



# Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

September 2023

2023

Issue 59

## Upcoming events

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

### 4th + 5th September

Staff INSET days

### 6th September

Autumn term begins

### 14th + 15th September

School photos

### 20th – 29th September

Year 7 CATS (tbc)

### 22nd September

Year 8 Geography trip to Cambridge (tbc)

### 28th September

Year 6 Open Evening

## Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin?

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

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

‘Like’ our Northgate High School Facebook page (@northgatedereham)



Follow us on Twitter:

@NGateDereham, @NGateCouncil



Follow us on Instagram:

NgateDereham



## Northgate Recycles - new scheme

Over the last year we have been running a recycling competition across the tutor groups. Students and staff have been recycling bread bags, bakery plastic, chocolate bar and sweet wrappers, biscuit and cracker wrappers and Pringles tubes. Over the last term the top recycling tutor groups were 7RH, 8KT, 10SJ and 11AS. During the year over 36Kg of the above plastic items have been collected and recycled – well done!

The competition will start again in September. Please bring in any of the items mentioned and put into your tutor group boxes. Note that at Northgate we also recycle dead pens, highlighters, felt tips and markers as well as batteries (collection tin and boxes in all classrooms), on top of ink cartridges and print heads. All of these recycling schemes raise money for school projects.

We are pleased to announce that we have now been accepted onto a new recycling scheme with Terracycle, which includes the recycling of any brand of crisp packets and multipacks, popcorn and pretzel packets. So please bring these in as part of the tutor recycling competition and do your bit to prevent these plastics from going to landfill.





2023

Issue 59

## Goodbyes and Hellos

At the end of the summer term, we sadly said goodbye to a number of staff who are moving onto positions in new schools: Miss Lynn - Literacy Librarian and Communications Manager, Mrs Christie - English teacher, Miss Petcher Ellison - Maths teacher, Mr Digby - Science teacher, Miss Sherrington - RS and Citizenship teacher, Miss Hickey - Art and Design teacher, Mrs Rae - Modern Foreign Languages teacher and Mr Livermore - Geography teacher.

We wish them all well in the future and thank them for the numerous years they committed to Northgate and the countless students they supported in their roles.

We also see Mrs Richardson and Mr Lennard become Heads of Year 7 and Transition and Mrs Graves moves to Head of Year 8, Mrs Yarman is Office Manager for Northgate and Dereham Sixth Form, and Miss Gardner is Design Faculty Technician and Communications Officer. We welcome Mrs Harvey - Head of English who joined Northgate last term.

At the start of a new school year, we also welcome not only our new Year 7s to Northgate, but new members of staff too:

Miss Morrison - RS and Citizenship teacher  
Mr Collinge - Maths teacher and Head of Year 9  
Miss Bingham - English teacher  
Mr Clark - English teacher  
Miss Woodier - English teacher  
Miss Douglas - Art and Design teacher

Mrs Loates - Science teacher  
Mrs Merryweather - Science teacher  
Miss Mills - Science teacher  
Miss Whittaker - Geography teacher  
Mrs Grieve - Geography teacher  
Mrs Garwood - Receptionist

## House Competition Results

At the end of term the House competition winners were announced. Points are awarded across the year for all sorts of things – sports day, the weekly Friday

quiz, merits, House sports matches and department competitions. It has been really close throughout the year, but with Holmes winning sports day at the

end of term, they had enough points to take the title! Congratulations to everyone who contributed to their House team throughout the year and a big thank you to Mr Llewellyn for coordinating the House competition.

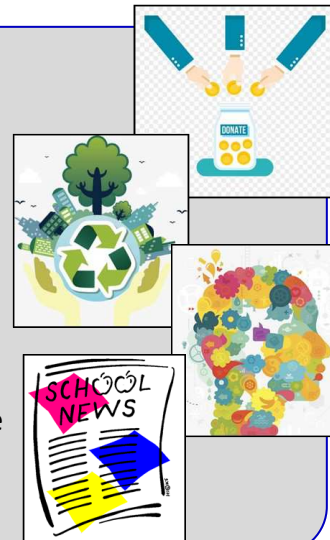


### House Totaliser 2022-23

Attenborough	Hawking	Holmes	Rowling
3820	3805	3960	3878

## Your School Council Needs You!

Look out in PART lesson later this month for information from Miss Theobald about how you can get involved in Northgate's Team Councils (Environment, Social, Well-being and Northgate News) and the School Council. Do you want to make a difference and have a positive impact on life at Northgate? We are looking for committed, responsible students who are able to put their opinions and the opinions of others forward in meetings and who are willing to speak and work on behalf of the school population. Some of you may have been on a School Council in the past or it may be new to you. We are looking forward to getting started!







