


SPARK SCHOOLS

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Website



@UONschools

PRIMARY OPPORTUNITIES

2024 - 2025



**University of
Northampton**

Meet the Schools Engagement Team



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Ignite Your SPARK with the University of Northampton

The Schools Engagement team are delighted to share our range of diverse opportunities designed to support young people to demonstrate:

Social Impact
Positivity
Aspiration
Resilience
Knowledge

Our opportunities support young people in understanding future career and education choices, whilst developing their curiosity, confidence to ask questions and work with others.

The following opportunities are limited in capacity.

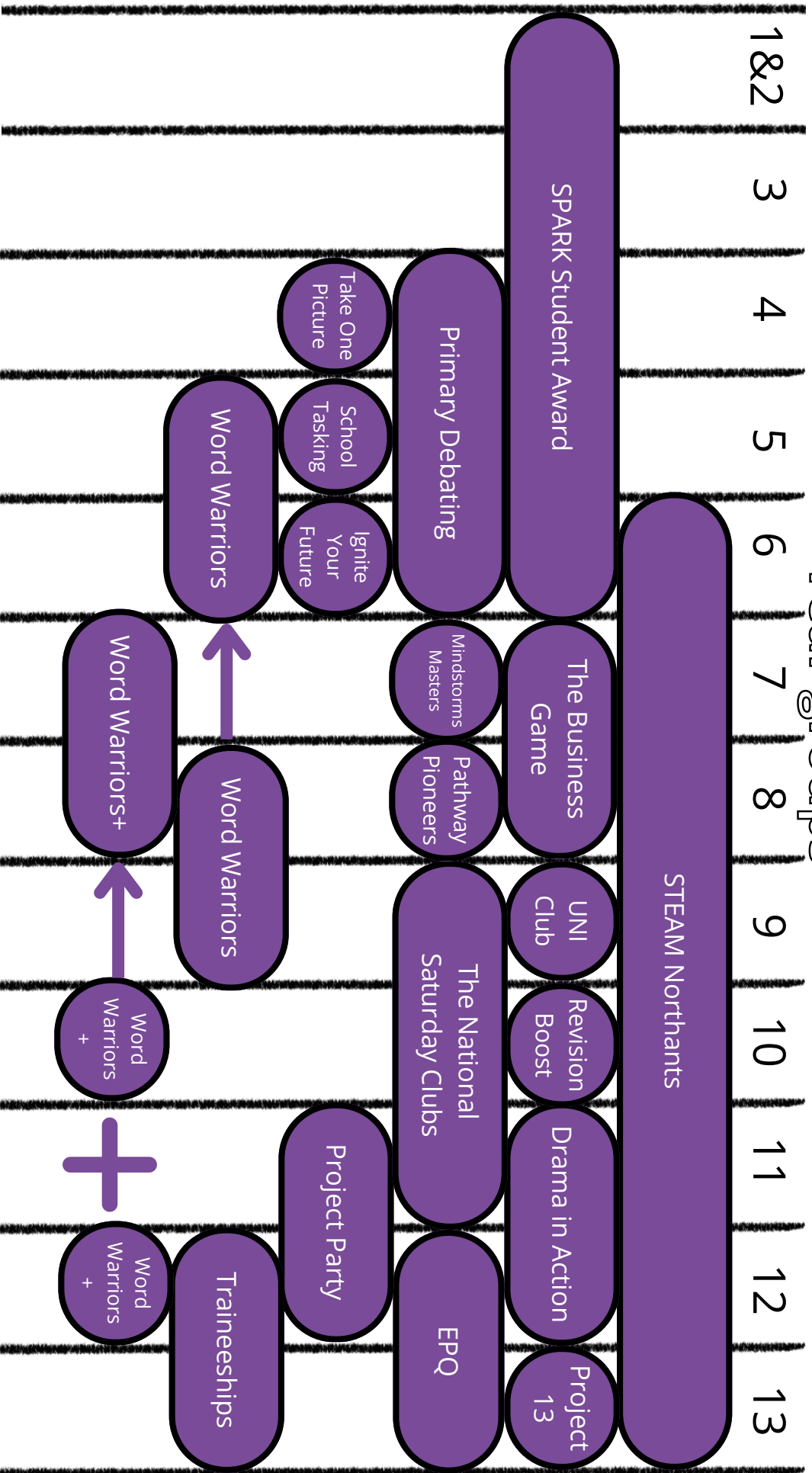
Email us at schoolsengagement@northampton.ac.uk to register your interest for any of these activities, workshops or events.

