



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

May 2024

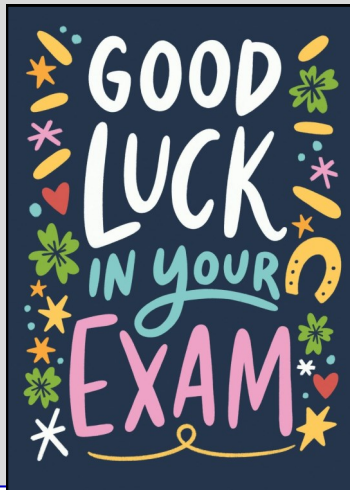
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Issue 67

Good Luck to Year 11s

Our Year 11s embark on their written GCSEs later this month and we would like to wish them the very best of luck. They have worked incredibly hard, with many attending revision sessions during the February half term as well as Easter holidays. This is on top of the huge number of lunchtime and after school sessions that have been put on. We know you can all do well – go and make yourselves proud!

A big thank you to parents and staff for their continuing support of the Year 11s and ensuring they are prepared for the upcoming exams.



Upcoming events

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

30th April - 1st May

11A GCSE Photography Exam

2nd - 3rd May

GCSE Textiles and Graphics Exams

2nd May

Star Wars Quiz at lunchtime in the Library
Year 8 Parents Evening 4pm - 7pm

6th May

Bank Holiday

8th May

Harry Potter Night 4pm - 6.30pm in the Library

9th May

First written GCSE Exam

13th May

Year 10 Parents Guide to GCSEs at 6pm

15th May

Year 8 Girls' STEM Workshop

17th - 19th May

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award practice expedition (Hunworth)

20th May

Battle of the Bookworms Primary Quiz
10am - 11.30am
Year 10 Parents Evening 4pm - 7pm

27th – 31st May

Half Term

Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin?

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

[April Bulletin](#)

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

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Follow us on Twitter:

@NGateDereham, @NgateCouncil



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Orchard Committee earn Green Tree Schools Award

It has been a busy couple of months for our Orchard Committee members. Just after February half term they took delivery of 105 saplings from the Woodland Trust. A mix of hedgerow saplings (Dogwood, Wild Cherry, Hawthorn, Silver Birch, Rowan and Hazel). It was all hands on deck planting the saplings in The Orchard over a three-week period. Committee members learnt how to slit plant, creating a double row hedge near the path to the main stage area in the Orchard. They decided to go down the eco-friendly route and purchased biodegradable hedge guards and bamboo stakes to protect the saplings over the coming months. Miss Theobald put together some photos, information and quotes and submitted this as evidence to the Woodland Trust as part of one of the award schemes. Due to this project and others now completed, students have earned their Bronze Award for the Green Tree Schools Award and were presented with certificates. There are a number of other activities they plan to do over the coming months and year, to start working towards their Silver and Gold Awards.

The Committee has also started to pot up some of the sycamore seeds that have started to germinate. They are making adjustments to their potting tables, with battens and netting to ensure the germinated seeds have the best chance of surviving (we have some friendly birds, rabbits and squirrels who have taken a liking to some of the stratified berries and nuts over the winter!)

During the summer term there are lots of activities planned including some on the more creative side – pressing flowers that grow in the wildflower area and turning them into bookmarks, cards and coasters, creating some photographic artwork from different viewpoints in The Orchard, making a bug hotel and much more. If you are interested in joining the Orchard Committee, please see Miss Theobald, speak to one of the current members or just come along to one of the meetings. They take place every Thursday after school, starting in MA6 – no experience necessary. If you want to learn about flowers, be creative, work with your hands, enjoy being outdoors and want to meet and work with new people, then this is the club for you!




This is to certify that the pupils of
Northgate High School
 have achieved the
Bronze Award
 on the Woodland Trust's
 Green Tree Schools Award



Darren Moorcroft
 Chief Executive



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Updates from the Library

Huge congratulations to our new Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires – Ryan E and Henry G (Year 7), Colette P, Mayte S and Stanley W (Year 8). We are delighted to recognise Phoebe L (Year 7) who has become a multi-Word Millionaire and Mason W (Year 7) who has become a multi, multi-Word Millionaire – incredible effort and determination by them all, well done!



The prizes continue with our fortnightly AR competition winners – Emily O, Oliver L (Year 8), Ellie W, Logan B (Year 7).



At the end of the Spring term, Mrs Gill invited 45 Year 7 and 17 Year 8 students to a reward celebration where they received certificates, star badges, hot chocolate and an Easter chocolate bunny/chick, for reaching their quiz target points for the Spring Term – well done!