2023

Issue 59

## We're all mad here - Students bring Wonderland to Northgate

After months of rehearsals, July saw a host of Northgate and Dereham Sixth Form students take to the stage in the newly renovated open-air theatre in The Orchard, to perform their own version of Alice in Wonderland.

A surreal and magical story with plenty of odd twists and turns along the way. The students co-directed this performance alongside Miss Harris, Head of Performing Arts, with many of the characters, dialogue and scenes coming straight from their creative brains.

Miss Harris said, 'This is my first whole school production since starting work at Northgate and I could not be more proud. Using a blend of movement and theatre to perform our chosen story, the students have been a credit to themselves as they never hesitated to try something different. I would like to take this moment to thank all of the staff and parents for the help I have received. There is a huge team of staff that have helped to bring my magical ideas to life; from shelves full of weird and wonderful objects to tiny wooden doors, they have always taken the challenge I have given and the results are amazing.

A special thanks must be given to a Year 7 parent, whose costumes were absolutely beautiful.'

Despite the typically British weather, the cast were able to complete two of the three performances on the outside stage, to sold out audiences. The Orchard really was transformed into Wonderland. Audiences were also treated to amazing performances from the school band, Year 10 musicians and our community choir.

Comments from the public included:

'Just amazing! The students put so much in to this and gave everything. Brilliant performances every night under some really tricky conditions, such talent and the nicest bunch of young people I've ever worked with.'

'Well done to all involved. Brilliant performance from everyone. My family and I really enjoyed it.'

'Well done all involved. A lot of effort and dedication went into this, a very enjoyable production.'

'Amazing show, well done everyone - the walk through the orchard was lovely.'







2023

Issue 59

## Celebrating Northgate's Sporting Achievements

In July, the PE Department hosted their annual Sports Awards evening, a chance to celebrate the sporting achievements of both individuals and teams from across the year.

It was the 10th awards, which saw 172 pupils attend, being awarded most valued player, player's player, raspberries and commitment and sporting achievement awards. It was a great occasion with such a positive atmosphere, celebrating the commitment and positive attitude students have towards PE and sport at Northgate. A big thank you to the PE Department for putting on the event and for the sporting opportunities they give students at Northgate. 2373 hours of after school clubs were accessed over the year with 263 students being involved at least once. That's a third of the school giving up their time to pursue sporting activity - our students are awesome!

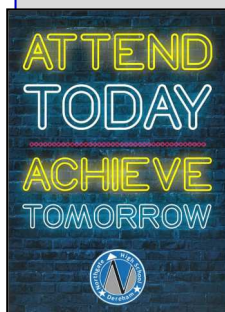


The 2 big awards of the evening were won by Ewan T (Year 10) who took the Sporting Achievement trophy for his amazing high jump results and Abi P (Year 10) who was awarded the Lewis Hendry Commitment shield for her selfless acts around the PE Department. With too many pupils to name individually, it just goes to say well done to all who won an award!



## Attendance Matters

Congratulations to the winners of the attendance raffle for the second summer half term: Jack K (Year 8), James A (Year 9), Sarah B (Year 10), Jacob D (Year 11). Winners will receive an Amazon voucher when term commences. For those who are new to Northgate, for every two-week period a student has 100% attendance, they receive a virtual raffle ticket. A raffle is drawn every half term, with winners receiving vouchers.



Well done to 7MM, 8KPE, 9HH and 10CW who all won the fortnightly attendance competition just before we broke up. Trophies and certificates are proudly on display in tutor rooms. The attendance competition will be starting again soon. We all know how important good attendance is and the positive impact it has on progress, so would like to thank all Northgate parents and carers for supporting excellent attendance.





2023

Issue 59

### Adventures galore for CEDs

The last week of term saw Year 7 – 9 students take part in three days of trips, activities and workshops as part of the curriculum enhancement days. There was so much to choose from! This included a trip to the battlefields in Belgium for Year 9 and a visit to Boulogne in France for Year 7, an overnight stay in London including two West End shows and a workshop at Pineapple Dance Studios as well as trips to Banham Zoo, Go Ape, the Imperial War Museum, Natural History Museum and Harry Potter World.

