



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

March 2025

2025

Issue 76

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Upcoming events continued

19th - 26th March

Scholastic Book Fair in the Library

24th March

External Moderator visit for Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Assessment

25th March

Year 10 Geography trip to Winterton (TBC)

27th March

World Theatre Day – activities to be announced
Great British Spring Clean with the Orchard Committee - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

28th March

Year 11 GCSE Drama Practical exams
Year 8 trip to Norwich School for author event (selected students)

31st March

Great British Spring Clean with the Environment Team - 12.30pm - 12.55pm



Upcoming events

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

2nd - 5th March

Science Live Disneyland Paris trip

3rd March

Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Assessment Day

3rd - 7th March

World Book Week – see activities available on page 9

5th March

Year 10 Festival of Knowledge Period 2 + 3 (skills fair at Norwich Showground)

6th + 20th March

Visit, talk and workshop by Carl Watling, Master Composter with The Orchard Committee 3.15pm - 4.15pm

7th - 16th March

British Science Week
Murder in the Library event for Science Week

10th March

Julia Edwards – Historical author visit with Year 8

11th March

Gordon John Reid author visit for Science Week – work with Year 10 triple scientists, 6th formers and students from Years 7 – 9
Year 10 Maths Feast competition at CNS

14th March

Pi Day

17th March

Year 11 NEA 2 Food Practical exam (TBC)
Institut Francais visit to Dereham 6th Form College (Year 8 pupils from Litcham, Wayland, Neatherd and Northgate)



Northgate News

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

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Year 7 Number Day

On Friday 7th February, Year 7 students came together for the annual Number Day activities, organised by Miss Theobald from the Maths Department.

During Period 4, half of the year group gathered in the main hall, kicking off the session with number aerobics. Some volunteers demonstrated the moves, and it was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm from everyone! The main activity was a quiz, with some tricky questions that tested their skills and determination. The final part of the session involved students creating real-life graphs, giving them a fun introduction to straight-line graphs—a topic they will explore more in their Maths curriculum.

In Period 5, the remaining Year 7 students joined in the fun and took part in a 'very strange game' exploring the properties of numbers.

Throughout the day, there was also a teacher treasure hunt, where students could take part during break, lunchtime, or at home via Satchel One. 25 teachers had been assigned a number, and students had to answer questions like: 'What is the sum of the Maths teachers?', 'Which teachers are square numbers?', and 'Which teacher is the smallest prime number?'

A new feature this year was the virtual escape room. About 25 students took part in their own time, solving problems and cracking codes to escape from 10 different rooms in the school. Some great problem-solving skills were on display!

Congratulations to the winners in each teaching group who topped the quiz:

Benjamin C (7Cou), Keegan C and Oliver O (7Det), Ava M (7Ten), Mason D (7End), Maisie B (7Val), Sophie S (7Int), George M (7Asp), Harry C and Logan H (7Mot).

Students were also playing for House points as part of the House competition and the results were as follows:

1st - Attenborough, 2nd - Rowling, 3rd - Hawking and 4th - Holmes.



Congratulations also to the winners of the treasure hunt (Oliver M) and escape room (Charlie S). Mrs Smith, Head of Maths, was pleased to present all the certificates and prizes during the Year 7 assembly. You can read more about Number Day [here](#).

SPARX Stars

Year 9, 10, and 11 students continue to work hard on their weekly SPARX Maths homework, showing excellent understanding of the topics being tested. The tailored questions are perfect for addressing any gaps in knowledge. In particular, Year 11 students have made great use of the Independent Learning section during their recent second set of mock exams.

Since September, students have answered a total of **420,922 questions correctly**, completed **5,307 hours of personalised learning**, and **180 students** have improved their times tables. Hundreds of students have also levelled up, and many virtual certificates have been emailed home. Keep up the great work, everyone!

