



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

March 2024

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Issue 65

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Upcoming events

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

1st March

NLT Reading Champions quiz hosted at Northgate
Year 7 National Space Centre trip

4th March

World Book Week (see Library updates for further information)
Dave Rudden Author Visit for Year 7 +
Literary cake bake competition
National Youth Dance Workshop for selected students

5th March

Year 8 Norwich Book Festival (Year 8 top readers/AR ambassadors and Library assistants)

7th March

World Book Day – Year 7 and 8 only. Dress as a book character or design a T-shirt book cover
Norfolk Skills Fair Year 10 and 12

8th March

Sponsored Read-In for Year 7 and 8 students (limited places available)

9th – 17th March

British Science Week

11th – 17th March

Big Plastic Count

11th March

Great British Spring Clean – school litter pick at lunchtime

13th March

Science Fair

Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin?

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

[February Bulletin](#)

14th March

Pi Day

15th March

Annaliese Avery Author Visit for Year 8

20th – 27th March

Scholastic Book Fair in the Library

21st March

Spring Showcase at 6.30pm in the Main Hall

26th March

Year 10 Geography Trip to Winterton on Sea

27th March

Year 11 Group photo and individual combinations

28th March

INSET Day and end of Spring Term





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Northgate joins the Big Plastic Count

We are joining the Big Plastic Count! We are inviting everyone at home to participate in positive change. Together, we can build even more evidence about what happens to our plastic waste to help put a stop to the plastic crisis.

In 2022, nearly 250,000 people from schools, households and communities across the country made The Big Plastic Count the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste. It showed that nearly 100 billion pieces of plastic are thrown away in the UK each year, with hardly any of it recycled. The rest is burned, sent abroad, or ends up in landfill. We can't recycle our way out of the plastic waste crisis, so The Big Plastic Count is back – and this time we've got an even bigger target in our sights – The Global Plastics Treaty.

By joining thousands of people across the country and counting all the plastic you throw away for a week, you can gather the vital evidence we need to convince UK ministers, supermarkets and big brands to lead the way at the global talks that could finally phase out plastic production for good.



How to take part: It's easy! From Monday 11th March until Sunday 17th March, count as you throw! Simply mark every piece of plastic packaging as you throw it away on the [Let's Count Tally Sheet](#).

Record the different types of household plastic packaging waste you use for one week. This includes plastic going in your bin and plastic you put out for recycling. Use the [Plastic ID Tool](#) to look up plastic items if you need to.

Once your household has completed the survey, record their results online at home via their unique Year group link. This can be found on the Satchel One task. This needs to be completed by Wednesday 20th March. Find out more about The Big Plastic Count [here](#). A letter will be going home soon with more information. We hope as many families take part as possible.

Students invited to join the Great British Spring Clean

We are looking forward to students joining our Great British Spring Clean litter pick on Monday 11th March at lunch time. Dereham Community Litter Pickers will kindly be lending us extra equipment again for this event - thank you to them!

The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's largest mass-action environmental campaign.

It encourages everyone to help keep local communities clean, green, and litter-free by either hosting or participating in a litter pick. Last year, the country's incredible #LitterHeroes pledged to pick up more than 400,000 bags of litter throughout the campaign. It's a fantastic initiative that brings people together to make a visible difference in their areas and foster pride in their local communities. So, whether you're an individual or part of a group, consider joining this effort to keep Britain tidy!



TAKE PART IN A SCHOOL LITTER PICK AS PART OF
THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN!
MEET IN THE MAIN HALL ON MONDAY 11TH MARCH AT 12.30PM
TO GET YOUR EQUIPMENT. LITTER PICK UNTIL 12.50PM.

We all have a role to play keeping the school grounds free from litter



With equipment kindly loaned by Dereham Community Litter Pickers





Year 7 Number Day

Friday 2nd February saw the whole of Year 7 come together for the annual Number Day activities, organised by Miss Theobald from the Maths department. During Period 4 half of the year group gathered in the main hall. They started their session with number aerobics, which included some volunteers demonstrating what to do. It was great to see such enthusiasm from everyone!

