

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our existing learners and a warm welcome to all new pupils, parents, and carers. We were all delighted to return to what felt like a new school following an extensive programme of refurbishment over the summer holiday.

We've had a positive start to the term – pupils have settled in well and are engaging positively in their learning, enrichment, and social time. We have also refreshed our Vision Statement – see below – and will be working to familiarise our learners with this after half term.

This is the first of our half-termly newsletters – a great way to keep you informed and up to date with everything happening in and around the school. It will also give you a small snapshot of what's been taking place across the schools. Communication is key and plays an important role in ensuring your child's time at Nightingale Community Academy is both happy and rewarding.

Please keep an eye on the 'Key Dates' section at the end of the newsletter so you are aware of all upcoming opportunities and events.

A huge thank you for all your support!

Sarah Brooks, Principal

Vision Statement:

We support every pupil to become confident, independent young adults, ready for work and life. We are committed to closing reading gaps so all pupils can access learning and reach their full potential.

Thank you for the summer refurbishment



We returned after the summer break to a much brighter working environment thanks to a massive refurbishment programme over the holidays. At a special assembly pupils thanked the Estates and Facilities Team from the Trust for all their hard work in making the school feel brand new.

Pupils said the school felt a lot brighter, cleaner and smelt nicer after walls were repainted, and floors replaced. They said it made them feel happier at school and able to concentrate on their work.

As well as a fresh coat of paint and general spruce up, specialist facilities received an upgrade.

A huge thank you to the Estates and Facilities Team and everyone involved in the refurbishment.

These included:

- A new state of the art Design Technology room, with industrial equipment and facilities to create 3-dimensional multidisciplinary design
- A new art room with FF&E to provide space for learners to be inspired creatively
- A new floor in the Sports Hall with extra bounce for the basketball team
- A new Gym with equipment for learners to workout physically
- Corridor floors and stairs have new vinyl, providing light and airy space
- A 6th-form learning space with adapted furniture, for flexible learning and a more adult approach.

News from Primary

Maple Class achieves 100% attendance

Well done to Maple Class for achieving 100% attendance in September.

They celebrated this amazing achievement with a special movie afternoon filled with treats!

Pupils enjoyed a feast of sweet and savoury snacks while relaxing and watching their chosen film, *Inside Out 2*.



**Primary
pupils
looking very
smart in their
new
uniforms**



News from Secondary

Pupils star in Wandsworth video portraits

The creative talents of our pupils have been showcased in this autumn's Liberty Festival 2025 which is a celebration of disabled artistry in Wandsworth. It is the Mayor of London's flagship disability arts festival, platforming some of the most exciting disabled creatives, showcasing bold, innovative work that excites and challenges audiences, and reframes disability and will be one of the highlights of the Mayor's London Borough of Culture festivities in Wandsworth.

Former Year 11 pupil Noel was interviewed about how he combines Beethoven and Drill to compose original music under the guidance of NCA's music teacher, Hamish Gallie. Noel has gained a place at SupaJam, Wandsworth, a specialist music college.

Other pupils also featured in a film talking about how they like to be creative and how it makes them feel. It features Zac in Year 10 on the drums and some of the boys who were in Willow Class last year bravely stepped in front of a



green screen to talk about their favourite creative activities.

You can watch the two films using the QR codes:



News from Secondary

Year 7 Escape Room Author Visit

Year 7 recently enjoyed an exciting and memorable trip to meet the multi-award-winning author Christopher Edge. The event brought his popular book *Escape Room* and its thrilling follow-up, *Escape Room: Game Zero*, to life in an engaging and interactive session.

Pupils had a fantastic time solving puzzles alongside the author, fully immersing themselves in the story and its challenges. Their enthusiasm and teamwork were clear throughout the event, making it a truly enriching experience. At the end of the session, each learner was thrilled to receive their own copy of

Escape Room: Game Zero to take home and continue the adventure through reading.

The journey to and from the venue was smooth and calm. On the way there, learners played a game together, creating a fun and relaxed atmosphere. On the return journey, they chatted quietly and sensibly, showing great maturity and representing the school brilliantly.

Overall, it was a successful and inspiring trip that left everyone buzzing with excitement about reading, storytelling, and problem-solving.



Staffing Update

At the end of last term we said farewell to several remarkable team members who are moving on to exciting new opportunities. Madeleine Merrifield has been appointed Head SENCo at another school, a wonderful recognition of her leadership and dedication to supporting learners with additional needs.

