

PARTNER SCHOOLS

 schoolsengagement@northampton.ac.uk



Website



@UONschools

SECONDARY AND COLLEGE
OPPORTUNITIES

2024 - 2025

Schools Engagement Team Opportunities

Hello and welcome back to the new school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer break.

Whilst you've been away, we have been working behind the scenes to create a streamlined offer of opportunities for all year groups (years 7 - 13 and levels 1, 2 and 3 at college).

We're thrilled to reveal the exciting lineup of opportunities we have in store for your students!

Need a hand with an event or want to discuss how we can support your students? Just reach out to your dedicated Aspire Higher Coordinator. They're eager to collaborate with you to create an amazing experience for your students. We can't wait to collaborate with you this academic year!

The Schools Engagement Team

If you didn't already know, the University of Northampton is part of the Aspire Higher Consortium which is delivered by a cross-university team from:



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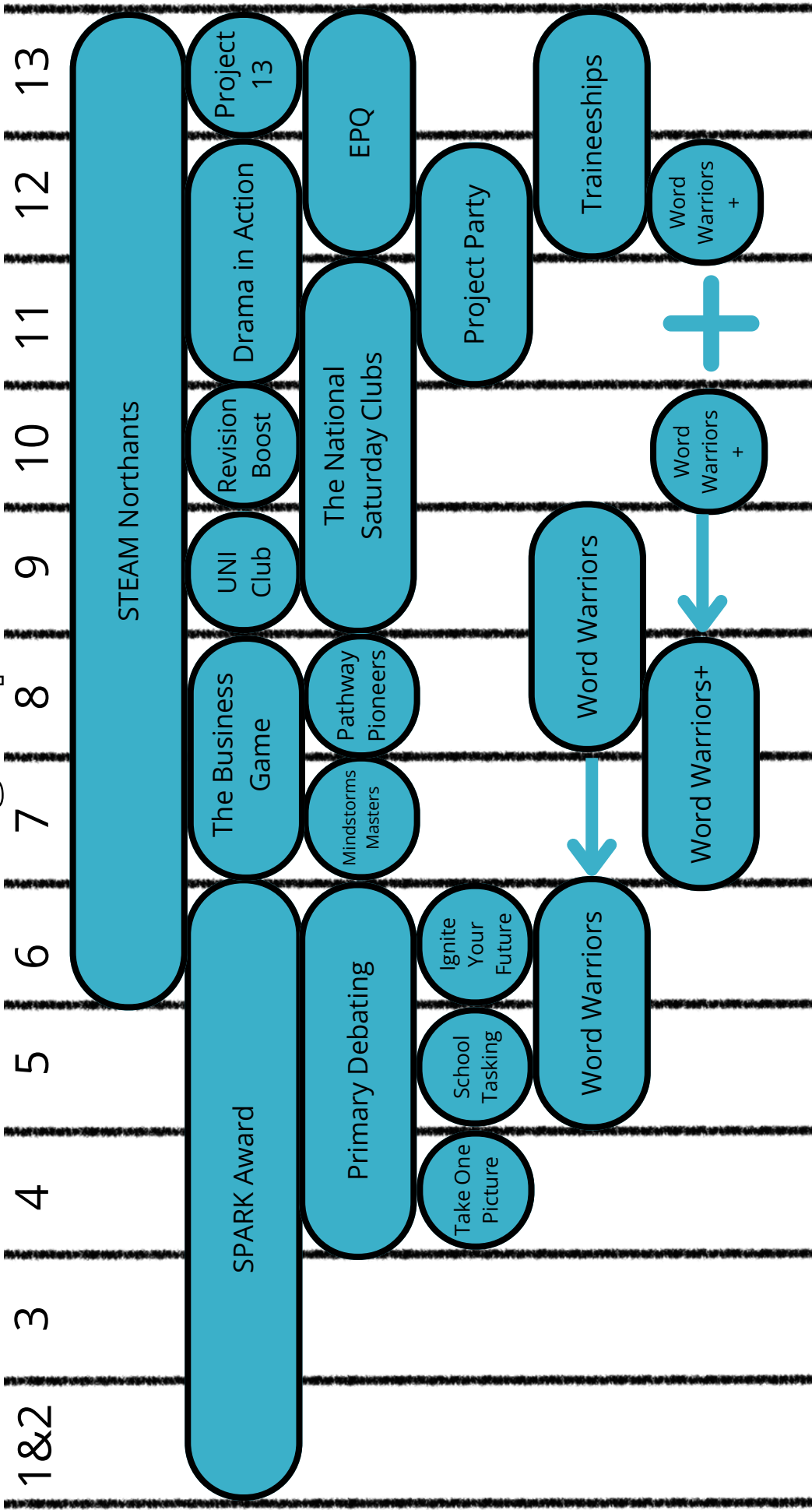
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Our Opportunities Menu

