



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

April 2025

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Northgate's Orchard Committee to take part in Gressenhall Earth Day

Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse is hosting their annual Earth Day on Friday 11th April. The Orchard Committee has been invited to have a stall at the event and to talk to members of the public about the work they are doing in The Orchard. They will be offering hands on demonstrations - making newspaper biodegradable seed pots for wildflower seeds and origami seed packets. The day is aimed at KS2 families so if you have any younger children, please consider going along and saying hello to our students! This will be the third year they have represented Northgate.



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

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Follow us on Twitter:
@NGateDereham, @NgateCouncil



Follow us on Instagram:

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Upcoming events

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

Throughout April

French Exhibition at Dereham Windmill

1st April

Year 10 Geography Trip to Winterton
Accelerated Reader rewards celebration
Year 11 group photo

2nd - 4th April

French GCSE speaking exams

3rd April

Reading Champions Quiz East of England
Region Heats 9.30am - 1.00pm in
Northgate Library

4th April

Break up for Easter

11th April

Orchard Committee at Gressenhall Farm
and Workhouse's Earth Day Event
10.00am – 4.00pm

23rd April

Summer Term Begins (Week B)
Year 9 Art and Design Exhibition in the
main foyer 5.00pm – 6.30pm

23rd – 24th April

Year 11B Art GCSE Exam

29th April

Year 6 Welcome to Northgate Evening -
main hall 6.00pm - 7.30pm

29th – 30th April

Year 11B Photography GCSE Exam

30th April

Year 8 Parents' Evening – 4.00pm - 7.00pm
Author/poet Ashley Hickson- Lovance
visiting Year 9 + 10 students

Pi Day Celebrations in the Maths Department!

March 14th was an exciting and memorable day for our Maths Department as we celebrated Pi Day! Students from Key Stage 3 had the opportunity to dive deep into the fascinating world of pi through a variety of fun and educational activities.

Year 7 students got creative with pi skylines, solving a mystery related to circle parts, and testing their luck with a game of chance.

Year 8 students explored pi through a hands-on approach, measuring circular objects to discover its value, playing area of circles bingo, and solving pizza-themed problems (because who doesn't love pizza?)

Year 9 students were given the choice of tackling a Pi Day logic puzzle, a murder mystery, or a set of investigations, allowing them to challenge their critical thinking skills in different ways.

In addition to these activities, all students had the chance to create their very own Pi-ku - a poem inspired by the structure of a haiku, using the syllable pattern of 3-1-4 to represent the digits of pi (3.14). Merits were awarded for the best entries, and a special prize was given to the winner of the Pi-ku competition - congratulations Benjamin C (Year 7).

As part of the celebrations, students were also invited to participate in a national competition that encouraged them to represent pi in an interesting and creative way.

Finally, Year 7s enjoyed a fun Pi Dingbats Quiz, testing their wit and knowledge in a light-hearted way - well done to all who took part and to Jasper C and James D who were the winners.



A huge thank you to the Maths Department for organising such a fantastic day of activities! Well done to all the students for their enthusiasm and participation in making Pi Day a success.

Spreading Kindness, One Seed at a Time!

Members of our Orchard Committee carried out a special project in their recent meeting. They prepared just over 100 handmade origami seed packets, each filled with wildflower seeds from our very own orchard, including hollyhock, cornflower, and red campion.

These were gifted to our wonderful teachers, admin and support staff as a small token of appreciation. We hope once they sow the seeds, the flowers can bring a touch of colour and nature to their gardens at home!





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Authors visit Northgate

On 11th March, we were thrilled to welcome Julia Edwards to Northgate to speak to our Year 8 students about her books, with a particular focus on her Scar Gatherer series. This captivating series, made up of seven time-travel adventures, is aimed at 8 to 12-year-olds and takes readers on an unforgettable journey through significant periods in British history, from Roman times to the Second World War. The fifth book, *Slaves for the Isabella*, is especially relevant to Year 8's current curriculum, tying in with their studies on the transatlantic slave trade.

Pupils were eager to ask thoughtful questions, and a lucky few walked away with signed copies of Julia's books after a fun and engaging Q&A session.