A special congratulations to our latest SPARX Stars, who have earned more than 4000 XP over the last half term:

Year 9: Oliver C, Imogen O, Laiza R, Chloe S, Yi Han G, Milly D, **Year 10:** Brigita Z, Isaac R, Dana H, Jessica K-J, Setaita K, Ella W, Kourtney L, Ella P, Joseph C, Annabelle B, **Year 11:** Taylor B, Taylor P, Daisy K, Kaylee K, Henry D, Sophie R, Chloe K, Evelyn W, Ryan B, Kyra T, Daniel A, Jasmine C, Mia S

Well done to all of you - keep up the excellent work!

Sparx Maths



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time to talk day 06/02/25

Time to Talk Day

Time to Talk Day is an annual event dedicated to encouraging open conversations about mental health.

It aims to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health by promoting the importance of talking about feelings and mental wellbeing. The day encourages people to take five minutes out of their day to chat with someone, whether that's a friend, family member, colleague, or someone else in the community.

It's a simple way to show that conversations about mental health matter, helping to create supportive and understanding environments where people feel comfortable seeking help.

Time to Talk Day is an initiative from the Time to Change campaign, which focuses on changing attitudes towards mental health. Whether it's a quick chat or a more in-depth

conversation, it's a chance to make a positive difference to someone's mental health.

This year, the school's Well-Being Team hosted a 'Tea and Natter' event in the Library. It was a relaxed opportunity to enjoy a drink, a biscuit, and a friendly conversation. Attendees had the chance to create conversation starter chatterboxes, explore top tips for navigating tricky discussions, play a true-or-false game, and more.

We hope those who attended felt comfortable opening up and were reminded that there are always people, whether fellow students or staff members, available to talk to if you ever need support.

A big thank you to the Well-Being Team for hosting such an important and supportive event.





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Join Us for the Great British Spring Clean Litter Picks!

We're excited to invite students to take part in two litter pick events for the Great British Spring Clean:



Thursday 27th March: Join the Orchard Committee after school from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm (starting in MA6).

Monday 31st March: Join the Environment Team from 12:30 pm to 12:55 pm (starting in the main hall).

Dereham Community Litter Pickers will once again kindly lend us extra equipment - thank you to them! We hope lots of students and staff will come along to help keep our school site clean and show pride in our environment. Merits will be awarded to those that help out.

The Great British Spring Clean is the UK's largest environmental campaign, encouraging everyone to keep their local communities clean and litter-free. Last year, over 400,000 bags of litter were collected across the country by incredible #LitterHeroes. It's a fantastic initiative that brings people together to make a real difference and fosters pride in local communities. Whether you're participating as an individual or as part of a group, we encourage you to join the effort and help keep Britain tidy!



TAKE PART IN A SCHOOL LITTER PICK AS PART OF
THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN!
MEET IN THE MAIN HALL ON MONDAY 31ST MARCH AT 12.30PM
TO GET YOUR EQUIPMENT. LITTER PICK UNTIL 12.55PM.
*We all have a role to play keeping
the school grounds free from litter*



With equipment kindly
loaned by Dereham
Community Litter Pickers





TAKE PART IN A SCHOOL LITTER PICK AS PART OF
THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN!
JOIN THE ORCHARD COMMITTEE AFTER SCHOOL ON THURSDAY
27TH MARCH FROM 3.15PM - 4.15PM TO GET YOUR EQUIPMENT.
*We all have a role to play keeping
the school grounds free from litter*



Meet in MA6 and then head
out to the school field



Merit Update

We've reached a significant milestone halfway through the school year - students have now earned over 60,000 merits! This is a fantastic achievement, and it's been great to see so many students engage with the rewards system.

At the weekly merit cashing-in sessions, nearly 10,000 merits have already been redeemed for rewards. Over the recent half term, we've seen a surge in bonus merits awarded: **1,520 merits** for 100% attendance, **552 merits** for attendance above 95% and **1,650 merits** for students receiving no negatives during the first Spring half term.

