



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

May 2025

2025

Issue 78

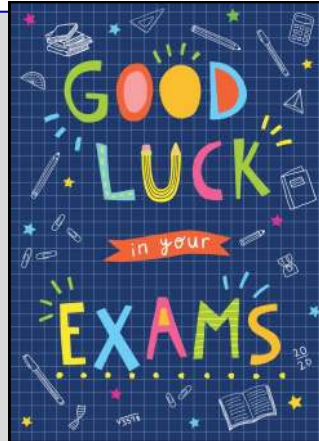
Good Luck to our Year 11s!

Our Year 11 students will soon begin their written GCSE exams, and we would like to wish each and every one of them the very best of luck as they take this important step in their school journey.

Many students have already completed practical assessments in Art, Design subjects, and Drama, as well as speaking exams in French and Spanish. Their commitment has been fantastic, with a number attending revision sessions during the Easter holidays, in addition to the wide range of lunchtime and after-school support sessions offered throughout the year.

We are incredibly proud of how hard they have worked and the dedication they've shown in preparing for these exams. You've got this - go and make yourselves proud!

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our staff and parents, whose ongoing support has been invaluable in helping our Year 11s feel confident and prepared for the weeks ahead.



Upcoming events

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

1st May

Year 7 + 8 Junior Maths Challenge (selected students)

Star Wars Quiz in the Library at lunchtime
Year 9 Maths Paper 1 Exam pm

2nd May

Battle of Hogwarts Harry Potter Night 4pm – 6.30pm in the library

2nd - 5th May

Languages trip to Paris

5th May

Bank Holiday

6th May

Year 9 Science Paper 1 Exam am
Year 9 English Language Exam pm

6th – 7th May

Year 11A Art GCSE Exam, Year 11 Graphics GCSE Exam and Year 11 Textiles GCSE Exam

7th May

Year 9 Maths Paper 2 Exam am
Year 9 Science Paper 2 Exam pm

8th May

Year 11 written GCSEs begin

15th May

Dear Even Hansen trip to Theatre Royal

22nd May

Battle of the Bookworms Primary School Quiz in the library 10am – 11.30am
Making Sense of SEND information fair at Bawdeswell Village Hall 10am - 12pm

23rd May

Break up for half term

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



Accelerated Reader Celebrations

Just before Easter, the Library was filled to the brim with a celebration for those that achieved their Accelerated Reader targets for the term.

Over 40 students achieved their targets and received their bronze star badges, with a further 33 students achieving their silver star badges, meaning they have achieved their target in both the autumn and spring terms.

Jessica B, Year 7, who received her bronze star badge, said of the celebration event, 'I enjoyed how everything was Easter themed and how much effort they put into it. We took a picture and there was food and drinks with little ducks or Easter rabbits with chocolate inside them. My favourite book is Malory Towers and Harry Potter because you can escape reality and be in your own world. I sat with my friends and we had a little party between us, we also said cheers!'

Natalie P, Year 8, who received her silver star badge, said, 'I enjoy Accelerated Reader because it makes reading fun and rewarding, encouraging improvement, and tracking progress. Celebrations in AR are like a way to recognise accomplishments and motivate readers. As for favourite books, it's got to be Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling. Reading for pleasure is important because it improves vocabulary and offers a relaxing escape. AR also helps develop reading skills. At the party we got our star badges silver or bronze depending on if you achieved your target last term as well. We had rice krispie/oat cakes, squash and crocheted rabbits or chicks with an Easter egg inside!'



Merit Update

At the start of the summer term, students are close to achieving 80,000 merits! Over the Easter holidays, 1530 bonus merits were awarded to those with 100% attendance for the second spring half term, 744 merits to those with >95% and 1420 to those who received no negatives - well done! Plenty of badges and certificates were handed out in celebration assemblies and now we have 21 students with more than 200 merits, 89 with more than 150 merits and a fantastic 345 students have gained 100 or more merits.

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, however it is still close between second and third place.

| Attenborough | Hawking | Rowling | Holmes |
|--------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 94.85 | 90.93 | 90.66 | 87.47 |



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Northgate's Orchard Committee at Earth Day Event

Members of Northgate's Orchard Committee were invited to attend Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse's Earth Day event over the Easter holidays, for the third year in a row!

