



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

January 2024

2024

Issue 63

Café North serve up delicious Christmas dinner

Tuesday 12th December saw over 320 students and staff enjoy their Christmas dinner in Café North. With festive tunes, great food and friends, what more could you ask for? It certainly met everyone’s approval. A huge thank you to Alan, Café North Chef Manager, and the whole Café North team for putting on a tasty and smoothly run dinner and to all the staff who helped with organising and the setting and clearing of tables.



Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin?

Follow this link to read about all the exciting activities and news from last month.

[December Bulletin](#)

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

INSET

4th January

Spring Term starts (Week B)

11th January

Explore Maths Day at UEA (selected Year 10 students)

Mid Norfolk Area Cross Country at Neatherd - am

12th January

Tia Fisher author visit (Year 9)

15th January

Norwich Theatre Royal Trip to see Woman in Black leaving Northgate at 6.15pm (Year 10 + 12 students with a few Year 9 places)

18th January

Drama and Dance Showcase – Northgate main hall at 7.00pm

19th January

Matt Oldfield author visit (Year 7 + 8)

23rd January

Norfolk Schools Cross Country Finals at Wymondham College – am

24th January

Year 9 Parents Evening
Year 9 DTP/MENACWY vaccinations

31st January

Intermediate Maths Challenge (Year 9 + 10)
Year 9 Options deadline



2024

Issue 63

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, Year 11s have successfully completed their mock exams, we've had author visits, GCSE presentation evening and a visit from George Freeman MP. There's been a whole host of clubs on offer, the school book fair, a popular Harry Potter Night quiz, sports matches, parents evenings, and much more. So many opportunities for our students, there really is something for everyone and lots to look forward to in the new year!

Thank you to students and staff for their fantastic work last 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 2024.



Christmas card competition

November saw the annual Christmas card competition take place. 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. Once again, there were some outstanding entries highlighting the talent and creativity of students and it was difficult to decide on a winner. Well done to all those who took part and in particular to Gabriella G (Year 9) who was the winner, Kacper P (Year 8) in second place and in joint third, Jess F (Year 9) and Shannon B (Year 10).



Goodbyes and Welcomes

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to some members of staff, Mrs Sutcliffe (MFL), Mrs Loates (Science) and Mr Collinge (Maths). We wish them all the best in their new jobs. As we start the Spring term we welcome new staff to Northgate, Mr Hayward (MFL), Mr Roddy (Science), Mr Adeleye (Maths) and Dr Mottram (Learning Support). We are sure students will make them feel welcome.

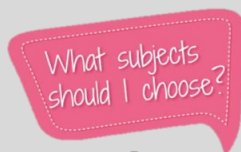


Year 9 Options

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 24th 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. Further information can be found on our website in the dedicated Year 9 Options [pages](#).



2024

Issue 63

Northgate hosts Christmas concert for the community

Thursday 14th December saw Northgate host their annual Christmas concert at St. Nicholas Church in Dereham. Compered by Mr Masango, the theme for the concert was 'It's the most wonderful time of the year'. The audience was treated to a piano instrumental by Emmanuel M on arrival and as the concert started, students from each year group sang verses of Once in Royal David's City. Izzy W (Year 11) sang a beautiful rendition of O Holy Night, accompanied by Emmanuel M on the piano. Year 7s and 8s read Christmas poems they had written, throughout the concert, accompanied by Megan D on the guitar.

The Northgate Community Choir made up of students, staff, parents and members of the Dereham community, sang their rendition of Gaudete and Little Drummer Boy, before being joined by the Northgate choir to sing Last Christmas. Isobel C (Year 9) sang a sensational rendition of Blue Christmas, accompanied by Lilly D on the piano. She received a rousing round of applause.

More Christmas poems followed before the Northgate Community Choir sang three lullabies from around the world; Brahms Lullaby, Malaika, a Swahili song, Ninna Nanna from Italy and Toboli from Ghana. The concert finished with everyone singing 'While Shepherds'. It was a lovely event and showed the talent that we have at Northgate. A huge well done to everyone who took part, the hours put into the concert really paid off. Thank you to the music department for all their effort too.

Hot chocolate and mince pies warmed visitors on a cold evening and Christmas gifts made by our Business Enterprise Team were available for sale. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Christmas concert.





