



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice

November 2025

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Social Team fundraising

The Social Team, part of Northgate's School Council is busy preparing for their fundraising week. This will take place from 10th - 14th November. They have decided to raise money for Children in Need and the Royal British Legion, to coincide with Remembrance Day.

We will also remember former Northgate student Private Lewis Hendry who tragically died in action in Afghanistan in 2011. A special remembrance service will take place on 11th November, organised by Mr MacDonald.

Social Team members will be selling Pudsey merchandise at break times and lunchtimes including Pudsey ears, pens, pin badges and wristbands. Poppy merchandise will also be on sale. The fundraising will continue with a bake sale, yellow or spotty themed non-uniform day and other activities, so please keep an eye on our social media pages for more information.



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.

5th November

English and Drama trip to Norwich Theatre Royal to see War Horse

6th November

Year 7 Parents' Evening 4pm - 7pm

7th November

Year 11 Geography trip to Norwich

10th - 14th November

Social Team fundraising week for Children in Need and the Royal British Legion
Anti-bullying Week - Power for Good theme

11th November

Remembrance Service

12th November

Writer in residence Ashley Hickson-Lovence visit - workshops with Year 11
GCSE Presentation Evening 6.45pm - 8.30pm in the main hall

13th November

World Kindness Day - joint Orchard Committee + Craft Club meeting 3.15pm - 4.15pm

17th November

Year 11 Mock exams begin

19th November

Year 7 Author visit - Dave Rudden

24th November

11C Art Mock Exam

25th November

11B Photography Mock Exam



Open Evening



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What an incredible evening we had at Northgate on the 8th of October! A huge thank you to all the Year 6 pupils and their parents and carers who joined us for our Open Evening. The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement, and we couldn't have been more proud of our students and staff. From the inspiring speeches delivered by our confident Year 7s and the Year 11 Leadership Team to two packed audiences, to the fantastic displays and demonstrations across all subject areas, the evening truly showcased what makes Northgate such a special community. The enthusiasm and interest shown by our visitors reflected the pride shared by our Heads of School and everyone involved in making the event such a success.

It was also wonderful to welcome so many families back during the school day for tours of the school – a great opportunity to see lessons in action and ask any extra questions. We wish all Year 6 pupils the very best for their final year at primary school and look forward to welcoming many of them again in July for their transition days as they become part of the Northgate community.

To find out more about Northgate, please visit our website, where you'll find everything from our ethos – The 5 Rs – and school policies to subject information, our latest Ofsted report, laboratory school information, clubs timetable, exam results, virtual 360° tour, our prospectus and more.

You can find the information [here](#).





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Attendance matters

Congratulations to 7AB, 7EH, 8AH, 8ARO, 9KN, 9DHE, 10MM, 10SP and 11YC who have all won the fortnightly attendance competition so far this half term. We have recently purchased some brand new trophies and these, along with certificates have been proudly on display in tutor rooms.

Don't forget that every two weeks a student has 100% attendance, they gain a virtual raffle ticket for the half termly draw to win an Amazon voucher.

The winners of the first half term are:

Madeleine B (Year 7), Lena P (Year 8),
Madison S (Year 9), Finley K (Year 10) and
Malachi B (Year 11) - well done!



Year 7s make a positive start to life at Northgate

Our Year 7s have made it to the end of their first half term at Northgate. We have been really impressed with how well they have settled into High School, they are already part of the Northgate community. They are working incredibly hard, approaching lessons with a positive attitude and embracing the Northgate Way. Many have also joined some of the numerous clubs on offer.

Here's what they've had to say about their time so far ...

Toby L (7Det) - 'High school is really exciting. At first I was nervous but everything is fine.

I've been enjoying the experiments in Science. I've also earned lots of merits which I am going to save up. I'm pleased I picked Northgate.'

Roxanne H-G (7Det) - 'I'm happy with how things are going at Northgate. I have joined the Orchard Committee and Science Club which I'm enjoying. I like Art as it is quite relaxing. I'm pleased to have made new friends too.'

Zak L (7Cour) - 'High school is good so far. The transition from primary school has been easy. So far I've been enjoying French, Computing and Citizenship. I am thinking about joining Science Club.'

Millie A (7Mot) - 'I'm really enjoying History, Maths and English so far and made lots of friends. Summer school was really useful. I've joined the Orchard Committee and Social Team and like getting involved. My advice to potential Year 7s is don't worry, it will all be great!'