As part of Science Week, Northgate students had the opportunity to take part in an exciting and interactive session with John Gordon Reid, director of What on Earth Publishing. John's passion for history, science, and discovery was evident throughout the session, which was both educational and entertaining. Using props, storytelling, and a huge timeline that spanned the front of the hall, John brought the history of our Earth to life, giving pupils a unique, hands-on experience of how our planet has evolved over time.

Each session was tailored specifically to the Year group, ensuring that the content was both accessible and relevant. Students were fascinated by the wealth of information, and many left the session with a greater understanding of the inter-connectedness of history, science, and the world around us. From the youngest to the oldest pupils, everyone seemed to enjoy and benefit from this engaging experience, making Science Week at Northgate unforgettable.



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7DNI, 7ARO, 8DHE, 8CC, 9JLL, 9RP, 10NC, 10SJ, 11SO 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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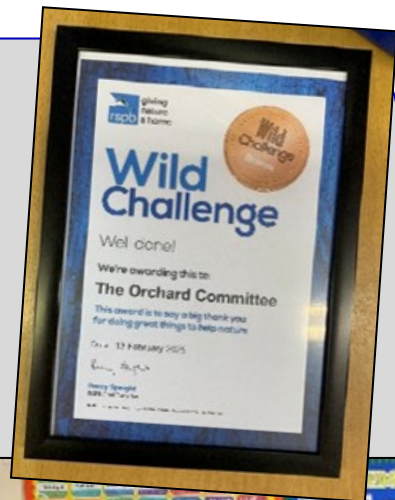
Orchard Committee achieve RSPB Wild Challenge Bronze Award!

A huge congratulations to the members of the Orchard Committee, who have recently earned their **RSPB Wild Challenge Bronze Award!** Over the past year, they've dedicated their time and effort to a variety of activities and projects in The Orchard. To earn this prestigious award, they completed three '**experiencing nature**' activities and three '**helping nature**' activities.

Some of the highlights of their work include:

- A Bioblitz trip to Gressenhall last summer, where they explored and documented local wildlife.
 - Capturing stunning photos of wildlife in The Orchard from different viewpoints to better understand their environment.
- Embarking on a plant safari using nature apps to identify and learn about various flowers and plants in The Orchard.
- Building a bug hotel, planting hedgerows, and growing wildlife-friendly flowers in the wildflower areas to support local biodiversity.

The committee is already busy working on the next steps, with activities underway towards earning their Silver Award. We look forward to seeing all their continued hard work and passion for nature!



Annabelle's Charity Abseil Challenge

Huge congratulations to Year 10 student Annabelle! One weekend last month, she bravely took on the challenge of abseiling down The Forum in Norwich to raise money for Nelson's Journey, a charity close to her heart. She conquered the heights and has raised over £600 for this incredible cause. Well done, Annabelle!

Nelson's Journey is a Norfolk-based charity supporting children and young people (up to 17 years old) who have experienced the loss of a significant person. Established in 1997, the charity provides early support, one-to-one sessions, and group activities to help them cope with grief and build resilience. It also offers training for professionals and bereavement resources for families. Through these services, Nelson's Journey aims to empower young people, helping them navigate their loss and move forward with a positive outlook.

Annabelle said, 'When at the Forum, we were in groups, each taking turns to abseil down the building. The Forum itself is 45 foot tall so we were pretty high up. I was a bit nervous to begin with but so pleased I completed the challenge. Overall, those that took part have raised over £17,000 for Nelson's Journey!'



World Book Week at Northgate: A Huge Success!

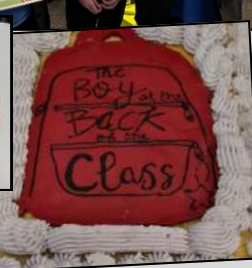
This year, World Book Week at Northgate was busier than ever, with a wide range of exciting activities that allowed students to show off their passion for books.

One of the highlights was the fiercely contested 'Bake a Story' competition, where students created incredible cakes inspired by different stories. The creativity and effort put into each cake made the judging process extremely tough!