2024

Issue 63

Students shine in Shakespeare play

This year marked the second anniversary of the Shakespeare project at Dereham Northgate High School; whereby students from Year 7 and 8 used their spare time across the Autumn term to create and develop an abridged version of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream on Thursday 7th December in the dance studio.

During this play the students interacted as the three main character groups known as the fairies, the mechanicals and the royals in a love story that intertwines into chaos and comedy.

The evening was a huge success with laughter and superb acting which brought the audience into the world of the magical forest outside of Athens.



Mr Dungar would like to share his pride in the students that took part who battled through complex texts, personal illnesses and physical routines to make the play come to life. Mr Dungar would also like to share that not one of the cast forgot or performed a line out of placement. Congratulations to all involved!

George Freeman MP visits Northgate

On Friday 8th December, George Freeman MP visited Northgate High School. George is the Member of Parliament for Mid-Norfolk, and until early November was Minister of State in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

We made the most of the hour that George was able to be with us, with Mr Oldfield guiding him round Northgate, introducing him to students, members of staff and explaining the positive impact that becoming a Laboratory School has made.

George demonstrated a deep interest in the learning that was going on; he contributed his French skills in Miss Abdouni's lesson and was fascinated by the political debate in Mr Hester's History lesson. In Mrs Chalmers' Maths class he joined in solving the problems the students were working through, followed by a perfectly timed arrival at Mrs Graves' English lesson where Year 10 were in the middle of studying persuasive speaking. With his experience as an MP, George was able to offer a few pointers and encourage the class too.

After pausing to watch the PE students competing in the Tough Mudder - he wasn't tempted to join in - the visit finished with a question-and-answer time with the Head Students in the Library.

They quizzed George on his successes as an MP and the issues he would like to address in the future, and he took a keen interest in their views. He expressed how impressed he was with the atmosphere of the school, how engaged in their learning the students were and how passionate about their subjects the teachers were. George has invited us to take a group of students to Parliament, to meet him and see it an action - watch this space for news about the visit.





2024

Issue 63

KS3 Students take on Tough Mudder

December saw the return of tough mudder in Year 7, 8 and 9 PE lesson – think cross country mixed with an obstacle course and plenty of mud! There were strong performances by many, showing great resilience. Well done to everyone who took on the course, with some pushing themselves to complete multiple loops! The PE department were pleased to send home lots of emails congratulating students who improved on each run.

Congratulations in particular goes to our top performers in each year group who performed consistently well, finishing in the top 5 for each run:

Top Year 7 girls: Gracie M, Gracie R, Darcy F, Grayson B, Sophie G.

Top Year 7 boys: James T, Cameron N, Leo S-P, Thiago M, Billy C, Isaac P, Samuel R, Noah T.

Top Year 8 girls: Kayla F, Megan M, Denver B, Gabrielle B, Amelia B, Talli B, Chloe S, Holly-Anne H, Imogen O’C.

Top Year 8 boys: Riley C, Zack R, Oliver G, Elliott W, Jacy F, Goncalo P, Freddie Co, Martin V.

Top Year 9 girls: Sarah C, Alexa M, Jessica F, Gabriela M, Gabriella G.

Top Year 9 boys: Liam C, Isaac R, Max S, Joshua D, Harry T, Harry C, Jordan A.

The course record was set this year by Liam C (Year 9) in a time of 6mins 48sec. The fastest times for 2023 were as follows, with the current Year 7s now holding the fastest course times for a Year 7 pupil:

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		2023 Record
Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	
9:02 Gracie M	7:52 Leo S-P + Cameron N	10:10 Gabrielle B	7:58 Zack R	10:20 Alexa M	6:48 Liam C	6:48 Liam C



The tough mudder results contribute to the House competition. The results were as follows:

Year 7 Girls:

- 1st – Attenborough
- 2nd – Hawking
- 3rd – Holmes
- 4th – Rowling

Year 7 Boys:

- 1st – Hawking
- 2nd – Attenborough
- 3rd – Rowling
- 4th – Holmes

Year 8 Girls:

- 1st – Attenborough
- 2nd – Hawking
- 3rd – Rowling
- 4th – Holmes

Year 8 Boys:

- 1st – Hawking
- 2nd – Attenborough
- 3rd – Rowling
- 4th – Holmes

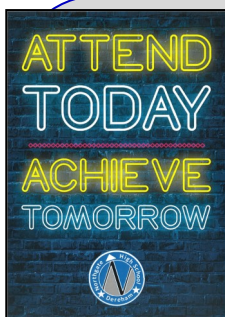
Year 9 Girls:

- 1st – Hawking
- 2nd – Attenborough
- 3rd – Holmes
- 4th – Rowling

Year 9 Boys:

- 1st – Rowling
- 2nd – Attenborough
- 3rd – Hawking
- 4th – Holmes

This means that overall in joint first place is Hawking and Attenborough, in third is Rowling and Holmes are in fourth. We look forward to a number of our students taking part in up-coming cross country competitions.