Evelyn T (7Cour) - 'Year 7 has been really good this half term. I have joined the craft club and Well-being Team. I'm a digital leader in computing and thinking of applying for the National Youth Parliament. Drama, Tech and English have been my favourite subjects so far.'

Nellie P (7Ten) - 'The first half term has gone really well. I'm enjoying Art, Wood tech and Drama - I even got a really good grade in my first Drama assessment! My classes are nice and I've joined the Social Team and craft club. I really enjoyed helping out at the Open Evening too.'



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Celebrating Success

We love to hear about the successes and achievements of our students outside of school and heard about Harrison L in Year 10 last month and his recent success.

Harrison was asked about a month ago if he would enter a competition for standard bearing. There were two judges that worked on a points system and he was against nine other competitors.

Harrison was judged on a series of manoeuvres such as marching in time, crisp movement and presenting the standard in specific ways for the relevant order to be displayed. After a close competition Harrison received the most points. This competition has now led Harrison to being an official standard bearer for the Royal British Legion. His official swearing in ceremony will be in February at County Hall.

What an incredible achievement Harrison and something to be truly proud of - well done!



Geography trip

On Monday 6th October, 73 Year 8 students travelled to Cambridge to complete some urban-geography fieldwork. Each group saw at least four different parts of the city and completed surveys on the environmental quality, sounds and smells they experienced. They also got to see famous sites such as King's College and The Backs. Finally, they were given some free time to explore Cambridge market. The weather was perfect for being outside so we were able to enjoy our day in this famous city. Jessica from the Northgate News Team said, 'On the Geography trip we went to Trinity Street, St Johns Street, Christ's Pieces, Market Street, The Backs and the King's Parade. This is where there was a massive castle and it was a spectacular view. At each destination we had to go in groups and listen to things we could hear like bikes as there were many due to the universities there are in Cambridge, things we could see and smell. Then after time looking around and having fun we had to draw a conclusion of which area we liked the most and why. This was an amazing opportunity to be able to go as it was busy and it was brilliant, so if you get the chance to join next year, do it!'

Poppy merchandise for sale

A selection of poppy merchandise will be on sale from Monday 3rd October at the main reception, at break time, lunch time and after school. This includes poppies, wristbands, ruler wristbands, keyrings and stickers. Items are £1 each (cash only) with all money going to the Royal British Legion. Show your support during the Social Team's charity week as the Royal British Legion is one of the charities they have chosen to raise money for.





Shining success for our SPARX Maths stars!

It's been a busy, yet brilliant start to the term in the Maths Department, with our Year 9, 10 and 11 students fully engaging with their weekly SPARX Maths homework.

SPARX is a fantastic online tool that helps consolidate learning from lessons, offering personalised and adaptive questions to suit each student's ability.

We've been particularly impressed by those who have gone the extra mile — aiming for 100%, completing the XP Boost or Target sections, or using SPARX as part of their assessment revision.

A huge well done to all our incredible SPARX Maths Stars, who have earned 3,500 XP or more through their dedication, resilience, and consistent effort this half term.

Congratulations to:

Year 9: Austin B, Edwin R, Rayne N, Lilly A, Ellis E, Mesha I, Alina W, Robin W, Henry G, Biyon B, Amelia H, Daisy R, Alfie A, Emmi P, Imogen B, Noah P, Elizabeth H, Archie B, Phoebe L, Ella G, Caitlin S

Year 10: Oliver C, Anmarie B, Imogen O, Harry B, Bethany M, Charlie J, Ruby-Ann D, Yi Han G, Talli B, Alanna W, Imogen J, Jude B

Year 11: Chloe T, Noah M, Isaac R, Ethan P, Kelli D, Paige W, Setaita K, Mirren W, Akhina R, Oliver N, Joseph C, Tatenda N, Brigita Z, Dana H, Kourtney L, Joseph O, Gabriela M, Scarlett H, Ella P, Jake T, Melissa H, Layla M, Ella W, Jake G

Since September, our students have achieved some truly impressive results:

- ✓ 199,758 questions answered correctly
- ⌚ 1,947 hours of personalised learning completed
- 📅 154 students have improved their times tables recall
- 🎯 Hundreds of students have levelled up in their SPARX journey
- ✉ Over 170 virtual certificates have been sent home to celebrate fantastic progress

We're so proud of everyone's hard work, resilience and commitment - keep up the amazing effort, SPARX Stars!