We're also celebrating some major milestones: **26 students** have earned 150 or more merits, **162 students** have earned 100 or more merits, and an impressive **597 students** have gained 50 or more merits. Merit cashing-in continues every Monday from **12:30 pm to 12:50 pm** in the main hall.



Attenborough	Hawking	Rowling	Holmes
72.36	69.37	69.22	67.44



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Issue 756

UKMT Maths Challenge Congratulations!

At the end of January, 60 of our Year 9 and 10 students took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, competing alongside thousands of students across the country. Just before half term, the Maths Department received the results.

A huge well done to all students who took part - some of the questions were certainly challenging! Special congratulations to those who earned certificates:

Year 9: Bronze certificates: Finley K, Emily O, Nora R and Ethan S.

Silver certificates: Freddie C (Best in Year 9).

Year 10: Bronze certificates: James A, Rhys B, Isobel C, Jake G, Freya N, Braydon R and Bartosz W.

Silver certificates: Annabelle B, Charlotte B, George L, Isaac R, Harry S and Sabrina F (Best in Year 10 and Best in School).

We look forward to seeing some of our Year 7 and 8 students take part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge after Easter!



Orchard Committee takes part in RSPB Birdwatch

Members of the Orchard Committee recently took part in the RSPB Big School's Birdwatch, documenting the different species of birds seen on the school site during one of their meetings. They picked four different locations across the school. There was quite a range of birds seen with wood pigeons, carrion crows and house sparrows being the most popular. The results were submitted to the RSPB and the activity counted towards the Committee's RSPB Bronze Wild Challenge evidence.



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7HB, 8KN, 9SP, 10YC 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. Congratulations also to the following students who were our Spring 1 attendance raffle winners and all received an Amazon voucher: Mason D (Year 7), Frankie A-R (Year 8), Ruby E (Year 9), Evie Co (Year 10) and Charley O (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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Updates from the Library

It's time for some Library updates and it includes lots of statistics this month!

Congratulations to our most recent Word Millionaires: From Year 7 - Thomas T - 1,339,609 words read, Evelyn B - 1,156,936 words read, and from Year 8 - Tess C - 2,819,226 words read, Mason W - 1,335,632 words read, Ben G - 1,195,142 words read and Phoebe L - 1,150,515 words read.

What a fantastic achievement!

Our fortnightly Accelerated Reader quiz winners have been Rowan T, Edward B (Year 7) and Frankie A-R, Ellise D, Mabel E and Lotte L (Year 8). The Accelerated Reader half term winner (completed 10 quizzes) was Charlotte H (Year 8).



All Year 7s and Year 8s have an Easter Egg in the library on the wall and ceiling, and as they read and quiz towards their targets their egg moves to different milestones so they can track their progress. It's been great to see so many move up to the next percentage.

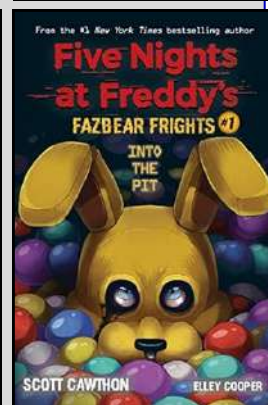
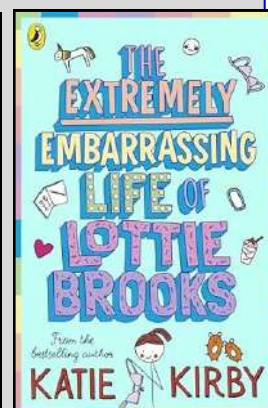
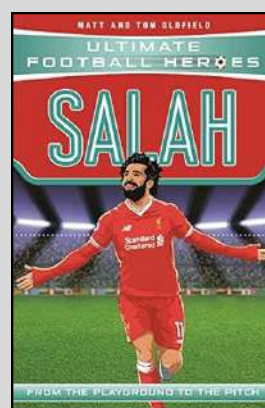
Congratulations to all Year 7s and 8s - we can reveal the following statistics which are for this school year so far:

Year 7: 975 books read and 19,839,317 words read!

