



# Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

April 2024

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## Celebrating Northgate's published authors!

Congratulations to our young writers, Amelia, Isla and Verity (Year 8) who have recently had some of their written work published in a book called, 'This is Me'. Here they are receiving a copy of the book. We are always incredibly proud to see the work of our talented students in print.



## Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin?  
Follow this link to read about all the exciting activities and news from last month.

[March Bulletin](#)

## Upcoming events continued

25th – 26th April

11B GCSE Fine Art Exam + 11B GCSE Photography Exam

29th – 30th April

GCSE French speaking exam (Mrs Oates' class)

30th April – 1st May

11A GCSE Photography Exam

## Upcoming events

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

2nd – 12th April

GCSE Year 11 Easter School – revision sessions and workshops throughout the holidays (see [poster](#) for details)

5th - 27th April

Year 7 French Exhibition at Dereham Windmill (Fridays and Saturdays 10am - 3pm) – those with work displayed get in for free

12th April

Orchard Committee presenting at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse's Earth Day event - 10am - 4pm

15th April

Summer term begins (Week B)

17th April

SPIN evening 6pm - 7.30pm in the main hall (see page 7 for further info)

22nd April

Year 9 Exams (til 24th April)  
GCSE Spanish speaking exam

23rd April

World Book Night

23rd – 24th April

11A GCSE Fine Art Exam

24th April

Year 9 Art Exhibition 5pm – 6pm  
Year 7 theatre trip to Norwich Theatre Royal to see Boy at the Back of the Class

25th April

Year 7 + 8 Junior Maths Challenge  
GCSE French speaking exam  
(Mrs Abdouni's class)



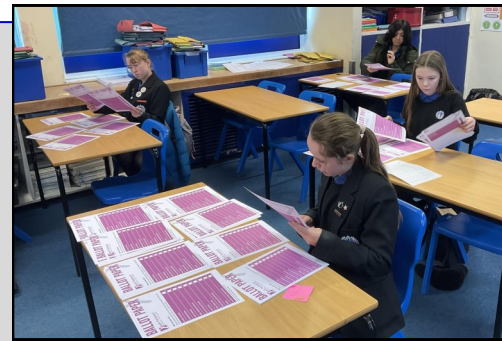


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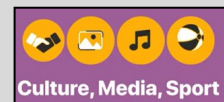
### Make Your Mark Results

A big thank you to tutors and students for running the Make Your Mark voting, Norfolk Youth Parliament voting and Youth Advisory Board consultation back in February. With help from School Council members who counted up some of the votes, the results are in.



For the Make Your Mark voting, students had to pick just one of ten topics that was most important to them. The topics voted for most across the country would then inform Youth Parliament members of their aims for their two year period. At Northgate we had a 74% turnout with students voting during PART lesson. Their top 3 priorities were:

- (with 26%) Health and Wellbeing (Improved access to mental health support, end food poverty, banning gay conversion therapy)
- (with 17%) Jobs, the Economy and Benefits (More funded training and Apprenticeships, Boost young people's pay, Ending homelessness)
- (with 12%) Crime and Safety (End knife violence, Decriminalisation) and Culture, Media and Sport (Boost young people's voice in media, Fund the arts, Fund afterschool sport)



For the Youth Advisory Board consultation, students had to answer two questions, picking their top three priorities for each. The most commonly selected issues will form their priorities for the next year. The Youth Advisory Board will address these issues by campaigning for change or funding projects. The first question was 'What would benefit your education?' Their top 3 priorities were:

- (with 20%) Support with exams and learning strategies (eg stress, improving focus)
- (with 16%) Careers support for the future (eg support getting into college, university or jobs)
- (with 14%) Anti-bullying (eg more support and better ways of reporting bullying)

The second question was 'What would you like to see improved in your community and leisure time?' Their top 3 priorities were:

- (with 16%) Better maintained parks and outdoor spaces (eg improved equipment and more things to do) and Transport links (eg cheaper public transport and better timetables)
- (with 13%) Safe ways to travel by walking/cycling (eg better paths and street lighting)
- (with 12%) More free or cheap clubs and activities (eg gym, the arts or sport)

### Merit Update

We're now two thirds of the way though the school year and students continue to impress us with their hard work. Over 70,000 Merits have now been awarded with since September. We now have 8 students who have 200 or more merits, 65 with 150 or more merits and 290 who have 100 or more! Bonus merits for attendance and no negatives will be awarded over the Easter holidays.

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](#).

Since the last bulletin, Rowling have taken the lead in the House merit competition.