Students could also take part in a golf workshop, Maths trail at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, visit to Pleasurewood Hills, bowling and cinema trip on top of various adventures around Norfolk and Rutland Water aqua park. Students had the chance to work at Gressenhall’s tree nursery along with in school activities including PE, film club, creative writing workshop, gaming, art lab, international cuisine and more. It’s safe to say that a great time was had by all. A big thank you goes to staff for organising such a huge array of activities for students to choose from. We can’t wait for next year!



### Merit Update

Well done to Hawking who were triumphant in the House merit competition this year. Across the year, 72,412 merits were awarded including 24,110 bonus merits for attendance, no negatives and excellent attitude to learning across the assessment points. There will be bonus merits to award in September from the second summer half term so some students will see a bumper start to their merit totals for the coming year. This year we had 320 students pass the 100 merit mark, 150 gain 150 or more merits, 21 gain 200 merits and 5 gain an incredible 250 or more merits – well done everyone!

Merit cashing in was particularly busy over the summer term with 43,813 merits cashed in this academic year. This included over 500 vouchers for use in Café North, 134 notebooks, 105 tennis balls, 49 fidget cubes, 54 sketch books, 39 footballs, basketballs, rugby balls and netballs.

You can find the new rewards catalogue for the coming year [here](#).

Hawking	Rowling	Attenborough	Holmes
96.27	94.83	93.33	90.18



## Updates from the Library

It's time for some updates from the library:

Recently, our top Year 7 Accelerated Reader students and library assistants were treated to a visit to the Norfolk Children's Book Day hosted by Norwich School. It was a fabulous day with inspiring authors Lisa Thompson, William Hussey and Ross Montgomery taking us on journeys through 17<sup>th</sup> century witchcraft, DfE camping trips and worlds created in our dreams. You can read more about the visit in our [blog](#), written by Imogen and Colette.

During Pride month our library was a rainbow of colour through displays created by our fabulous Library Assistants who also helped organise a library lunchtime LGBTQ+ meet up with a guest visitor from Norfolk LGBT+ Project. Many students have expressed a wish for a LGBTQ club next year so watch this space!

Year 8 were 'knocked out' by our visiting poet and boxer Matt Windle in July. Matt, a professional Commonwealth champion boxer by night and Poet Laureate by day, delivered an energetic and engaging talk before rounds of poetry boxercise workshops to selected students, a fabulous finish to the visitors we have hosted in the library this year.

Our final visit from our Writer in Residence, Matt Dickinson, was held in July with all Year 7s listening to his inspiring and engaging talk about climbing Mount Everest, overcoming challenges and the importance of reading. During creative writing workshops with Matt, students produced some outstanding work. During the past year Matt has worked with all year groups within the school and at Dereham Sixth Form

College, enhancing our curriculum subjects and promoting reading and writing and we are extremely grateful for his time, knowledge and commitment to our school during his residency.

To keep your reading from falling into a summer slump we had two fabulous competitions you could take part in and there's still some time left. The Summer Treasure Hunt requires you to complete 5 book-based challenges to win prizes in September – [Summer Treasure Hunt Map](#) or why not take part in our Extreme Reads photo competition? Take a picture of yourself reading in an unusual/interesting or exciting place (ensuring it is safe to do so) and email to Mrs Gill at [lgill@ng6.unity-ed.uk](mailto:lgill@ng6.unity-ed.uk) or tweet @NGatelibrary #extremereads

Congratulations to all our Creative Writers whose work has been selected for publication in the Young Writers Power of Poetry Competition.

Also, well done to Morganne (Year 7) who won the national writing competition – Sail Away for FCBG Share a Story Month, winning a fabulous book bundle.

Congratulations to Zak, who was our June Student Librarian of the month. Always punctual, helpful and polite, he has also helped process all our new books during June. We are lucky to have such a fabulous student librarian team!



2023

Issue 59





2023

Issue 59

### GCSE Success

Thursday 24th August saw Northgate’s Year 11s collect their GCSE results. It was great to see the hard work pay off and so many smiles and tears of joy. We were delighted with our GCSE outcomes for 2023 and congratulate all of our students, who have worked so hard to achieve these results. We wish all our students well with their future choices and look forward to seeing many of them continue with us in post-16 education. A big thank you to all the teaching and support staff involved in supporting our students during their time at Northgate and, of course, to parents and carers for their continued support.

