

New River College



New River New Start

In the now and beyond

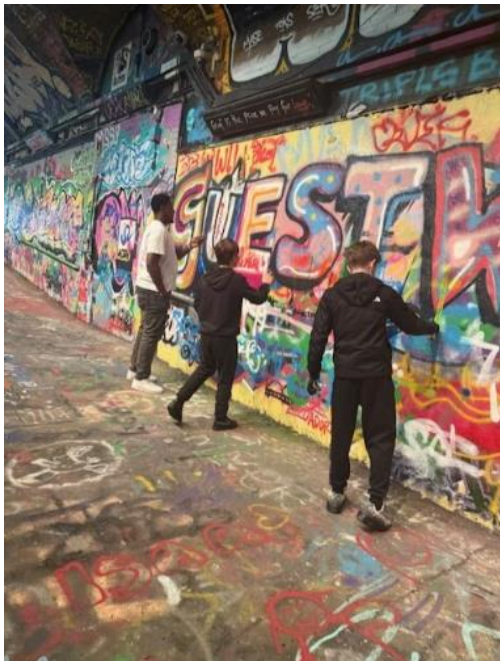


Autumn Term One - 2025

SECONDARY

Welcome back to New River College Secondary. We have begun the year as we mean to go on; with high standards and ensuring more opportunities for our student body. We began HT1 with supporting OSFTED in trailing its new inspection framework. This was a valuable experience for students, staff and inspectors alike.

As we are aiming to work closer with partners, in October Secondary pupils attended the Green Futures Careers event. Our year 10 cohort attended a talk by Mete Coban MBE (Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy) about linking positive climate changes to career pathways in the future. The cohort also attended the careers



event where they learned about a range of different industries that are impacted by climate change. How these groups work to minimise damage. Students attended talks on environmental design, proposed changes to policy to support green spaces and CV writing workshops, mock interview practise and cover letter design.

The Key Stage 3 cohort have been focusing on increasing the cultural capital of their offsite enrichment timetable. They have supported local artists in their graffiti projects. Students developed their own tags and learnt about 'tagging etiquette' amongst other local street artists. Our students supported key artists in refreshing and relining their most recent work.



Enrichment sessions around secondary site have also included boxing sessions run by the Islington Boxing club and rock climbing sessions. Here our students used the skills and techniques taught to them by the instructors to reach the top.

Key stage 3 students have attended the Imperial War museum as part of citizenship studies. This has made the learning on UK history more contextual and given our cohort important cultural links; including a piece of work on the V2 bombing of Paradise Park during world War 2 and it's impact on the local community and demographic.

Year 10 and 11 students also took part in a mathematics trip to the bank of England where they were given a guided tour, math-based activities and even access to the gold bullion vault- what a sign of trust and respect.



Around the school, the Arsenal football club continues to provide enrichment activities. The coaching programme has begun for Key Stage 4 student, as well as supporting with physical activities for our students working towards the duke of Edinburgh awards scheme. Watch this space for more collegiate activities run in conjunction with the football club.

Assemblies continue to celebrate national, international and significant days of importance in the calendar. This includes assemblies recognizing World Mental Health day, national recycling week, International day of Peace and Diwali, where our student body were able to experience a range of Mithai (traditional Diwali sweets) and learn about the Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities of London who make up almost 20% of the London population. NRC wishes all these community members a 'Shuabh Diwali'! Enjoy the fireworks and be safe.



Around the school, staff changes continue to occur. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Leah Royal, who has secured an amazing opportunity to working with disadvantaged members of our community. Leah has been a strong and invaluable member of our team for a number of years and her absence will be keenly felt.

The amazing Alice has joined us across both medical and secondary sites to teach English and her sessions are well planned and students are engaged in the lessons..

Support on site: CAMHS

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) team is here to support the wellbeing of our students. We're here to listen, provide guidance and help young people feel understood and supported as they navigate life's ups and downs. Our two CAMHS practitioners Kalender and Jess are in school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, offering a range of support including art therapy, therapeutic interventions and neurodevelopmental assessments. Our support is confidential and tailored to each young person's needs. If you'd like to find out more, you can reach us through school staff or simply come and talk to us directly — we're always happy to talk.

