



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

December 2024

2024

Issue 73

Northgate News Team Updates

Our Northgate News Team have been hard at work over recent weeks writing articles about activities they are involved in and interviewing members of staff to find out a bit more about them. Take a look at the links below to read some of their pieces and find out more:

[Settling into Northgate](#)

[Orchard Committee](#)

[Year 9 Geography Trip to Cambridge](#)

[Northgate News Team Interview - Mrs Norman](#)

[Northgate News Team Interview - Mr Collyer](#)



Northgate News

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

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.

2nd - 13th December

Year 11 mock exams continue

3rd December

Year 7 and Year 8 Spelling Bee Finals (in the Library)

4th December

Design Department Private View – showcasing work from Northgate and Dereham Sixth Form students – 5.00pm – 6.30pm. The Northgate Christmas card competition entries will also be on display.

4th - 11th December

Scholastic Book Fair in the Library

12th December

Christmas Jumper Day – wear your Christmas jumper alongside your normal uniform and give £1 in PART lesson for Save the Children
Christmas dinner in Café North

18th December

Christmas Concert at Dereham St Nicholas' Church - 6pm. Northgate's Enterprise Team will be selling Christmas decorations - see examples on page 5.

20th December

Break up for Christmas



Northgate Remembers

On Friday 8th November the Northgate community gathered to pay tribute to the brave men and women who served and sacrificed for our country. It was a moment of reflection and respect as everyone observed a minute's silence, with the sound of The Last Post played by Mr Brook echoing through the air in remembrance of the fallen.

During the ceremony, our Deputy Head Boy, Wyn, and Deputy Head Girl, Maisie, read the moving poem For the Fallen, a timeless reminder of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for our freedom. Following this, our Head Girl, Kyra, and Head Boy, Henry, shared the poignant words of In Flanders Fields, honouring the memory of soldiers lost in battle.

Representatives from each year group, joined by our Heads of School and Mr Hambling, CEO of the Trust, placed crosses and silhouettes in a powerful tribute to the fallen heroes. This collective act of remembrance was a reminder of the enduring legacy of their sacrifice.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in and observed this meaningful moment of reflection. A special thank you goes to Mr MacDonald for his careful organisation of the service, ensuring that we were all able to come together in such a respectful and dignified way.



Merit Update

Students have gained over 33,000 merits since September - a fantastic achievement. Over the Christmas holidays many students will see their merit totals rise with the awarding of attendance and no negative bonus merits. Last week we held a successful 'Black Friday' merit cashing in with 10% off all stationery items. It was great to see students getting prepared and making the most of this deal. Over 700 certificates acknowledging achieving 20 merits have been emailed home, along with 200 certificates for 50 merits. We also have our first students who have gained 100 merits. Certificates and badges are on their way to them shortly. Merit cashing in takes 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 have maintained their lead in the House merit competition.

Attenborough	Hawking	Rowling	Holmes
39.06	37.32	37.03	35.77



2024

Issue 73



2024

Issue 73

GCSE Presentation Evening

Thursday 14th November saw our Class of 2024 return for their GCSE presentation evening. A chance to celebrate their achievements and catch up with those who have gone on to different Sixth Forms or colleges. The evening was organised by Mrs Bone and commenced with words from Heads of School, Mrs Galley and Dr Hone. GCSE certificates were awarded by Head of Year, Mr Guy. Progress award certificates were also awarded to students that had made exceptional progress from their starting points, by Mr Hambling, Unity Education Trust CEO.

The keynote speech came from Dr Tim Kinnaird, formerly a doctor and paediatric consultant, BBC MasterChef finalist and now owner of Macarons & More. Both of Tim's children attended Northgate and he spoke about their memories and their fondness of the school and their teachers. He gave some words of wisdom from his old school friends too – some of which were rather random!

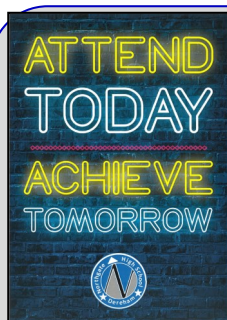
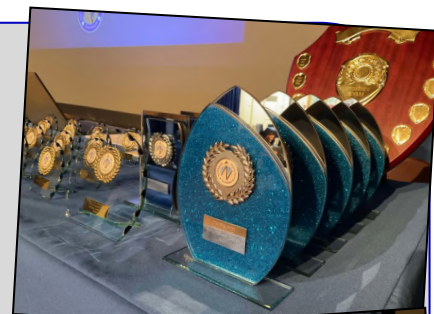
Then came Subject Awards. Each Head of Department, alongside their department, nominated a student who they felt deserved their Subject Award. Each winner collected their trophy and certificate. Mr Guy, Head of Year 11, spoke about his time as their Head of Year at Northgate. He mentioned how much he misses the group and how well they coped with the ups and downs of their time at Northgate. He congratulated them on their achievements over the five years and wished them well in their futures.

