



# Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

October 2024

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Issue 71

## Welcome to Northgate!

On Wednesday 2nd October, we are looking forward to welcoming Year 6s and their families to Northgate High School. We can't wait for you to see what we have to offer as a school. There will be plenty of our students volunteering on the night to show you around, including our Prefect Team, and answer your questions. You'll even get to hear from some of our Year 7 students who have only been at Northgate for a matter of weeks!

Want to find out a bit more in advance? Why not take a look at our 360° virtual tour of the school? You can navigate your way through the school halls, familiarise yourself with the layout of the school and even take a look inside the classrooms. There is also plenty of information for Year 6s on our [website](#), which may answer questions you have. We hope you enjoy the evening and find out why Northgate is such a special school community to be a part of.

You can also 'like' our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to keep up to date with all of the news, events and activities going on at Northgate.

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 October

Senior Maths challenge

### 2nd October

Northgate High School Open Evening  
5.30pm – 8.30pm (Headteachers' and students' addresses at 5.30pm and 7.30pm)

### 3rd October

National Poetry Day including poetry slam

### 4th October

Year 8 Rugby festival at Wymondham Rugby Club

### 7th October

Post 16 Evening at NGHS

### 11th October

Year 7 Rugby festival at Wymondham Rugby Club  
Year 9 Geography trip to Cambridge

### 14th, 18th + 21st October

Flu Vaccinations

### 18th October

Harry Potter Quiz and Chip Night 6pm for 6.30pm start (booking forms available from the Library)

### 23rd October

Dereham Sixth Form College Open Evening  
5.00pm – 8.00pm (talks on college life at 5.30pm and 6.30pm)

### Last week in October

Spooky Stories in the Library

### 25th October

Half Term





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## Camps International, Peru and Me!

During the summer holidays, a team of students from Northgate High School and Dereham Sixth Form College, along with Mr Cushion, headed to Peru with Camps International.

Nathan tells us about the experience.

'I finished my GCSE's on 17th June 2024, 5½ weeks later I was on a 787 headed for Peru! The first leg of the journey took us from Heathrow to Bogota, the capital of Columbia, where we changed planes and flew the 3 hours on to the old Inca Capital of Peru, Cusco. By the time we arrived at our first camp it felt like we had been travelling forever, but we arrived safely.'

'Our first camp was Camp Tarawasi, a 2½ hour drive from Cusco.

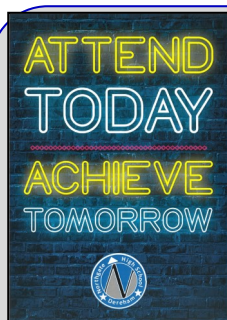
The accommodation was over two floors with plenty of social areas. While we were here we planted fruit trees and helped to dig the foundations for a building to store sports equipment for the local school. Camp Tarawasi gave us a chance to get used to our fellow students on Team Crisantemo. Camps Teams tend to have around 20 students, so we were combined with a school from Newport to make a Team of 19 students and 3 adults, our teacher, their teacher and our Team Leader Phil. The other school had some brilliant students who definitely added a new dynamic to our group.'

'After Tarawasi we went straight to Camp Maras, a tented camp overlooking the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Maras was the highest camp that we stayed in and the sunrises from there were amazing. The Project work from this camp was levelling the ground at the kindergarten to enable them to put a safe playing surface down for the children. Doing jobs like this felt as though we were really making a difference to people's lives.'

'After Maras we spent 2 nights in Cusco ahead of our Trek through the Andes. On the first day of the Trek I unfortunately suffered with some altitude issues and so spent a little longer in Cusco – but I met up with the Team in Machu Picchu. We then went on to Rainbow Mountain.

The mountain is made up of 14 different coloured minerals and as recently as 2013 the mountain was not visible as it was permanently covered in snow. The car park is 4600m above sea level. You then hike up the mountain to 5100m above sea level – this was the highest we went on the whole expedition. I was away for 28 days and experienced nerves, doubt, pride, achievement, friendship and everything in between. It certainly took me out of my comfort zone but I am so glad that I went.'

You can read the blog in full [here](#) and see some more incredible photos of the expedition.



## Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7DNI, 8DHE, 8CC, 9TLY, 9JLL, 10SJ, 10NC and 11RM 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.







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## Year 11 Leadership Team

In our previous bulletin we announced the new Year 11 leadership team - Head Girl Kyra, Head Boy Henry, Deputy Head Girls Maisie and Tallulah, Deputy Head Boys Wyn and Nathan and Senior Prefect Kaylee. Year 6s who come to our Open Evening on Wednesday 2nd October will have the chance to meet them and hear from them, alongside our team of Prefects. Over the coming weeks we are going to find out a bit more about each of the leadership team in profiles on our website and social media pages - so keep your eyes peeled!



## Celebrating Success

We like to hear about the successes of our students outside of school, whether this be in sport, music, the arts or something different. Some students choose to volunteer, whilst others do charity work. We recently heard about Year 8 Jaxon, whose mum works at Shampooches of Dereham Ltd. They recently did a charity dog wash for one of their clients whose dog needs a new hip. Jaxon and his younger brother Logan helped out by bathing and brushing out the dogs. They raised a fantastic £554.50 towards the operation needed. There is still a bucket in the shop to raise money for Ronnie's hip operation if anyone would like to donate. Well done Jaxon, it's great to hear about your efforts, helping out others!