The main activity was a quiz. There were certainly some tricky questions however determination took over. The final part of the session involved students creating real life graphs. It gave them an opportunity to start to discover more about straight line graphs, a topic they will develop later in their Maths curriculum. During Period 5 the remaining Year 7s had their chance to join in the fun and they also took part in a 'very strange game' looking at properties of numbers.

There was a teacher treasure hunt which students could take part in during break and lunchtime or at home via Satchel One. 25 teachers had been assigned a number. Students had to answer questions such as 'what is the sum of the Maths teachers?', 'which teachers are square numbers?', 'which teacher is the smallest prime number?' and so on. New for this year was a virtual escape room. Almost 30 students took part in this in their own time, solving problems and cracking the codes to 10 different rooms in the school. Some great problem solving on display.

Congratulations to the winners in each teaching group who came top in the quiz and to the winners of the treasure hunt and escape room.

Miss Theobald was pleased to be able to go into the Year 7 assembly to present all the certificates and prizes. You can read more about Number Day [here](#).



UKMT Maths Challenge Congratulations!

At the end of January, 60 of our Year 9 and 10 students took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge alongside thousands of students across the country. Just before half term the Maths Department received the results. A huge well done to everyone who took part –

some of the questions were certainly challenging. Well done in particular to those who gained certificates: Year 9 – Bronze certificates:

Rhys B, Thomas B, Annabelle B, Freya N, Ella P and Akhina R (Best in Year 9), Year 10 – Bronze certificates: Amilie A, Taylor B, Kat C, Wyn E, Kaylee K, Hayley S, Elliot S and Piotr W,

Silver certificates: Kyra T and Maisie S (Best in Year 10 and Best in School).

We look forward to some of our Year 7s and 8s taking part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge after Easter.





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Upcoming Events in the Library

On Friday 1st March, we will have two teams representing Northgate in the regional heat of the NLT Reading Champion Quiz hosted in the Library. Students will be battling their reading knowledge against 25 other teams competing from Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire schools. This event is always a great opportunity to share a love of reading and literature with other students and is always enjoyed by everyone participating - we wish our teams the very best of luck. 'May the odds be ever in your favour' (The Hunger Games).

World Book Week takes place from 4th - 8th March and there are lots of exciting activities to get involved in! We are delighted that this year we are celebrating a whole week of book related activities to mark World Book Day. Monday 4th March - Literary cake bake competition. Plan, design and bake a cake based on a literary character or book to be brought into school on Monday 4th March where they will be judged on appearance, originality and taste by a host of willing staff. Fabulous prizes will be awarded at lunchtime. Entry slips will be available from the library, English teachers and Food Tech. On Monday 4th March we also welcome Irish author Dave Rudden talking to Year 7 students. Signed books can be purchased on the day.

Thursday 7th March – Students from Year 7 and Year 8 are encouraged to join staff in dressing up as a book character to celebrate World Book Day. Characters must be easily identified and appropriate. Perhaps join your friends and think of a book theme - Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan, Where’s Wally, Narnia, Marvel or Manga etc. Creative original handmade costumes can be easily put together with a little imagination and plenty of inspiration.

This year we are introducing the option to draw/paint your favourite book cover onto a plain T-shirt - front and back - a fabulous advert for books around the school! There will be a



character line up at break with lots of prizes awarded so let’s fill the classrooms and corridors with bringing books to life! Or perhaps you could create a scene of a book within a jar - prizes for the best book jars.

Friday 8th March – Sponsored Read - In for Year 7 and Year 8 students. There will be limited



places available to sign up for a sponsored Read-a thon in the library. Students will be reading all day raising money for the charity Read for Good. A sign up sheet is available in the library.

£1 Book tokens will be available in the library for all students to give discount on a book or exchange for one of the World Book Day books available in all good bookstores and supermarkets. The Scholastic Book Fair also returns from March 20th - 27th. There will be plenty of choice for all tastes and World Book Day vouchers can be exchanged for £1 off any book title.





Updates from the Library

It's been a busy couple of months once again in the Library. Mrs Gill gives us some updates: During February Year 7 students read an astonishing 3,796,457 words whilst Year 8 students read 1,529,729 words.