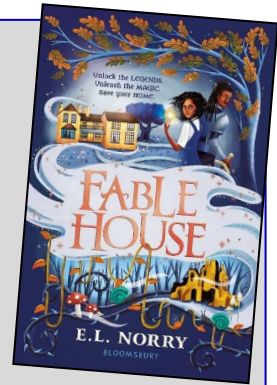


### Mrs Gill’s Recommended Reads

#### **KS3: Fablehouse by E L Norry**

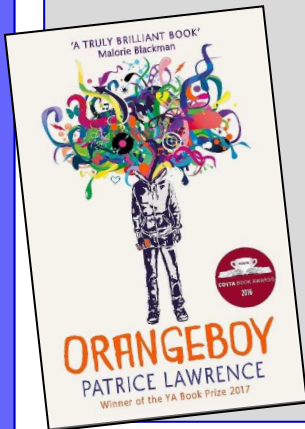
Fablehouse, a mysterious mansion surrounded by ancient woodland, is Heather’s new home. Roaming the countryside with some of the other mixed-race kids who are in care there, she finds a stone tower that feels strangely magical. There they meet Palamedes, the Black knight from King Arthur’s court.

He warns them that danger lurks in a world beneath their feet. Heather, Pal and friends set off to rescue children who have been taken to this threatening underworld. No child will be forgotten on their watch. Heather and friends realise they have been specially chosen for this quest. They must use the talents they’ve been given in the battle to save Fablehouse and all the children who have found shelter there. I adored this heart-warming adventure with the historical setting from a talented debut author.



#### **KS4: Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence**

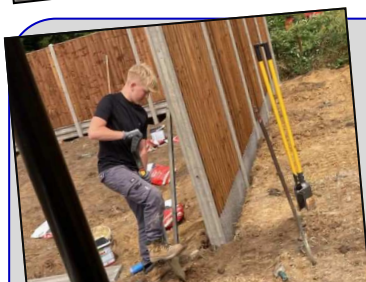
When he was younger, his older brother Andre went down the wrong path, a path that Marlon swore to his mum never to take. When a date ends in disaster, Marlon is left to pick up the pieces and is in serious danger. They want Mr Orange; and they will stop at nothing to get what they want. He is being hunted by gangs and is breaking his mother’s trust the more he tries to help. He swore not to, but what if he has to? Marlon has to decide how far he will go to save the ones he loves, whether they remember you or not. A fast-paced thriller with pressures of young gang culture and highly believable characters.



### Year 10s enter the World of Work

The last week of term saw our Year 10 students head into the big wide world and take part in a week of work experience. From building, plumbing and shop assistants to teaching assistants and hair dressers, there was a job for everyone. A big thank you to all of the local

businesses who hosted and supported our students and gave them an insight into so many different jobs.





2023

Issue 59

### Sports Day

Well done to everyone who took part in sports day this year. The field events and the longer distance races took place successfully outside in the morning with valuable points being accumulated for each House team. Unfortunately, the typical British weather was not in our favour in the afternoon meaning the events could not take place as scheduled. The PE department were not going to let this stop them and being as resourceful as they are, they turned the sprints and relays into indoor athletics events using the reverser boards. It may have been a little different, but it meant that those who had put themselves forward to represent their House teams, were still able to compete.



Congratulations to Jack K (Holmes) who broke the Year 7 boys shot putt record! The results of sports day were as follows:

4th – Attenborough (361 points), 3rd – Rowling (393 points), 2nd – Hawking (398 points) and 1st – Holmes (430 points).

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### More from the Library

What an amazing year with the Accelerated Reader scheme:

Year 7 words read - 39,793,326

Year 7 quizzes taken - 2067

Year 8 words read - 17,517,421

Year 8 quizzes taken - 974



This year we had 13 students become Word Millionaires, with 2 students reading over 2 million words (Eleanor G and Stanley W in Year 7)!

10 bronze, 9 silver and 10 gold badges and prizes were awarded to students reaching their points targets at the end of the year.

Finally, the Star Reader Tutor group competition - it was great to see so many students completing and passing quizzes, as well as writing reviews as part of the tutor group competition last half term, gaining a star each time. Well done to the winning tutor groups, 7RH (who earned over 100 stars) and 8KT!