Seven committee members took part on a very sunny Friday, ready to chat with members of the public and share all the exciting work happening in The Orchard. They offered fun, hands-on activities for children, including making origami seed packets, biodegradable seed pots, and a flower-matching game featuring blooms from The Orchard itself.

It was fantastic to see our students grow in confidence throughout the day and engage so well with visitors. We are incredibly proud of all that the Orchard Committee has accomplished so far and look forward to seeing how the project continues to grow - both in terms of the space itself and the students involved. They represented the Orchard Committee and Northgate extremely well during the day!

If you're interested in nature, the environment, or just want to be part of a friendly and passionate group, the Orchard Committee would love to welcome you. They meet every Thursday after school, starting in MA6. Come along and get involved - all are welcome!



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to 7HB, 8CG, 9RP, 10TG and 11SO 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 go to our recent attendance raffle winners Scarlett F (Year 7), Noah T (Year 8), Fia D (Year 9), Rhys B (Year 10) and Tallulah G (Year 11), who all win an Amazon voucher. Remember, for every two week period of 100% attendance, students earn a virtual raffle ticket for the half termly draw!



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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Northgate's Social Team raises money for PACT

Animal Sanctuary



A huge well done to Northgate's Social Team, who recently organised fundraising efforts in support of PACT Animal Sanctuary. The fundraising included a hugely successful bake sale and a non-uniform day, with students and staff alike getting involved to support the cause.

Thanks go to everyone who baked and donated cakes and biscuits, as well as to those who came along to buy them - your contributions made all the difference. The combined efforts raised an impressive £711.31, which will go directly to helping animals in need.

PACT Animal Sanctuary, located in Norfolk, is the region's largest all-animal sanctuary and rescue centre. They rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome neglected, injured, and abandoned animals, specialising in those with behavioural challenges. Home to over 1,200 animals, PACT also offers educational programs on animal care and provides animal-assisted therapy to support individuals facing disabilities, ill health, or unemployment.

PACT Animal Sanctuary's mission goes beyond just rescuing animals - it's about creating a compassionate environment where both animals and people thrive. They provide a safe haven for a wide variety of animals, including farm animals, exotics, and pets, all while promoting a no-kill policy. Through community outreach, PACT fosters a greater understanding of the needs of animals, encouraging empathy and responsible pet ownership. Their work includes helping animals with special needs, and they offer resources for people interested in adopting or supporting their mission.

By supporting PACT, the Northgate community is helping to fund essential care, shelter, and rehabilitation for animals that might otherwise have no chance. We are proud to have raised money for such a worthwhile cause and of our students and staff for their generosity. Well done to everyone involved!

Celebrating Success

We always enjoy hearing about the successes of our students and we have some more exciting news about one of our Year 10s, Lilly D.

Lilly sat the regional finals for intermediate 1 National Piano Competition at the Royal Academy of Music earlier last term. She had been entered automatically as she won the last competition for Norfolk back in February. Lilly won 1st Place! Well done, we are really proud of you. Lilly puts a lot of time and effort into her piano playing and is hoping to take part in intermediate 2 next year.

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.





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SPARX Maths Success continues

Students in Years 9, 10, and 11 have continued to demonstrate fantastic commitment to their weekly SPARX Maths homework, consistently showcasing a strong grasp of the topics covered. The personalised questions remain an excellent tool for identifying and addressing any gaps in knowledge, helping students build confidence and fluency.

Year 11 students in particular have made impressive use of the Independent Learning section, especially in the lead-up to their GCSE exams.

Since the beginning of the school year, students have collectively answered an incredible **577,953 questions correctly**, spent **6,886 hours engaged in personalised learning**, and **230 students** have improved their times tables recall. Many have also progressed to new levels, with a large number of virtual certificates sent home to celebrate their achievements. Keep it up - your hard work is paying off!

We're also excited to announce that Year 8 students will now be taking part in SPARX Maths. We look forward to seeing how they progress in the weeks ahead and celebrating their achievements and successes.

A big congratulations to our most recent **SPARX Stars**, who earned more than 4000 XP during the last half term:

Year 9: Ava S, Oliver C, Laiza R, Imogen O, Shea B-S

Year 10: Isaac R, Paige W

Year 11: Taylor P, Taylor B, Daisy K, Kaylee K, Alec A, Shannon B



Year 9 Student earns the Chief Scout's Gold Award

We are proud to announce that Year 9 student, Hope C, has recently earned her Chief Scout's Gold Award with 1st Dereham Scouts. To mark this impressive achievement, Hope was presented with a framed certificate by her former Scout Leader, who returned to a meeting especially for the occasion.