Dates for your Calendar

17.11.25- Beginning of mock examinations for year 11 cohort (2 week)

24.11.25- Functional Skills examinations

16.12.25 Parent Progress Afternoon

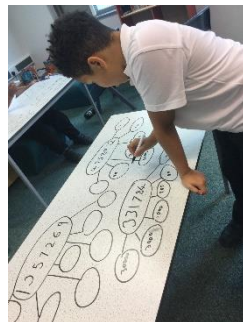
PRIMARY

Sahara Class:

Sahara class have had a great start to the school year! The children have settled into class well. It has been great to see everyone building new friendships, showing enthusiasm for learning, and embracing new routines with confidence and curiosity.



We started our year with an exciting trip to bowling followed by Nando's. We are looking forward to visiting the Science museum next week to continue our learning on Animals including Humans. We have also enjoyed lots of other practical activities this half term, including; cooking, TasteEd, bike maintenance and swimming.

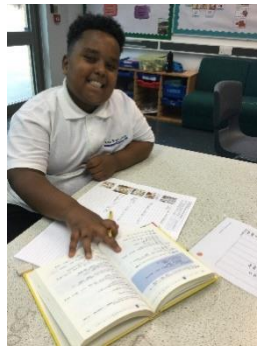


In **Maths**, we have been focusing on *place value*—understanding the value of each digit in numbers. The children have worked hard to use practical resources, visual methods and formal methods to build a strong understanding of the value of each of the digits in a number. We will be moving on to apply this knowledge to addition.

In **English**, our learning has been inspired by our class text *Hermelin the Detective Mouse*. The children have been creating their own *story innovations*, filled with imaginative ideas, exciting settings, and interesting characters. We have focused on using *expanded noun phrases*, *inverted commas for speech* and *relative clauses* to add rich description and detail to their writing.

Caption: We used a thesaurus to improve our vocabulary.

We are all very proud of how much the children have achieved in Sahara class. Thank you for your continued support—we are looking forward to an exciting term ahead full of even more learning adventures!



Gobi Class:

What a fantastic start to the new school year! The children have settled into class well and have quickly got to know the new class team. It has been great to see everyone building new friendships, showing enthusiasm for learning, and embracing new routines with confidence and curiosity.



Bowling Trip, Sept 2025



Jeans for Genes, Sept 2025

This term, we have enjoyed many *first-hand learning experiences* that have helped bring our topics to life. The children have taken part in nature walks, cooking sessions, and creating small worlds linked to our learning themes.

These hands-on experiences have really supported their engagement and imagination.





In **Maths**, we have been focusing on *place value*—understanding the value of each digit in numbers—and have spent time developing our skills in *rounding*. The children have worked hard to use practical resources and visual methods to build a strong understanding of these concepts.

In **English**, our learning has been inspired by our class text *The Lost Happy Endings*. The children have been busy creating their own *magical narratives*, filled with imaginative ideas, exciting settings, and interesting characters. We have focused on using *expanded noun phrases* and *similes* to add rich description and detail to their writing—something the children have taken real pride in.



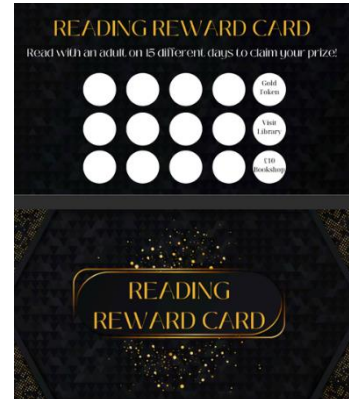
One of the highlights of the term was our **trip to London Zoo**, where we explored the *real-life habitats* of rainforest animals. The children were fascinated by the incredible creatures we saw, particularly the *tigers* and *capybaras*! This experience has supported our understanding of animal habitats and will continue to inspire our learning back in the classroom.