Coming up in the Library next term: In September we look forward to celebrating Roald Dahl Month with a wealth of competitions, storytelling sessions, quizzes and activities.



In October our first community Harry Potter Quiz and Chip Night is due to be hosted, celebrating the national Bloomsbury Harry Potter Book Night.







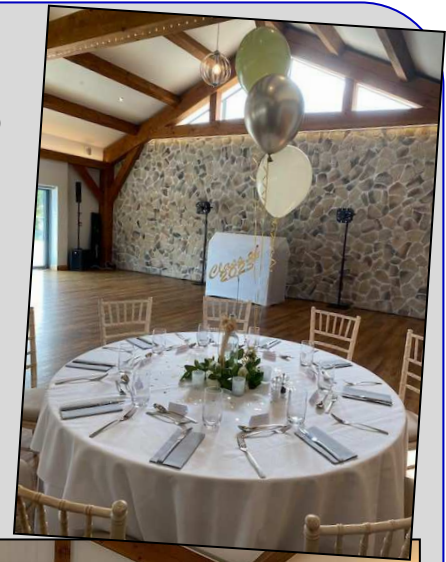
2023

Issue 59

### Goodbye and Good Luck

In June, after completing their GCSE exams, we said goodbye to our Year 11 students. Their leavers day was a chance to reminisce, with Mr Darlow reading some of the questionnaires they completed before arriving at Northgate. There were plenty of laughs and tears of happiness.

Later in the month, they had the chance to celebrate their 5 years at Northgate at their prom, which took place at Glen Lodge, Bawburgh. A big thank you to everyone involved in organising the special event and giving them all an occasion to remember.



### Brilliant Club Success

The Brilliant Club or Scholars' Programme is a charity which provides students from a variety of backgrounds a taster of what university life and studies are all about. We have been running this programme at Northgate for several years and our pupils have always found it hugely beneficial.

This year's cohort of 14 Year 9 students were no exception; they really embraced the programme and made the most of the time they got to spend at Cambridge University for the launch and graduation trips. Mrs Kaufmann-Ward said, 'I have been particularly impressed by how confident, engaged and respectful all of our students were when visiting these historical Cambridge colleges.' 'After our launch trip, students met weekly with their PhD tutor and worked through a personalised series of tutorials on History and Historical Re-enactments before they wrote their final assignment. This assignment was graded using university grades and I am incredibly proud of their results. All 14 students passed with either a 2:2, 2:1 and we even got a 1st from Harry W!'



Mrs Kaufmann-Ward is looking forward to taking another group of students through this programme next year and continuing to work with this year's cohort to make sure they continue on their path of academic excellence.

In our recent [blog](#), some of the participants tell us about the experience.





2023

Issue 59

### Celebrating Success

We always enjoy hearing about the achievements of our students and also what they get up to in their spare time. Mrs Graves, Head of Year 8, has shared some successes and highlights from some of the Year 8 students.

Evie P who plays rugby for the Crusaders was given the under 12 player of the year award – congratulations Evie!

Kai R asked if he could try clay pigeon shooting almost 2 years ago. He went along to the local clay pigeon shooting ground and loved it so much he asked to go back the following week. In the summer of 2022 Kai came 2nd in his class



for the season and he also won the DD Dodd cup. In November 2022 he took part in a competition at Chalk Farm Clay Ground in Swaffham and won the Norfolk Junior Champion Medal. In April 2023 he took part in the English Open. He was shooting against 1050 other people, 25 of which were classed as colts (under 16's). Kai's coach is Sam Green who is a World Champion in the sport. Well done Kai!

Here are some more successes and interests: Ella K swam a mile back stroke without stopping for charity, Zac P was awarded three man of the matches in a row playing for Holt Rugby Club, Will S won a final playing for Mattishall, Talisha H was successful in a rock painting contest at Dereham library, Poppy gained the highest score for under 12s in a dance competition and won the modern solo prize, and Morganne is busy training dogs to find people and things with her uncle at his company Hide and Go Sniff. Talli B has been fixing cars at car shows with her dad, Hope C has been enjoying attending Scouts, Oliver L takes part in airsoft and cricket for Mattishall and Jamie T rides motor cross. Jensen H has been taking part in BMX racing and airsoft, whilst Harry D has been motocross racing and dirt jumping. Josh W has also been doing airsoft and Layla W has been mountaineering. Finally, Emily O has been really busy, enjoying being active, horse riding, rock climbing and competitive mountain biking.