A big congratulations to our winners:

- **1st Place:** Charlotte H (Animal Farm)
- **2nd Place:** Elizabeth H, Jenna G, Imogen H, and Sophia S (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory)
- **3rd Place:** Charlotte B (DC Comics)

Everyone who took part was rewarded with delicious goodies for their hard work and imagination.



Day two of World Book Week, Mrs Gill said, 'We held a Mad Hatters Tea Party in the library. Everyone enjoyed jam tarts, tea, pink lemonade and even some pancakes. We watched Alice in Wonderland whilst enjoying the treats, and even played some party games including a pancake (book) relay race.'

Natalie, Year 7, attended the event and told us all about it: 'The Mad Hatters tea party was great fun. We had lots of treats and the library was decorated awesomely. We got to take part in two very fun activities. One was throwing sugar into a cup. If you got a sugar lump in the cup you scored a point for your team. At the end of the sugar throwing contest, whoever had the most points won that round. The second activity was a pancake relay. We had a pan per team and we ran up and down the corridor in a relay whilst flipping a book in the pan. Every five minutes Mrs Gill would shout "move along", which was brilliant. It was great and I really appreciate

Mrs Gill putting her time and effort into this because it was such a great event and I will definitely come back next year, if there is an opportunity for me to do so.'





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World Book Week continued...

World Book Day 2025 was filled with fabulous book characters and creative book covers! There were so many imaginative costumes that it made choosing winners quite difficult. A big congratulations to Alex A, Crimson R, Chloe C, Mia B, Tess C, and Evelyn B for winning a book of their choice, along with sweets and a certificate.



The teachers also put in an impressive effort, with the entire English department dressing up as characters from A Christmas Carol.



Everyone who participated in the costume fun received merits as a thank-you for taking part.

In the lead-up to the event, each tutor group took part in a Hunger Games-style reaping, where they were assigned books and tasked with decorating their tutor room door based on the theme of their book. We hope you enjoyed viewing the artistic creations on our Facebook page! It was a tough decision, but congratulations to 7KM, 8TD, 9SP, and 10TG for their excellent designs.

It was an event-packed week for World Book Week, and we hope all students had fun participating in the various activities- there really was something for everyone. A huge thank you to Mrs Gill and Mrs Hosier for organizing such a fun and exciting week!



World Book Week Readathon

A number of our keen Year 7 and Year 8 readers, signed up to do a sponsored all day readathon during World Book Week. They came in armed with blankets, snacks and of course plenty of books, making homemade dens in the library to read their books. Wow, it really was an epic day of reading for these bookworms. They read a total of 10,457 pages between them all and raised over £800 for Read for Good. Read for Good encourages children's love of reading through initiatives like sponsored readathons, providing books to schools and hospitals, and offering mobile book services to children in hospitals. They aim to improve access to books and promote reading for fun.

Emily, Year 7, took part in the readathon - here's what she had to say:

Why did you want to take part? I have never done anything like the readathon and I enjoy reading. I also had a series of books I got that I hadn't read yet.

Which books did you decide to read? I decided to read the series Heroes of Olympus as Rick Riordan is one of my favourite authors and I've finished the entire Percy Jackson Series.

What was the experience like? It was really fun and I was investigating my reading taste by trading books with my friends.

Did you have a target in mind of how many pages you wanted to read? I wanted to read at least the first book of Heroes of Olympus and that's about 1000 pages or more altogether.

Why is it important for young people to read for pleasure? To escape reality and even sometimes stress, I think reading can do that.

Do you have a favourite book or author? Rick Riordan. I'm really fascinated by Greek Mythology and comedy/action books are probably my favourite.





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SEND Updates

The Department for Education has agreed to one more year of funding for the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme. This means that children aged 5-16 (or 4 if in Reception)



receiving benefits-related free school meals can enjoy free activities during the Easter, summer, and winter holidays.

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun (BNHF) activity programme is run in partnership with Norfolk County Council. The upcoming Easter programme is set to run from 7th - 17th April 2025. You can book your child's activities for Easter now by following this [link](#)!



The next SEND Parent Café takes place on Monday 7th April from 1.30pm - 2.30pm at Dereham Library.