It has been a busy and rewarding term, and we are so proud of how much the children have achieved already. Thank you for your continued support—we are looking forward to an exciting term ahead full of even more learning adventures!



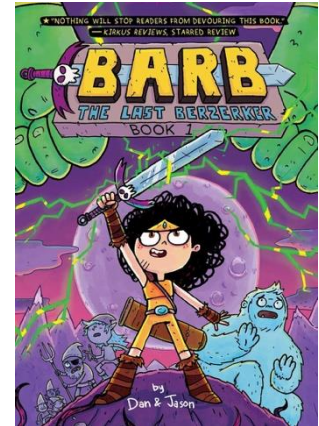
Reading

It's been a brilliant term for reading across the school! We've introduced our new **Reading Reward Loyalty Cards**, and the children have really enjoyed collecting stamps each time they read 1:1 with an adult. Daily reading sessions have become a lovely part of our routine, giving everyone the chance to share stories and build confidence.



Every Tuesday, children bring in their **reading records** to show in our **Hall of Fame** and earn a **gold token** for their hard work. The excitement around reading has been fantastic to see!

In Gobi's class, a couple of favourites this term have been *Barb the Last Berzerker* and *The Queen's Knickers*! Story time has been full of laughter and imagination, and we're already looking forward to discovering new favourites next term.



Sahara class have been enjoying *The BFG*! They have loved immersing themselves in the book and thinking about the characteristics of the Big Friendly Giant. We are looking forward to a library visit next term.

Jeans for Genes Day:

Primary took part in Jeans for Genes Day in September and raised a wonderful £5!

Thank you for your donation of £ 5.00 to Jeans for Genes.

Your donation really helps to change the lives of children, adults and families living with genetic conditions across the UK.

You can keep up to date with the impact of your donation by following Jeans for Genes on Facebook, X and Instagram.

Thanks again! You're amazing.

Jeans for Genes

Islington Primary Football Tournament:

New River College Primary took part in the Islington school football tournament at Market Road on the 14th November. We played against Newington Green, St John Evangelist and St John's Highbury Vale. NRC primary did very well with Carol leading the team as captain and Zane scoring one of the school's best ever goal at any football tournament. All the staff are very proud of their efforts and all pupils received a gold token for their skills and sportsmanship toward other teams that morning. Well done to all involved!



Key notices for Primary parents

There are no changes to staffing as we move into Autumn 2. We will be sending out our Autumn 2 curriculum Maps in the first week back of the half term which we hope will give you some valuable insight into the topics covered over the next half term.

Thank you for all of your support and see you on Monday 3rd November at 9am!

MEDICAL

Celebrating the class of 2024-25

We would like to share and celebrate with you the successes of our year 11 cohort from the academic year 2024-2025. They achieved excellent results in their GCSE and BTEC examinations, including some pupils receiving grades 7,8 and 9 in Modern Foreign Languages, Maths, English, Art, RS and Psychology. This has ensured the majority have secured post 16 placement. Post 16 destinations this year have included;