Rowling	Attenborough	Hawking	Holmes
84.77	84.12	83.49	78.04



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### Students volunteer for Great British Spring Clean

11th March saw a number of our students join Dr Hone, Miss Ferreira and Miss Theobald during their lunch break to take part in the Great British Spring Clean litter pick. Taking real pride in the school environment, they went round the year group areas and picked as much litter as they could in 20 minutes or so. Extra equipment was kindly lent to Northgate by Dereham Community Litter Pickers, a local litter picking group who meet fortnightly and do an amazing job in the community keeping Dereham clean. A number of our students have taken part in some of their litter picks recently so we would definitely encourage Northgate students and families to get involved (just follow their Facebook page). Three bags of litter later and the school site was visibly tidier. Much of the litter had blown into hedges and bushes and hard to spot areas. Our amazing volunteers were all rewarded with

merits and a voucher for Café North as a thank you for their efforts.



### Northgate competes in National Reading Champions Quiz

Northgate hosted the regional heats of the National Reading Champions Quiz the week before World Book week and had two teams representing the school. Our teams came 7th and 12th out of 25 schools – the competition was very tight. Well done to both our teams and to Library assistants who were on hand to support the event.



Team A consisted of Ella P, Setaita K, Gabriela M and Gabriella G (Year 9). Team B consisted of Imogen J, Stanley W (Year 8), Mason W and Tess C (Year 7).

Well done to all the teams from across the region that took place.





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### Moving home, school and new friends

April is the Month of the Military Child. It is a campaign to raise awareness about the important role Service children play in the Armed Forces community. It is a time to recognise Armed Forces families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome. We have a number of students at Northgate with family members in the Armed Forces. Robyn, Year 7, is one of them. She tells us about her recent experiences.

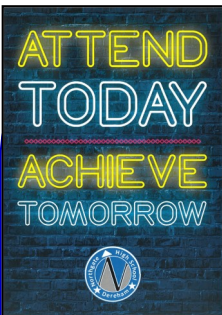
Moving from one RAF base to another can be a difficult time. You can lose touch with your friends, and have to make some new ones. I have that experience. My name is Robyn and I am 11 years old. When I was in Year 6, my Mum and Dad bought a house. I was so worried about moving, having to explore the area and meet new people. I was sad to have to leave my friends.

At that time, we were also applying for a spot in a high school, and because I now lived elsewhere, I was not able to go to the same high school as all my best friends. I had to go to one closer to my new home.

To help me to meet new people I decided to join a community choir, based at the school I would be going to at the end of the summer holidays. I met someone my age and felt very happy and proud. On transition days, I met up with my new friend and she introduced me to her other 3 friends, whom I also became friendly with.

I am now doing well at school and have lots of new friends. I still keep in touch with my other friends from the RAF base. When you, or a friend are moving, there is nothing to be scared or worried about. Trying to keep in touch through messages, or sending letters can help too!

Since moving, my dad has been deployed for the first time in 3 years! I am quite sad as I miss him a lot. But we message every day after school and call as much as we can. It can be hard. I know that it's not forever and that he will come home to where the heart is.



### Attendance Matters



Congratulations to 7AS, 7OM, 8RH, 8VE, 9KT, 9TG, 10SO and 11AGR who have all won the fortnightly attendance competition so far this half term.

Trophies and certificates are proudly on display in tutor rooms.

Well done also to our attendance raffle winners for the second Spring half term who all win an Amazon voucher: Logan B (Year 7), Harry B (Year 8), Ethan P (Year 9), Ruby G (Year 10) and Amy D (Year 11). We all know how important good attendance is and would like to thank all Northgate parents and carers for supporting excellent attendance.



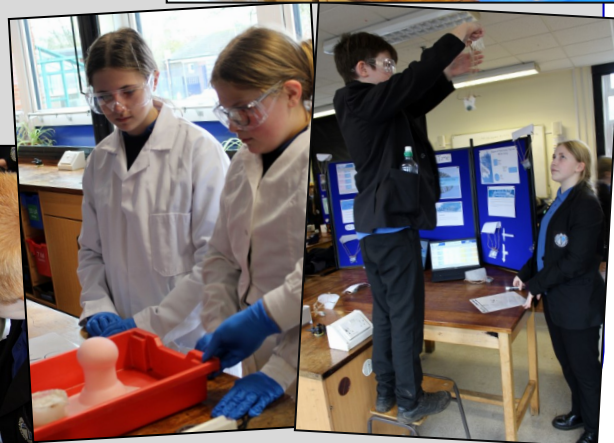


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### Science Fair Success

Wednesday 13th March was a much-anticipated day for members of the Science club who were given the opportunity to share some of their projects they had been working on since Christmas, with the wider school community. Each year this has taken place to celebrate British science week, and this year was no different with projects based around the theme of time. There were some literal interpretations of the theme with projects on the use of catalysts in reactions and measuring the speed of parachute falls, and some more expressive projects such as the life cycle of a star and how diseases spread around the globe. The calibre of projects this year was phenomenal and the amount of hard work and enthusiasm seen from the club members was inspirational. The winners for 2024, 'How far can we launch a rocket' by Phoebe L and Tess C, with their excellent use of electrolysis to get the perfect mix of rocket fuel. The runners up for 2024 were Oliver L, Cassidy D and Chloe J with their project on disease distribution around the globe. All Science club members will have earned a Crest Bronze Award, which will recognise the hard work and commitment to scientific endeavour. If you would like to get involved in Science club, just turn up to Science 3 after school on a Thursday or speak to Mrs Simms.



