



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

February 2024

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Issue 64

SPARX Success!

The Maths Department successfully launched SPARX Maths to Year 10s in January and they have already completed their first few homework tasks. This means Years 9, 10 and 11 are now all using the online platform which tailors questions to each student and the department is pleased with the approach students are taking each week.

Since September an incredible **210,535** questions have been answered correctly across **3,927** hours of personalised learning. Close to **220** students have also gained enough XP to level up. Keep up the great work!

Congratulations to our SPARX stars who have gained the most XP in each Year group: Freya N, Dana H and Joseph C in Year 9, Taylor R, Robyn H and Darius B in Year 10 and Maria K, Hermione C and Nathan H in Year 11.



Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin?

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

[January 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



Upcoming events

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

1st February

TOAST poetry event for Year 9 and 10

Time to Talk Day

Make Your Mark Campaign and Norfolk

Youth Parliament voting throughout February

2nd February

Number Day - Year 7

6th February

Year 7 Boys South Norfolk 5 aside football cup

7th February

Year 8 Girls South Norfolk 5 aside football cup

8th February

Year 9 Girls South Norfolk 5 aside football cup

17th February

Year 7 trip - Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Romeo and Juliet at Norwich Theatre Royal at 11am

19th - 23rd February

Half Term

26th February

New half term begins (Week A)

27th February

Dance Competition (Making Moves) in Dance East Ipswich

28th February

Year 11 GCSE PE practical assessment

Northgate's Orchard Committee needs you!

The Orchard Committee has been running for a while now and has been busy completing a number of tasks over the autumn and winter in the Orchard. The Committee is in need of new recruits though (students and staff) to ensure all the tasks that need to be completed can be. However, it is not just activities over in the Orchard that are completed in their weekly meetings, such as collecting and stratifying seeds, preparing the wildflower area, pruning the apple trees and planting. The Committee has also got hands on with making tree cookie Christmas decorations, twisted willow stars, clay insects, researching flowers and more.



Miss Theobald and Mrs Grieve, who work with the students, alongside Ben Earle from Gressenhall Environment Hub, have a whole host of exciting activities in the pipeline for the coming months. This includes making a bug hotel, flower pressing, hedge planting with 105 saplings (arriving in March), Hapa Zome and much more! So, if you like working outside, enjoy being in nature, getting creative and working with others, this is the perfect opportunity for you! The Committee is also looking to work towards two awards with The Woodland Trust and The Royal Horticultural Society over the coming months so your input would be invaluable!

The Committee meets on a Thursday after school until about 4.15pm/4.30pm depending on the activities, starting in MA6 and heading over to the Orchard. If you want to find out more, please speak to Miss Theobald or Mrs Grieve or just come along and join in. We look forward to welcoming new recruits who can help shape the Orchard for future Northgate students.



Year 10s Explore Maths at the University of East Anglia

Last month some of our Year 10 students headed to the University of East Anglia for an 'Explore Maths' day hosted by the Advanced Maths Support Programme. An opportunity to listen to inspiring enrichment talks and attend hands-on workshops, all on a mathematical theme, our Year 10s approached the day with enthusiasm and open minds. The talks included one on the beauty of Maths in the world around us and another on where numbers come from, were they discovered or created? Students attended two workshops as well, one related to the mathematical field of graph theory and the other about McDonalds, Maths and the McNugget number.

To read more about it, take a look at our [blog](#).



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Northgate's Cross-Country success

Congratulations to all our students who represented Northgate at the Mid-Norfolk Cross-Country competition at Neatherd on 11th January. It was a very successful event for our students, which included three age group race winners!

Well done to Grace M and Cameron N (Year 7) and Liam C (Year 9) who won their races and to the Year 7 girls who won the team event. The Year 7 boys narrowly lost out to Neatherd so finished second in the team event.

We had many additional qualifiers who finished in the top eight of their age group race and went on to represent Mid Norfolk at the Norfolk Schools finals at Wymondham College on 23rd January.

Year 7 Girls: Grace M (1st), Darcy F (4th), Grace R (9th - Reserve)

Year 7 Boys: Cameron N (1st), Leo S-P (3rd), James T (6th), Billy C (9th - Reserve), Thiago M (10th - Reserve)

Year 8/9 Girls: Kayla F (8th), Megan M (9th - Reserve)

Year 8/9 Boys: Liam C (1st), Isaac R (7th)

A huge well done to all the cross-country runners who competed at Wymondham College on 23rd January especially Year 7's Cameron and Gracie who finished in the qualifying spots. Cameron finished 4th and Gracie finished 9th both qualifying to represent Norfolk at the Anglian Schools Championships on Saturday 4th February at Abingdon Park in Northampton. These are exceptional performances by both students especially Cameron's 4th place against some of the top runners from around Norfolk.



Make you vote count

Throughout February our students will have the opportunity to cast their vote in PART lesson in the UK Youth Parliament's 'Make Your Mark' campaign. Make Your Mark gives all young people aged 11-18 in the UK the chance to have a say on the biggest issues facing young people. Previous topics voted on have included stopping plastic pollution, votes at 16, tackling discrimination and hate crime in the UK, tackling child poverty and supporting our mental health, amongst others.



Students will also have the chance to vote for candidates to represent them in the Norfolk Youth Parliament elections. Finally, there will be the chance to have their say on changes they want to see locally in the Youth Advisory Board Consultation. Three opportunities for students to have their voices heard so make sure you look out for more information in PART lesson and get involved.