Year groups



The Business Game Year 7 and Year 8

Dates: 6 to 8 Saturdays from January to April 2025 (9.30am-1pm)

Location: Waterside Campus

**Gatsby Benchmarks: 3, 4, 5 & 7
Transport funding may be available
30 male-identifying students**

We are launching a pilot project for those who identify as male, partnering with two schools. This initiative will guide students through creating and promoting their own brand, from concept to execution, while incorporating discussions on mental health and toxic masculinity.

Students will:

- Develop a brand concept and strategy.
- Utilise social media for marketing.
- Script and perform presentations to showcase their brand.
- Promote their business idea.

This hands-on experience aims to inspire creativity, entrepreneurial thinking, and self-awareness.

We appreciate your support in bringing this innovative project to life!

Drama in Action Year 11 and Year 12

Dates: October 2024 to June 2025

Location: In your school & 1 day on Waterside Campus

Gatsby Benchmarks: 4 & 7

£350 bus bursary available for the on campus day

30 Performance/Drama students per schools

An opportunity for your students to work with the University of Northampton (UON) to raise attainment through skill building and knowledge deepening in drama.

By working with your teachers and students, the IDEK Drama in Action program supports schools in developing practical approaches to any text or stimulus being worked on/with. It would be suitable for all BTEC qualifications as well as the Drama syllabuses for AQA, Edexcel, Eduqas, being taught at KS4/5.

The IDEK Drama in Action programme includes:

- 121 collaboration with drama staff.
- Modelling techniques for teaching.
- A visit for your students to UON in June 2025.
- Direct support with your drama students.

The program is flexible—we can support your school for a full day or during your regular class sessions, minimising disruptions to other lessons. Our goal is to simplify the process, strengthen ties between schools and the Drama department at UON, and provide practical techniques that positively impact student achievement.

EPQ Year 12 and Year 13

Dates: October 2024 to June 2025
Location: Your school and Waterside Campus

Gatsby Benchmarks: 2, 4 & 7
Transport available for the on campus skills day
20 students per school

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a support programme which aims to assist students in producing their written reports and boosting their confidence in presenting.

Your students will take full responsibility for selecting, designing, and making decisions about their individual projects.

Through this three-stage programme, we will support your students in:

- Becoming more critical, reflective, and independent learners.
- Enhancing their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and presentation skills.

EPQ Day on Campus:

This on-campus skills day includes workshops on critical thinking, researching, and writing, led by UON's learning support services. Students will also have the chance to work with the UON library team to explore how to source materials for their projects and identify useful books and journals.

Library and Learning Services at UON

Academic skills sessions for Years 12/13

Delivered by Academic Librarians and Learning Development Tutors, the following sessions take place on campus, last 60 minutes and are for a maximum of 20 pupils. Sessions are offered between December and July and are subject to staff and room availability.

Contact jenny.townend@northampton.ac.uk to book.

Evaluating Information, Giving Credit and Tools for Research

Finding information, evaluating it for relevance and trustworthiness and using it within academic work.

Introduction to Academic Writing: Ensuring Writing is Formal and Evidenced

Understanding and identifying the conventions of writing formally, using effective structuring, being precise and using evidence when writing academically.

Introduction to Academic Writing: Being Objective and Critical

Understanding the principles of being objective, critical and balanced when writing academically.

Writing Around Sources

Understanding the importance of using quality academic sources and appropriate use of paraphrasing.