### Maths Department celebrates Pi Day

March 14th saw the Maths Department celebrate its favourite day of the year, Pi Day. Lessons across the day saw a whole host of pi and circle related activities taking place. From discovering the names for different parts of a circle in a mystery and making a pi skyline to problem solving with pizzas, creating a pi paper chain and discovering pi with pie. There were lots of hands-on activities to engage students in the wonderful world of pi. There was also a rather interesting competition for Year 7 and 8 students, creating a pi-ku. A take on a haiku but instead, the first line had 3 syllables, the second line had 1 syllable and the third line had 4 syllables. Some students took it further, continuing with lines of 1, 5, 9, 2 syllables and so on. Some of the best entries were shared on social media. Well done to Maya (Year 7) and Georgina (Year 8) who were the winners and received boxes of apple pies! Finally, Year 7s were invited to solve some pi related dingbats – great fun all round!





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### Northgate Celebrates World Book Day

One day is not enough and so Northgate celebrated World Book Week with so many different activities and events taking place. Monday saw a very popular literary bake competition with a whole host of books represented in edible form. It was a very tough decision for the judges, but the winner was Maisie (Year 8) with her Green Eggs and Ham vanilla and butter cream sponge inspired by the Dr Seuss book. Year 7 students were also treated to a talk by Dave Rudden, an Irish writer of young adult fiction, juvenile fantasy and science fiction. He is best known for his Knights of the Borrowed Dark trilogy. His talk was both informative and hilarious in equal measures. Some students even got to ask him their questions, with the best ones winning signed books!

On the Tuesday a group of Year 8 star readers and Accelerated Reader ambassadors headed to Norwich for the Norwich Book Festival. An opportunity to hear from and meet a number of authors. Mayte said, 'My favourite part about the Norwich book festival was when Dave Rudden was talking to us about his past experiences on things because it was very funny and enjoyable. I also liked it when we made the story with random worlds that was really funny.' Imogen commented, 'I liked listening to Sally's story because she is very inspirational and I also liked listening to Dave telling us about the schools he has been in previously. Overall, it was really nice hearing from the authors talk about their past and how they got inspiration for writing!'



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



### Goodbye

At Easter we said goodbye to Mr Logan, our Design Technology Technician, after over a decade at Northgate. Not only did he work as a technician, he got involved in putting together sets for our productions, drove the minibus, took part in pantomimes and much more. We wish him all the best for the future.



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### Northgate Celebrates World Book Day continued

Throughout the week Year 7 + 8 tutor groups were invited to decorate their tutor room doors as a book cover. Once again, there were some very creative entries. Well done to 8TLY who were the winners.

World Book Day itself saw plenty of staff and students dress up as their favourite book characters, from Shrek and Harry Potter to Alex Rider and Mary Poppins, there really was a superb range of characters on display.



The end of the week saw a World Book Week themed Friday quiz for all tutor groups to take part in. It also saw the return of the sponsored readathon. Just over 40n Year 7s and 8s took part – a whole day of reading in the library, with homemade dens and plenty of snacks to keep them going. They were raising money for Read for Good. They read an incredible 17,554 pages and raised an even more amazing £542.50! Well done to all those who took part.



### Interviews

Our Northgate News Team have been very busy in recent weeks interviewing a number of members of staff. We share them via social media however you can find them on our website too:

- [Interview with Mr Lennard](#)
- [Interview with Mr Fox](#)
- [Interview with Mr Beasley](#)
- [Interview with Mrs Woods](#)
- [Interview with Miss Douglas](#)
- [Interview with Ms Garland](#)
- [Interview with Miss Gostic](#)

### Supporting Parents Into Northgate Evening

Parents and carers of our new Year 7s who will be starting at Northgate in September 2024 are invited to attend our SPIN (Supporting Parents Into Northgate) evening on Wednesday 17th April 6pm -7.30pm in the main hall. The aim of the evening is to answer any queries parents may have before September and familiarise yourself with Northgate. A range of key staff will go through our learning cycle, communication through our Parent App; homework, assessment, rewards, policies etc. Students are welcome to come along too, and it is a great opportunity to 'put faces to names', ask questions, big or small! Places at this event must be booked in advance and an email will be sent to parents/carers nearer the time: you will be required to add the number of places you require.