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7CC, 7OM, 8RH, 8SP, 9KT, 9TF, 10AB, 10NA, 10KM and 11SE who have all won the fortnightly attendance competition since the last bulletin. Trophies and certificates are proudly on display in tutor rooms.

Congratulations also go to the winners of our second half-termly attendance raffle: Indigo T (Year 7), Jenson H (Year 8), Oscar Sw (Year 9), Waisea D (Year 10) and Amelie C (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.



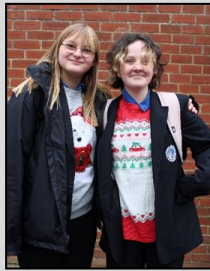
Christmas Jumper Day

We are proud of the generosity of students and staff at Northgate. Back in December, we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day. There were a whole host of festive jumpers from penguins and reindeer to Christmas trees and Nordic designs. It was great to see the Northgate community get into the festive spirit. We were proud to raise £158.65 for Save the Children.



2024

Issue 63



Accelerated Reader Stars

Fantastic effort from our top 3 readers in Year 7 – Zach W, Louise K and Joshua S and our top 3 readers in Year 8 – Riley C, Ella K and Dylan N – great job! In November and December over 1,300 books were issued from the library – amazing!

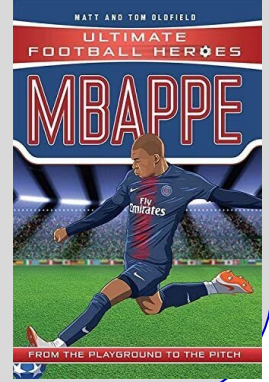
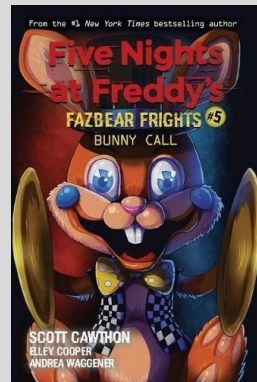
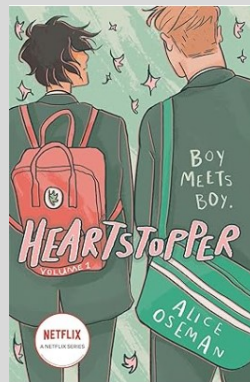
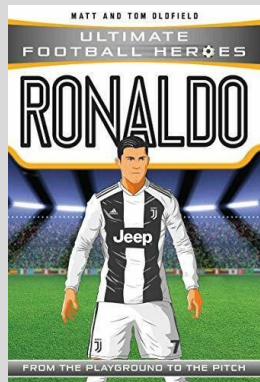
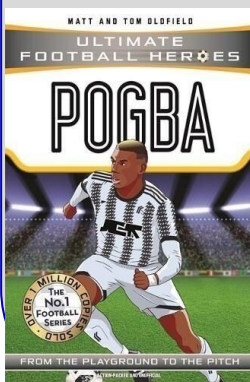
Congratulations to our new Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires – Phoebe L (Year 7) who has read 1,041,528 words since September and Harry B (Year 7) who has read 1,008,526 words. We also have our first multi-word millionaire – a huge well done to Tess C (Year 7) who has read a staggering 2,528,419 words since September! Well done to our recent fortnightly Accelerated Reader winners, Charlotte L and Jayden D (Year 7) and Lexi K and Jake W (Year 8). Half term book mark draw winners were Harry B and Niamh J-D (Year 7)! All received special prizes for their efforts.



Books, books and more books

The top 5 reads in November and December were:

Pogba (Ultimate Football Heroes) by Matt and Tom Oldfield, Ronaldo by Matt Oldfield, Heartstopper, Volume 1 by Alice Oseman, Bunny Call by Scott Cawthon, Alley Cooper and Andrea Wagner and Mbappe: from the playground to the pitch by Matt and Tom Oldfield. We are fortunate enough to have Matt Oldfield visiting Northgate later this month – we can't wait. We are sure his sessions will be extremely popular as his books always fly off the shelves.





