



2021

Issue 37

## **Breckland Council gives a huge boost to Northgate's eco efforts**

Northgate students and staff warmly welcomed Breckland Council Leader, Sam Chapman-Allen and Councillors Hilary Bushell and Ian Sherwood into school recently for a very special announcement.

Back in March 2020 Councillor Chapman-Allen visited the school and spoke to School Council members about his role and how he came to be on the Council. He said that one of the main reasons he became the Leader was he 'wanted to make a difference – everyone has the ability to change something if you are willing to put the work and effort in.' This certainly rings true with students and staff at Northgate. At this talk, students were very keen to talk about the eco projects that were going on around the school and spoke with real enthusiasm and passion. After a tour of the school and a visit to the technology department, where he spoke to Mr Mottley, in charge of Design Technology, Mr Chapman-Allen felt there was more he could do to support Northgate's eco efforts.

He came with Councillors Bushell and Sherwood to announce that Breckland Council have awarded Northgate a £10,000 grant to purchase a plastic recycling machine.

This was a huge surprise to both students and staff and a real boost to the school's environmental efforts. Councillor Ian Sherwood, who is Breckland's Sustainability Strategy lead, said that a number of local projects and initiatives are able to apply to receive money from Breckland Council as part of their drive on sustainability and climate change. Breckland wants to make positive environmental changes and also work with others on green initiatives. The machine shreds the plastic into smaller pieces and then melts it into flat sheets. We are going to use the machine to recycle as many plastics as we can to make new products within Design Technology and try to create a more sustainable school. We would like pupils and the wider community to bring in their plastics like milk and shampoo bottles to be recycled, shredded and processed.

Miss Theobald, School Council Coordinator, gave an insight into some of the student's current eco projects including recycling campaigns, social media campaigns to raise awareness of the small positive actions we can all have, litter picks and upcycling old filing cabinets into planters. As a school, we are looking forward to future projects that students, due to attend an Earth Summit in the Autumn in Lund, Sweden, will bring back and work on at Northgate and Dereham Sixth Form.

Mrs Galley and Dr Hone, Heads of School, thanked Breckland Council on behalf of Northgate for the amazing opportunity and commented that this has shown that students really do have a voice. When they are willing to speak out about matters they are enthusiastic and passionate about, they can be heard. The plastic recycling machine will be their legacy which students and the community in the future will benefit from.

When the machine arrives, we will give you more details about how you and the rest of the Dereham community can get involved and recycle your plastic.





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## Brilliant Club Students Graduate

The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme provides students with the opportunity to work with a PhD researcher to experience university-style learning. It helps them to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to excel in their next phase of education. The programme involves a number of tutorials with the tutor as well as writing a challenging final assignment. We have had many Northgate students work through the programme over the last few years with great success.

A number of our Year 8 students completed the Brilliant Club programme in the summer term and received their feedback as well as having a graduation event before we broke up.

The students studied politics with a PhD tutor and wrote a 1000-word essay about what history has taught us makes a great Prime Minister. They explored ideas about leadership as well as studying historical figures and completed an additional essay in their own time, on top of any work they were set by their teachers in their usual lessons.

We are delighted with how highly they all achieved and Mrs Beasley had an email confirming that our students' performance was well above the national average for their age range – amazing! Huge congratulations to all involved: Louie C, Oliver C, Ava H, Corey R, Jack S, Oliver P, Poppi S, Dominic T, Isma-Daisy T-N, Blake B and Isaac P.

We'd like to wish the class of 2021 huge congratulations for their amazing GCSE results. The year group certainly did not have it easy with two lots of home learning during Year 10 and 11. However they worked incredibly hard throughout

their courses and demonstrated how far they had come with their learning. We are extremely proud of you all and wish you lots of luck in your future studies and careers. Remember to keep in touch and let us know what you get up to.



Dr Hone and Mrs Galley commented in the Dereham Times, 'we are delighted with the GCSE results achieved by this amazing cohort of students. They have worked consistently throughout the last two years and have done so with maturity, resilience and tenacity. They deserve nothing but praise for their efforts, superbly supported by all staff and parents. We wish them all the very best in the future and will see many return in September at Dereham Sixth Form College.'

## Summer in the ELF

Our animals have been enjoying a break over the summer in the ELF (External Learning Facility). They are looking forward to more visits from students in the new school year.





### Year 7 make a 'Flying Start' to Life at Northgate

During the summer holidays we welcomed lots of our new Year 7s to Northgate for our annual Flying Start Summer School, organised by Miss Lynn. This gave students the opportunity to experience a number of different subjects including English, Maths, Drama, PE, Music, Computing and First Aid, as well as getting to know each other and the school a bit more. Split into three groups, which students named 'Sunset Lobsters', 'Shrek's Sidekicks' and 'Marine Team', they were supported by six of our fantastic Year 12s from Dereham Sixth Form.

Throughout the Summer School Year 7s completed some 'getting to know you' games and a bumper quiz. There were Maths and English sessions on the theme of Harry Potter. Students got crafty creating magical creature masks, bookmarks or Hogwarts house ties and designed their own potions. There was also the chance to play some extremely competitive games of bench ball, dodgeball and capture the flag. Students had the chance to become code breakers working with many types of codes and completed a QR treasure hunt around the school. There was a carousel of activities on one of the days where everyone created origami, decorated biscuits, made something for a time capsule and played a Pictionary style game. There was a mini medics session where everyone learnt some basic first aid skills and a Drama session looking at different ways to express yourself on stage. The Music session involved playing the ukulele and there was an escape room activity as well. The final day consisted of well-being activities, junk modelling and the chance to get used to the computers at Northgate, completing quizzes and using their school email accounts.

A big thank you to Miss Lynn for organising a fantastic Summer School and to Mrs Christie, Miss Theobald, Mrs Graves, Miss Sanders, Miss Brooks and Mr MacDonald for leading the sessions as well as the Sixth Form students for their amazing support of the groups. We hope everyone had a great time.

We certainly enjoyed finding out a bit more about our new Year 7s and look forward to seeing them fly throughout their time at Northgate.

You can read more about what our Summer School participants got up to in our [blog](#) as well as some of their comments about the week and further pictures.

