



CELEBRATING CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR 2025

On Monday 27th January the school came together to celebrate Chinese New Year, welcoming the Year of the Snake. This year is believed to favour intelligence, strategy and resourcefulness. This special day was non-uniform for all students and many came in traditional Chinese attire and red clothing which signify good luck. The donations collected during the day went towards the schools chosen charity **Lotus Foundation**.

Junior School students enjoyed a special assembly led by **Ms. Wang**, our Mandarin Teacher, who shared insights into Chinese traditions and the significance of the Lunar New Year. The assembly included the giving of red lucky envelopes [Hong Bao], interviews with staff about Chinese culture, a fun quiz, and lively discussions about the cultural importance of the festival. Throughout the day, students participated in themed activities, including writing, arts and crafts, and creating vibrant decorations to mark the occasion.

Continued on page 2...



At lunchtime, students gathered and enjoyed a delicious Chinese-themed meal, including noodles and mandarins, which signify longevity, fortune and happiness. Fortune cookies were shared as a fun sweet treat.

These celebrations highlighted the richness of Chinese traditions and reinforced the school's commitment to embracing diversity.

Gong Xi Fa Cai! Happy New Year!



Senior students tried their hand at traditional Chinese calligraphy, painting auspicious characters on red paper to decorate walls using black ink and brushes.

In a special Senior assembly the **Student Inclusion & Diversity Team** delivered a presentation on the significance of Chinese New Year, sharing origins, customs, and celebration preparations for the Year of the Snake. The assembly provided students with a deeper understanding of the festival's traditions and the values it represents, such as family, prosperity, and gratitude.



📌 IMPORTANT DATES

- 3rd - 9th Feb** Children's Mental Health Week
- 5th Feb** Year 8 GCSE Options Information Evening at 4:30pm
- 10th - 14th Feb** Scholastic Book Fair
- 12th Feb** Year 3 & 4 Trip to the British Museum
- 17th - 21st Feb** Half Term Break (No school)
- 28th Feb** Year 7 Football Tournament at Cophall



The lost property box is bursting at the seams!

Coats, uniforms, P.E. kits, shoes, water bottles—you name it, it's in there! If you're missing something, swing by reception during break or lunchtime and reunite with your long-lost belongings before they find a new home!

📍 St Michael's CofE Primary School
North Road, Highgate, N6 4BG

FEBRUARY ART CAMP

FOR CHILDREN AGED 6 TO 11
FROM 17TH TO 21 ST FEBRUARY
FROM 10AM TO 3PM

WHOLE WEEK OR DAILY
BOOKINGS AVAILABLE
10% OFF WHEN BOOKING
THE WHOLE WEEK
10% OFF SIBLING DISCOUNT
ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED

 **BOOK NOW!**



WWW.ARTCAMPSWITHNINA.CO.UK



OPEN MORNING

We're excited to announce our upcoming **Open Day at NLGS**. If you know any family or friends who would be interested, or for Year 5/6 parents to come and visit our Senior School please register on our website.

12 MARCH 2025
9AM - 11 AM



SIGN UP HERE



STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to **Ms. Cimentepe** on her new role as **Director of Studies**, in addition to her ongoing teaching and **MAT (More Able and Talented)** responsibilities.

Ms. Cimentepe's commitment to academic excellence and her dedication to supporting student progress have made her an invaluable member of our school community.

Thank You for Joining



Thank you to those parents who attended our recent **SLT Coffee Morning**. It was a wonderful opportunity to share school updates, and discuss key developments. We appreciate your thoughts and views, and we look forward to continuing these meaningful conversations in future sessions.



Careers Talk Assembly

Mr. Visar Statovci
CEO of Waste Creative



The talk, delivered by parent **Mr. Visar Statovci**, CEO of Waste Creative, provided invaluable insights into building a successful gaming company. Waste Creative has partnered with industry leaders such as Sega, Nintendo, Google Play, and Supercell, showcasing their expertise in the gaming space.

During the presentation, Mr. Statovci outlined key aspects of the game development process, including idea generation, strategy, technical development, marketing, fanbase building, and game launch. He also explored the transformative impact of AI, emphasising its increasing significance not only in gaming but across various industries.

