NIA STUDENT VOICE NEWSLETTER

Student Leadership

We are delighted to congratulate and officially welcome our new NIA Student Leadership Team for 2026-2027. Following a highly competitive selection process, these students have demonstrated outstanding commitment, leadership potential and a genuine desire to make a positive difference to our academy community. We are incredibly proud of all those who put themselves forward and look forward to seeing our new team represent the voice of students across the school.
Student leadership continues to play a vital role in shaping academy life, and we are excited to see the impact of their hard work.

You can see the full team for Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form on the next page of this newsletter and can read an introduction from Vanessa, our Head of School.

📣 Student Voice Newsletter

Edition 1 - Autumn Term 1

Welcome to the first edition of our Student Voice Newsletter for the 2026-2027 academic year.
We have had a very busy and positive start to the year, with the launch of our new Student Voice Committees and the exciting process of appointing this year's Student Leadership Team. These opportunities allow our students to play an active role in shaping academy life, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, commitment and leadership shown so far. You can read more about these developments later in this newsletter.
As we reach the end of a successful first half term, we would like to thank all of our students, staff and families for their continued support. We wish everyone a safe, restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for what promises to be a fantastic Autumn Term 2.

Assemblies this term

This half term, students have enjoyed a variety of assemblies focused on personal development, enrichment and awareness. We welcomed guest speakers from the University of Northampton, who introduced opportunities such as Uni Club and Event Lab, helping students explore exciting enrichment experiences beyond the classroom. Students also learned about the significance of Black History Month through assemblies led by our Humanities team, while virtual assemblies from NIA staff covered important topics including Showing Racism the Red Card, Urban Exploring, and Mental Health and Wellbeing.

NIA STUDENT VOICE NEWSLETTER

SPOTLIGHT ON...
NIA's Student Leadership Team





NIA STUDENT VOICE NEWSLETTER

SPOTLIGHT ON...
NIA's Student Leadership Team



A word from our Student Head of School:

I am Vanessa Gruza and I am student head of school at NIA; I am ecstatic to be able to be a part of the student leadership team once again and have the opportunity to make a positive impact on our school again.

Being the student head of school comes with many responsibilities and commitments however I am more than ready to collaborate with my team and help create more positive changes around the school.

Looking ahead, one of my main priorities is being able to give students the opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas to ensure they feel listened to valued and represented. I would like to encourage more students as a team to express their views and possibly bring up new ideas that can benefit the school community. This creates an environment where students can feel confident enough to speak up and express themselves/ perspectives which hopefully makes students feel that their opinions genuinely matter as it can help make a positive change to our school.

Furthermore, another focus of mine is to make students have something they can look forward to every term. For example, during the winter I would love to explore introducing a winter version of sports week. I believe it will be a great way of students getting involved in more physical activity whilst enjoying a fun and competitive environment. It brings everyone together and builds excitement throughout the year rather than having to wait till summer, allowing students to also receive a chance to collaborate with their houses and prepare for an exciting event.

Alongside this, I would also hope to introduce a staff and student of the week initiative, this gives you the opportunity to work towards something at the end of the week and recognise the hard work that happens. Raising awareness of the dedication and positive contributions made by members of the school community would provide an opportunity to celebrate achievements while encouraging others to make a positive difference.

Overall, I plan to work collaboratively between students and staff helping identify new ideas and create more opportunities for students to get involved in at NIA.

NIA STUDENT VOICE NEWSLETTER

NIA Student Voice Committees

Our Student Voice Committees are now up and running, and we are delighted to welcome all of our newly appointed members. These committees provide students with a fantastic opportunity to share their ideas, shape academy life and make a real difference within our school community. In this edition of the newsletter, you can find out more about each of the committees available to secondary students and the exciting work they will be involved in throughout the year.
Congratulations to everyone who secured a place!
Missed out this time? Don't worry. Applications reopen at the start of every term, giving all students another opportunity to get involved. The next round of applications will open in January 2027, and we encourage anyone interested in representing student voice to apply. We can't wait to see what our committees achieve this year!





NIA STUDENT VOICE NEWSLETTER

NIA Student Voice Committees

2026 - 2027
Committees

This Girl Can

Staff Lead - Miss Milne

This Girl Can Committee works to promote girls' participation, confidence and leadership across all areas of school life, particularly in sport, physical activity and enrichment opportunities. The committee helps to plan and lead initiatives, events and campaigns that encourage girls to challenge stereotypes, develop self-belief and engage fully in activities that support their wellbeing and personal development.

2026 - 2027
Committees

Reading Pioneers

Staff Lead - Mrs Broadbent

The Reading Pioneers play an important role in creating a positive reading culture within the school. By organising reading events, sharing book recommendations, and encouraging participation in reading challenges, they help foster a lifelong love of reading and support literacy development for all students.

NIA STUDENT VOICE NEWSLETTER

NIA Student Voice Committees

2026 - 2027 Committees

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Staff Lead - Miss King and Miss Frunzete

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors work to promote positive relationships and ensure that all students feel safe and included within the school community. Through the Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador programme, they receive specialist training that enables them to lead campaigns, educate their peers, and act as role models in fostering a culture of respect and kindness.

2026 - 2027 Committees

Neurodiversity

Staff Lead - Miss Child

The Neurodiversity Committee works to create a school environment where neurological differences, such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and other learning profiles, are understood and embraced. Through awareness campaigns, events, and student-led projects, committee members help to champion inclusion and encourage a culture of empathy, respect, and belonging for all.

2026 - 2027 Committees

STEM committee

Staff Lead - Mrs Naiker

The STEM Committee works to raise the profile of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics by supporting exciting learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Through leading projects, organising events, and sharing their enthusiasm for STEM, committee members encourage their peers to develop critical thinking skills and a passion for discovery. *Key Stage 4 and 5 only.*

NIA STUDENT VOICE NEWSLETTER

NIA celebrates Black History Month

Students across the academy have enjoyed a range of exciting experiences to celebrate Black History Month this October.



Secondary students took part in assemblies led by the Humanities team, exploring the achievements of significant Black figures from history and within our own community.

Year 7 students enjoyed a vibrant Muchongoyo traditional dance performance from Power of the Mind Network, providing a fantastic opportunity to experience and celebrate cultural diversity. We are grateful to the charity for sharing this inspiring performance with our students.





Year 10 students also visited the Royal & Derngate Theatre to watch a special performance of Once Upon A Time In Sokoto. The thought-provoking production was thoroughly enjoyed by students, who represented the academy brilliantly throughout the visit.





A huge thank you to all our visitors and partners for helping make this year's Black History Month celebrations so memorable.