Wow, what a talented bunch of students we have! If you would like to share your achievements or hobbies with the school community, let your tutor or Head of Year know and we can share in an upcoming bulletin. Have you had some sporting, music or dance success? Have you been volunteering or won an award? Whatever it may be, we would love to hear about it!



### Top 6 most popular Library books

5 of the top 6 books borrowed from the Library are by author Matt Oldfield, who will be visiting Northgate in January. His football books always fly off the shelves!





## Year 7 Transition Days

2023

Issue 59

The last two days of term saw our new Year 7s come to Northgate for their transition days. There was an element of nerves and excitement but all embraced the two jam-packed days. Day one saw everyone split into their new tutor groups. An opportunity to start making new friendships which could last the next 5 years. Year 7s met Mrs Richardson and Mr Lennard, their new Heads of Year, and then it was straight to lessons. The day saw a whole host of lessons take place, including maths, history, RE, technology, geography, French, drama, English, music, art and PE. There was also the opportunity to visit the Library and see what it has to offer.

On the second day, an exciting science display by a fabulous company called Wonderstruck came to Northgate. They truly brought science theory to life with all the different experiments. Next, pupils were given the opportunity and time to put into practice everything they had learnt about rockets by making their own and launching them. After lunch they then investigated fan powered cars, by changing wheels, the angle of the chassis or the fans used, aiming to build the fastest car. They tested the cars in their tutor groups with the fastest cars from each group going through to the time trial finals. Everyone gathered in the hall for the final - all cars were successful, nobody crashed or ended up with a car that travelled in reverse, so all teams did extremely well. A big thank you goes to Wonderstruck for inspiring our new Year 7s and a massive congratulations to pupils who fully engaged and respectfully participated in the workshops. We hope everyone had an enjoyable two days of transition and is looking forward to starting Northgate in September.



## Ofsted's 'Good' judgement

Last term we were delighted to inform you that the Ofsted report had been released, and we shared with staff, parents, carers and the community that we received a resounding 'Good' judgement in every area of the report.



Heads of Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA, Mrs Galley and Dr Hone, were pleased that the two day inspection recognised the hard work and dedication of staff, and highlighted the 'polite and courteous' attitudes of students. You can read the full report on our [website](#).



## Summer School Fun

During August many of our new Year 7s spent three days in school taking part in our annual Summer School. An opportunity to get to know each other more, catch up with those they'd met on transition days, meet some of the teachers and find their way around the site, it was a jam packed three days.

2023

Day one started off with some 'getting to know you' games and a chance to settle. Three sessions then followed with students competing in benchball with Miss O'Callaghan and learning how to log in to the school computers and access their email accounts with Miss Brooks, followed by some games on Gimkit. They also took part in some mysteries in the Library with Mrs Gill with some excellent teamwork on display.

Issue 59

Day two came round and it was time to do some French with Mrs Sutcliffe - all sorts of activities related to numbers. Mr Masango held a music class where they practised various warmups, one again included numbers. Miss Lynn took the third session which was a fast paced escape room in the Library, finding hidden items, solving clues to find a key to open a locked box, eventually discovering the secret word. It was incredibly tense, and again, it was amazing to see the teamwork and encouragement of each other on display, with many students working with new people. In the afternoon, there was time to get to know the school site a bit better. Miss Theobald created a QR code treasure hunt, where students used phones and iPads to scan codes which gave them some challenging maths problems to solve, and told them where to find the next code and question. Map reading, maths and running, what could be more fun?!

The final day saw some more music along with a visit to The Orchard. French focussed on being able to describe clothes and colours, whilst in maths it was time to become super code breakers. The Year 7s learnt about how code breaking was used in the war and then had to break four codes themselves (Morse code, substitution code, pig pen cipher and Caesar cipher). In the afternoon there was biscuit decorating, a team quiz, testing observational skills around the school and a fun game.

Throughout the three days teams had to take photos along different themes with prizes being awarded to the most creative team. Three star students were awarded certificates and chocolates each day too. To end the summer school fun, all students were given a certificate to mark their hard work along with some sweets. A big thank you to the Sixth Form helpers, teachers who delivered sessions, and of course, Miss Lynn for organising the fun packed three days. We were so impressed with attitudes, effort, teamwork and enthusiasm of all who took part and can't wait to see more of the same in September.