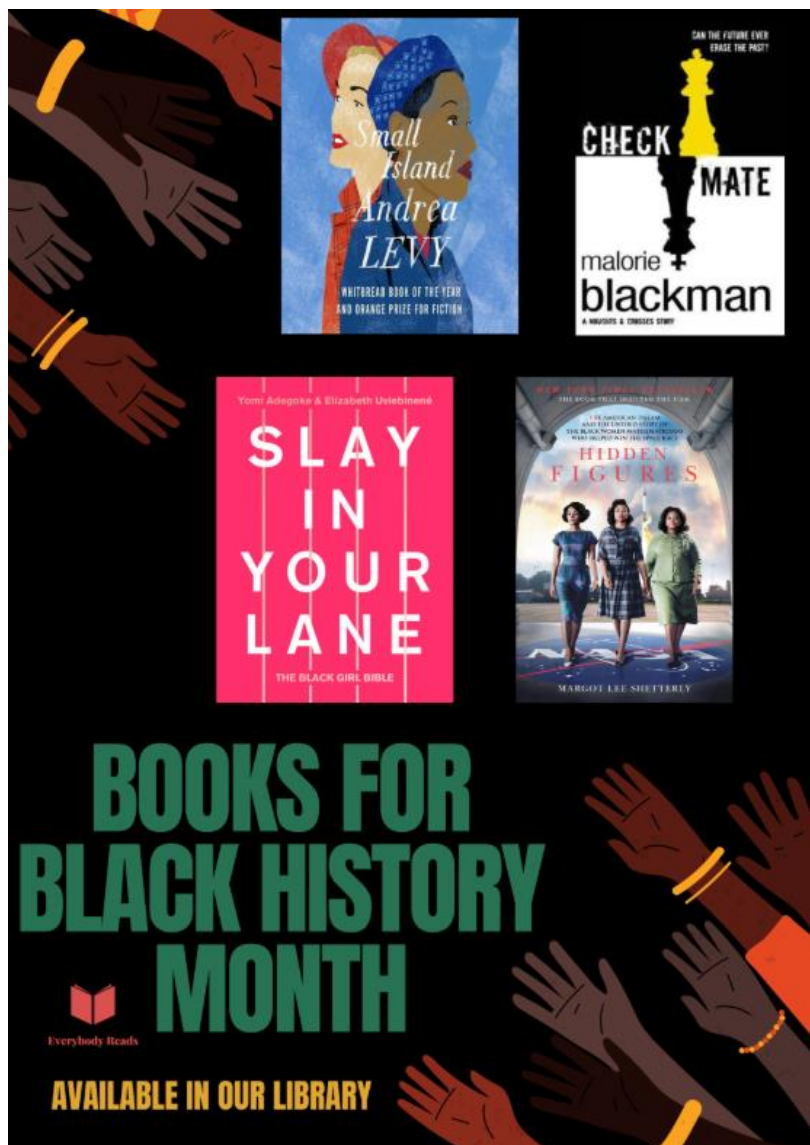
**london college
of fashion**



Everybody Reads at Medical

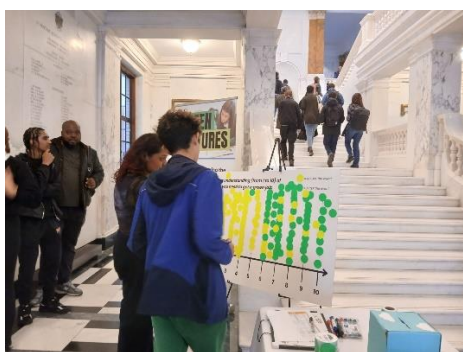
All students at Medical have now chosen their termly book. Our everybody reads strategy, is now embedded at Medical. The library is filling up with more recommended books. Students have been encouraged to choose a book and share what they are reading. You can support your child at home by speaking to them about what book they are reading and suggesting a book from our monthly recommendations. October is a focus around Black History Month.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Green Futures Trip

Our Year 11 students recently had the opportunity to attend an exciting careers fair all about renewable energy and sustainability. The event introduced them to a wide range of future pathways in green industries and encouraged them to think more openly about the many fields available beyond their current interests. Students showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as they spoke with industry experts about the impact of renewable technologies, wildlife work and what it means to live and work in a more sustainable world. It was a valuable and eye-opening experience that left many better informed about the possibilities that lie ahead.



Art News

Throughout the project, students learned a range of textile skills including yarn drawing, fabric collage, tie-dyeing, and fabric painting. These techniques laid the foundation for their final pieces.

They created powerful protest banners that are now proudly on display on the top floor of the secondary site.

Impressive work from our youngest artists!

AUTUMN 1 TERM 2025

New River College

ART AT NRC



GCSE Art
Development
Work In Progress.



Our new GCSE course is in full swing with our young artists getting stuck in and producing some beautiful work already!