Year 8: 564 books read and 17,726,375 words read!

We are also sharing with Tutor Groups as a competition to win the Accelerated Reader trophy and sweet treats this term. The leader board currently has 7HB and 8OM at the top, but this could all change over the coming half term. Make sure you're reading lots and quizzing to help your tutor group in the competition.

Finally, the **top 10 most loaned books** are as follows: Heartstopper Volume 5 (Alice Osman), Heartstopper Volume 2 (Alice Osman), Five Nights at Freddy's: Fazbear Frights graphic novel (Scott Cawthorn, Elley Cooper and Carly-Anne West), Salah - Ultimate Football Heroes (Matt + Tom Oldfield), Into the Pit (Scott Cawthorn + Elley Cooper), Heartstopper Volume 1 (Alice Osman), The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Books (Katie Kirby), Fetch (Scott Cawthorn, Andrea Waggener + Carly-Anne West), Lewandowski from Playground to Pitch (Matt + Tom Oldfield) and Looshkin: the Maddest Cat in the World! (Jamie Smart).





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Updates from the Library continued

Mrs Gill in the Library is so creative with her displays and book recommendations - every time you go in there is something different! Last half term there were book displays for Time to Talk day, with a whole host of books on the theme of mental health and Holocaust Memorial Day. There were also a number of displays for Valentines day including blind date with a book and finding your perfect paired read. So, next time you go into the Library, take a good look around you - you might spot something new!



World Book Week – 3rd - 7th March

Get ready for a week filled with exciting book-related activities to celebrate World Book Day! Here's a rundown of what's happening:

Monday 3rd March – Literary Cake Bake Competition:

Design, bake and decorate a cake inspired by a literary character or book! Bring your creation into school for judging, based on appearance, originality, and taste. Fabulous prizes await the winners at lunchtime.

Tuesday 4th March – Mad Hatter's Tea Party: Join us in the Library at lunchtime for a whimsical Mad Hatter's Tea Party. It's sure to be a fun and quirky event!

Wednesday 5th March – Sponsored Read-A-Thon: Year 7 and Year 8 students, sign up for our Sponsored Read-a-thon in the Library! Spend the day reading to raise money for the charity Read for Good. Sign-up sheets are available in the Library.

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day Costume Parade: Dress up as your favourite book character! Whether it's from The Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan, Where's Wally, Narnia, Marvel, Manga, or any other book, get creative with handmade costumes. You can also design and paint your favourite book cover on a plain T-shirt – let's fill the school with characters brought to life! A character line-up at lunchtime will feature prizes for the best costumes.

Friday 7th March – Wonderful Wizard of Oz Escape Room: Form teams of 5 to take on the escape room challenge in the Library. It's bound to be a thrilling activity!

Additional Activities: **Book in a Jar Competition:** Create a scene from your favourite book inside a jar. Prizes will be awarded for the best book jars! **Book Cover Competition:** Design your own book cover – details in the Library. **Tutor Group Book Door Competition:** Decorate your tutor room door in a book-themed style. **World Book Day Quiz:** Join in the fun with our themed Friday quiz! **Book Tokens:** Available in the Library for students to use towards a book purchase. These can also be exchanged for a World Book Day book available at participating bookstores and supermarkets. **Scholastic Book Fair:** The Scholastic Book Fair will return from **19th - 26th March**, with books for all ages and tastes. Use your World Book Day voucher to get £1 off any book title!

