in the appeal. We will be heading to the Salvation Army in Hucknall on the final day of term to drop the toys off in time for Christmas.



Mrs L Newns - Assistant head of year 11

Year 7 Theatre Trip



182 of our year 7 students took a trip to see Oliver Twist at Derby Theatre on Thursday 4th December. It was a fantastic adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic, with original songs and Christmas carols to add a bit of festive cheer. This was the first theatre trip for our new year 7s and they were brilliantly behaved. The students were fully engaged throughout, clearly enjoying both the performance and the experience of visiting the theatre.

Mrs K Simpson - Assistant head of languages

District Cross Country Competition



On Thursday 20th November, we took 20 of our year 10 and 11 GCSE PE students to Sherwood Pines to compete in the District Cross Country Competition. It was a beautiful day for running, with stunning scenery to enjoy along the course. The students were competing as part of their GCSE assessment, putting their skills to the test in a competitive environment. A huge congratulations to all our runners – especially the 8 students who have been selected to represent Ashfield at the County Championships in January.

Well done to everyone who took part, and best of luck to our county representatives – we're incredibly proud of you!

Mrs M Jones - Head of PACE

Together in Remembrance

On Tuesday 11th November, our whole school community came together to pause, reflect, and take part in a two-minute silence to mark Remembrance Day. We remembered with gratitude all those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace and freedom. A wreath was laid in the memorial garden at the front of school by our students who wore their Army cadet uniform to take part in the ceremony.

When you go home,
Tell them of us and say:
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today.

Lord Jesus, you said, 'Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.' Help us to be peacemakers in our world today. Amen.



On Sunday 9th November, two of our year 11 student ambassadors, Ruby and Elsie, along with Miss Hornbuckle, one of our English teachers, represented the school at the Hucknall remembrance parade. It was with pride, that they laid a wreath on behalf of the National Academy at the cenotaph in Hucknall. It was a real privilege to see them showing such respect at this important event, to commemorate and remember those that have lost their lives in conflict from our community.



Year 7 Welcome Service



On Friday 10th October, our new year 7 students attended their Welcome Service at St Mary Magdalene's Church in Hucknall. They behaved impeccably throughout and were a true credit to the academy – we couldn't be prouder! It was a wonderful start to their journey with us. The service offered a meaningful moment of reflection as they step into this next chapter, and it was heart-warming to see their enthusiasm and sense of community already beginning to grow. We look forward to supporting them as they continue to settle in and thrive.

Year 9 Battlefields Trip

In October of this year, 59 year 9 students along with 6 staff members visited the WWI Battlefields in France and Belgium for a 3-day trip. After a very early start, we headed down to Dover to get the ferry over to Calais, driving then to Belgium for our first stop of the day; Zonnebeke and the fantastic Passchendaele War Museum. The dugouts there are maintained from WW1 and really show the nature of trench warfare. This really developed the student's knowledge from the classroom in a really practical and interesting fashion, with students showing a real interest.

Day two was all about the battles of Ypres that skirted the Belgian town between 1915 and 1917. After learning about the nature and horror of trench warfare we visited two contrasting cemeteries. Tyne Cot Memorial showed the gravity and scale of loss. The attitude to mourning in this British graveyard was completely different to the contrasting German cemetery at Langemark. With its gravestones contrasting with the white spacious feel at Tyne Cot it highlighted how the two nations do remembrance in a different way. Whilst we were there, we were told that only that week more soldiers had been found and were being buried that day, showing how a war over 100 years ago still impacts the local area. Having skirted around Ypres all morning we arrived in the beautiful market square. From that point, a large chocolate shop was our next destination. As the school goes here every year, we got a special offer on the chocolate (parents, I hope you got a present!). Some free time around the remarkable town square at Ypres was followed by another dive into trench warfare with a scout around the 'In Flanders Fields Museum'. A large museum with the purpose of commemorating the many men that fought in the war. It was from here that as a group we all went for dinner in a local restaurant within the square, with students spending time eating and chatting with their peers. From here, we made our way to the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate; a granite arch that commemorates the journey of British soldiers as they left the safety of Ypres for the front line. In sombre mood, we watched the last post ceremony which was very touching, with one of our students laying a wreath on behalf of the school.