Building an Argument

Building effective structured arguments and integrating academic sources

Acting on Feedback

Identifying the best ways of acting on feedback to improve work.

Library and Learning Services at UON

Public Speaking and Presentations

If your pupils enjoy writing stories or poems, we can arrange for them to read their work aloud to an audience at a **Telling Tales** event at our Waterside Campus. Similarly, our **So, here's the thing...** sessions provide an opportunity for pupils to present to an audience on something they are passionate or knowledgeable about.

Work Experience

Placements are available for pupils interested in experiencing life behind the scenes of an academic library.

Study Spaces

Members of the public are welcome to make respectful use of the ground floors of the Senate building and the Creative Hub (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday) and the ground floor of the Learning Hub (8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday). Guest wifi is available in these locations, along with toilets and a range of furniture and study spaces. They may also use the Waterside Bar and Restaurant and the cafés on the ground floors of the Learning Hub and the Sunley Hotel.

Access to Resources

Our physical book stock is on the upper floors of the Learning Hub. This building is also home to teaching spaces and staff offices and so access is limited to staff, students and card holders.

Most of our electronic resources are only available to UON staff and students, due to licensing restrictions. However, anyone can access articles on NELSON (our catalogue, available at nelson.northampton.ac.uk) if they feature a Get PDF button.

**For more information contact
jenny.townend@northampton.ac.uk**

Mindstorms Masters Year 7

Dates: January to July 2025

**Location: Launch event at Cummins in Daventry
& sessions in your school**

Gatsby Benchmarks: 4, 5 & 7

**£350 bus bursary available for the day at Cummins
30 places available per school**

The University of Northampton's Schools Engagement Team are delighted to share an opportunity for year 7 students to participate in Mindstorms Masters a weekly LEGO Club where they will build and programme their own robot in small teams.

By participating in Mindstorms Masters, students will build a LEGO Mindstorms robot and gain experience in using Word Blocks (a LEGO software similar to Scratch) to code a programme and complete various challenges.

Mindstorms Masters has been designed to nurture the following skills in year 7: imagination, creativity, perseverance, resilience, teamwork, problem solving and communication.

The programme starts with a Launch Day at Cummins where pupils will build their robots and tour the plant, followed by 4 x 1 hour workshops in the following 4 weeks. Students will be supported by Student Ambassadors as well as apprentices from Cummins.

Your students will explore the world of engineering, and delve into education routes as well as Higher Education all whilst having fun!

The National Saturday Clubs Year 9, 10 and 11

Dates: October 2024 to July 2025 (Term time only)

Location: Waterside campus & London

Gatsby Benchmarks: 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8

Transport available from school to Waterside Campus

25 places available per Club

All of your students' amazing creations will be showcased at public exhibitions in London in November 2024 and again in the summer of 2025!

Art&Design Club

Your students can unleash their creativity and dive into a world of artistic expression, They'll have the chance to experiment with exciting disciplines like photography, fashion design, styling, and footwear design, while discovering the magic of colour in art!

Through hands-on workshops, they'll get their creative juices flowing with guidance from university lecturers at the University of Northampton and professionals from the creative industry.

Film&Screen Club

Your students will dive into the exciting world of the film industry, learning about storytelling, filmmaking, and various career paths from real industry pros. They'll watch cool independent and local short films, take part in engaging tutorials, and get hands-on experience in filmmaking.

Along the way, they'll boost their creativity, confidence, and communication skills while sharpening their filmmaking talents. Plus, they'll discover their strengths and passions, and learn the art of teamwork and project planning.

Other Resources

Explore our Schools Engagement webpages on the UON website!

Location: www.northampton.ac.uk/community/schools-and-colleges/schools-engagement/

You'll find a variety of resources for students, school staff, and parents/guardians/carers, along with all the relevant paperwork needed for Waterside campus visits and more.

EPQ Skills Site

Location: libguides.northampton.ac.uk/epq

Guidance on choosing a topic, where to search for information and advice on ethics.

Skills Hub

Location: skillshub.northampton.ac.uk

Contains videos, guides and interactive tutorials covering core academic skills including critical thinking, note taking and time management.