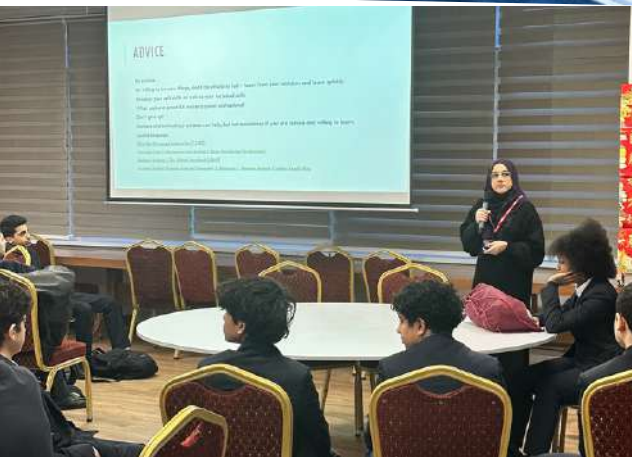


Ms Shamaila Jawaid
Business Analyst



Ms Shamaila Jawaid delivered an engaging and insightful talk on the intricacies of becoming a Business Analyst. Drawing on her experience working for the Bank of England, she explained that the core role of a Business Analyst is to serve as a bridge between an organisation's business needs and its technical and operational solutions. This involves understanding the organisation's goals and challenges, identifying opportunities for improvement, and facilitating effective solutions.

Ms Jawaid highlighted key responsibilities, such as gathering and analysing data, conducting stakeholder interviews, and documenting requirements to ensure clarity and alignment across teams. The talk also explored the various pathways to becoming a Business Analyst, along with the advantages and challenges of the role, offering invaluable advice to our KS4 cohort.





bett

a Hyve event

We recently welcomed nearly 130 senior educators, including Headteachers, Deputy Heads, teachers, Heads of Pastoral Care, student mentors, and career counsellors from international and local schools across **South Korea, Laos, Albania, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ghana**. They participated in the **BETT 2025 Conference** and also visited our school, where they toured our facilities and attended presentations on key aspects of North London Grammar School, including our approach to Education, Pastoral Care, the University Foundation Programme, and the International Greenwich Olympiad.

The visitors were highly impressed by our standards and values. We were proud to showcase our commitment to academic excellence, student well-being, and British Values within a multicultural setting. The visit also provided a valuable platform for exchanging best practices and fostering stronger connections with international educators.

Welcoming International Visitors from the BETT Conference. Our guests include CEOs, Headteachers, Deputy Heads, Teachers, and College Counsellors from their respective schools.





Celebrating the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge at NLGS



Maths teachers opening the envelope with contest questions.

Picture taken by Eda (Year 9)



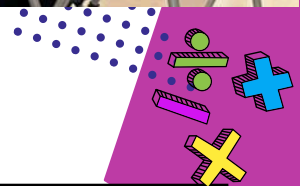
On 29 January, NLGS proudly hosted the **UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge**—a thrilling opportunity for our Year 9 to Year 11 students to put their mathematical skills to the test. The excitement in the examination rooms was palpable from the moment we opened the official envelope containing 25 beautiful yet demanding questions. With only 60 minutes on the clock, 56 brave young mathematicians dived headfirst into the challenge, each one determined to do their best.

At NLGS, we are proud to foster a supportive, growth-oriented environment that encourages students to venture beyond their comfort zones. Our pupils consistently demonstrate enthusiasm for these challenges, viewing them as fun, brain-boosting workouts—much like a visit to the gym, but for the mind. While enjoying the process in the moment, they are also keenly aware of how these competitions build vital problem-solving skills for the future.

All of us dream of developing a strong and wise mind that helps us to understand the world better, just as countless scientists or academics throughout history have done. We know that achieving such heights is not about innate talent alone; it is about dedication, practice, and continually discovering our best selves.

