



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

January 2023

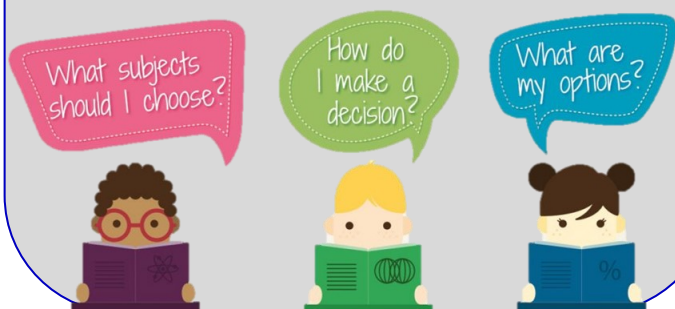
2023

Issue 52

Year 9 Options

It's that time of year when our Year 9 students decide which options they would like to take at GCSE - January is options month.

There is plenty of information about all the subjects on offer on the school website, with videos from subject teachers explaining what is involved in their subject. There's advice for parents on supporting students through the options process as well. Mr Atkin will be going into a Year 9 assembly to explain how it all works and how students will make their choices. Parents/carers and students will have the opportunity to speak to teachers at Parents Evening on 25th January. Tutors will be on hand to help students and teachers or Heads of Department will always be available to answer any questions they have.



Want to keep up to date with all the goings on at Northgate?

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Follow us on Twitter:
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Upcoming events

Make sure you know what is coming up at Northgate. Please note these dates are subject to change.

3rd January

Staff Inset

4th January

Spring term begins (Week A)

10th January

Mid Norfolk Area Cross Country at Neatherd 9.45am - 10.45am

12th January

Drama and Dance Showcase 7pm

19th January

Year 8 Geography trip to Cambridge tbc

23rd - 27th January

Year 7 SAIL tutor/parent meetings week

24th January

Norfolk Schools Cross Country finals at Wymondham College 11.00am

25th January

Year 9 Parents Evening

26th January

TOAST performance poetry for selected Year 9/10
Orchard Committee Meeting

31st January

Year 9 Options deadline

Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin?

Follow this link to read about all the exciting activities and news from last month. [December Bulletin](#)



Time to reflect and Happy New Year!

It's been a long and busy term at Northgate and it's great to see so much has taken place. We've held our Open Evening for Year 6s, a special Remembrance Service, taken part in Anti-Bullying week, Children in Need fundraising, Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas dinner. The Team Councils and School Council are up and running again, Year 11s have completed their mock exams, we've had author visits, GCSE presentation evening and Geography and History fieldtrips. There's been a dance company visit, book fair, sports matches, mental health awareness week, parents evenings, the start of our orchard committee and much more. So many opportunities for our students!

Thank you to students and staff for their fantastic work this term and to all parents and carers for their continued support of the school.

On behalf of Northgate's School Council we would like to wish students, staff, parents, carers and the community a happy and healthy 2023.

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Christmas Dinner - Thank You!

A big thank you to Alan and the Café North team for yet another smoothly run and tasty Christmas dinner. They managed to serve close to 250 Christmas dinners during the busy lunch period and it certainly met the approval of staff and students alike!



Question of the Week

It's been great to see so many of our students get involved in the Northgate News Team Question of the Week. There have been some interesting results so far and lots of comments to back up choices. Students - keep an eye out on Satchel One and your emails for further weekly questions. Members of the community – take a look at our social media pages for how you can get involved too.

We've had some interesting questions so far:

- Should flying be made more expensive to help fight climate changes?
- Is the best way to reduce littering having more bins?
- Should teachers wear a uniform at school as well as students?

Christmas Card competition

Before Christmas, the Art and Design Department held their annual Christmas card competition. The winning card was sent out to school governors, trustees, feeder schools and those in the community that have been involved with Northgate over the year. There were some amazing entries but congratulations

to the winner Esme (Year 9), second place Amilie (Year 9) and third place Aimee (Year 10).