Author Visit

Selected Year 7 students were thrilled to attend an author visit on Monday 6th October, hosted by Town Close School. The event featured Brian Dungan, author of the action-packed novel *Wintour's Fate*, the second book in his exciting series. During the visit, Brian captivated the audience with readings from his latest work,

offering insights into his creative writing process and sharing fascinating stories from his career in filmmaking.

Jacob said, 'Brian is an Irish author who wrote the book *Wintour's Fate*. This book is about Alex who is an orphan who lives with a gang in the west end. She is one of the best robbers in town, but she has a little superpower(that she's not aware of) that helps her with every robbery. She can tell the future. But an evil gang who have the same powers are trying to get Alex on to an even more evil side of robbery whilst she's working for a billionaire child who has the same power. This book is recommended to people who like Alex Rider and the phoenix rising. What I learnt about during the visit was about the different types of powers that can tell the future like oracles (the power Alex has) who see glimpses of the future. This is a really good read for people who like sci-fi and would absolutely recommend it.'



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Updates from the PE Department

It's been great to see so many students get involved in sports clubs at Northgate and wanting to represent the school on one of the many teams. Here's some updates from the PE Department from recent matches.

The newly formed U14 girls football team had their first league game in early October against a strong Wymondham College side. Unfortunately, despite some great pieces of play, the score didn't go our way. Looking forward to seeing how this team develops over the year. Well played everyone. Player of the match went to Emily, in year 8.



Our Year 7 boys football team were in action earlier in the month against Attleborough, securing a fantastic 3–1 victory. Congratulations to the team for their hard work, teamwork, and determination on the pitch.



Storm Amy threatened to spoil a day of rugby for the Year 8 rugby team but resilience by the bucket load was shown throughout the day. Despite coming up against strong opposition the boys delivered tries galore and smart play. Top tacklers of the day were Maison, Thomas and Oliver F. Well done!



The Year 11 rugby team had a rematch of last season's plate final against Reepham. Although it was the same result, the performance was massively improved with some amazingly powerful performances. Two miracle tries from Max were converted by George. Standout efforts from the whole team but Kian, Billy and Harry had particularly strong games.

A big thank you must go to former Northgate student and school rugby captain, Will Spinks, whose company Westcotec, kindly sponsored our stylish new rugby shirts. The boys looked fantastic in the reversible kit.

The Year 9 rugby team made an impressive start to the season with a narrow win over Ormiston Venture. Tries from Noks, Frankiie and Hudson were the icing on the cake of some really intelligent rugby from the team. The most pleasing part was the unity with which they took to the task and welcomed a number of first time players to the squad. Well played boys!





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Updates from the PE Department continued

The Year 7 boys rugby team had their first taste of competitive rugby at Wymondham Rugby Club. Perfect conditions lead to a near perfect day of rugby where our players went unbeaten, showing flair, resilience, intelligence and a desire to get stuck in to the physical element of the game.

Standout moments were Zach, Henry and Jude with very strong running, Bryan with amazing tackling skills and Ryan for his Michael Jackson moves! Well done boys for being part of a great day.

Earlier last month, the Year 7s built on the enthusiasm of their rugby tournament by having a couple of games with our friends from Neatherd. This led to 25 players wanting to get involved and showing a hunger to play and learn rugby. We formed two teams, and scrums, runs and tries from all quarters gave rise

to a really positive experience for everyone involved. We were also lucky to have a representative from Fakenham Rugby Club promoting their youth teams.

If you are interested in playing rugby outside of school, please see Mr Llewellyn who will be able to guide you to one of the many local teams looking for players.



Updates from The Orchard

Miss Theobald is delighted to have welcomed a number of new and enthusiastic students to the Orchard Committee this year, including members from both Year 7 and Year 13. Their input over the coming months will be invaluable.

Our Year 7 students have thrown themselves into

activities right from the start. Within their first two weeks, they helped construct a frame for one of the legless potting tables, using a saw and power drill to complete the project as a team. The table will be used to house some of the seeds and berries the committee has processed and stratified during other meetings, ready for germination next spring. This half term has also seen plenty of maintenance work completed: compost regularly turned, fallen leaves raked for the leaf mulch pen, and an area cleared in preparation for a new lease of life next year.

There are several exciting activities coming up, including a collaboration with the Craft Club on Thursday 13th November in the Library. For more information, please see Miss Theobald - new members are always welcome. Orchard Committee meetings take place every Thursday from 3.15–4.15pm.