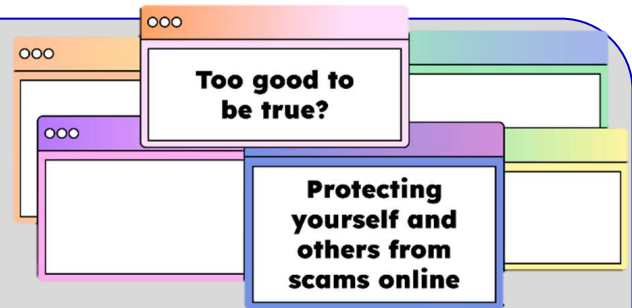


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Safer Internet Day

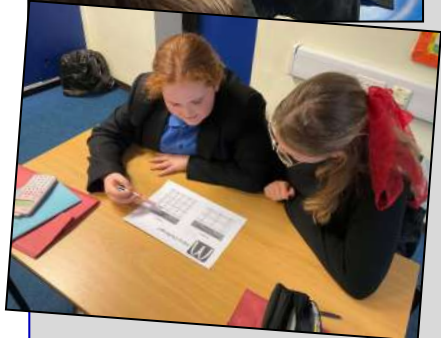
Safer Internet Day is a global event that aims to promote a safer and more responsible use of technology and the internet. It encourages everyone, especially young people, to explore how they can contribute to creating a positive online community. Each year, Safer Internet Day focuses on raising awareness about key online issues such as cyberbullying, online privacy, digital wellbeing, and the importance of respecting others in the digital world.



Safer Internet Day 2025 took place on 11th February, with the theme "Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online." This year, the focus was on educating young people about the risks of online scams and how they can protect themselves and others.

Mrs Woods, Head of Computer Science, provided some useful resources for tutors to use in PART lesson to explore the main themes. The resources explored the growing issue of scams, including online financial and how emerging technologies like AI may change the way scammers operate. It also provided a platform for students to share their experiences and ideas on tackling online threats, and discuss the role of the government and the internet industry in keeping young people safe. Students also learnt about being safe online in their computing lessons and Year 8s had an assembly about being safer on the internet.

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety, promoting the positive and responsible use of digital technology. At Northgate, we are proud to support Safer Internet Day as it's such an important opportunity for students to learn about online security and the support available to them.



Year 7 Maths: Investigating the McNugget Number

Before half term, our Year 7 Maths students embarked on an exciting mathematical investigation, exploring the concept of the McNugget Number! Working in pairs, they collaborated to solve the intriguing puzzle of determining the largest number that cannot be made using any combination of boxes of 6, 9 or 20 McNuggets.

Students began by applying their knowledge of multiples and using logical reasoning to break down the problem. They worked together to investigate patterns and formulate their ideas, testing different combinations to find solutions and uncover the McNugget Number. Their ability to work collaboratively and think critically was evident in the fact that many of them found the McNugget Number and went on to apply the skills to similar problems!

The Maths teachers were thoroughly impressed by the problems solving skills on display, the level of engagement and determination shown by all students. This hands-on investigation not only reinforced key mathematical concepts but also fostered teamwork and communication skills - and of course it was about chicken nuggets - what's not to enjoy?!

Well done to everyone for their excellent work - keep up the fantastic efforts!



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Institut Francais 'On the Road' workshops to visit Dereham Sixth Form College

**INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS**
Royaume-Uni

We are excited to welcome the Institut Francis later this month to work with some of our Year 8 and 9 students. This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to experience workshops run by the Institut Francais. Based in London, the Institut Francais has been reaching out to big cities with its "Francophonie On the Road" tour. In 2024 they toured Newcastle, Lincoln, Birmingham and Cheltenham. In 2025 they are kicking off their Roadshow at Dereham Sixth Form College.

Pupils from four local schools (up to 25 pupils from each school) will be involved. In the morning, pupils will be coming from Wayland Academy and Litcham High School. In the afternoon it is the turn of Dereham Neatherd and Dereham Northgate, who are hosting the day at Dereham Sixth Form College.

Mr Everett, Head of Languages at Northgate High School and Dereham Sixth Form college said, "The day will have a mystery theme which I can't reveal. But the details I can share are that it will be hands-on, in French, and very creative." The Institut Francais have prepared activities tailored to Year 8 and Year 9 pupils, to engage them with issues around an Environmental theme in French and for them to enjoy a creative and artistic experience.

