



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

July 2024

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Issue 69

Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin?

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

[June Bulletin](#)

There is so much that goes on at Northgate - you can find all of our monthly bulletins on our [website](#) along with interviews and blogs by members of the Northgate News Team [here](#).

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

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Upcoming events continued

15th - 16th July

Curriculum Enhancement Days - Years 7 - 9

15th - 19th July

Year 10 Work Experience

17th July

Author Visit for Year 6 students - Jenny Pearson

17th - 19th July

Year 6 Transition Days

19th July

Last Day of Term - break up for summer holidays

Upcoming events

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

20th June – 3rd July

Year 10 Mock Exams

1st July

Year 9 Summer Snack Maths Competition at CNS

2nd July

Brilliant Club graduation ceremony at Magdalene College Cambridge

3rd July

Dereham Sixth Form College Transition Day for Year 11 students
Sports Awards Evening 6.30pm – 8.30pm

4th July

Year 11 Prom at Glen Lodge, Bawburgh - arrival from 6.30pm, meal at 7.30pm, finishing at 11pm

8th July

Primary Team Maths Challenge

9th July

Year 7 Geography Trip to Cromer

9th - 10th July

Year 10 MFL Speaking exams

10th July

Team Council + School Council celebration event (TBC)

12th July

Sports Day activities in the morning

11th - 13th July

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Production (11th July - afternoon performance to Primary students and 7pm performance, 12th July - 7pm performance and 13th July - 5pm performance)



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Orchard Committee recognised at Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards

Sunday 23rd June saw two members of Northgate's Orchard Committee attend the Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards, held at The Forum, in Norwich.

An opportunity to celebrate the achievements of some amazing groups and individuals and recognise the hard work going into improving the biodiversity in Norfolk.

There were 26 nominations across 6 categories and the judging panel had a very difficult task deciding on the runners up and winners. Nick Acheson who is a naturalist, conservationist, and presenter, gave the key note speech and said that those present were standing up to say enough of biodiversity loss. All of the projects are inspiring others around us and young people, in particular, hold the key to the future.



The first award was for Young Peoples Achievement. We were incredibly proud to be announced as the winners! Orchard Committee members, Annabelle and Akhina, alongside Miss Theobald, accepted the framed winner's certificate from the category sponsor, Lanpro. Miss Theobald thanked Ben Earle from Gressenhall Environmental Hub for his support throughout the project and explained that the Orchard at Northgate not only allows our students to learn new skills and work with others, but also to connect with nature and have a positive impact on biodiversity. The awards continued, with many inspiring projects being recognised.

Northgate's Young Diamonds

We were proud to hear earlier last month that two of our students were nominated to take part in the Royal Norfolk Show's Young Diamonds tribute. Kai R (Year 8) was nominated for his achievements in clay pigeon shooting. Earlier in the year he had a fantastic weekend at the National Shooting Show in Harrogate. He was the Junior winner (under 16s) of two competitions – Junior 1st place of the 2-day English Sporting Technical Clay competition and Junior 1st place in the English Sporting competition – an incredible achievement. Well done Kai!



Annabelle B (Year 9) was nominated for her work with the Cadets. She was nominated by her Cadet leader to recognise the work she does in the community and the leadership skills she has shown within the group.

As they were recognised as Young Diamonds, both Annabelle and Kai received tickets for the Royal Norfolk Show for themselves and a guest. During the day, all the nominated Young Diamonds gathered in the Grand Ring for a short address by HM Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk. Following the Lord Lieutenant's address the band played as the Young Diamonds were led around the Grand Ring, passing the spectators. A lovely tribute to recognise the efforts of so many young people in Norfolk. We are proud of you both!



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Good bye Year 11

On Wednesday 19th June we sadly said goodbye to our Year 11s. After weeks of exams and putting so much work and effort into their GCSE subjects, over the past two years in particular, attending after school revision sessions, intervention sessions and workshops during the holidays, their 5 years at Northgate were over. They did not have the easiest of journeys through high school, with Year 7 and Year 8 severely disrupted due to the pandemic, however their drive, determination and Northgate resilience shone through.

We held a lovely assembly full of laughs, tears, heartfelt presentations from tutors and shirt signing in order to send off our Year 11 Leavers. It has been a pleasure, and we wish you all the best for your future endeavours. We look forward to seeing you at prom and results day! Thank you to all staff and parents/carers for their efforts and support in preparing Year 11 for their next steps.



Refugee Week

A big thank you to Mr Carter and Northgate's Social Team for their fundraising efforts for Refugee Week last month. They held a fiercely contested Beat the Keeper competition with Mr Carter and Mr Jones stepping up in goal. There were just a few lucky strikers who managed to get all three balls in the net, with Riley C (Year 8) being randomly drawn as the winner of the Amazon voucher.

The second money raiser was a wet sponge throwing competition with Mr Carter stepping up once again, alongside Mrs Smith from the English department. They bravely faced a huge number of wet sponges and were thoroughly soaked by the end! Well done to Phoebe L (Year 7) who was the lucky winner for this event. The final money raiser was a bake sale which is always incredibly popular. A big thank you to everyone who baked or contributed sweet treats and everyone who came and bought them.