A Marathon of Mathematics at NLGS

The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge is just one stage of our ongoing “maths marathon,” designed to support students from their earliest years right through to their time in sixth form. These contests are open to any NLGS student who shows interest and completes the necessary preparation. Beyond these standard challenges, there are also invitation-only follow-up rounds for those who achieve outstanding results. Below is a single table summarising the core mathematics competitions at NLGS, the typical time of year they take place, and their corresponding invitation-only follow-up rounds (with approximate timings):



Year Group(s)	Main Competition	Usual Timing	Invitation-Only Follow-up Round	Follow-up Timing
Year 3 & 4	First Mathematical Challenge	June	(None)	
Year 5 & 6	Primary Mathematical Challenge	November	Bonus Round	February
Year 7 & 8	Junior UKMT	May	Junior Kangaroo	June
Year 9–11	Intermediate UKMT	January	Grey & Pink Kangaroo	March
Year 11	Senior UKMT (a contest for A-level students)	October	Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo	November

Recent Success

- **Primary Mathematical Challenge (Year 5 & 6):** Our pupils achieved 2 Gold, 4 Silver, and 6 Bronze medals in November. Special congratulations to Sultan (Year 6), who has been invited to participate in the Bonus Round this February. See additional article on page 8.
- **Senior UKMT:** Imran (Year 10) and Henry (Year 11) earned Silver medals, while 12 other students achieved Bronze.

We do maths at NLGS because we love maths—every time we solve a difficult question, we feel on top of mountains. Our students continuously refine their abilities, assess their progress, and plan for the future through these challenges. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the teachers, parents, and school staff who consistently support these motivated pupils on their learning journey. Your unwavering dedication helps bring out the very best in each of our talented young mathematicians, and we look forward to celebrating their future achievements—both in upcoming competitions and beyond!



Groundhog Day Bake Sale: A Sweet Tradition for WOHAA Charity



On Friday, the WOHAA team held a bake sale themed around Groundhog Day. This annual tradition, celebrated in the US and Canada on 2nd February, is rooted in the superstition that if a groundhog emerges from its burrow and sees its shadow, winter will last for six more weeks; if not, spring will come early.

Our senior students embraced the opportunity to give back to charity whilst enjoy some chocolatey treats. All proceeds raised went to supporting the WOHAA charity. #Community Spirit!



Celebrating Outstanding Results Primary Maths Challenge



Year Group	Name	Award
6	Sultan	Gold
5	Aryan	Gold
6	Mukhsin	Silver
6	Selman	Silver
6	Cila	Silver
6	Maitri	Silver
6	Omer	Bronze
6	Kerim	Bronze
6	Bianca	Bronze
5	Ayman	Bronze
6	Esen	Bronze
6	Latifa	Bronze

Pictured: Aryan (Left) and Sultan (Right) with Gold Awards

Congratulations to those junior students who took part in the Primary Maths Challenge. Competitions like these play a crucial role in igniting a sense of curiosity and, encouraging our students to go beyond their comfort zones and discover the joy of learning and achieving. Read on for a full article...

Holocaust Memorial Assembly

Last week senior school held an assembly to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, honouring the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, as well as the millions of others who suffered under Nazi persecution and in more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. This year's remembrance was especially significant as it marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. The assembly also highlighted the worrying rise in Holocaust ignorance, with recent research showing that a significant number of young people are unaware of key facts about this atrocity. As Holocaust denial and distortion continue to spread, remembering and educating future generations is more crucial than ever.