Pathway Pioneers Year 8

Dates: April to July 2025

Location: In your school & Waterside Campus

Gatsby Benchmarks: 2, 4, 5, 7 & 8

Transport bursary available

Introducing an exciting new addition to our offer: Pathway Pioneers! This programme is designed to engage your Year 8 students and help them explore their options after completing their GCSEs.

Here's what's in store:

- Assembly for the whole year group: Intro to options and the importance of GCSEs.
- Interactive workshop for a select group of students: Explore your choices at the end of Year 11.
- Guest speakers: Hear about further education and higher education options from an apprenticeship provider, local apprentices, and a local college.
- Interactive session for a select group of students: Choice of careers-related activities and an introduction to 'What's your dream?'

As the final part of Pathway Pioneers, you can also choose from these exciting events for the whole year group:

- STEAM Northants: 11th July 2025
- 'What's your dream?' celebration day in summer term 2025

Project 13

Year 13

Dates: September 2024 to February 2025

Location: In your school

Gatsby Benchmarks: 2, 4 & 7

The initial assembly is for the entire year group, and the remaining sessions, up to 10 students

This unique opportunity is designed for students who are exploring both Higher and Degree Apprenticeships alongside university options.

The workshops include:

Workshop 1: Exploring Apprenticeship Opportunities

- A 45-minute presentation for the entire school year, introducing the various opportunities and pathways available in apprenticeships.

Workshops 2 & 3: Personal Branding – How To Make Employers Absolutely Love You

- Learn techniques for creating an impressive first CV and effectively answering application questions.

Workshop 4: Personal Branding – Capturing Employers' Attention

- Discover strategies to build a strong personal brand that aligns with your career goals and attracts employers.

Workshop 5: How to SMASH Your Interview

- Get practical tips on how to excel in apprenticeship interviews, including handling questions and managing nerves.

Workshop 6: LinkedIn for Students

- Learn how to create a professional LinkedIn profile, build your network, and use the platform to boost your career prospects.

Project Party Year 11 and Year 12

18th November 2024: Half-day workshop at Waterside Campus

**Gatsby Benchmarks: 3, 4 & 7
Transport available for the on campus day
15 places available per school**

Project Party provides training and support to school groups organising events in schools, i.e. the end of year Prom, a social event or organised trip, giving them real and practical advice and experiences in events management.

Students will participate in a half-day workshop delivered on campus giving a whistlestop tour of core events management practice and how students can use it in organising their events.

The workshop will include an intro to event management, ideas session & event design, agreeing aims & objectives, planning & project management, working as a team, budgeting, sourcing venues & resources, marketing & promotion, ticketing, sponsorship & fundraising, event delivery planning, risk management, reflection & evaluation.

Online support is available throughout the project for students and school staff, you can ask questions, bounce ideas, or explore other areas of the subject as needed to support the delivery of the events.

Each participating school will be matched with 1-2 current UON students who will act as buddies to support the school events team throughout the year and have regular check-in with the school team.

Revision Boost Year 10

Dates: Spring term ahead of Year 10 mocks
Location: 4 weeks of 1-hour workshops in your school
Gatsby benchmark: 7
80 places available per school

Revision Boost offers intensive workshops on revision tips and techniques, designed to complement and support the subject-specific revision efforts of both your school and students.

Research indicates that the attainment gap is widening for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly in terms of achieving grade 5 in Maths and English and overall Attainment 8 scores.

These workshops aim to help reduce that gap and ensure that disadvantaged pupils have opportunities to progress into further and higher education.

Sessions included:

- Session 1: WHY? – Workshop: Goals and Aspirations
- Session 2: HOW? – Workshop: Rapid Revision
- Session 3: HOW? – Workshop: Advanced Note Taking
- Session 4: CHANGE! – Workshop: Positive Mindset

Schools and Colleges Liaison Team at UON
www.northampton.ac.uk/community/schools-andcolleges/schools-and-colleges-liaison/
For more information
email schools.liaison@northampton.ac.uk or call 01604 892433

The Schools and Colleges Liaison team are dedicated to informing and inspiring students across the UK about Higher Education and applying for University. Working closely with teachers, careers advisers, students and parents, they offer both in school and virtual sessions designed to prepare students for the university application process and student life.