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Our Opportunities Menu

Year groups



Ignite Your Future Year 6

Phase 1 - Your Future Your Choice Workshop

Dates: Flexible, 2-3 weeks before your university visit

Location: Your School

Unleash the excitement of what's ahead with some pre-learning before you set foot on a university campus.

Explore endless subjects, dispel university myths and work with our Student Ambassadors. Discover the exciting opportunities awaiting you in further and higher education. It's not just about making choices; it's about making your future a blast!

Phase 2 - Ignite Your Future University Visit

Dates: 22nd January, 23rd January or 24th June

Location: University of Northampton

£350 bus bursary available

Dive into the exciting world of university life with our Ignite Your Future day. Designed for year 6 students, the day at UON includes a campus tour led by our vibrant Student Ambassadors, engaging subject workshops and myth-bust about who can go to a university.

Students will get hands-on experience of university subjects led by current academics, explore the vast array of subjects and uncover the connections between them, careers and future job possibilities. Don't miss out on this fun glimpse into university life!

Commitment is required from your school for both phases.

Library and Learning Services at UON

For all primary year groups

The University of Northampton's Library and Learning Services offer specific activities for our SPARK Schools. Sessions take place at the University of Northampton and last 45-60 minutes.

Note: Sessions are not available from August to November.

Share a Story

We love a good story, especially when someone else is reading it! Bring a group of your students to UON. We'll provide a selection of books from our School Experience Collection in the library, and they can choose a book and we will provide an adult (staff and students) to read to.

Maximum number of students: 20

Telling Tales

Do your students like writing stories or poems? Would they like to read them aloud to an audience of staff and students at a 'Telling Tales' event held at our Waterside Campus? We'd love to hear them and rounds of applause are guaranteed!

Maximum number of students reading per event: 12

So, Here's the Thing

Do you have pupils who are passionate or knowledgeable about a subject, hobby or cause? Do they love to talk about it to anyone who will listen?! We can arrange for them to share their enthusiasm with a supportive and encouraging audience.

Maximum number of pupils speaking per event: 6

Primary Debating Competition Year 4, 5 and 6

Dates:

**5th November 2024: Debating Skills Training Day
at Waterside Campus**

21st January 2025: Competition Day at Waterside Campus

**£350 bus bursary available
8 places available per school**

Develop oracy, confidence and critical thinking through debate training with Noisy Classrooms. Each school will participate in a debating training day at UON to learn debating skills to take back and practice in schools. After the day of training, along with the resources supplied, students will develop their skills back in school to take part in a Northamptonshire Primary Schools competition in January 2025. Students debate in two rounds and receive expert judging and feedback.

The winner of the Northamptonshire heat will get the opportunity to compete in the National competition - the Cicero Cup - taking place in London in the summer of 2025.

Teachers will receive CPD and a handbook to support with debating back in school.

Noisy Classroom has a long lasting relationship with the University of Northampton and are the UK's leading experts in critical oracy for schools.

Commitment is required from your team for both dates.

School Tasking Year 5

Dates: February 2025 to June 2025

Locations: Your school and University of Warwick

**£350 bus bursary available
30 places available per school**

Do you and your pupils love watching Taskmaster? We're excited to announce that the University of Northampton is joining over 25 other universities in this year's School Tasking initiative, inspired by Channel 4's Taskmaster.

This project lets Year 5 students explore the law through fun, interactive tasks.

Classes will be split into teams of 5-6 students who will compete against other local and national schools to become School Tasking Champions. Tasks include drawing, word searches, role-playing court cases, and using Lego to depict legal scenarios. Each student can showcase their unique talents, and the initiative helps develop teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills.