Throughout PART lesson during Refugee Week, students found out about New Routes Integration, who our money will be donated to. They are a charity in Norwich who support and empower refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Norwich, and promote cross-cultural integration and community awareness. They currently work with a wide range of people, from 80 countries, speaking more than 60

different languages, helping them to overcome the challenges of resettling in a new country.

New Routes Integration run a range of projects that bring people together in an informal and friendly atmosphere to learn new skills and meet new people. To find out more about their work, visit their website, www.newroutes.org.uk. We are proud to have raised £165.31 for New Routes Integration and thank everyone who donated and got involved in the activities.



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Students embark on mighty Lego build

Congratulations to the phenomenal five students whose names were picked out of a hat to build the mighty LEGO Technic Liebherr Crawler Crane LR 13000 with Mrs Woods in the Lego Club after writing their applications! A huge round of applause to Sarah B (Year 10), Elliot W (Year 8), Robyn W, Dominic T and Xander P (Year 7).

Mrs Woods was blown away by the applications submitted and students' passion for LEGO! Dedication, teamwork skills, and building expertise will be instrumental in bringing this colossal crane to life for our Year 6 Open Evening in September. It will give prospective students a glimpse into the engaging and stimulating learning environment at Northgate High School.

To everyone who applied, Mrs Woods said, 'Thank you for your incredible interest! We were so impressed by all the applications. Don't forget, Lego Club has a fantastic year ahead with plenty of awesome projects planned like building the Bucket Wheel Excavator and Bulldozer Cat D11. Keep an eye out for future announcements and opportunities to showcase your LEGO skills!'

The dedicated team of students have now embarked on the ambitious project – building the colossal LEGO® Technic Liebherr Crawler Crane LR 13000 (42146). Led by Lego Club leader Mrs Woods, the team of five talented students, chosen for their LEGO® mastery, teamwork skills, and commitment, will tackle this 2,800-piece behemoth.

'This project is a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their creativity, problem-solving skills, and passion for STEM,' says Mrs. Woods. 'Building this intricate crane will require collaboration, patience, and a whole lot of LEGO® fun!' Stay tuned for exciting updates on their progress as they tackle this monumental build!

Some of our Northgate News Team are in the process of interviewing our Lego Club members to find out a bit more about how Lego Technic sets allow students to explore motorized creations and delve into the world of programming, offering a unique opportunity to develop crucial STEM skills in a fun and interactive way.

We look forward to sharing this interview with you.



Merit Update

Students have now passed 90,000 merits since September, an incredible achievement. We have our first students to gain 300 merits too - well done to Harrison C-A, Darcy F (Year 7) and Harry B (Year 8). Don't forget to come and cash in your merits over the coming weeks. Check our social media to find the final cashing in dates. 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!

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 very close between second and third place in the House merit competition.

Rowling	Attenborough	Hawking	Holmes
111.78	109.67	109.56	102.24



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Orchard Committee attend BioBlitz at Gressenhall

Members of the Orchard Committee were fortunate enough to be invited to take part in a pilot programme at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse. The aim of the day was to look at the biodiversity in three different locations and give feedback to Gressenhall, as they are rolling this out to the public in July. Our students were split into three groups and headed to their starting locations. Armed with magnifying glasses and apps on their phones, they took on board information from experts, one on lichen in Gressenhall's Orchard, one on butterflies and insects in their wildflower meadow and one on birds near the farm house. Using the iNaturalist app, students were not only able to identify a huge number of flowers, grasses and bugs, but they were also able to log these to contribute to country wide data on biodiversity. In The Orchard, all sorts of flowers were identified as well as different lichens. In the wildflower meadow, students used nets to sweep the long grasses for different bugs and insects. Near the farmhouse, they used binoculars to identify different birds including house sparrows, buzzards, starlings and goldfinches as well as listening to bird song. Miss Theobald was really impressed with students' efforts on these tasks and all the questions they were asking the experts. Lots of inquisitive minds!

In the afternoon, there was the opportunity to take a walk around the farm site, along by the river and it was great to see the group recognise and identify some of the flowers and grasses they'd seen earlier in the day. The final part of the day involved working with Ben, from the Environment Hub, who also supports our work at The Orchard at Northgate. He showed students how to collect flower and grass samples for Gressenhall's herbarium, a scientific collection of the different species on the site. They learnt how to catalogue the samples and press them, ready for mounting. The Orchard Committee members are also completing a similar activity at school, documenting the different species in our two wildflower areas. It will be great to have a record for others to see in the future.

If you are interested to learn more about biodiversity and get involved in the work Gressenhall are doing, they are holding a BioBlitz day for members of the public on 7th July. Based on the feedback of our students and how much they enjoyed the activities, we would certainly recommend going along and taking part.



GCSE Art and Design students showcase outstanding work

To celebrate the success and hard work of our Art and Design Y11 GCSE students we held a private viewing of a selection of their work. Mrs Mottley, Head of Art and Design said, 'The event was well attended and our visitors were impressed with the variety and quality of all the work displayed throughout the exhibition. I am extremely proud of all of our students and their hard work and determination throughout the courses. An amazing show of creative outcomes in a diverse range of materials and techniques are demonstrated from across the specialisms in our faculty as a result. The Design Department wish our Y11 pupils every success for the future.' For more photos of the fantastic work, please see our [website](#).