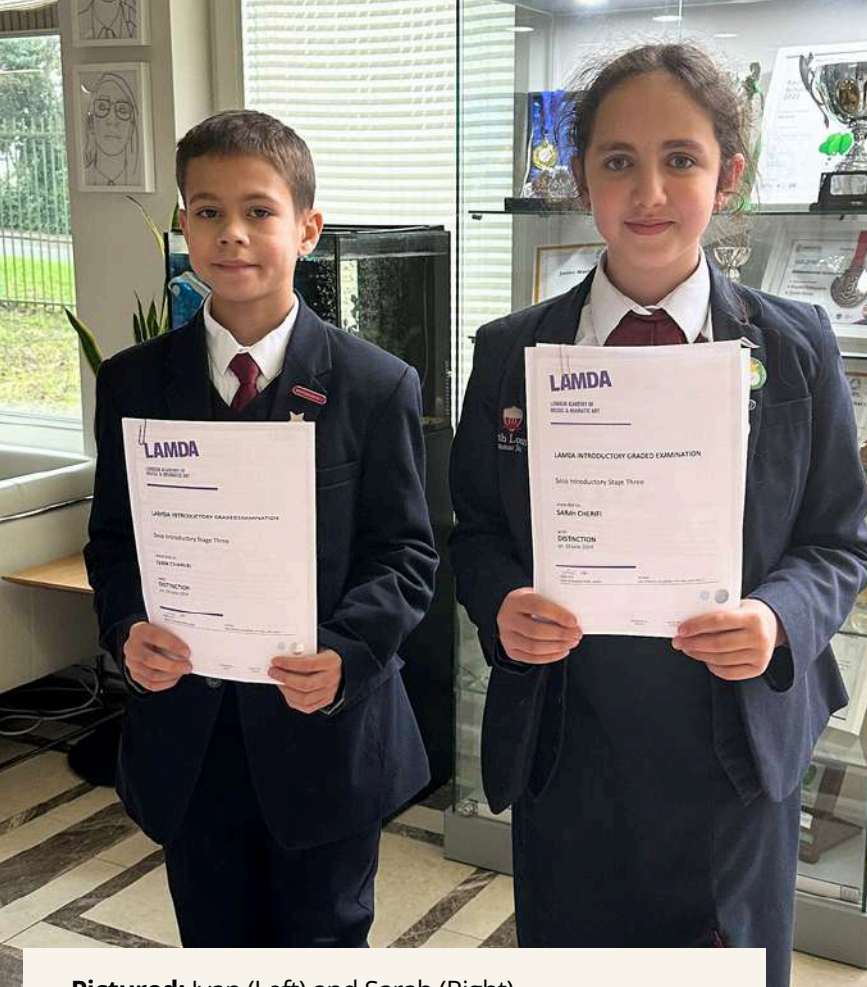
Thank you **Mr. Gokhan** for leading this informative assembly.



For A Better future

Helen Aronson was only 12 years old when the German army arrived at her home. She was one of around only 750 people to be liberated from the Łódź Ghetto, out of 250,000 people. Her mother and brother survived with her, but her father was murdered at Chelmno. Today she shares her experiences to school children to ensure as many people as possible can learn from the past, for a better future:

"I hope by sharing my experiences people can better understand how inflicting suffering on one another benefits nobody, and instead find ways to reach out and open our hearts. I believe education, especially for our children, is key to renouncing hate and prejudice whenever we encounter it and to break down the barriers that may exist between us."



Pictured: Ivan (Left) and Sarah (Right)

We spoke to these students who received their LAMDA Distinction Certificates about their achievement:

To get my LAMDA certificate i had to learn a poem and preform it in front of the examiner. I didn't get to choose the poem because there was only one, and I had three days to learn it for the exam.

Ivan Year 7

My LAMDA journey is (so far) incredible, full of the thrill of dramatic expression and joy of the spoken word.

I started in year 6 as a compulsory activity and then I began to enjoy the activity more and more. So, I asked my mother to sign me up for my first extra-curricular LAMDA lesson, a solo introductory stage three graded examination, and I passed with a mark of 96 out of 100 (distinction). I am still continuing my LAMDA journey and still loving every bit of it.

Sarah Year 7

Lights, Camera, History: Year 7's Black Death Documentary



Year 7 History students have been diving into the fascinating and tragic story of the Black Death, exploring its impact on Europe. To bring history to life, students formed teams to create live documentaries. The documentaries featured dramatic scenes and props as the students took on historical roles, reenacting how patients got ill, spread of the disease, and the responses of medieval communities. It was a fun, immersive task where students not only deepened their understanding of the topic through their own research, but also had the opportunity to collaborate and be creative.



Student Review:



Book Review

By Cham

Genre: Fantasy

Setting: Forest and castle

Plot: Channi is cursed to look like a snake. Then Angama tries to kill her sisters. But then a dragon does kill Channi's sister.

Her Radiant Curse was very engaging.



The 2025 Reading Challenge

Read a book or three books each month which fulfil the themes. You can read fiction or non-fiction books, magazines, articles, graphic novels, manga, poetry or blog posts. As long as it fits the theme, you can read it. One book per theme!



January

- A book set in winter.
- A book based around mythology that is not Greek or Roman myths.
- A book which is popular on BookTok (TikTok) or Bookstagram (Instagram).



February

- A love story.
- A book set in China or written by a Chinese author.
- A book with a dragon in it.

March

- A book set in Ireland or written by an Irish author.
- A book which takes place in a natural location (forest, ocean etc.).
- A book about books.