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Author Tia Fisher visits Northgate

Students at Northgate are fortunate enough to experience engaging and inspiring talks and workshops by a whole host of different authors. Earlier in January we were delighted to welcome author Tia Fisher, presenting an informative and insightful talk to our Year 9s and invited Dereham Sixth Form students, followed by a fabulous creative writing workshop for selected Year 9s who produced some outstanding work!



During library lessons, Year 9 have been reading Tia's debut narrative verse novel 'Crossing the Line'. The compelling and hard-hitting empathetic novel is based on a true story of a young vulnerable Norwich school boy coerced into county lines drug trafficking and carries an important message to all who read it, and is currently nominated for 7 literature awards.

Akhina, Year 9, said, 'Attending Tia's talk was a transformative experience that left an incredible mark on my appreciation for storytelling and literature. I felt extremely lucky to give Tia an introduction speech. During the workshop we were able to write about a favourite part from her book, 'Crossing the Line'. We explored the paths of creative writing. I loved every part of the task and workshop, it was a pleasure being there.'

Annabelle, Year 9, said, 'The talk was really inspiring and very informative, it was great hearing about what inspired her to write her book: 'Crossing the line'. I also really enjoyed the workshop that we did with her, and she helped us write our own bit of poetry about a part of her book. If Tia did do another workshop, then I would love to be a part of it!'



Recycling

Congratulations to our recent top recycling tutor groups 7AS, 8RH, 9KT, 10AB and 11SE. During the last half term, students and staff recycled 7.9Kg of soft plastics which included bread bags, bakery plastic, crisp packets, biscuit, and cake bar wrappers. The Terracycle Schemes also includes Pringles tubes. This is on top of several kilograms of pens, board markers and highlighters. The plastic gets sent away to Terracycle, ground into plastic pellets and then made into new plastic items. In return, the school receives money per kilogram of plastic sent away. The more we recycle, the more we earn!

Since the school joined its first scheme back in 2018, over 320Kg of writing instruments, 380Kg of crisp packets and 100Kg of other plastics have been recycled, with the help of community groups too. This has raised a fantastic £590 for Cancer Research UK (chosen by School Council members) and £250 for the school! Please continue to send in your plastics – all tutor groups have their own collection boxes and all classrooms have dead pen pots.



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Students treated to more Author visits

It's been a busy month with author visits at Northgate. Last week we welcomed a return visit by historical author, Julia Edwards. Julia is the author of the Scar Gatherer series, a sequence of 7 time travel adventures and gave an insightful, informative and engaging talk on the slave trade to all Year 8, the basis of one of her novels, 'Slaves for the Isabella'. This supports their work in history.



The ever popular author of the 'Playground to Pitch' football series, Matt Oldfield, delighted a packed audience of Year 7 and Year 8 students one Friday in January as he talked about how his love of football and sport. He spoke about how his love of facts and stories, combined with the sport, has enabled him to write about football stars across the world. Matt continued the day with writing workshops on 'Bouncing Back from Setbacks' and students produced some amazing stories to be continued in lessons.



Year 11 make the most of Revision Sessions



With exam season very much on the horizon for our Year 11 students, teachers are offering revision and support after school every day of the week. See our timetable of sessions on our Facebook post so your child can make the most of this time. Year 11 students are being rewarded for their attendance at these sessions: every 10 sessions attended gives you a raffle ticket. So far Nathan and Abi have walked away with £10 vouchers and an extra 10 hours of revision! Please collect a reward card from the Office or Mrs Kaufmann-Ward.

Merit Update

Just a few weeks into the new term and students have now passed the 50,000 merit mark, a fantastic achievement! We've had some merit sales recently which students have made the most of too! Over 7,000 merits have now been cashed in since September. We now have 3 students who have 150 or more merits and 99 who have 100 or more merits.

Merit cashing in is taking place on Mondays this year, in the main hall from 12.30pm – 12.50pm. Take a look at what you can exchange your merits for in our rewards [catalogue](#). Attenborough still maintain their lead in the House merit competition.

Attenborough	Hawking	Rowling	Holmes
61.18	60.51	60.07	56.64



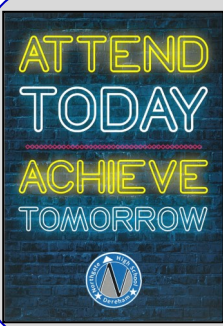
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Drama and Dance students shine bright!

On 18th January Northgate hosted its latest Drama and Dance Showcase. An opportunity to show the huge range of talent in the performing arts from Northgate and Dereham Sixth Form students. The showcase was a huge success! Talented performers from both the Dance and Drama department performed for an audience of over 200 people in the Main Hall.

From beautiful soloists to upbeat group dances, the students truly showcased their abilities. The drama club performed a range of sketches all based on retelling fairy tales with a twist and the GCSE Dance group performed assessment pieces based on families struggling to survive in a terrifying war-torn country. There were A-Level dance solos from Liliana C and Emma D alongside some from KS3 and KS4 students, including Kaylee K and Gabriela M. A highlight was the upbeat dance solo from Zuzanna Z who got the audience clapping along and dancing in their seats to Meghan Trainor's 'Me Too'. A night to remember! Mrs Harris is extremely proud of every student involved and can't wait to start the next adventure of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory with the talented students of Northgate High School and Dereham Sixth Form.



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7CG, 7OM, 8SP, 8VE, 9TF, 9NC, 10AB, 10SO, 11AGR and 11KM who have all won the fortnightly attendance competition so far this half term. Trophies and certificates are proudly on display in tutor rooms.

We all know how important good attendance is and would like to thank all Northgate parents and carers for supporting excellent attendance.