Library updates

There has been so much going on in the library over the last couple of months, Mrs Gill and Miss Lynn give us all the updates.



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- During December we held our Scholastic Book Fair in the library. The fabulous varied collection of books and stationery was available throughout the week for students to purchase some of the latest titles, classics, self-help books and firm favourites. With every book sold our school library benefits in rewards to spend on new books for all students to borrow in the New Year.
- Celebrating National Non-Fiction November our subjects 'battled' against each other in a 'Department Slam Down'. Each department encouraged students to browse and borrow a non-fiction book from our library – promoting their subject areas. History, PE and Drama -were the departments with the most book loans and were rewarded with cakes for their efforts! There are plenty of non-fiction books available for loan on a whole host of topic and subject areas.
- Our first visit of the school year with our Writer in Residence, Matt Dickinson was held at the end of November. Matt gave insightful talks to all our Y10 GCSE Geography students on topics relevant to their studies including glaciers and effects of climate change. The second day involved Y8 students in creative writing workshops using Matt's experiences as both a mountaineer and author to guide them to produce an assortment of quality work on what they would miss if on Mount Everest.
- As part of Matt's visit we also held an evening talk inviting the local community to hear the thrilling accounts of climbing Mount Everest. You can hear more about our first visit and the Everest Files Competition [here](#).
 - During the last week of term, the library hosted a Christmas recycled book art session - creating Christmas trees, angels, and decorations out of withdrawn books. A friendly festive lunchtime quiz was also held for tutor groups to show us their Christmas themed knowledge.
- We have appointed our fabulous new Student Librarians this term. After processing all the written applications and holding interviews we are delighted to welcome our new team.
 - Coming up in 2023: Toast Poetry returns to delight and inspire selected Y9/10 students with their engaging performance in January.





In the News

Here are some recent news items from our website and the local press:

- [Northgate News Team interview with Mr Hester](#)
- [Author Lisa Thompson visits Northgate](#)
- [Northgate News Team interview with Mrs Simms](#)

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Accelerated Reader Stars

We are extremely proud that 39 students have reached their reading points target for the Autumn term - this is done by completing quizzes on books read.

Well done to 7JB and 8KPE who won our 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Reading' competition. The students in these tutor groups completed the most reviews on Accessit, received 100% on lots of Accelerated Reader quizzes and told us all about the new words they had learnt.

Well done to our first Word Millionaire - Stanley W (Yr7). Stanley has read an amazing 1,019,559 words!

Well done to recent winners of our fortnightly Accelerated Reader quiz raffle - Amelia S (Year 7), Gabriella M (Year 8), Kinga B (Year 7) and Brooke G (Year 8).

Finally, congratulations to Anitt B (Year 7) who is the half termly Accelerated Reader winner for reading a total of 10 books and completing quizzes or writing reviews on them.



Books, books and more books

Top 5 most popular books this half term:

- Heartstopper Vol 2 - Alice Oseman
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - Roald Dahl
- My Hero Academia, Vol 3 - Kohei Horikoshi
- Wonder - R.J Palacio
- A Good Girl's Guide to Murder - Holly Jackson

Year 8 - 6,357,649 words read!

Well done to 7RH who were top of borrowing list once again this half term with 118 books borrowed, closely followed by 7MM (115 books) and 7VE (106 books).

An amazing total of 1,192 books have been borrowed this half term.

Year 7 - 15,844,348 words read!



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Students take on Northgate’s Tough Mudder

During the last couple of weeks of term, Year 7 – 9 students took part in the tough mudder course in PE – think cross country meets assault course! The PE department were extremely impressed with students' attitudes, enthusiasm and resilience, despite the weather conditions some groups faced. Particular mention goes to Oli S, Shea B-S, Milly D and Kayla F (Year 7), Liam C, Charlie C, Isla P, Jess F and Sarah C (Year 8), Ellis H, Rocky B, Kyra T and Esme M (Year 9) who posted the fastest two-lap times for the course. We look forward to a number of our students taking part in up-coming cross country competitions. Throughout the two weeks students competed for house points.