Complete a review of what you have read and hand it in to Miss Whitaker to earn extra points

The challenge is open to students and staff to take part

April

- A book where the main character has autism or is written by an autistic author.
- A book set in space.
- A book which has been translated into English from another language.

May

- A book about family.
- A book with a bee on the cover or in the title.
- A book set in a country you would like to visit.

June

- A book that has LGBTQIA+ representation.
- A book about friendship.
- A book set at sea.

There will be merits and prizes awarded!

Sign up with Miss Whitaker!

Each thing read earns you a point

North London Grammar School Reads!

In January 2025, students have read...

64 Books

1,558,940 Words

for **24 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader®

IT'S SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIR
TIME!

Scholastic Book Fair 10th-14th Feb



SPORTS FIXTURES



FOOTBALL FIXTURES

NLGS U14	Vs	Wetherby
4th February		
NLGS U14	Vs	King Alfred
13th February		
NLGS U16	Vs	Wetherby
3rd March		
NLGS U13	Vs	Mount House
12th March		
NLGS U16	Vs	The King's School
14th March		



NETBALL FIXTURES

NLGS U15	Vs	Mount House
5th February		
NLGS U15	Vs	John Lyons
6th February		
NLGS U13	Vs	Mount House
12th March		

SPORTS



NLGS Netball News

The Girls' Netball teams continue to rise, with the U15s (Year 8 and Year 9) leading the charge and proving to be a formidable force against other ISA schools. This term, the U15s played two matches. In their first match against Mount House School, they secured a 9-5 victory, with Elif scoring 8 of the goals. Congratulations to Amirah and Senem, who were named Players of the Match. In their second match against King Alfred School, the game ended in a 6-6 draw. The team is really coming together, and with more match play, I'm confident they will continue to dominate and win every game.

The U13 team (Year 7 and Year 8) played against John Lyons. Although they were defeated, they gave it their all, showcasing some excellent set pieces during the game. Keep up the hard work—there's progress being made!

All Year 8 and Year 9 girls had the opportunity to play a game of Netball during their Games lesson. Although it was a bit daunting at first, the girls really enjoyed the experience. I hope this encourages some of them to consider trying out for the Netball teams in the future!

ARE YOU WORRIED?



All adults at North London Grammar care deeply about your health, safety, and well-being. We appreciate all children at our school, and we want to keep you safe and help protect your rights.

All adults at school are trustworthy individuals with whom you can speak at any time; the staff listed have been carefully trained to assist you and your family.



Ms Dhrona
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mr Adak
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mr Karatas
Boarding
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Ms Erdil
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Alumni Gathering Class of 2023

Our recent alumni dinner at Antalya Restaurant last Friday was a wonderful evening of reconnecting and reminiscing, with a fantastic turnout of former students from the Class of 2023 and current staff. We look forward to more opportunities to strengthen our NLGS family ties!



A big thank you to **Mr. Shehu** for organising such an enjoyable gathering.



Top Tips - Hear From Our Staff Experts

Exams are important, but mental well-being is just as crucial. With the right preparation, mindset, and support, students can approach their exams with confidence and resilience.

Mrs Dhrona shares her key tips to help manage exam pressure effectively.

Tip 1 Managing Exam Stress & Coping with Pressure

- **Plan Ahead:** Create a realistic study schedule, breaking subjects into manageable chunks to avoid last-minute cramming.
- **Stay Active & Rested:** Regular exercise, healthy eating, and sufficient sleep can improve concentration and reduce stress.
- **Practice Mindfulness:** Techniques such as deep breathing, meditation, and short breaks can help keep stress levels in check.

Tip 2 Parents play a crucial role in providing encouragement and emotional support during exam season. Here's how you can help:

- **Encourage Open Conversations:** Create a supportive space where your child feels comfortable discussing their worries.
- **Reinforce Positivity:** Focus on effort rather than results, reminding them that their worth is not defined by exam scores.

Tip 3 Building a Strong Support Network

Having a good support system can make a big difference in managing exam stress. Encourage students to:

- **Seek Teacher Guidance:** Teachers can provide clarification, additional resources, and study strategies.
- **Use School Student Services:** We offer stress management techniques, guided breathing techniques, organisational skills, and may more.



Mrs Dhrona
Deputy Head Teacher
Director Safeguarding
Lead