Here are some of the lovely comments left by those that visited the exhibition:

'Amazing work, well done! You should be proud!'

'Amazing works of art. You guys will have great careers in whatever you do.'

'An excellent collection of work, well done all.'

'Fantastic work. Talented students and teachers!'





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Meet a member of the Academy Stakeholder Committee (ASC)

We'd like to introduce you to members of our Academy Stakeholder Committee (previously known as the Governing Board).

The principal duty of the ASC is to support the Trust Board and the school in developing and maintaining effective links within the school's communities. Communicating openly and frequently whilst ensuring the school meets its responsibilities to stakeholders (pupils, parents, carers and staff).

Current members of the ASC are Mrs Zoe Galley, Dr Duncan Hone, Mr Alan Jones, Mr Calum McDonald, Mrs Karen Thompson (Chair), Mr Darren Lound, Mr Gareth Norman, Mrs Jennifer Lacey and Mrs Daphne Price (Clerk).

The Northgate News Team asked the following questions to find out more about members of Northgate's Academy Stakeholder Committee. First up is Mrs Karen Thompson (Chair).

Why did you want to become a member of the ASC?

At the time of joining, I had two children at Northgate and so I had a vested interest in how the school was performing, and also how satisfied stakeholders were. By volunteering on the ASC, it gives me the opportunity to play a small part in helping ensure Northgate continues to meet the needs of its pupils.



What job do you have or had previously?

I am currently a Human Resources Manager for a Construction company, previously having been an Operations Manager at Aviva. I have also held other voluntary positions, firstly as Treasurer at my children's pre-school and then Chair of Fundraisers at their Primary School. My very first job was delivering newspapers as a youngster, which I loved. After delivering my last newspaper I would call at my Grandparents to have breakfast with them!

What's the best part about being a member of the ASC?

Having never worked in a school environment, I enjoy learning and understanding more about the operations of an academic setting. I really enjoy visiting the school to attend focus groups, events and learning walks, it's nice to see Northgate pupils learning in so many different ways.

What skills do you think you need to be a member of the ASC?

The ability to listen to stakeholders, accurately feedback their views and finally use what we've learned to drive positive change.

How would you describe Northgate in 3 words?

Friendly, Professional and Inspirational

What was your favourite subject at school?

Physical Education, I was also a member of the Netball, Hockey and Volleyball teams.

Where is your favourite place to go on holiday and why?

One of my favourite places to visit was Pompeii in Italy, the ruins and Mount Vesuvius were very interesting to explore. However, spending time with family and friends is what I love the most. Therefore, I'm happy whether it's camping and waking up to a nice coffee with views of the British countryside or equally relaxing by the beach somewhere with reliable sunshine!



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Year 10 Leadership Team appointed

Recently our Year 10 Prefects were appointed which meant it was time for applications to be part of the Head Boy/Girl Leadership Team could be written. Mr Darlow and Mr Stirling were particular impressed by the standard of applications and had a tough decision shortlisting candidates for interview. Mr Darlow, who has been on the interview panel for a number of years now, said it was a very strong field, however this year the interviews and presentations were some of the best he has seen.

We are pleased and proud to announce the following appointments. They are an absolute credit to the school and we have no doubt that they will be superb representatives and ambassadors for Northgate over the coming year.

Congratulations to:

Head Girl - Kyra T, Head Boy - Henry D, Deputy Head Girls - Tallulah G and Maisie S, Deputy Head Boys - Wyn E and Nathan H, Senior Prefect - Kaylee K.



Celebrating Success

We love to celebrate the successes of our students at Northgate. Earlier in the summer term Jameson

C (Year 8) competed at Norfolk Schools Championships at the UEA in the 100m and 300m. He came 3rd in his 100m heat and qualified for the final where he came 5th and got a PB of 13.1 seconds. He then ran the 300m and came 2nd and was selected to run for Norfolk at the East Anglian Schools Championship. After a rocky start in this race, due to thinking it was a false start (start gun echoed), Jameson continued the race coming in 5th place. This is what his Running club had to say:



At the University of East Anglia Sports Park track in Norwich, two Dereham athletes were not only representing their school or College, they were competing for their County. Jameson competed in the Norfolk Schools Championships, qualifying in the 300m to represent the Norfolk County Athletics team in the Anglian Schools Championships. He was up against other students from across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire.

It couldn't have been any worse on the day, with horrendous weather with the wind, driving rain, thunder storms and a bit of hail thrown in. Jameson crossed the line in 5th place in the junior boys 300m, a hard race at the best of times, with a time of 48.4 seconds. Jameson did himself, his school, Club and County proud with his performance in what was (as for everyone out there, athletes and officials alike) not the best of conditions. A great achievement in the county vest.



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7CC, 7CG, 8RP, 8VE, 9TF, 9KT, 10NA, 10KS 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.

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.