If you would like to share some positive news or successes with us, please send us a message on the Northgate Facebook page or email Miss Theobald (ktheobald@ng6.unity-ed.uk).



## Merit Update

It's been a busy few weeks of term and students have started the school year so positively. We have been really impressed with the approach students have been showing in lessons and already more than 14,626 merits have been awarded. This includes over 3000 bonus merits for attendance and no negatives for the second summer half term. 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 have taken an early lead in the House merit competition.

Attenborough	Holmes	Hawking	Rowling
17.28	16.29	16.10	16.09



## Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin? Follow this [link](#) to read about all the exciting activities and news from last month. [September Bulletin](#)

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### Updates from the Library

Mrs Gill in the library has some great events taking place during the coming weeks:

3rd October- National Poetry Day - following the theme of their transition book, *The Incredible Record Smashers* by Jenny Pearson, selected Year 7s will take part in a Guinness World Record attempt with poet Laura Mucha for the largest multi venue poetry lesson. Students will be contributing to the poem which will be read together with the finished poem being published and broadcast across the country through various media outlets, including billboards and newspapers.

Poetry Slam lunchtime in the library - come down and take centre stage on National Poetry Day to perform/recite your favourite poem or rap or why not compose your own to share?! Merits will be awarded to all who take part with prizes being awarded to the best participants.

18th October - Harry Potter Quiz and Chip Night. Sign up for a fun filled family quiz via booking forms available in the library. Teams of up to 6 can take part, open to all. Tickets are £2 per person, hot food is available to pre-order and sweets and drinks will be on sale. Wizarding robes are encouraged!

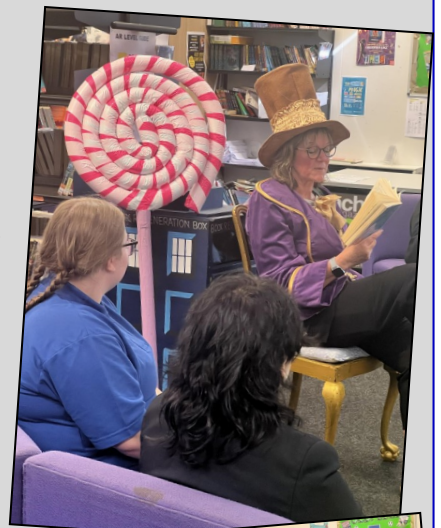
Spooky Stories - during the last week of October enter the library, if you dare, for terrifying tales read by candlelight.

4th November - Upcoming author event (Sufiya Ahmed) keep a lookout for further information.

Roald Dahl Month was celebrated in the library during September with lunchtime readings from a variety of our splendiferous staff who brought the colourful world of Roald Dahl characters to life.

Students enjoyed eating lunch and devouring the homemade cupcakes as they were transported to another world for 40 glorious minutes of the day. On Wednesday tutor teams battled out their knowledge of the workings of Dahl in a library lunchtime quiz. All students received merits for taking part and naturally scrumptious chocolate and sweets after each round.

Finally, congratulations to 28 of our Year 8 students who have had their brilliant stories published in the Young Writers anthology, *Mission Catastrophe* - a fantastic achievement!







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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 referred to 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 as appropriate and ensuring the school meets its responsibilities to its stakeholders (Pupils, Parents, Carers and Staff).

The Northgate News Team asked some questions to find out more about who is part of Northgate's Academy Stakeholder Committee. Next up is Mr Alan Jones.

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

I have been a governor at Northgate High School/Dereham Sixth Form College since 2007. I wished to continue my association with this exceptional school as a member of the Academy Stakeholder Committee knowing how important it is that schools engage constructively with parents, students and the wider community.



### **What job do you have or had previously?**

I was Head of Planning and Resource Allocation at the University of East Anglia until my retirement several years ago. I still have a consultancy role with the University's Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures.

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

The opportunity to hear the views of students about their Northgate experience, whether from surveys conducted by the school or by meeting students in person. It is also a privilege to be able to attend school events and celebrate the achievements of students.

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

The ability to listen, question and support the school in the interest of all stakeholders.

**How would you describe Northgate in 3 words?** Ambitious, caring and successful.

### **How do you think students show pride in Northgate?**

By respecting the school environment and being courteous and helpful to others.

### **What hobbies do you have?**

Gardening, walking and painting – the latter without any claim to talent or skill.

### **Do you have a particular teacher that inspired you?**

Yes, two - a father and son. The father was Headteacher of my secondary school. He taught History in Year 11 and developed my love of the subject. The son, an early career teacher at the time, taught "A" level Economics and Economic History at the sixth form centre I moved on to. He was an inspirational teacher and great fun. He helped me gain the grades I needed to be able to continue studying those subjects at university.

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

France, for the weather and food.

### **What do you think makes Northgate a great School?**

Northgate is a great school because it has great staff. Over the years I have seen many examples of ways in which our staff deliver on the school's aim of enabling young people to "enjoy learning, achieve highly and enter the adult world with confidence".