Sean Jhooty, our valued Learning Support Professional, and Micayla Hewitt-Buys, our enthusiastic Farm Assistant, are both embarking on new adventures, and we wish them every success in the next chapter of their careers. Austin Hay, our much-loved PE Teacher, has achieved an incredible milestone by taking up the role of Director of PE at a mainstream school, while Lizzie Hones, who inspired so many learners in the Sixth Form, has joined another school to continue making a difference. Andrew Seechi, our talented Art Teacher, is also moving on to a new teaching role elsewhere. We are immensely grateful to all of them for their passion, commitment, and the lasting impact they have had on our learners, and while they will be greatly missed, we are proud to see them flourish in the next steps of their journeys.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome a dynamic new team to our school. **Trevor Okoroafor**, our new **PE Teacher**, brings energy, expertise, and a love of coaching that will inspire students to achieve their personal best. **Samuel McCarthy**, joining our **Art Department**, is a creative powerhouse who will help students explore new forms of artistic

expression and unleash their imagination. **Husnay Nagris** will energize our **Science team** with hands-on experiments, curiosity-driven learning, and exciting new ways to explore the world of science. **Melenie Hibbert**, leading our **Year 7 class**, is passionate about creating a welcoming and inspiring start for our newest secondary learners, helping them to build confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning. **Cooper Barrows**, joining our **Primary Department**, brings enthusiasm and fresh ideas to early learning, while **Rosie Byworth**, in **Reception**, will spark curiosity and joy in our youngest students every day. **Tara Schaefer**, our **Farm Assistant**, will support learners with hands-on activities on the farm, helping them care for animals, grow plants, and develop practical skills in a fun and engaging way. **Darren Duncan**, our new **Engagement Lead**, brings energy, creativity, and a passion for connecting students with exciting opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. He will champion student involvement, lead innovative projects, and engage parents in supporting learners, creating a vibrant and dynamic school experience for all. **Victoria Amoako**, our **Occupational Therapist**, will provide support to ensure every learner can reach their full potential, while **Victor Williams**, our new **Maths Teacher**, will make numbers come alive with inspiring lessons. Finally, **Dan Bridle**, in **Bike Mechanics**, will combine creativity, problem-solving, and practical skills to deliver hands-on, engaging learning experiences.

Safeguarding Team

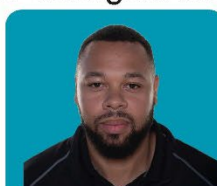
Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility at Nightingale Community Academy. If you have any Safeguarding concerns, please speak to a member of the schools' Safeguarding team.



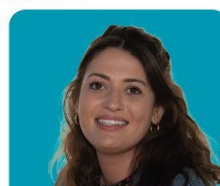
Sarah Brooks
Principal / Deputy DSL



Andrea During
DSL



Richard Pemberton
DDSL



Emily Jones
DDSL



Olivia Dunn
DDSL



Yasmin O'Connor
DDSL



Gaynor Barnard
DDSL



Ranjan Chopra
DDSL



Layla El-Jabali
DDSL



Brian Murray
DDSL



Kate Chimen
DDSL



Sharon McDonald
DDSL



Wendy Spencer
DDSL



Carly Norman
DDSL



Kirsty Williams
DDSL



Christina Boateng
DDSL



Scan the QR code
for the Safeguarding
section on the website

Other places to find help

Childline 0800 1111
NSPCC 0808 800 5000
www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.kooth.com

Key Dates

 **Monday 27th to Friday 31st October** – Half term holiday

 **Monday 3rd – Wednesday 5th Nov** – INSET days (staff training)

 **Thursday 6th November** – first day of learner attendance

 **21st November 2025 - Parent Coffee** morning 10.30am - 11.30am

Sarah Brooks speaks to Parents about PBS and Positive Handling at NCA.



5th December 2025 - Worry Management
CBT-based Parent taster workshop 10.30-11.30am.

Please let school know if you are planning to attend either workshop by sending an email to info@nightingaleca.org



GICBT

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS

WORRY MANAGEMENT

A Workshop For Parents of Neurodiverse children

About Workshop

This Workshop is designed to support parents who carry the emotional weight of caring for children with additional needs. The focus will be on helping them understand and manage their worries while nurturing their own wellbeing.



Inside the Workshop

- 1 When Worry Feels Endless**
Caring for a neurodiverse child can make worry feel constant. This session explores how ongoing stress affects parents' minds and bodies, and ways to bring gentle awareness to those feelings.
- 2 Helpful vs. Harmful Worry**
Some worry helps us stay engaged, but too much can drain our energy. Parents will learn to tell the difference between productive concern and unhelpful overthinking or self-doubt.
- 3 Cognitive Tools to Tackle Worry**
We'll introduce practical thinking strategies such as reframing thoughts and "pause and plan" techniques to manage anxious moments common in parenting neurodiverse children.



- 4 Building Your Personalized "Worry Toolkit"**
Parents will create a simple, personal set of coping tools, like calming practices, grounding ideas, and routines that fit their family's rhythm and needs.
- 5 Seeking Support and Professional Help**
Explore healthy ways to reach out for emotional support, connect with others who understand, and know when professional help may be beneficial.

About the Host



ZAINAB ALYSSA
Founder of the GICBT, CBT Therapist & Gestalt Psychotherapeutic Counsellor (BABCP Accredited), Lecturer (FHEA).

www.gicbt.com