Personal Statement Support

Getting the personal statement right is important. It not only supports your university application but reflects you. For students who have completed the Personal Statement session and have their first draft ready to go, some tips and feedback will be provided on how to improve it. Feedback can only be provided on courses offered at UON to ensure relevant advice is provided.

Talks for Students

Special talks for Years 11 to 13, and Level 3 Years 1 & 2

- Introduction to Higher Education
- Why Northampton?
- Student Finance and/or Budgeting
- Next Steps: Application to Enrolment
- Student Life
- How to Get the Most Out of An Open Day
- Moving Away from Home: How to Prepare
- Interview Skills
- University Life Outside of London
- UCAS

Talks for Parents/Carers

Student Finance & Introduction to Higher Education.

UON Open Days

Throughout the year. See website for more details.

Subject Events and Taster Days

A variety of events and activities for school and college groups throughout the year both for specific course areas and for general advice, guidance and information. See website for more details and dates.

Guest Lectures

To inspire and inform 16 – 18 year old students on the range of opportunities open to them, giving an introduction to university study. Lectures last approximately 1 hour with a minimum of 10 students per session. Please note, lectures may also be available virtually and are subject to availability.

STEAM Northants Years 6 to 13

Date: 11th June 2025

Location: Waterside campus

Gatsby Benchmarks: 4, 5, 7 & 8

£350 bus bursary available

1 coach per school

Join us at the University for our exciting and inspirational day full of workshops, shows and exhibitions with hands-on activities. These will inform, inspire, excite and encourage young people to explore the amazing world of science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM).

Meet University experts, participate in science with real scientists, explore our specialist work areas - such as the TV studios, Engineering labs, Sports Rehab clinic and our Ambulance training suite and discover what studying at university is like through discussions with our own students.

Your students will meet apprentices and trainees, explore volunteering opportunities, and discover the skills needed to land their dream job. With hands-on, interactive exhibition areas, they'll ignite their imaginations and leave buzzing with exciting career ideas!

This event is open to all Primary and Secondary schools in Northamptonshire.

[See what happened at last years' STEAM Northants!](#)

Bookings open from January 2025.

Traineeships

Traineeship: Media (Year 12, 13 & Level 3)

Dates: From January 2025 (4pm-6pm)

Location: NLive Radio Station in Northampton

Gatsby Benchmarks: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

**Transport available from school to NLive Radio Station
18 places available**

Perfect for students interested in media careers, the Radio Traineeship provides hands-on experience at a real radio station. Over 6 weeks, they'll dive into radio show production, journalism, and presenting. Students will boost their confidence and communication skills while gaining valuable technical know-how and exploring radio careers. Attendance is required once a week for 2 hours after school to maximize the experience.

Traineeship: Podiatry (Year 12)

Dates: 4th, 11th & 18th November (4.30pm-6pm)

25th November 2024: Careers in Health Day at Waterside Campus

Location: Waterside Campus and University of Northampton's Podiatry Clinic

Gatsby Benchmarks: 1, 3, 4, 7 & 8

**Transport available for Careers in Health Day and traineeship sessions
25 places available**

This opportunity offers students a chance to explore Podiatry and gain hands-on experience in an active practice. It's ideal for those interested in healthcare, providing insights into various aspects of the field, such as Vascular/Neurological Pathology, Dermatology, and Orthotics.

At the end of the traineeship, students will visit our campus to learn about health-related degree courses, meet our academics and current students, and participate in interactive sessions, including a Q&A. This experience helps students explore career opportunities and course details in depth.

Previous students have stated that they are now "seriously considering Podiatry as a career path." Students should commit to weekly 2-hour sessions after school for the best experience.

UNI Club Year 9

Dates:

**20th January 2025: UNI Club day at Waterside Campus
Lessons in your school: February to April 2025**

Gatsby Benchmarks: 4 & 7

**£350 bus bursary available for UNI Club day on campus
30 places per school available**

University of Northampton Inspires (UNI) Club brings current post-graduate students (tutors) into the classroom at your school to teach them a unique topic related to their studies. Tutors craft a 7-lesson module, kicking off with a Higher Education Day on campus in January 2025, followed by six weeks of teaching 1 hour lessons in schools. The curriculum culminates in an assignment that challenges pupils to engage in university-level research and referencing.