The day will be delivered by three teachers from the Institut Francais, with teachers from Northgate and the visiting schools there to support their pupils. We can't wait to tell you more!

Year 7 Aquatic Art Exhibition

The whole of Year 7 have developed a number of skills that have captured the beauty and diversity of life beneath the waves through a range of creative mediums. Work includes Monoprinting, tonal drawings, Polyblock prints and intricate Zentangles of aquatic animals, which all showcase a unique pattern and approach. The Art and Design Department is proud of what all of the students have achieved and how they have expressed their creativity. It was lovely to showcase the work to staff, pupils and parents/carers at the after school exhibition. Well done to all involved!



Students head to the Italian Slopes

During half term, a group of Northgate students headed to Passo Tonale in Italy for the ski trip.

A week on the slopes with sunny skies was in store. Each day we looked forward to the updates on the Northgate Sport X account, which included plenty of videos of the group in action. There were many laughs along the way with the naming of the Northgate Numpties - from falling asleep in the pre-ski meeting and wiping out a member of staff to leaving skis on the gondola and crashing into a stop sign!

It was evident as the days progressed that the groups were tackling the mountains more confidently, and lots of progress being made. During the trip there was also time for an après-ski ice cream stop in Ponte Di Legno, pizza night, party night and awards. Well done to Jess who was star skier, Poppy who was most improved and Erin who was voted skiers skier of the trip!

Mrs Holt, trip organiser said, 'After a long coach journey, the pupils quickly settled into a weeks worth of lessons, and their progress was fantastic. By the end of the week we had a group of skiers who could confidently get about the mountains. In true Northgate style, new friendships were formed, and pupils behaved impeccably, exceeding all expectations. A truly amazing week, and one where experiences and memories will last a lifetime.'

A huge thank you to Mrs Holt for organising the trip and to the team of staff who supported, for giving students this fantastic opportunity. We look forward to hearing more tales from the slopes!





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Sporting Updates

A number of our football teams have been in action recently - here's an update on their performances:

A big well done to the Year 7 boys team who played in the South Norfolk 5 a side tournament. Unfortunately they lost their semi-final and then the 3rd/4th place play off both 1-0, to end up finishing 4th overall out of 9. Good play though from a new team.



For the Year 8 boys team there were mixed results in the 5 a side competition. With two draws and two losses, sadly they didn't make it to the semi finals of the tournament however the boys enjoyed the experience and worked well as a team.

The Year 8 boys also played Langley in the 3rd round of the County Cup. A strong 1st half saw them go 2 - 0 up by half time.

Langley battled in the second half to draw level before a rocket header from Leo with 10 minutes to go secured the win. We are in the quarter finals!



Both the Year 8 and 9 girls football teams have been in action recently playing in the South Norfolk Cup. The Year 8s were knocked out in the semi finals after a tense round of penalties; and the Year 9s lost in the finals. Great play from all involved - we are proud of everyone's achievements!

Year 9 Author Visit with Tia Fisher

Earlier last half term, Year 9 students had the incredible opportunity to spend time with Tia Fisher, author of 'Crossing the Line'. The session was a unique and enriching experience that brought the book to life in a new way.

Tia shared an excerpt from her novel, giving students an insightful glimpse into the story while also speaking candidly about her personal experience with County Lines - a topic at the heart of her book. Her powerful testimony of overcoming the challenges involved in becoming a published author captivated the students. The talk sparked some thought-provoking questions and encouraged deeper engagement with the themes of the book.

This visit was a valuable opportunity for our students to not only gain a deeper understanding of 'Crossing the Line' but also to hear first-hand about the process of writing, publishing, and using personal experiences to shape stories. It's experiences like these that make literature come alive and inspire our young readers to think critically about the world around them.

A huge thank you to Mrs. Gill for organising yet another amazing author visit and to Akhina and Annabelle from Year 10, who did a fantastic job of introducing Tia. We can't wait for the next author visits in March!