KS3 Experimental Art & Drawing - our year 8's and 9's are starting the year strong with large scale collaborative paintings and even larger scale paint brushes.



OCSE Year 10 & 11
Art works, Acrylic on Canvas.



NRC Medical End of Year Art exhibition.
We had a fantastic turn out and were so proud of all our talented young artists.



NRC Secondary End of Year Art exhibition. So much beautiful work to show that we had to cover every available wall and surface.

KS3 Culture Project–Working with Clay



On Fridays this term, our Key Stage 3 students have been busy getting creative with pottery! We've designed and made a range of items - from plates and bowls to mugs and vases. Along the way, we've learned about the firing process and how to decorate our creations with paint and glaze. Everyone has worked really hard and we're so proud of the finished pieces. This project has not only helped us develop our artistic skills, but it's also been a great opportunity to learn more about local culture, connect with the community, and practice being out and about in real-world settings.

Black History Month



At Medical we have been celebrating Black History Month throughout October. Students have had the opportunity to choose books to read as part of our everyone reads strategy. Morning form times have been themed around famous characters and stories that we can learn around Black History. And on 15th October our wonderful catering staff had presented the students with a Caribbean feast for their lunch. Jerk chicken, plantain, yams, rice and peas along with a warm carrot cake with vanilla ice cream.



Food Technology



Students are working towards gaining their Btec award later in the school year.

They are developing their cutting, cooking and presentation skills in order to serve up a main dish to staff members. They are experimenting with a range of foods from different cultures. Using a variety of cooking methods and equipment independently. They will also think about ways to improve the presentation of their final dish, which will be served up as it would be in a restaurant



Take The Lead Trip



At Medical our year 11 will be attending the 'Take the Lead' induction workshop. This is an employability workshop from the Old Vic. This programme is created in collaboration with schools and businesses and draws on the Old Vic theatrical expertise. This year 40 secondary schools across the

UK will participate. Good luck to all year 11 who have opted to take part in this wonderful opportunity.

Year 11 Mock Examinations and Functional Skills

After the half term break Functional Skills assessment will take place for many students at Medical. Year 11 will return to face their first set of Mock exams in preparation for the Summer examinations.

The exams take place between 17th and 28th November.

Timetable will be sent home with students prior to the half term to support with revision.

Good luck to all.

Staffing News and Dates for your Diary

This year we have welcomed Sherill on to the staff. Sherill is an experienced teacher of Science who is teaching KS3 and 4 Science at Medical, along with one to one SIT teaching.

Autumn Term

Half Term Monday 27th October- Friday 31st October

Last Day of Term Friday 18th December 1pm.

Christmas Break – Monday 22nd December – Monday 5th January

Spring Term

Structured Conversation Tuesday 6th January

First Day of Spring Term Wednesday 7th January

Medical Parent Communication Calendar

AUTUMN TERM 1

Date	Meeting/ Communication	Rational	Time	Venue
Tuesday 2 nd September	Structured Conversation	Parent/ Carer and pupil meet form tutor to review and set targets for the term ahead.	10 am – 12.00pm	Medical Hall
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parental/ Carer survey feedback	Parent/ Carer to complete termly survey. Support provided on site.	1.30 pm- 3pm	Medical Hall
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parental /Carer subject meeting	Parent /Carer to meet subject staff to discuss their child's progress	1.30 pm- 3pm	Medical Hall
Week of 20/10/25	Newsletter - Autumn Term 1	Half termly newsletter, with updated from each site and other services working with NRC	n/a	n/a
Monday 10 th November	Parental /Carer coffee afternoon	Meet key staff and presentation on Key focus – NRC New Positive Behaviour and Relationship Policy. Mr Gordon Smith – Head of Outreach	1.45pm - 2.30pm	Medical Hall
Week of 15/12/25	Newsletter - Autumn Term 1	Half termly newsletter, with updated from each site and other services working with NRC	n/a	n/a
Week of 15/12/25	Pupil Reports	Parent/carers to receive end of term written report.	n/a	n/a

Requesting Time Off for your child

Should your child require time off school for any reason.