Who can attend? Anyone who may feel that they need a friendly and supportive safe space to share ideas, make friends, and gain professional information, advice and guidance.

Why? Norfolk libraries are teaming up with services in our community to support children, young people and their families to access support from services and other families.

How much and how do I book? This is a free service. You do not need to book, just turn up as and when you can. Children and young people are welcome to join too.

Attending services include Breckland Family Hub, Schools and Communities, SENDIASS and ASD Helping hands. Other services and guests may also attend.

For more information, please message Dereham Library, speak to the library staff or call 01362 693184.

Art and Design Exhibition

After the success of the Year 7 Art and Design exhibition in February, it's now the turn of our talented Year 9 students. The exhibition, showcasing their impressive work, will take place on Wednesday 23rd April, from 5.00pm to 6.30pm in the main foyer.

Come along and explore the creative and inspiring pieces from some very talented students, some of whom have chosen Art and Design subjects as part of their GCSE options. If the current standard of work is anything to go by, we can expect truly fantastic pieces by the time they complete their GCSEs. We look forward to seeing you there!



Science Trip to Disneyland

Last month, members of the Science Department, along with 29 students attended the Science Live trip to Disneyland Paris. The aim of Science Live 2025 was to find out about how science can influence everyday experiences and be used beyond the curriculum. Mrs Simms, Head of Science, said, 'We heard from a cosmetic chemist, who ran her own business selling cosmetic products. She started her business from her parents' garden shed and now works with some big brand cosmetic companies.'

'We heard from an engineer who works as a consultant on some amazing projects, including submarines. She was inspired to find out more about engineering as a degree when her physics teacher told her it would open doors to an excellent career.'

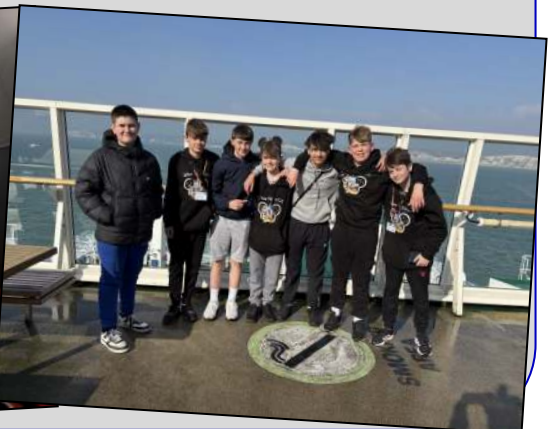
'The last speaker was a thrill engineer, who not only studies the effects of physics on rides, but monitors biological responses to thrill. He was a problem solver working to get the best out of each ride or experience while saving money for the parks. We learnt about rides at Disney but also Alton Towers, and some historical rides from the past. We all joined in with a science rap, encouraging the study of STEM subjects.'

Of course, no trip to Disneyland Paris would be complete without a chance to try out some of the rides and experience the amazing shows and fireworks. This will definitely go down as a trip to remember. Thank you to all involved in organising such an unforgettable experience!



Imogen said of the trip, 'The first day we had a science talk, there were three speakers. The first was a cosmetic scientist who told us what to look out for in beauty products. Did you know that just because your shampoo is foamy it doesn't mean that it actually cleans your hair! The second speaker was an engineer who showed us how you don't have to wear a hard hat to become an engineer, a lot of it is designing rather than building! The final speaker was a thrill scientist (the only one in the world!). He told us different factors that contribute to how much people like big roller coasters. He also described different types of thrill rides using some examples from Disneyland Paris. My favourite part of the trip was the fireworks. I'm a big Disney fan so I got a bit emotional, the drones made it much better!'

Melody said, 'The first day we had a science talk with three different scientists all with a different place of work, it was very interesting and I enjoyed it a lot. The rest of our time spent in Disney was exploring the parks and going on rides. Every night we watched the beautiful science performance of all the different movies. I had a wonderful time and would love to go back next time!'





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Students make the most of Modern Languages Assistant.

Through our links to the National Consortium for Languages Education, we have had a Spanish Assistant, Maria Gonzalez, this year, working with Spanish classes. Year 10 students Gabriella G and Gabriela M tell us about the experience in our [blog](#), however you can read part of it below.