The top 3 borrowers in each year group this half term were:

Year 7 – Mason W (12 books), Imogen H (11 books) and Joshua S (11 books)

Year 8 - Ella K (6 books), Megan O (6 books) and Alarni H (5 books)

The top reading and Accelerated reader winning tutor groups in February were 7AM, reading 20 books and 1,145,266 words and 8VE, reading 11 books and 777,903 words.

The most popular books from last half term were Mbappe: From playground to pitch by Matt Oldfield, My Hero Academia, Vol 3 by Kohei Horikoshi and A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson.



Mrs Gill was pleased to go into a recent Year 7 celebration assembly to present Louise K with

the fortnightly AR quiz winner prize of chocolate and a book. She also presented Ben G and Freddie W with their Word Millionaire certificates, books, chocolate, book vouchers and badges.

Mason W was presented with prizes and a certificate for becoming a double word millionaire and Tess C for becoming a 4 times millionaire, reading an astonishing number of words since September!

Merit Update

The third half term is now over and students are close to achieving 60,000 merits - an astonishing achievement just half way through the year. We now have 1 student who has 200 or more merits, 22 who have 150 or more merits and 185 who have 100 or more merits. Merit certificates were handed out just before half term, including in a Year 7 celebration assembly.

During half term lots of bonus merits were awarded - 1390 for 100% attendance for the first Spring half term, 597 for >95% attendance and 1835 for no negatives. Well done to all those who have seen their merit totals rise.



Merit cashing in continues to take place on Mondays, 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 however it is incredibly close between the top 3.

| Attenborough | Rowling | Hawking | Holmes |
|--------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 71.80 | 71.15 | 70.84 | 66.37 |

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Library Updates

Events that have taken place recently: We welcomed back to Northgate TOAST poetry, who gave an engaging and entertaining performance to selected Year 9 and Year 10 students with poetry focussing on power and conflict to support their GCSE English work. TOAST regularly perform in theatres across Norfolk bringing young vibrant poets from across the UK to new audiences, and so this was a fabulous opportunity for our students to experience their performance!



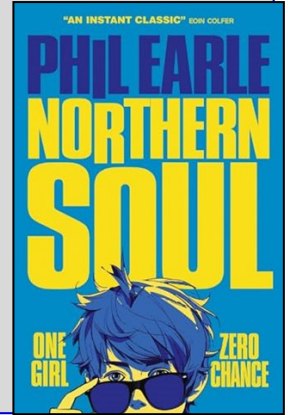
Following the release of the Disney series based on the ever-popular book series we held our first Percy Jackson themed event. Students enjoyed a variety of tasks issued at each camp including archery, treasure hunt, Greek food tasting and crafts, gaining their camp bead from each activity. A special mention to students Jemima, Tess and Charlie for their artistic talents



in helping with the prepping. We all had a fabulous evening and we are already looking at new ideas ready for next year!

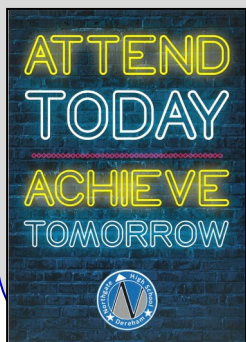
Mrs Gill's Recommended Read – Northern Soul by Phil Earle.

In this charming read, Marv's once ordinary life takes a delightful twist when Carly Stonehouse arrives at school. Marv is enchanted by Carly and embarks on a humorous quest for her affection, enlisting some unconventional 'help' along the way from the legendary Prince of Soul. Filled with witty character this short, accessible novel strikes a perfect balance between humour and relatability and I absolutely loved it - a great addition to our school library and suitable for all year groups.



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7CC, 7CG, 8SP, 8RP, 9TF, 9NC, 10NA, 10KS, 11SJ and 11AGR who have all won the fortnightly attendance competition in the last month. It's nice to see different tutor groups winning. Trophies and certificates are proudly on display in tutor rooms.



Congratulations also to our half termly raffle winners: Daisy R (Year 7), Mayte S (Year 8), Annabelle B (Year 9), Chloe K (Year 10) and Jack W (Year 11) - they all receive an Amazon voucher as their prize.

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