Please contact victoria.lizarazo@nrc.islington.sch.uk, and make a request in writing.

You will then be expected to attend a meeting with the Headteacher, Nigel Smith. He will discuss the request with you make a decision on how to authorise the request.

Please note

Any unapproved absence will be marked as unauthorised and is subject to a possible fine in line with the Islington absence policy.

Holiday information and activities from Islington and the NRC Family Support Team

Are you a parent or carer, and you are finding it difficult to get your child to school. You are not alone. Please look at the information below and book yourself on to talk on Understanding School Avoidance.



DCCAT's SEND Parent Hub

Supporting families, sharing solutions.

Are you a mum, dad or carer of a child with a disability who's struggling to get them into school? You're not alone — and support is available.

Join DCCAT's Identifying Needs session:

Understanding School Avoidance

Date: Thursday 30th October 2025

Time: 9:30am – 12pm

During this session we will be exploring:

- The challenges of school avoidance
- Making morning routines and daily routines easier
- Practical tools and strategies to support you and your child

To book your place, please email us:

DCCAT@islington.gov.uk
or call Lough Road Center: **0207 527 2095**

LOCATION
Lough Road Centre
61-71 Lough Road
N7 8FF

Let us know if you have any accessibility needs we want everyone to feel welcome

Spaces are limited so please book early to secure your spot.

Update!

ISLINGTON
for a more equal future

Bright Futures presents

MUSIC. FASHION. HUSTLE. SUCCESS.



An Afternoon with
Entrepreneur, Record Label Executive, Mentor
Dumi Oburota

Calling all young people ages 13-19!

Join our live Q&A with Dumi — real talk, real insights, real inspiration. Don't miss your chance to learn from an industry disruptor.

at Lift on 31 October, 2-5pm

From shaping the careers of Tinie Tempah, Jessie J, Sasha Keable and Wizkid, to launching his own wine label and consulting for Sony Music — award-winning businessman Dumi has built one of the UK's most influential music and lifestyle brands.



Scan the QR code to book your spot — limited spaces!

In celebration of Black History Month 2025 theme **"Standing Firm in Power and Pride"**, Dumi will talk about what this means to him.



EXPLORE CAREERS USING VR

For Islington young people aged 13-18

Step Into the Job – in Virtual Reality!

Get an insight into the gaming & creative industry – all through a VR headset.



Explore careers like hotel worker or railway engineer through immersive 360° VR experiences.

Scan the QR code to book your
FREE ticket or sign up here!



Islington
inspiring young people
World of Work

THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER 2025

**AT WEST LIBRARY YOUTH EMPLOYMENT HUB,
THORNHILL SQUARE N1 1DB**

10:30am-12pm

NSPCC Helpline.

An estimated 1 in 20 children have experienced sexual abuse. And child sexual abuse is under-reported by adults. It's time for that to change.

It's never too soon to talk to us. And what you share could make a life-changing difference to a child.

You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0800 800 5000, emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk or completing our report abuse online form.

Our voice Helpline is currently available **10am–4pm Monday to Friday**. You can still [email help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) or [complete our report abuse online form](#) at any time for free. You don't have to say who you are.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999 straight away.

Children's Services Contact Team (CSCT), Children's Social Care

The Children's Services Contact Team (CSCT) is the single point of contact for all services for children, young people, and families in Islington who may need extra help and support.

If you are worried about a child, please phone CSCT first:

- **020 7527 7400**

The services we offer include:

- Family support in the community through
- Support for children and young people who are at risk of getting involved in gangs, anti-social behaviour or crime
- Health and mental health services
- Children's Social Care - services to protect and safeguard vulnerable children.

Children and young people missing from home

If you're thinking of running away from home or you know someone who is, call the Children's Services Contact Team on 020 7527 7400 to speak to someone who will listen and can help.

If you are the parent or carer of a young person who has gone missing, call the Metropolitan Police Missing Persons line on 0759 500 4082.