Now in its ninth year, UNI Club has significantly contributed to the personal and professional development of 37 University of Northampton postgraduate students, empowering them with employability skills and, for some, paving the way to a career in teaching. Additionally, it has engaged 548 Year 9 pupils through face-to-face modules and expanded its reach to 30 partner schools via online modules during the pandemic.

This year we have spaces for 5 schools to sign up 30 year 9 pupils. 2 tutors will be placed in your school and they will teach 15 pupils each. Pupils will gain and insight into university style learning, topics as well as participate in a university style assessment. They will gain understanding of higher education and will have the ability to explore why someone may attend a university with their tutor.

Word Warriors and Word Warriors+

Word Warriors+ (Years 7, 8, 10 & 12)

Dates: Flexible

Location: In your school & celebration event at Waterside Campus

Gatsby Benchmarks: 4 & 7

Word Warriors is a mentoring reading programme where older pupils are trained to mentor younger pupils to encourage them with their reading. Designed for Year 7 and 8 students with a reading age below 10, this flexible programme fits into your school's timetable and complements initiatives like Accelerated Reader. Younger readers enhance their reading skills and academic success, while older students gain confidence, leadership skills, and improved attendance.

Programme Structure:

- Participants: Up to 15 Year 7/8 students receive one-on-one reading support.
- Mentors: 15 selected students from Year 10 or Year 12 will undergo a 2-hour training course to engage with younger readers effectively.
- Duration: 14 weeks
- Celebration: All participants will be invited to the University of Northampton for a celebratory event at the end of the programme.

Word Warriors (Years 5, 6, 8 & 9)

Dates: Flexible

Location: In your school & celebration event at Waterside Campus

Gatsby Benchmarks: 4 & 7

After a successful pilot last year, we're excited to expand the opportunity for mentors to read to primary students. Benefits include younger readers enhancing their reading skills, while older students gain confidence and leadership skills. Word Warriors will serve as an ideal transition project in all through schools.

Programme Structure:

- Participants: Up to 15 Year 5/6 students receive one-on-one reading support.
- Mentors: 15 Year 8/9 students will undergo a 2-hour training course to effectively engage with younger readers.
- Duration: 14 weeks
- Support: Year 5/6 students will have 10 x 1-hour sessions, designed by The Literacy Trust, with The Saints Foundation. Pupils will develop values of rugby such as Teamwork, Respect and Sportsmanship, as well as, reading skills of a champion: Looking ahead, Clue Level and Thinking Level.
- Celebration: All participants will be invited to the University of Northampton for a celebratory event at the end of the programme.

Important Information

Bus Bursaries

If your opportunity has a bus bursary available, please [click here](#) to find out how to claim it.

Data and Consent

The University of Northampton offers free enriching experiences for students, including assemblies, workshops, events and activities. To track student engagement and evaluate impact, we need your full cohort data, a list of names of pupils who attended specific activities/events, as well as signed partnership and Information Sharing Agreements. This helps us report accurately to the Office for Students and secure ongoing funding. Your cooperation is vital to continue providing free opportunities for your school/college. For any questions, email the Schools Engagement team or view the [How to send us student registers and data required for participating in our activities](#) section on our website.

SPARK and Partner Schools/Colleges

Need to know if your school or college is able to work with the Schools Engagement Team? [Click here.](#)

Risk Assessment

Find our latest risk assessment for campus visits [here.](#)

Photography and Videography Disclaimer

Photos may be taken during any Schools Engagement event (on campus or in your schools) for publicity purposes, including use on social media. It is your schools' responsibility to ensure that students know if they do or do not have parental/carers consent to be photographed and/or filmed. UON cannot be held responsible. Schools and students must take responsibility for removing themselves from opportunities where they may be filmed/photographed.

Resources

The Schools Engagement Team has many online resources for students, education staff and parents/carers. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Partners and Sponsors