Our Year 7s and 8s have been doing a fantastic job with their reading, so much so that we wanted to astound you with some figures! Year 8s have read 413 books and 16,709,869 words since September and Year 7 have read 970 books and an incredible 39, 635, 597 words! With one term to go, how high will this go?

There's plenty going on in the Library during this month so keep a lookout on social media. In particular, the exciting Harry Potter Night on 8th May. Join us for a magical evening of sorcery, activities and the opportunity to meet and hold our very special feathered friends from Norfolk Owls. Limited spaces available with tickets at £4 per student via parent pay which includes butterbeer and Hogsmeade treats. We can't wait to hear all about it!



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Orchard Committee Celebrate Earth Day at Gressenhall

6 members of Northgate’s Orchard Committee represented the school at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse’s Earth Day during the Easter holidays. They had two demonstrations for visitors; making seed bombs and biodegradable seed pots.

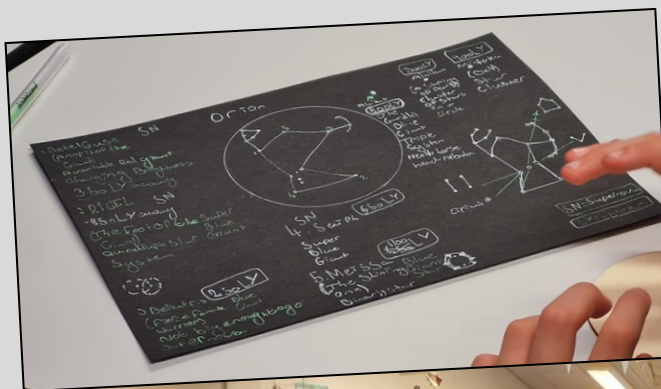
There were plenty of opportunities to talk to visitors about the work going on in The Orchard and the various plans we have for the coming months and years. Who knows, we may even have some of the young children join the committee in years to come!

For some of our committee members, this was their first time speaking to the public as part of the Orchard Committee and although nervous at first, they soon got into the swing of things and confidence shone through. Miss Theobald was delighted to feed back to the Heads of School, the positive comments from staff at Gressenhall, who said our students were a credit to the school and were impeccably behaved throughout the day – well done!



Creative Constellations

Celebrating British Science Week, we welcomed author Annaliese Avery who presented a fascinating talk of her life as a writer and fascination of science and astrology to our Year 8s, which inspired her latest book, The Immortal Games. This is a perfect book for fans of The Hunger Games crossed with Percy Jackson/Greek mythology. Selected students were treated to an astrology workshop where they drew their own Orion star map learning about the constellations. We also held another Scholastic Book Fair in March with a fabulous selection of fiction titles on offer for students to purchase.





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School Council members form focus group for Youth Advisory Board

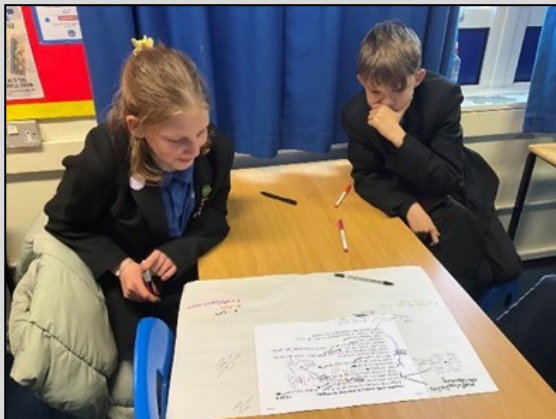
19 members of the School Council met with a representative of the Breckland Youth Advisory Board in April as part of a focus group. They split into groups to discuss the top three priorities, as voted for by Breckland students for 'What would benefit you in your education?' and 'What would you like to see improved in your community and leisure time?'

For the first question, the top three priorities were: Support with exams and learning strategies- 58.54% (eg stress, improving focus), careers support for the future – 54.00% (eg support getting into college, university, or jobs) and hands on learning opportunities in school – 42.33% (eg practical options or non-classroom based).



For the second question, the top three priorities were: Transport links – 45.83% (eg cheaper public transport and better timetables), better maintained parks and outdoor spaces – 43.10% (eg improved equipment and more things to do) and more free or cheap clubs and activities – 41.85% (eg gym, the arts or sport).

Our students offered plenty of ideas on these 6 topics as well as evaluated ideas already put forward by other focus groups. A valuable experience with all of the ideas and suggestions now feeding Breckland Youth Advisory Board's action plan for the coming year. Thank you and well done to our School Council students for embracing this experience.