Our last day took us south, along the old front line to the river Somme. We had studied this battle in our history lessons but to see the scale of loss in such a small area was sobering. Being guided around by a Canadian guide, students found out more about the battle for the Newfoundlanders and the impact this battle had. Preserving a section of the battlefield as it was in 1916, Newfoundland Park gives you a great insight into why the losses were so significant. All that was left to do was a return by ferry back to waiting parents.

The conduct of the students was exemplary and it was an honour to have taken them on the trip. We are exceptionally proud of the studious and respectful attitude of year 9, with them being a credit to themselves and our Academy.

Miss B Surgey - Head of humanities



Year 9 PD and CEIAG Day

Our year 9 Personal Development (PD)/Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) Day on Tuesday 18th November was a huge success, providing students with a rich and engaging insight into future pathways and real-world opportunities. We were delighted to welcome outside speakers from the British Army, Via, the Police, and a First Aid training company, all of whom delivered highly interactive and informative sessions. Staff also led excellent workshops showcasing our Sixth Form offer, exploring Unifrog, and guiding students through a range of potential career routes. Our visiting speakers commented on the impressive level of involvement and enthusiasm shown by many of our students, and the student feedback gathered throughout the day was overwhelmingly positive. It was a fantastic event that truly supported our learners in planning their next steps and raising their aspirations.

Mr J Parker - CEIAG Lead



Mock Interviews

On 14th October, our fantastic year 11 students took part in their mock interviews with a group of external business professionals and academy staff. The students looked smart, spoke confidently, and impressed everyone with the depth of their answers.

Many of the visiting interviewers, who have supported this event for several years, commented on how engaged, positive, and well-prepared this year's cohort was. It was wonderful to see our students showcasing their skills, ambitions, and personalities so brilliantly.

Every year 11 student took part and gained valuable experience to help them shine in real interviews in the future. Well done, year 11 – you did us proud!

Mr J Parker - CEIAG lead



World Mental Health Day

Our students celebrated World Mental Health Day in style on Friday 10th October – wearing yellow, sharing positivity, and hosting a cake sale to raise money for Young Minds, the UK's leading charity fighting for a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health.

Our amazing sixth form students handed out yellow ribbons to year 11s, and the lower school got involved with a delicious cake sale at break time. Together, we raised over £150 for this fantastic cause. A huge thank you to our Post 16 Mental Health Ambassadors for organising such a thoughtful and inspiring event!

Ms J Cliffman - Head of NSFC



Sixth Form Centre Opening Ceremony

On Wednesday 1st October, we welcomed Michelle Welsh MP to open our new National Sixth Form Centre, a state-of-the-art facility located at the heart of our community in Hucknall.

Designed to meet the needs of our post-16 students, the building features modern classrooms, dedicated study areas, a canteen exclusively for sixth form students, and a well-equipped Learning Resource Centre, to support independent study, pastoral care and academic mentoring. This inspiring space provides the ideal environment for focused learning and preparation for life beyond school.

Mr Brailsford, Headteacher said, "Our new building isn't just bricks and mortar, it is a symbol of our ambition and continued drive for excellence, where students are supported to pursue our vision of experiencing "Life in all its fullness" John 10:10".

Mr Parris, CEO for MITRE Trust said "We are thrilled to have supported National Church of England Academy in the development of their brand-new sixth form centre. We hope that together we will help every young person who attends the sixth form at National to flourish. It has been a pleasure to work with the school since 2021 with a collective aim to ensure students in Hucknall can realise their aspirations".

For any queries relating to our sixth form please contact sixthform@nationalacademy.org.uk



Visiting speaker -Education at University

On Monday 6th October we were delighted to welcome Colin Morley - Assistant Professor (BA Education, PGCE International) from The University of Nottingham to give a talk to our year 12 and 13 students interested in an Education Degree or Teaching. This talk was a vital hour exploring the course and how to make a good application.

ASSET Award

Following their annual presentation to students on stem cell donation, we were honoured to be awarded a trophy in recognition of National Academy's support of the work of ASSET from their inception. ASSET is the Adrian Sudbury Schools' Education Trust which works with the Anthony Nolan Foundation. Adrian Sudbury was a 27-year-old journalist who died of leukaemia. Adrian's dying wish was that every 16-18 year could be taught the facts about stem cell, blood and organ donation.

National was the very first sixth form to receive a presentation from them when the change in donation age was lowered to 16 by Anthony Nolan. Since then over 30,000 other students have signed up to the Anthony Nolan register, more than 300 people from have gone on to donate their stem cells and 3 of them are from our sixth form!