The evening also acknowledged the Year 11 Leadership Team for their outstanding service to the school. Dr Hone and Mrs Galley presented Head Teacher's Awards. The final awards of the evening were special prizes presented on behalf of

Dereham Lions, Tim Kinnaird (former Chair of Governors), Governors and Trustees, and were presented by Mr Alan Jones, Chair of Trustees.

They celebrated extraordinary contributions, progress, and character. Congratulations to the winners.

A wonderful evening to celebrate a fantastic group of students. Congratulations to the Class of 2024. You can read more about the evening, including a list of winners in our [blog](#).



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7DNI, 8OM, 9TLY, 10YC and 11RM who have all won the fortnightly attendance competition since the last bulletin. 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.





2024

Issue 73

Children In Need

A big THANK YOU to Mr Carter and Northgate's Social Team for their fundraising efforts as part of Children in Need. Members of the team were out every day during the fundraising week selling Pudsey merchandise, badges, pens, wristbands and Pudsey ears. A non-uniform day took place on Friday 17th November and the ever popular bake sale sold out completely. Thank you to everyone who contributed in one way or another, baking, buying biscuits and cakes or purchasing



Pudsey merchandise. We can reveal a total of £736.38 was raised for Children in Need and £361.45 from half of the non-uniform money will go towards School Council projects for this year.



Anti-Bullying Week - Northgate chooses Respect

A big thank you to Mrs Lyons, Miss Peach, Miss Morrison and the Well-Being Team for organising this year's Anti-bullying week. The theme for this year was 'Choose Respect'. There was a whole host of videos and discussion points made available for PART lesson on the theme of 'choose respect', looking at what respect means, why respect is important and whether it is possible to disagree and argue respectfully with someone. The team also hosted a 'Tea and Natter' session one lunchtime, providing a safe space for students to come and chat and have their voices heard. Akhina R (Year 10), Harrison-Chase A (Year 8) and Poppy-Mae A (Year 8) all won a competition to design an anti-bullying poster.



Students in 10KT came up with their 'Choose Respect' top tips:

- 1) Treat others as you would want to be treated
- 2) Think before you speak or act
- 3) Keep calm, take a breath
- 4) Don't say or do something that you might regret
- 5) It's ok to disagree or have a disagreement - we are all different
- 6) Don't resort to making things personal
- 7) Agree to disagree

**CHOOSE
RESPECT**

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



2024

Issue 73

Enterprise Advertise

The Northgate Design Department's Enterprise Team have been working busily like little Christmas elves! They have been making a whole host of Christmas decorations to sell and here's a sneak preview! There's eco-friendly tree decorations, Lindor reindeer decorations, light up reindeer, wooden Christmas trees, Scandi-style star and tree decorations, wooden trees, cards and more. For a unique Christmas present, this is definitely for you!

A copy of the brochure and price list is being emailed home, along with an order form. So, if you'd like to buy any of these amazing items, please see Mr Mottley (kmottley@ng6.unity-ed.uk) in the Design Department.

Payment by cash. Alternatively, you will find the items on sale at Northgate's Christmas concert at Dereham St Nicholas' Church, on Wednesday 18th December from 6pm.



Northgate High School Governors

Northgate High School Academy Stakeholder Committee (ASC) is made up of parents, teachers and community governors. We wish to recruit two new parent governors and one community governor. A community governor would be from the local community and is not a parent of a child at the school therefore bringing a wider perspective to our discussions.



Traditionally Northgate governors had a statutory role and had decision making responsibilities including finance, health and safety, staffing and the curriculum but as members of Unity Education Trust this oversight is undertaken elsewhere and the main focus of the ASC is "to support the Trust Board and the school in developing and maintaining effective links within the school's communities and ensuring the school meets its responsibilities to its stakeholders".

We meet once a term, after school with members of the school community to review and discuss agenda items directly impacting the role of the ASC such as surveys of pupils, parents and staff. We learn how the views of stakeholders are taken into account by the school and how the school communicates with its stakeholders i.e. the frequency and content of the school's communications with parents. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 2025.

If you would be interested in becoming a governor/member of the Academy Stakeholder Committee, nominations are currently under way for two new parent governors and we are seeking expressions of interest in the post of community governor. If you would like further information, please contact our clerk, Daphne Price dprice@unityeducationtrust.uk or Karen Thompson kthompson@unityeducationtrust.uk. The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 4th December.



2024

Issue 73

Buzzing with Talent: Northgate students shine in Spelling Bee

Our Spelling Bee has been buzzing with energy as Year 7 and 8 students tackled a tricky selection of spellings, inspired by their autumn curriculum and key age-related words. From limericks to Wordle, they learned the initial list through fun and creative activities!