Gabriela M: 'During Spanish lessons our language assistance, Ms Gonzalez is very thoughtful and always ready to help. She always corrects us when using wrong terminology and she's very calm and demure while explaining. With her we learn more about Spain and its culture, which is very helpful when learning the language of the country; for when learning something new we have to be attentive because there's never too much detail, and we definitely are not ignorant. I think having a language assistant should be an experience felt by everyone, because if you can practise the language (and also listen) you're learning, and you feel more in touch with different cultures.

Ms Gonzalez is very attentive when writing and speaking which is very helpful when she is helping me and other students with the work. It's very hard to get things incorrect with her as she spots mistakes right away!

The British Council were in school last month filming Maria and her experiences in a school in the UK. They are creating a film to encourage more schools to have a Modern Languages Assistant. They filmed Maria's day, including working with pupils, and interviewed staff and pupils about working with Maria.

Gabriella G said, 'About the interview and recording last week - it was so fun! It was such an amazing experience. We first had a 'fake' Spanish lesson where they recorded us speaking Spanish with Ms Gonzalez.

At first it was a little scary and I was very nervous, but it was fun to practice speaking Spanish, and Ms Gonzalez was just so helpful too, giving me hints on what to say next.

Then Mr Everett selected some students for an interview and Gabriela M and I got chosen! During that interview, we got asked

a lot of questions about Ms Gonzalez, what we learnt, what the lessons were like, our favourite word in Spanish and more. The interview felt so natural, like we were having a normal conversation. It was so fun to share the things that we had learnt with others. Recording that interview made me realise how much I've learnt and how helpful and amazing having a language assistant is! At the end we also got to record a video with all the students in Year 10 who picked Spanish saying "amamos a Maria" (We love Maria). I had so much fun!





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Maths Feast Competition

On 11th March two teams of Year 10 students headed to City of Norwich School to take part in the Advanced Maths Support Programme Maths Feast competition. The Maths Feast tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. Teams of four students from schools across Norfolk tested their maths skills with an all-you-can-eat feast of problems.

A fiercely contested challenge consisting of 4 rounds requiring different skills and strategies for success, where approximately 26 teams battled it out to gain as many points as possible. Isaac, Annabelle, Dana and Bartosz made up the team from Miss Theobald's class, whilst Sabrina, Harry, Akhina and Rhys represented Mr Carter's class. Pride was also at stake.

Isaac, who took part in one of the teams said of the competition, 'We went to City of Norwich School to take part in a Maths Feast event against 26 other schools, testing our problem-solving skills and teamwork. There were 4 rounds each testing a different skill in maths eg logic puzzles, spotting the difference, and timed challenges- pushing us to think quickly together as a group. It was a great experience, as we learned to collaborate with one another, meanwhile attempting a range of difficult maths problems. I was very proud to represent the school and although the competition was tough, we learned a lot and had a lot of fun! Thank you very much to Mr Carter for taking us and the maths department for arranging this amazing opportunity!'



Mr Carter said, 'The two teams worked extremely well on the challenging problems presented to them, both individually and as a team. The students organised the tasks between one another to complete them in the allotted time and to also allow time for others in the group to check and adapt any answers as required. Both teams showed excellent problem-solving skills, well done!'

Celebrating Success

We love to hear about achievements of our students outside of school and recently we heard about Year 9 Imogen's success. Imogen completed her second national grading in Oxfordshire to achieve her black belt certification for Han Guk Mu Sool Korean martial arts! The hard work is paying off - well done!

Imogen said, 'I have been doing martial arts for 5-7 years. I really enjoy the community feel as we all train together. Without it, I would not have met two of my very close friends who I graded with and got my black belt with. I have been training specifically for my black belt for 1 or 2 years and I had to do a practice grading in October too. The grading itself was 3 hours with only 4 one-minute breaks! There were about 80 children grading with me and about 10 of them passed.'

We would like to hear about more successes outside of school so if you have something for us to celebrate, please contact Mrs Hosier, Communications Manager, on communications@ng6.unity-ed.uk or let your Form Tutor or Head of Year know.