Our first NSFC Open Evening on site

On October 9th we were delighted to hold our first NSFC Open Evening back on the main site. The event sold out quickly and we were able to meet many prospective students to tell them all about the courses on offer and show off our new sixth form space.

Year 13 Mock Interview Day

On Tuesday 18th November we welcomed 12 local employers for our first year 13 mock interview day at NSFC. Year 13 students were able to receive interview experience and personalised feedback from a variety of professionals from across many sectors including Finance, Law, IT, Education and the Arts.



Tutor Group Fundraising

Students in 12A tutor group arranged a bake sale earlier in the year to raise money for a charitable cause. On Wednesday 10th December, they donated the £70 collected to "Under One Roof", Hucknall's food bank, just in time for Christmas; this was part of the tutor group's work on Compassion, one of the Academy's ARCH values.



Breakfast in Bed

Just one of the many Social Action Projects undertaken by our NSFC tutor groups this half term has been 'Breakfast in Bed'. This day saw students attending in their pyjamas on a chilly December 12th. As a charitable focus, students brought non-perishable food items which have been donated to the Hucknall food bank. Other action projects this term have included bake sales for Young Minds and Women's Aid.



Ms J Cliffman - Head of NSFC

News from the library

Bookbuzz

This term our year 7s have all received a brand new, free book to take home and keep. The Bookbuzz scheme gives our students a choice of 16 books, ranging from graphic novels to non-fiction to short reads, with a range of genres, from mystery to historical to fantasy to choose from. Our students watched a video of the authors pitching their books, and then they chose which one they wanted to read. Here are our students receiving their books.



Student Library Assistants

Every year the library hosts a group of students who volunteer their time to keep the library looking great. They help other students borrow books, put books back on the shelves, help catalogue new books by adding jackets and date labels. They even create lovely new seasonal displays.

So thank you to all 15 students this year, from year 7 right through to sixth form who do such a wonderful job!

National Year of Reading 2026

The government have announced that 2026 will be a Year of Reading. They have said, "We believe reading is a powerful plug-in to the things you already love – a great way to go deeper into your existing passions. Put simply we say: 'if you're into it, read into it'. We're asking the nation to 'Go All In' and see how reading in all its forms can unlock more of what you love – whether it's music, baking, family time, films, sci-fi or... anything."

More information about the National Year of Reading 2026 can be found at www.goallin.org.uk

Look out for lots of lovely reading events in the library throughout 2026 to encourage our students to get reading.

Mrs J Prestwood - LRC Lead

Faculty Blog - Humanities

Designing a curriculum that gives a voice for all

As teachers of Humanities here at the National Church of England Academy, we have some element of freedom as to what we teach. We, as the humanities faculty, take huge pride in the content that we deliver to our students, and in the last academic year we have made changes to ensure that our curriculum reflects the ever-changing social landscape we are living in. We want to ensure that our curriculum helps to broaden the horizons of our fantastic young people, reflect on our ARCH values, and support children to deal with the complex issues of the twenty first century.

We ask ourselves key questions when making such changes. Are our students equipped to understand the world they live in? Are we teaching students about the experiences of people around the world? Are students aware of the struggles and experiences of minority groups? Are we challenging misconceptions? Are students aware of the impact of our actions on the environment? Do we challenge the "white saviour" narrative of British history? These are all questions we thought of and have ensured that our curriculum reflects such pressing issues.

Yes, education is about equipping our students to have the best qualifications so that their life choices are broader. However we believe that living "life in all its fullness" does not come about solely as a result of having a better job and consequently higher earnings. Our values of respect and compassion are rooted in our belief that "life in all its fulness" comes about as a result of students being aware of their place in the world. How their world has been impacted by historical and geographical events and how in turn they can contribute culturally to a more respectful and empathetic world.

In geography, our case studies have been updated to be within the lived experience of the students of the school. We have moved some of the case studies to be more local, for example our flooding topic now focuses on Hucknall to give students an understanding of their local environment. Furthermore, we now have a topic focused on China and Africa and the space race. This is in a bid to broaden horizons and challenge misconceptions around economic struggle in Africa to highlight the work that is being done to put satellites in space by African countries.

In history, we have made changes in year 8 to include the history of the LGBTQ+ community. We have included a focus on how attitudes towards those within the community and their treatment have changed over time, along with the issues still faced today. Furthermore, in year 9 history we have now included a topic looking at terrorism. This is focusing on not only what terrorism is and examples we have seen, but also has an emphasis on challenging the misconceptions around who terrorists are. With the current world in which our students are growing up in, it is important that they are aware of such issues we face, but also are conscious of why people get involved in extremism.