Updates from the Library

It's been a busy couple of months since we last had updates from the library. Mrs Gill gives us a rundown on what has been going on including lots of Accelerated Reader successes.

Congratulations to the 72 Year 7 and Year 8 students who reached (or exceeded) their Accelerated Reader points targets! All were rewarded with a prize, badge and certificate in a festive celebration in the library.



The Accelerated Reader competition last half term was based on 'I'm a Celeb' called 'I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Reading'. Students earned dingo dollars for their camp mates (tutor group) by scoring 100% on AR quizzes, completing and passing vocabulary quizzes, reading an AR article and completing the quiz, reading two books and writing reviews on AccessIT or telling Mrs Gill a new and challenging word from their book and explaining its meaning. It was a fiercely contested competition and the prizes went to 7CG and 8TLY. Well done to all those who contributed dingo dollars!

2024

Issue 63



Upcoming events:

January 12th – Author Tia Fisher visiting Year 9.

January 19th – Author Matt Oldfield visiting Year 7 and 8

Percy Jackson Event - end of January—date TBC.



The Student Librarian of the month for December was awarded to Sabrina who has been elftastic this month!

Merit Update

The first term has gone in a flash. There were just over 45,000 merits awarded over the term – an amazing achievement! We now have 54 students who have passed the 100 merit mark. Over the Christmas holidays a further 1689 bonus merits were awarded for excellent attendance, 1695 for no negatives and 2605 to those who received all 'excellent' or 'goods' for attitude to learning in AP1. Well done everyone!

All of these merits have 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 Monday from 12.30pm - 12.50pm in the main hall. In fact, on 15th January, there will be a January sale with 10% off everything! We have some great rewards available, just take a look at our [catalogue](#).

Attenborough have maintained the lead in the House merit competition, however it is still really close so every merit counts.

Attenborough	Hawking	Rowling	Holmes
54.10	53.55	53.43	50.60



2024

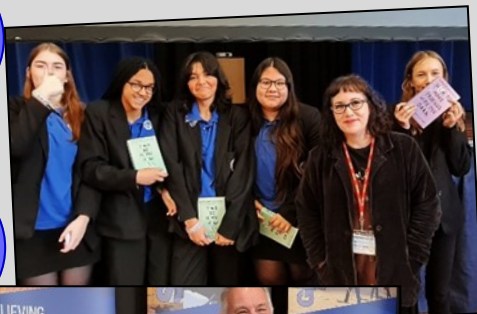
Issue 63

Updates from the Library continued

As part of Non Fiction November we had a team of students take part in the What on Earth! Quiz Challenge heats. We were incredibly proud of the team who tested their knowledge and lightning quick responses!



We were thrilled to welcome Kathleen Glasgow to Northgate last half term. She is the best-selling author of Tik Tok sensation, *Girl in Pieces*, as part of her first UK tour. Kathleen gave a brief talk about her inspiration behind her writing, highlighting mental health issues and coming of age themes within her international best-selling novels. Selected Year 10s, Dereham Sixth Form students and Year 9 Library Assistants helped collaboratively create a story and asked some brilliant questions during the visit!



Book Buzz – in the last week of term, all Year 7s received a free gifted book that they chose back in September, gifting as part of the Icelandic tradition of Jolabokaflokkur (book flood). It was started during World War II, when paper was one of the few things not rationed in Iceland. Because of this, Icelanders gave books as gifts on Christmas Eve while other commodities were in short supply, turning them into a country of bookaholics to this day.

Scholastic Book Fair - a huge thank you to all who supported our December Scholastic Book Fair. From the takings, our school library received £167.84 in rewards to spend on books that will be in the library from January. Our next book fair will be in March.



Congratulations to our budding Poets! Here are our amazing 'This is Me' poetry competition winners (Freddie, Isla, Amelia, Verity and Morganne) who have been selected to have their poems published in the Young Writers compilation poetry book!

Finally, Mrs Gill was a proud Librarian when she found out that Year 7 student, Robyn, had been awarded the new Blue Peter book badge. To earn



the badge, Robyn had to share her thoughts on a favourite book, draw a character or scene or tell Blue Peter about other books and writers she loves!