The final competition promises spirited rivalry and lots of fun!

SPARK Student Award Key Stage 2*

Dates:

**4th November 2024: SPARK Student Award launch day
at Waterside Campus**

Meeting dates: Flexible in your schools

9th July 2025: Celebration day at Waterside Campus

**£350 bus bursary available
12 places available per school**

**The Award is aimed at Key Stage 2 age groups, however can be adapted with in-school staff support for cross-phase groups, such as School Council*

Ignite the spark in your schools to become socially responsible, work with others, problem solve and be innovative. Themed around the Sustainable Development Goals, students will work together to develop a project to make a positive change in their school and/or community. Each SPARK Student Award project will be developed by a group of children who have volunteered to be part of the award, driven by their desire to make a positive change.

The SPARK Student Award can provide your group with:

- an opportunity to develop new skills and put these into practice
- the means to create and strengthen links with your local community
- have an active voice in the school community

Through the previous Changemaker Student Award, projects focused on enhancing well-being in the school community, campaigning for recycling in the local area, improving school playground behaviour, developing an outdoor learning area and supporting national charities.

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.

Take One Picture Year 4

for Northampton Primary Academy Trust Schools only

Dates:

January to May 2025 (flexible) teaching in schools

10th July 2025 (6pm-8pm): Art Exhibition Private Viewing

10th and 11th July 2025: Exhibition open to NPAT schools

£250 bus bursary available

Available for the whole year group

The UON Take One Picture project is a collaboration between the University, Northampton Primary Academy Trust (NPAT) and The National Gallery, London which aims to improve learning and teaching of art, writing, and 21st Century skills including children's self-belief, motivation, empathy and critical thinking.

The National Take One Picture project invites schools and educators to teach children by focusing on a single picture from The National Gallery's collection. Last year the painting selected was Pieter de Hooch's The Courtyard of a House in Delft (1658).

Art students from UON will take up residence in 10 NPAT schools to assist teachers and school children from Year 4 to develop their thinking, making skills and their understanding of art. Students will create a final piece of work to be displayed at UON.

All art work will be displayed either digitally or physically in an inspiring display at Waterside Campus in a formal art exhibition. NPAT schools will be invited to visit the university to see the exhibition and loved ones will be invited to a special private viewing of the exhibition.

Word Warriors

Year 5, 6, 8 and 9

Available to all-through schools only

Dates: Flexible

**Location: Your school with a celebration event
at University of Northampton**
£350 bus bursary available

Word Warriors is a mentoring reading programme where older pupils are trained to mentor younger pupils to encourage them with their reading.

After a successful secondary school pilot last year, we're excited to expand the opportunity for mentors to read to primary students.

This project benefits both readers and mentors. Younger readers enhance their reading skills and academic success, while older mentors gain confidence, leadership skills, and improved attendance. This year, the expanded Word Warriors program will serve as an ideal transition project, offering targeted support to primary students.

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: At the end of the programme, all participants will be invited to the University of Northampton for a celebratory event.

Additional Opportunities & Resources

Dental Health Workshops

Key Stage 2

Dates: January to July 2025

Location: In schools

Available to multiple classes, with up to 30 students per workshop.

KS2 dental workshops for primary schools in Northamptonshire, facilitated by trained NHS Nurses within the Dental Nursing team at the University of Northampton.

The workshops last around 1 to 1.5 hours. They focus on promoting oral health care, covering topics like toothbrushing, diet, basic anatomy (tailored to the audience's age), along with interactive activities such as dressing up and singing.

Pre SATs Revision Resources and Careers Cards

We have a series of resources including printed leaflets, posters and packs of our Careers Cards game for you to use to support the progress and aspirations of the children within your school.

This includes a variety of KS2 English, Maths and Science resources for your students which reinforce key information required for SATs.

Our Careers Cards can be used to play Top Trumps and support PSHE, employability and transition activities in schools.

[Email us](#) for a sample set and more details.

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/carer 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

THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY



TASKMASTER
EDUCATION

noisy
classroom