Thus, by creating and delivering a broad curriculum for our students, it ensures our young people are prepared for the challenging and ever-changing world in which we live.

Miss B Surgay - Head of humanities



Faculty Blog - Languages

The start of this academic year marked an exciting new chapter for the faculty of languages so we would like to take this opportunity to share recent developments and celebrate the many enriching opportunities available to our students.

After 23 years of outstanding service, we said a fond farewell to Mr Barnett, who has moved to an academy closer to home. We also extended our congratulations to Miss Hyde, who secured a well-deserved promotion at a new academy. Their contribution to our academy community has been exceptional, and they left us with our warmest thanks and very best wishes.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Bust is now an Assistant Head of Faculty, taking the lead in the subject of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). We are equally pleased to welcome Mrs Spencer and Miss Jardine to the faculty as teachers of English. Both bringing a wealth of expertise and fresh ideas to our faculty.

The faculty of languages continues to provide a wide range of opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom with multiple enrichment opportunities.

Theatre visits – Last year, students thoroughly enjoyed a trip to see *Juliet* and this year our year 7s have been to see *Oliver Twist* and we look forward to visits to *The Woman in Black* with year 9, and *Jekyll and Hyde* with year 10 in 2026. These trips enable students to engage with literature in new and inspiring ways and hopefully help to nurture their love of live theatre showing that life beyond a screen exists.

German Christmas Markets visit – Our year 10 students have recently experienced the unique cultural traditions of the festive season in Germany, an invaluable opportunity to practise their language skills in an authentic setting and maybe grab a fabulous Christmas gift.

Year 9 summer visit to Germany – Last summer, our year 9 students participated in a hugely successful trip, visiting a chocolate factory, exploring sports stadiums, and experiencing the awe-inspiring Cologne Cathedral.

In all of the enrichment trips the students' impeccable behaviour throughout was a real credit to the academy and a testament to their maturity and enthusiasm making these events a pleasure to plan and run.

We hope the students at the academy continue to enjoy studying languages as it is not only academically rewarding but also provides students with lifelong skills, cultural awareness, and confidence. Through English and MFL, our students develop the ability to communicate effectively, think critically, and appreciate the richness of different cultures so we are constantly looking where we can enhance the students' experiences through our text choices and places we visit.

The Faculty of Languages is committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to flourish both inside and outside the classroom living, 'life in all its fullness'.

Miss C Hunt - Head of languages



Head of Year Highlights

Year 7

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their secondary school journey, demonstrating maturity, enthusiasm, and a positive approach to school life. Their attendance currently stands at 95.57%, placing them above the national average and reflecting their commitment to learning.

We would like to congratulate Ellivia, who achieved the highest number of achievement points this half term with an outstanding 342. Close behind were Asa, Jemima, and Harriet, who have also shown impressive effort, engagement, and consistency.

Class teachers have provided highly positive feedback about the year group, praising their behaviour, focus, and the strong foundations they are building across all subjects. It has been a pleasure to see them settle in so well and contribute positively to the school community.

As we approach the Christmas break, we hope all students enjoy a restful and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming them back in the new year, ready for continued success.

Mr K Mistry - Head of year 7

Year 8

It has been a real joy to celebrate with our year 8 students at this term's achievement assembly. Warm congratulations to Leon in 8B for earning the highest number of achievement points across the year group. A huge well done to tutor group 8E for collectively scoring an impressive 4658 achievement points this term and being the tutor group of the term. We are delighted that 100 students in year 8 achieved 100% attendance this term. A real testament to their commitment and resilience. Equally inspiring, 91 students in year 8 completed the term without a single behaviour point, showing exceptional engagement with their learning. These students lead by example and shine brightly in our year group. We are extremely proud of them.

Thank you to every parent and guardian for your continued encouragement and support. May we take this opportunity to wish all our year 8 families a peaceful and safe festive season and we look forward to all that our year 8 students will achieve next term as the New Year brings fresh opportunities for learning, service, and friendship.

Ms S Craven and Mrs S McDermott - Head and assistant head of year 8

Year 9

As we reach the end of a busy and successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our year 9 students on their hard work, resilience, and positive attitude throughout the autumn term. It has been a pleasure to see so many students thriving both academically and personally.