The results were as follows:

Year 7

- 1 - Holmes
- 2 - Rowling
- 3 - Attenborough + Hawking

Year 9

- 1 - Attenborough + Rowling
- 2 - Hawking + Holmes

Year 8

- 1 - Attenborough + Hawking
- 2 - Holmes
- 3 - Rowling

Overall

- 1 - Attenborough
- 2 - Hawking Holmes
- 3 - Rowling



Stunning performances from Macbeth cast

This year saw the first production of the Shakespeare project which included students from across KS3 who used their extra-curricular time to develop an abridged version of Macbeth. On the evening of the 7th December, 17 students from Year 7 - 9 took their audience on a journey to Scotland for a haunting and horrifying re-enactment of Macbeth, dealing with memorable scenes of marital strife as Lady Macbeth lost patience with her husband. All students in the cast created a version of the play that was fast-paced, tense in its storytelling with a spectacular array of costumes and props. The whole cast was impressive, however there were stand out performances from Mirren W as Lady Macbeth, Charley O as Macbeth and Oscar Y as King Duncan. We look forward to seeing what the Shakespeare project will be next year!



Bobby Copping’s mental health talk.

Ski trip students get in some practise on the slopes.



Christmas jumper day at Northgate.



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Community Carols and Crafts

Thursday 15th December saw the Northgate and Dereham Community come together for a special Christmas Craft Fayre and Carol Concert. The Christmas crafts were made by the Enterprise team, who had been busy making and fulfilling pre-orders in the run up to the event. Their goods included Christmas trees made from recycled wooden pallets, decorations made from old sketch book covers and sheet music as well as wooden Christmas trees and reindeer decorations. They put in a lot of hard work and effort to come up with the designs and make the items – so a big well done to the team.

The packed church were treated to carols, music, poems and more. Verity (Year 7) began the concert singing Once in Royal David’s City, Evelyn and Keisha (Year 9) along with Katherine and Amelia (Year 7) read Christmas poems that they and other students had written. Dexter (Year 10) treated everyone to a solo of Oh Holy Night on the baritone - a beautiful carol, beautifully played. Year 10, Dominic, played his own composition on the guitar whilst Sixth Form student, Abbie sang Songbird by Fleetwood Mac.

The N6 band and choir sang and played a few carols which everyone joined along with and Emmanuel (Year 10) was accompanied by the choir singing Gaudete.

A lovely Christmassy evening - well done to all involved.



Merit Update

The first term has gone in a flash. There were close to 30,000 merits awarded last term - huge congratulations to everyone. We now have 16 students who have passed the 100 merit mark. Over the Christmas holidays a further 1354 bonus merits were awarded for excellent attendance and 1755 for no negatives. Well done everyone!

All of these merits has seen merit totals rise significantly for many and lots more students are sure to be heading over to the merit cashing in. Miss Theobald will be on hand every Thursday from 12.30pm - 12.50pm in the main hall. In fact, on 12th January, there will be a January sale with 10% off everything! We have some great rewards available, just take a look at our [catalogue](#).

Hawking have now moved into the lead in the House merit competition, however it is still really close so every merit counts.

Hawking	Rowling	Attenborough	Holmes
43.26	42.87	41.96	41.07

Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7DNI, 7MM, 8KPE, 8TG, 9NA, 9KS, 10AGR and 11TF who have all won the fortnightly attendance competition last half term. Trophies and certificates are proudly on display in tutor rooms. Congratulations also goes to the winners of our second half-termly attendance raffle: Dakota H (Year 7), Max M (Year 8), Erin S (Year 9), Daniela M (Year 10) and Keira M (Year 11).

For every two-week period a student has 100% attendance, they receive a raffle ticket to win an Amazon voucher! We all know how important good attendance is and would like to thank all Northgate parents and carers for supporting excellent attendance.