Northgate News

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



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Institut Français

In March, thanks to Northgate's links with the Beeleigh Languages Hub we were able to share the benefits of the NCLE (National Consortium for Language Education) with other schools, through a visit from the Institut Français at Dereham Sixth Form Centre.

Pupils from four local schools (Wayland Academy, Litcham School, Neatherd, and Northgate) were involved and were able to explore a range of activities including a Virtual Reality experience of a cultural aspect of France.

Pupils were recreating French artwork, and immersed themselves in learning about oceans, and the environment.

Baroness Shephard spent some time with us in the morning on behalf of the sponsors (the légion d'honneur society), she found the whole experience impressive and innovative, and said that the best thing was that the children were all enjoying it. 'What progress has been made in teaching languages, and how wonderful to see a whole set of teachers as enthusiastic as they were!'

This was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to experience workshops run by the Institut Français. Based in London, the Institut Français has been reaching out to big cities with its 'Francophonie On the Road' tour, for 2025 they kicked off their Roadshow at Dereham Sixth Form College.

Imogen (Year 9) took part in the event and said, 'The first thing we did was in the library, the lady spoke fluent French and only spoke English when she saw panicked faces look up at her! I managed to understand what she wanted us to do but not specifics. We did a puzzle and learnt about environmental problems in the ocean in French - it was very interesting! Then we went to the drama room (I think) where we did artwork in a style called impressionism. Again they only spoke to us in French. I'm not much of an artist but our picture was very good! Then we went to do a VR (virtual reality) art museum experience. It was very cool but made me a little dizzy. You could see the artworks up close like you were actually in them. To finish off we watched a short film they made, they spoke French but the subtitles were in English.'

Overall the trip was very interesting and a very good way to get people interested in the French language!'





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Students visit Space Centre

The Year 7 students had an excellent day at the National Space Centre in Leicester. Mr Collins said, 'They were treated to a stunning tour of our solar system in the impressive Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium. Starting at earth we were taken on a journey, weaving between planets and exploring our local region in space and then taken beyond. Venturing past the Oort Cloud all the way to the outside of our Milky way Galaxy.'

'Once we returned to earth, the students explored the space centre testing their reflexes in comparison to astronauts, and seeing what life in space is like. They discovered the history of our universe, seeing how stars and planets are formed. They also tracked the history of space exploration from the 1930's until the modern era, and of course explored the delights of the gift shop. The students' behaviour was exemplary, and they were a credit to themselves and to Northgate.'

Wren said, 'I really liked the space centre trip and would go again. The best part was probably the space games all around. My favourite one was where you had to redirect the light. Me and my friend tried multiple games and we kept losing at one of them. The information on the solar system and the planetarium was amazing, especially when we were taught about how to find the star signs.'



Casey commented, 'There was a big rocket tower and I went up it many times. There was also a planetarium where we got to look up at the night sky. Then we got to look around the space centre where I saw a water rocket game, trying to land a plane safely game and many more. Finally, we got to look around the gift shop. My favourite part was going up the rocket tower!'

Alexandra was lucky enough to go on the trip and said, 'We had so much fun at the space centre in Leicester. As we walked in the building, I was amazed by all of the rockets and landing shuttles that were on display. We learned so much about our solar system, the milky way and all of the planets in the planetarium. After we finished, we were allowed to walk around and explore the space centre. My group found some stairs, 54 to be exact, that we climbed all the way up to the top of and we could see the tops of some of the amazing rockets. The bit I liked the most was the massive globe in the centre.'

Merit Update

It's almost the end of the second term and students have now gained 74,000 merits since September - a fantastic achievement. Last month we also had over 2500 bonus merits awarded to Year 7 - 11 students for receiving all 'excellents' or 'goods' for their AP2 attitude to learning - well done! Merit cashing in continues to take place on Mondays this year, in the main hall from 12.30pm - 12.50pm. Don't forget merit totals reset to zero in the summer so get spending!

Take a look at what you can exchange your merits for in our rewards [catalogue](#). Attenborough maintain their lead in the House merit competition.

Attenborough	Hawking	Rowling	Holmes
86.82	83.64	83.28	81.14