The Chief Scout's Gold Award is the highest honour a Scout can achieve. To earn this prestigious award, Hope completed all nine Challenge Awards - World, Skills, Creative, Outdoors, Adventure, Expedition, Teamwork, Team Leader, and Personal Challenge - as well as six Activity or Staged Activity badges.

These Challenge Awards encourage Scouts to step outside their comfort zones and take on new challenges.

The Chief Scout's Gold Award is a significant milestone in a Scout's journey, marking the culmination of everything learned before advancing to the Explorers program. Although it requires considerable dedication and effort, it also offers Scouts the opportunity to experience a wide range of exciting activities.

Hope completed her Gold Award in just under a year and shared that she is both happy and proud to have achieved this remarkable goal. Well done Hope!



Digging Deeper: Composting with the Orchard Committee

The Orchard Committee continues to grow in knowledge. Last term, students were learning all about composting, thanks to support from local Master Composters, Carl and Glenis Watling, who delivered two sessions to the group.

Students were able to showcase the progress they've made so far in composting, taking Carl and Glenis on a tour of The Orchard and receiving expert advice on how to improve and maintain the compost bins. They learned about the importance of correct bin positioning - not too sunny and not too shady, to balance warmth and moisture, as well as the need for a good mix of materials. A healthy compost heap should be roughly half "green" materials (like grass cuttings, stinging nettles, and fruit and veg peelings) and half "brown" materials (such as twigs, cardboard, dry leaves, and straw).

One key lesson was the importance of aeration - turning the compost once a month to introduce oxygen and speed up the decomposition process.

Students also learned to monitor moisture levels, aiming for a balance that's neither too dry nor too damp. As part of the session, students rolled up their sleeves and got hands-on with the compost bins - emptying, mixing, and refilling four of them. They also added cut-down holly branches and discussed future composting plans with the school's grounds team, including the potential to compost grass clippings.

The students were then encouraged to think about how they might use the compost they're producing. Their ideas included, potting up germinated seeds, spreading around the apple trees and hedge whips to suppress weeds, and enriching the raised beds once plants are planted out.

The highlight of the second session was the introduction to wormeries. Carl and Glenis demonstrated two types- one bought and one homemade using stackable boxes. Students explored the kinds of materials worms can digest, and learned how the process produces not only compost but also a liquid fertiliser (worm wee!), which can be diluted and used on plants.

To round off the session, students took part in an interactive game to test their composting knowledge - sorting items into 'compostable', 'non-compostable', and 'caution' categories. There was plenty of discussion, reasoning, and shared learning, as students considered the environmental impact of everyday waste.

Finally, using compost brought in by Carl and Glenis, students had the chance to examine living organisms in compost under a digital microscope provided by The Tree Council to The Orchard Committee. They were amazed to see tiny creatures moving about, evidence of a thriving compost ecosystem and a powerful reminder of nature's recycling process at work.

The Orchard Committee continues to gain valuable real-world skills in sustainability, teamwork, and environmental care. We're incredibly proud of their efforts and the enthusiasm they bring to every session. Thank you to Carl and Glenis for providing such informative sessions. We look forward to putting their advice into practice and welcoming them back again to The Orchard.





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Year 9 Art & Design Exhibition

The exhibition is a rich display of the talents from across our design department from the current Year 9. The range of work, showcases the diverse approach our Art students had taken to demonstrate their understanding of the theme of Identity.



We also have some excellent RM pieces that were created in Technology lessons. It is a lively exhibition of work that clearly reveals our talented students' abilities. Mrs Mottley, Head of Design Faculty, commented, 'I am very proud of our pupils, and the exhibition of work is a snapshot into the journey art can take.'

'Some of our Year 9 pupils will be taking one or more of our subjects as an option, and so I am very excited of the work they will produce in two years' time for their GCSE, if the standard is this high already.'



Poppy, 9Courage, said, 'For our final pieces we were given the creative freedom to design a piece of art inspired by our chosen artist. I took inspiration from the abstract artist Sonia Delaunay and her piece 'Rhythm' to create my final painting.'