Year 8 Girls STEM Workshop

An exciting STEM workshop is planned to take place for some of our Year 8 girls on Wednesday 15th May. Mrs Woods, Head of Computing, says, "The workshop aims to ignite their interest in careers within Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). We will be focusing on the practical application of these fields by working through a real-world scenario. The girls will explore the potential of large language models like ChatGPT to assist with launching their own businesses." Through this interactive workshop, they will gain insights into:

- Problem-solving and critical thinking in a business setting.
- The power of technology to support and streamline business operations.
- Creative applications of AI for marketing and communication.

We believe this workshop will spark their curiosity and open their minds to the vast possibilities within the STEM sector. We can't wait to hear more about it!

Year 9 showcase identities

Our Year 9 students recently saw their artwork on display in the foyer and a private view was held for students and families. The exhibition features a wonderful variety of work from our Year 9 Art & Design students around the theme of identity. There are some very creative and imaginative pieces, with the Art Department being suitably impressed. Well done to everyone who had their work displayed - we can't wait to see what some of them can produce over the next couple of years when they start their GCSE Art and Design work.

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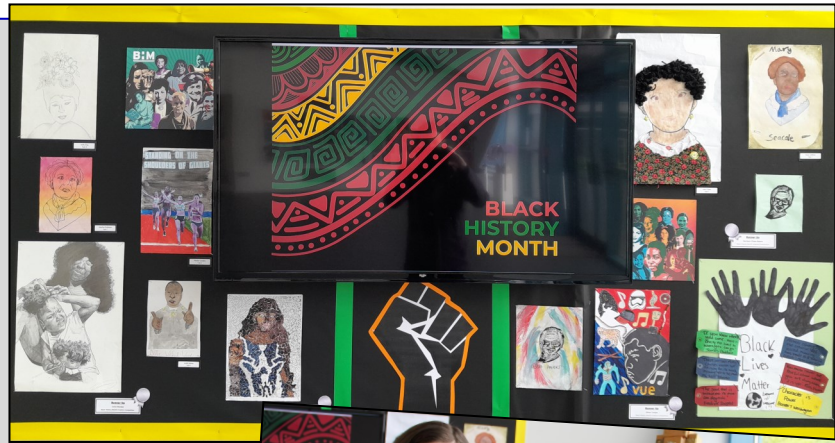
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Black History Month Competition

Back in November the History and Art and Design Department held a competition for Black History month. Those who entered had to produce a creative piece, such as a portrait, collage, poster or project about a person from black British history that they find inspirational. There were some outstanding entries that are currently displayed in the foyer at Northgate.

Congratulations to Robyn (Year 7) who won the competition and to runners up Caitlin S, Harrison Chase A (Year 7), Oliver C (Year 8) and Carla M (Year 12).



Recycling

Congratulations to our recycling champions 7AS, 8RH, 9KT, 10AB and 11SE who were the top recyclers over the Spring term. We hold a competition between tutor groups with our Terracycle recycling schemes and would encourage as many students and staff to take part as possible.

The following items can be recycled:

- Pringles tubes
- Bread bags and bakery plastic eg bagels, croissants, hot cross buns, rolls, pain au chocolat etc
- Crisp packets, popcorn and peanut packets
- Cake bar, biscuit and cracker wrappers

Please bring in your recycling and put it in the recycling box in your tutor room. Don't forget we also recycle pens, markers, felt tips and batteries. The school receives money dependent on the weight of recycling so it's great for the environment and the school!





Library Updates continued...

The half termly tutor group winners for Accelerated Reader were 7AM and 8RH – well done to everyone who contributed to winning. During the Spring term, 1682 books were borrowed from the Library, with 7CG being the top borrowers (160 books).

The top 5 most popular books were 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder', by Holly Jackson, 'Ultimate Football Heroes: Mbappe', by Matt and Tom Oldfield, 'Heartstopper Volume 1: Boy meets Boy', by Alice Oseman, 'Ultimate Football Heroes: Lewandowski', by Matt and Tom Oldfield and 'The Immortal Games' by Annaliese Avery.



Thank you to Mrs Gill for putting on a lovely display for Earth Day. There are so many books on the theme of the earth and environmental issues that students can book out of the library.

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Merit Update

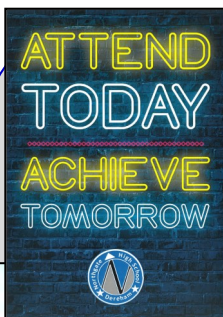
Students have now passed 75,000 merits since September - wow! Don't forget to come and cash in your merits over the coming weeks. Any merits not cashed in before the summer holidays will disappear over the summer, with balances reset to zero, so don't let your hard work go to waste!

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](#).

Rowling have maintained their lead over recent weeks however it is still quite close at the top in the House merit competition.

Rowling	Attenborough	Hawking	Holmes
93.76	93.04	92.60	85.94



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7TD, 8VE, 9NC, 10SO and 11SE 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 our students in gaining excellent attendance.