Youth Parliament – a voice for young people

Some of our Northgate students are applying to become Members of the Youth Parliament (MYP) — an exciting opportunity for young people aged 11–18 to represent their peers and make a difference across Norfolk.

Becoming a Member of Youth Parliament helps young people develop leadership and public speaking skills, build confidence, and enhance their CVs. MYPs also get the chance to visit the House of Commons, attend national conferences, meet local councillors and MPs, and learn about democracy and civic participation; a valuable experience as the UK moves closer to potential votes at 16.

Members serve for two years, taking part in campaigns, debates and projects that amplify the voices of young people locally and nationally. Elections take place in February 2026, where students will get the chance to vote and so we're incredibly proud of any Northgate students who put themselves forward. We look forward to supporting them throughout the campaign!



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National Poetry Day – a celebration of creativity

What a talented group of students we had in the library at lunchtime for our Poetry Slam on National Poetry Day! Pupils from all year groups took to the mic with confidence to perform their favourite poems, alongside many who wowed us with their own original writing, including some pieces that have already been published.

The audience was equally inspiring, filling the library with enthusiasm and support as they applauded every performer. It was a wonderful showcase of creativity, courage, and the power of language.

A big thank you to everyone who took part and helped make this year's National Poetry Day such a memorable and uplifting event.



Accelerated Reader winners

Our Year 7 and 8 students are embracing the Accelerated Reader scheme, reading huge numbers of books and completing lots of quizzes. Well done to those who have won the fortnightly competitions throughout the half term, Harry C, Alicia W (Year 7), and Briana D-L, Lucas H (Year 8). We are sure there will be plenty more opportunities and competitions throughout the coming term, so keep reading and quizzing!





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Anti-Bullying week

This year's Anti-Bullying week theme is 'Power for Good', a reminder that every one of us has the power to make a difference.

Our Well-being Team, part of the School Council, is planning a range of activities in PART lesson and around school throughout the week. There will be chances to share positive messages, take part in random acts of kindness, and show your support for a kind and respectful school community.

How you can get involved:

join in with your PART lesson activities, look out for activities taking place around school and follow us on social media to see what's happening and share your own messages of kindness using our the hashtag #PowerForGood. Let's all stand together to make our school a place where everyone feels safe, supported and valued.



Author Tia Fisher inspires students with her latest novel

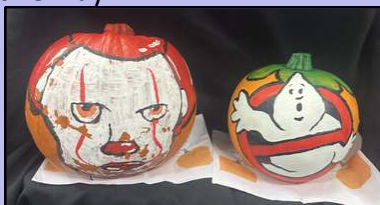
Last half term, students in Year 10 were thrilled to welcome Tia Fisher, acclaimed author of Crossing the Line, back to school for a special visit. Tia came to promote her brand-new book, Not Going to Plan, which delves into themes closely linked to topics currently explored in Citizenship lessons.

Tia is already a familiar name to many students, as her debut novel Crossing the Line is a popular read during Year 9 library lessons. Her engaging storytelling and realistic characters have made a lasting impression, sparking meaningful discussions about real-life issues and personal choices. Students also had the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of her book.



Pumpkin perfection

What a wonderfully creative bunch of students we have! This year's Pumpkin book character competition has once again showcased the imagination and artistic flair of our students. From classic storybook heroes to modern favourites, every pumpkin design was bursting with creativity and care. A huge well done to all our winners and congratulations to everyone who took part and bringing literature to life in such a fun, creative and imaginative way.





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A magical evening at Northgate: Harry Potter quiz night

One Friday evening in October, Northgate was transformed into a scene straight out of Hogwarts as students, families, and staff gathered for our Harry Potter Quiz Night. The event featured seven spellbinding rounds of questions, each inspired by one of J.K. Rowling's beloved books.

The competition was fierce, with teams demonstrating impressive wizarding knowledge and enthusiasm throughout the night. After a nail-biting final round, Team Azkaban Returns — made up of a past student and their family — emerged victorious, proudly lifting the Triwizard Trophy. Special awards were also presented for best team name (Dobby's Other Sock), lowest score (Dumbledorks), and best dressed wizard, adding plenty of fun and laughter to the evening. Guests enjoyed a range of Harry Potter themed treats, which helped create a truly magical atmosphere. All funds raised from the event will go towards updating the school library's non-fiction section and supporting Read for Good, a charity that brings books and storytellers to children in hospital care.

It was a wonderful evening of fun, community spirit and a shared love of reading. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event such an enchanting success as well as Mrs Gill and Mrs Warrington Price for organising such a fun evening!