'I used multiple mediums such as acrylic paint, colouring pencils and canvas. The main content of my painting is a flower. I am pleased with my final piece and look forward to hopefully doing GCSE Art next year.'





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Students join forces for the Great British Spring Clean

This year, Northgate proudly hosted two events as part of the annual Great British Spring Clean campaign - demonstrating our ongoing commitment to caring for the environment and giving back to the community.

The first event saw members of the Orchard Committee head to the coppice area just behind the playing fields, where they carried out a thorough litter pick. Their efforts resulted in the collection of approximately nine bags of rubbish, much of which was historic - including some

crisp packets dating back as far as 2013!

The group made a visible improvement to the area and enjoyed the experience so much that they've already expressed interest in organising another litter pick in the near future.

The second event was led by Northgate's Environment Team and took place during a lunchtime. Staff and students generously gave up their break to help tidy up the school site, collecting a further five bags of litter.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who gave their time to support these initiatives - it was a fantastic team effort that really showcased our school's community spirit. All participants were rewarded with merits for their hard work and commitment.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Dereham Community Litter Pickers, who kindly lent Northgate additional equipment to support the events. Their dedication to keeping the local area clean is truly inspiring, and we hope our efforts

will encourage even more students and families to get involved in future clean-up projects.

Together, we can make a difference!



Northgate News

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



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Making Sense of SEND Information Fair

Making Sense of SEND are free events for parents/carers who have a child with SEND, 0 - 25 years. They are also for professionals who work with them.

The next Making Sense of SEND event is on Thursday 22 May, 10-12 at Bawdeswell Village Hall. This event has the theme 'transition'.

[Sign up here](#)

Each event has between 15-20 information stands. They'll give parents/carers and professionals the chance to:

- Visit information stands to learn about local SEND services and support
- Listen to a talk(s) about transition (early years to school, school to school, school to college, college to adult life)
- Ask questions and share ideas

MAKING SENSE OF SEND
FREE INFORMATION FAIR
For parents/carers of young people with SEND and the professionals who work with them.

Thursday 22nd May 2025 **10am-12noon**
 Bawdeswell Village Hall, Reepham Road, NR20 4RU

Get information & advice from services **Attend talks about transition** **Enjoy free refreshments**

Information stands will include:

- Norfolk SEND Local Offer
- Norfolk SENDIASS
- Family Voice Norfolk
- ASD Helping Hands
- Cambridge Community Services
- DRAGONS
- Just One Norfolk
- Dyslexia Outreach Service
- Early Childhood & Family Service
- Participation Team
- Preparing for Adult Life
- City, Easton & Paston College
- Family Information Service
- Community and Partnerships Team
- Help You Choose
- Community Dental Services
- School and Community Team
- Supported Internships
- Learning Disability Health Check
- Direct Payment Support Service
- Young Carers Matter Norfolk
- Anglian Water - WaterCare
- School & College Transport (SEND)
- TITAN travel training



Enterprise Club's latest creations for sale

The Enterprise Club has been busy designing and manufacturing these beautiful plant propagator stations. Our Year 7 and 8 students have used sustainable and reclaimed materials, including old test tubes and scrap wood from the Science and Design departments. Using a range of processes, they've produced bespoke ornaments perfect for those with green fingers, or anyone who wants to bring a little piece of the outdoors inside.

They're priced at £4 for the individual and £5 for the trio, and each comes engraved with

either *Spring* or *Summer*. Personalisation is also available for a small extra cost. If you're interested in purchasing one and supporting the Enterprise Club, please get in touch with Miss Douglas (tdouglas@ng6.unity-ed.uk) or Mr Mottley (kmottley@ng6.unity-ed.uk). All funds raised will go directly towards providing more resources for our students.





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Northgate students inspired by Author talk

Last month, a selected group of Year 8 students were rewarded for their reading engagement with a trip to see the captivating Irish author Dave Rudden, hosted at Norwich School. Dave Rudden is best known for his Knights of the Borrowed Dark fantasy trilogy as well as his screenwriting for TV including Doctor Who. Our students enjoyed a humorous, charismatic talk by Dave before embarking on a step-by-step creative writing workshop developing their own pitch for a TV show. Students were then invited to share their pitch to the audience.