I am delighted to share some of our key achievements this term. 9B have the least behaviour points, demonstrating outstanding conduct and commitment to our school values. Meanwhile, 9F have the most achievement points, a testament to their consistent effort and motivation across all subjects. A special congratulations also goes to 9B, who have been crowned our Interform Football Champions following an excellent team performance.

As always, I would like to emphasise the importance of good attendance. Being in school every day is vital for academic progress, wellbeing, and building strong relationships with staff and peers. We encourage all students to maintain high attendance next term to ensure they are fully prepared for the important year ahead.

Head of Year Highlights

Looking ahead to the spring term, students will begin the process of selecting their GCSE options. This is an exciting milestone, and we will be providing guidance and support to help them make informed decisions that align with their interests, strengths, and future aspirations.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish all our students and their families a restful, safe, and enjoyable Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready for another successful term.

Mr J Beaver - Head of year 9

Year 10

As we reach the end of the Christmas term, we want to take a moment to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our year 10 students. This term has been full of learning, growth, and preparation for the challenges ahead. Last week we held our achievement assembly where we celebrated our successes so far this year. Our highlights included Edith J, as the student with the most positive points and Ayomide A, the student with the most star of the lessons this term. Congratulations to 10B, who were the tutor group with the most positive points.

Next term will bring new topics, assessments, and opportunities to shine. We encourage students to use the holiday to rest, recharge, and reflect on their goals for the new year.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas,

Mrs E Hopkin and Mr C Crossland - Head and assistant head of year 10

Year 11

Year 11 have made a strong start to the year, showing a positive attitude towards their learning and embracing the mock exams with determination and resilience.

Being in school every day that it is open, is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and their wider development. Well done to 11B, leading the way with an average attendance over 94.5% this term. Well done also, to the 77 year 11 students above our 97% target and the 30 students still at 100%.

In lessons every student has received achievement points, as year 11 have collectively been awarded over 30,000 positive achievement points this term. 11G lead the way this term with over 5,300 positive achievement points. Individually, congratulations to Georgia G in 11F, Ava B in 11E, Luke P in 11G, Archie L in 11E, Freya C in 11E, Athena K in 11G, Oliver W in 11B, Ruby H in 11G, Kaitlyn W in 11C, and Lauren N in 11G, for being our 10 most rewarded students in year 11 this term.

This term year 11 have also taken part in mock interviews, and they were widely praised by the employers and interviewers that took part in the day, for their enthusiasm and well thought out answers. Students have commented on how much they gained from the process and advice given too, with valuable insights and gains being taken from the day.

Congratulations to all year 11's for getting through the mock exam window successfully, have a well earned rest over Christmas, and good luck with results day when we return in the new year.

Mr J Gilham and Mrs L Newns - Head and assistant head of year 11

Staffing Update

We said goodbye to:

Mrs M Kmieckowiak, Academy Counsellor, after three years.

Mrs R Kirk, Deputy Business Manager, who left us earlier in the term after 18 years at the Academy. She has been a much-loved and highly valued member of the support staff team.

Miss L Willett, Pastoral Support Administrator and Receptionist, who leaves us at the end of term, having been with us for the last three years.

We wish them every success in what comes next.

We are excited to welcome this term:

Mrs L Hutson - Academy Chaplain

Mrs F Meneghello - Academy Counsellor

Ms J Calder - Learning Support Assistant

Ms D Waters - Learning Support Assistant

We're really glad to have you on board and looking forward to working with you.

Dates to remember

Monday 5th January 2026 - return to school for all year groups (week A)

Thursday 15th January 2026 - Year 9 theatre trip

Thursday 15th January 2026 - Year 13 parents evening (virtual)

Wednesday 21st January 2026 - Year 10 theatre trip

Saturday 24th January - Saturday 31st January 2026 - Ski trip

Wednesday 28th January 2026 - Year 11 AMP evening (virtual)

Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th February 2026 - Academy show

Friday 13th February 2026 - Inset Day

Academy holiday - Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026

Wednesday 25th February 2026 - Year 10 AMP evening

Wednesday 4th March 2026 - Year 9 options evening

Wednesday 18th March 2026 - Year 8 AMP evening

Academy holiday - Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2025

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The National Church of England Academy
Annesley Road | Hucknall | Nottinghamshire | NG15 7DB
Phone: 0115 9635667

Email: adminoffice@nationalacademy.org.uk
www.nationalacademy.org.uk