Top scorers from each class advanced to this week's Semi-Finals, facing additional spellings and surprise tie-breakers. After a tense competition, the 6 top scorers will move on to the Final in two weeks, with even more challenging words ahead!

English teachers have been really impressed with the manner in which the Year 7s and 8s took on this challenge - the year groups have been 'a-buzz' with excitement!

A massive well done to all students; particular well done to the semi finalists and finalists. Standards were really high and it was a close run competition to get into the next round.

A special shout-out to Miss Woodier, our fantastic spelling bee pronouncer, who donned an awesome costume!



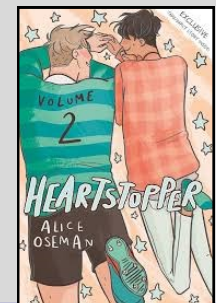
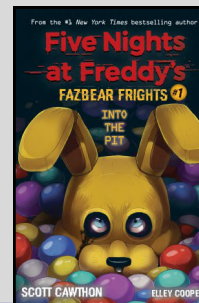
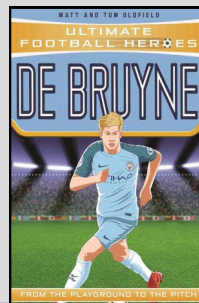
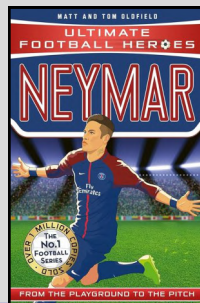
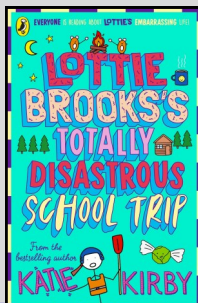
Updates from the Library

On Monday 4th November we were delighted to welcome author Sufya Ahmed to Northgate as part of Remembrance week. Sufya gave an interesting talk to Year 7 and Year 8 students on her childhood dream to become a writer and her previous career in the Houses of Parliament.

Then she talked about her books, with an introduction to Noor Inayat Khan, detailing WW2, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Noor's mission to defeat the enemy as a spy. Sufya also presented a talk on arranged and forced marriages to Year 9 and Dereham Sixth Form Criminology students.

November's most popular loaned books are:

Lottie Brook's totally disastrous school trip, by Katie Kirby, Neymar (Ultimate Football Heroes), by Matt and Tom Oldfield, De Bruyne (Ultimate Football Heroes), by Matt and Tom Oldfield, Into the it, by Scott Cawthorn and Elley Cooper and Heartstopper Volume 2, by Alice Oseman.





2024

Issue 73

Updates from the Library continued

Non-fiction November celebrations: Year 8 students Kiera B, Caitlin S, Austin B and Mason W represented Northgate in the annual Britannica 'What On Earth' Quiz, a furiously fast paced timed online quiz testing their knowledge on the facts found in their heats assigned magazines. We are incredibly proud of their knowledge and teamwork effort and although we missed out on selection to the final the competition was incredibly close with only seconds separating the 300 teams taking part.



As part of this year's theme for Non-fiction November, 'Why Don't You?', staff and students were asked to persuade others to try their hobby or interest by submitting photos of themselves with a brief reason why others should 'give it a go'. All entries were awarded a merit with a prize awarded to the most persuasive. We look forward to sharing some of the entries on social media.

As well as finding out a little more about each other, the responses have helped in deciding on which new information books to purchase for our school library.

Everyone who has loaned, read and left a review on our library catalogue system, Accessit, was entered into a raffle to win a voucher for our upcoming Book Fair.

Accelerated Reader: Congratulations to our fortnightly winners in November, Jasper C (Year 7) and Jessica B (Year 8).

We also have our first word millionaire of the year, Tess C (Year 8) who has read an incredible 1,926,027 words since September. Congratulations Tess! Who will be joining her on our Millionaire Wall of Fame?



I'm a Celebrity Get Me Reading Accelerated Reader Tutor Competition is currently taking place. Linked to the TV show, students must earn 'dingo dollars' for their tutor teams by taking an AR quiz, writing a book review or exploring new vocabulary within their book. Each library lesson students also have an opportunity to earn extra camp stars by completing a 'bush tucker trial'. The winning tutor group, announced on 9th December, will be crowned Reading Royalty of the Jungle and earn treats.

During November, Year 7s have read 89 books and an incredible 2,450,553 words. Not to be outdone, Year 8 students have read 83 books and an even more incredible 3,856,754 words!

Upcoming events: Following the success of our Pumpkin Book Character Competition in November, in December we are launching our Bauble Book Character Competition! Turn a bauble into a book character to decorate our library Christmas tree - winning a Christmas hamper of festive goodies. Find out more in the Library.

The Scholastic Book Fair arrives on 4th December for one week - an ideal opportunity to purchase Christmas presents and also support our school library. Each book sold earns reward points to spend on books to increase our stock.