Before leaving the Norwich Cathedral grounds, and clutching their new signed books, students made a quick visit to share a marmalade sandwich with everyone's favourite bear! A fabulous morning was enjoyed by all – thank you to Mrs Gill for organising this great trip.



Updates from the Library

There are lots of updates from the Library for the last month. We have three new Word Millionaires in Year 7 – they received their prizes in assembly – congratulations to Natalie P (1,173,196 words read), Oscar P (1,383,619 words read) and George M (1,269,768 words read).

Congratulations also to Year 8 student, Tess C who has become a multi-multi-word millionaire, having read a staggering 3,510,330 words so far this year! Year 7s have

now read an astonishing 26,767,723 words and 1,322 books since September and Year 8s have read 24,041,253 words and 782 books – keep up the great work!



At the beginning of April, Northgate hosted 21 teams from schools around East Anglia, in the



Regional heat of the National Reading Champions Quiz. There was intense excitement in the library during the quiz, with teams vying for 1st place and the opportunity to take part in the final in Central London.

It was a very closely fought competition, 1st place went to Thorpe St Andrew School & Sixth Form, 2nd Wymondham High and 3rd place was Norwich High School for girls.

Northgate won the prize for participation with the judges saying they were consistently fully engaged, celebrating together as a team! Mason said, 'I really enjoyed doing it. It was very tense but all of us worked well as a team.'

Well done all, and a big thankyou to Mrs Gill and everyone who helped with the organising of this event, and to the Northgate Student Librarians who did a fantastic job hosting and escorting the visitors round the school.



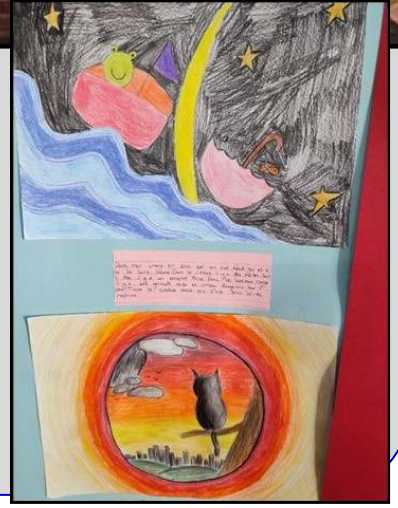
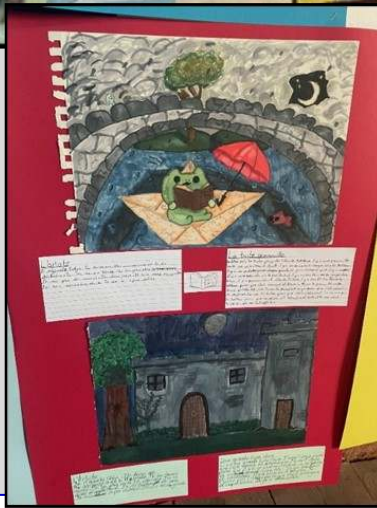
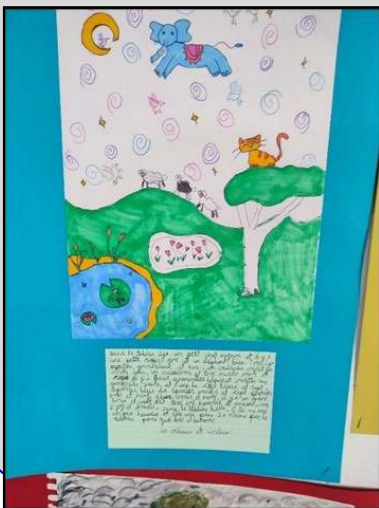


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Year 7 French Windmill Exhibition

In April, Dereham Windmill hosted an annual exhibition of Northgate pupils' French work. Each pupil created their own artwork and wrote about it in French. They described the shapes, the colours and the things in the picture. They commented on the style and how the picture made them feel. They also wrote a short biography of the artist. Hopefully lots of you got the chance to go and see your work on display. Well done to all involved and to Mr Everett for putting up such a colourful display!



Accelerated Reader Winners

Well done to our fortnightly Accelerated Reader quiz winners, Brooke H, Alexandra A, Lily M (Year 7), Aston B, Josh B, Jenson L (Year 8) who all received chocolate goodies and a free book. Don't forget to keep reading and quizzing to be in with a chance of winning!