Merit Update

Well done to everyone for such a positive start to the Autumn term. Already, over 19,000 merits have been awarded this year. This also includes bonus merits for the first half term (1360 for no negatives, 1360 for 100% attendance and 729 for over 95% attendance). Already over 480 virtual certificates have been sent home celebrating merit milestones, and we are sure there will be many more over the coming half term.

Merit cashing in continues to take 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 catalogue [here](#).

Well done to Attenborough who have taken an early lead in the House merit competition.

| <u>Attenborough</u> | <u>Rowling</u> | <u>Holmes</u> | <u>Hawking</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 22.36 | 22.00 | 21.60 | 21.41 |



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Model United Nations conference - India

A group of Year 10 students recently had the unique opportunity to attend the Model United Nations Conference in India. A couple of them tell us about the experience. Imogen O, said of the trip, 'The first I heard about the trip was when my friend Ellie said "Immy you're going to India!", which I was pretty sure she was joking about! Later that day, however, Miss Brooks called me out of my lesson to ask if I had a valid passport and if I would like to attend a Model United Nations conference in India in 6 weeks! When I learned how small the shortlist was of students who were chosen to represent the school I felt overwhelmed with pride and a few nerves for good measure.'

'For me the trip fell into three main elements; the people, the conference and the sights. From the moment we arrived at the airport in India we were made to feel so welcome and that feeling carried on throughout the trip. The warmth and friendship of my fellow delegates and teaching staff was incredible and since returning home I have kept in touch with several of the delegates I met and was lucky enough to be sent a video of the fireworks at the university for their Diwali celebrations.'

'The conference itself felt like a whirlwind and day one was brilliant and exhausting in equal measures, as we all tried to understand the procedures and expectations of the event. I was selected to represent Australia in the Drugs and Crime conference. Thankfully my speech on the first day went well and I was able to answer the associated questions, although seeing Miss Brooks and Mr Mason walk into my room just before I began to speak made the number of butterflies in my stomach multiply! By the second day I had a much better handle on how it worked and felt confident building alliances, asking questions and giving further speeches. The party at the end of the conference will stay with me forever as I danced with some amazing Indian girls who were teaching me Bhangra dancing and were so kind.'

'I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity and, while it will take some time to process it all, I feel an enormous sense of pride for what I achieved there and have developed skills that will help me for the rest of my life. The biggest thing I'll take from the trip is that although we were so far from home, with different sights, sounds, smells, religious beliefs and demographics, I felt so connected to the people I met and our shared enjoyment of the whole experience. The world feels smaller in a really lovely way.' You can read more of what Imogen and Finley had to say and see some amazing photos from the trip in our [blog](#).



Northgate News

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



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Tibet hosts successful charity golf day

Tibet D, Year 10, recently held a charity golf day at Dereham Golf Club in aid of the MS society.

His sister Pera, Year 8, is a new member of the Northgate News Team and so she decided her first assignment would be to interview Tibet about his event. Here's what they had to say:

What made you decide to organise the charity golf day?

'As a Junior club captain I wanted to influence other people's lives in a positive manner.'

Why did you pick the MS Society as a charity to support?

'I chose the MS Society as I have had relatives who unfortunately suffered with it and also friends with people they know who had it.'

Was there anything you found challenging in organising the event?

'I found asking for donations hard because it wasn't easy contacting companies and it took a lot of my time.'

What was the best bit about the day itself?

'The best part was the finish of the event as it was a big relief that it ran smoothly, the positive atmosphere and great compliments we received.'



How long have you played golf for?

'I have played golf my whole life as my family were all involved in the game; such as my great uncle who is an ex-professional, and my dad is the manager of Ayla Golf Club in Jordan. My mum and my sister play golf too and I hope to have a future in the golf industry whether it's playing, being a coach, or a golf course architect.'

How much money did you raise in total? £1466

Huge congratulations to Tibet for organising this event and raising vital funds for the MS Society. If anyone would like to contribute towards his efforts, please visit his Go Fund Me page which you can find [here](#).

Northgate News Team

The Northgate News Team have been busy writing articles and interviewing members of staff. You can read their pieces on our website:

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

[Northgate News Team Interview - Tibet's Charity Golf Day](#)

[Northgate News Team Interview - Miss Gardner](#)

[Northgate News Team Interview - Miss Gostic](#)

[Model United Nations Conference in India blog](#)