



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice

September 2026

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Issue 92

Welcome to Northgate

On Wednesday 30th September, we're excited to welcome Year 6 pupils and their families to Northgate for our Open Evening. It's a great chance to see what life at Northgate is really like and to get a feel for the school.

During the evening, our students, including members of the Prefect Team, will be around to show you the school, answer your questions, and talk honestly about their experiences. You'll hear from our Heads of School, Dr Hone and Mrs Galley, as well as from some of our Year 7 students, who will share what their first few weeks at Northgate have been like and what helped them settle in.

If you'd like to explore before you visit, our 360° [virtual tour](#) is a brilliant way to look inside classrooms and specialist areas. There's also a dedicated Year 6 section on our [website](#), packed with lots of useful information which may answer some common questions.

We hope the evening helps you see why Northgate is such a friendly, supportive and inclusive school community. To keep up with everything happening here, from events to student achievements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or take a look at our previous [monthly bulletins](#) on the school website.

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

'Like' our Northgate High School Facebook page (@northgatedereham)



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.

1st + 2nd September

Staff INSET days

3rd September

Autumn term begins (Week A)

8th September

Year 7 Parents IT support - 5pm - 6pm

10th + 11th September

School Photos - Year 7 - 10 and siblings

25th September

Year 7 enrichment activity - European Day of Languages

30th September

Year 6 Northgate Open Evening 5.30pm - 8pm

Throughout September for Roald Dahl month - teacher read-alouds, tutor group quiz and competitions (keep an eye out on social media and the tutor notices)

Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin? Follow this link to read about all the exciting activities and news from last month.

[July Bulletin](#)



Welcome to Year 7

We are delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students to Northgate High School. Starting secondary school is an exciting new chapter, and we are looking forward to supporting them as they settle into school life.

Over the next five years, our new students will have the opportunity to learn new skills, make lasting friendships and take part in a wide range of experiences, both in and out of the classroom. From lessons and enrichment activities to trips, clubs and sporting events, there will be plenty of opportunities to grow in confidence and discover new interests.

To help make the transition as smooth as possible, our dedicated Year 11 Prefects will be on hand to offer guidance, support and a friendly face during those first few weeks. We look forward to watching our new students flourish and become an important part of the Northgate community.



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Terrarium workshop coming soon

A huge thank you to Paul from The Railway Tavern for collecting and donating some jars from the chip shop! We are so lucky to have such wonderful community links and such kindness supporting our students.

Our School Council Wellbeing Team will soon be running a terrarium workshop as part of our student wellbeing activities.

If anyone has suitable plant donations, such as baby succulents, fittonia or other small terrarium-friendly plants, we would be incredibly grateful. Your donations will help us open the workshop up to even more students.

Oracy reading project

Last term we were delighted to enlist a group of enthusiastic students from Years 7 to 9, as part of our Oracy Project, to share stories from the Carnegie Shortlist Award for Illustration, and encourage developing oracy skills across our wider community. The students visited two care homes, Lincoln House and York House (see our last [bulletin](#)) plus Year 2 classes in both Scarning Primary School and Toftwood Infant School. It was a great success with planned continued visits for the new academic year ahead - watch this space! A big thank you to all the staff and students involved in such a worthwhile project.





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Introducing our new Year 11 Leadership Team

This year's selection process was one of the most competitive we have ever seen. The sheer volume of thoughtful letters, impressive interviews, and genuine passion for school life made every decision incredibly tough. We are proud to announce a truly outstanding group of students who will represent our school with maturity, enthusiasm, and integrity. This year, due to the exceptional calibre of applicants, we have appointed two Head Boys and two Head Girls, along with two Deputy Head Boys and two Deputy Head Girls, a testament to the strength and depth of leadership within Year 11. Their profiles will be shared on our website and social media pages next term, giving our community the chance to learn more about their interests, achievements, and hopes for the school.

Head Girls: Imogen O and Talli B, **Head Boys:** Finley K and Jude B

Deputy Head Girls: Colette P and Ella K, **Deputy Head Boys:** Elliott W and Oliver C



Alongside the leadership team, we are delighted to introduce our Senior Prefects, who will play a vital role in supporting school life and modelling the values we uphold.

Senior Prefect of Learning: Imogen J

Senior Prefects: Anmarie B, Mayte S, Yi Han G, Verity K, Kai R and Layla W.

This is a fantastic group of students, and we look forward to seeing them grow into their roles over the coming year. We are confident that this new team will represent the school with pride and help shape a positive, ambitious year ahead.

Battle of the Bookworms quiz

What a delight it was to host the annual Battle of the Bookworms at Northgate in July! Local primary schools attended with some of their star readers, answering 6 rounds of questions all about books.

It was a closely fought competition, but the overall winners were Scarning Primary Team A, with Thomas Bullock Team A and Thomas Bullock Team B in joint second place!

All participants were gifted a book and bookmark. Well done everyone, and a huge thank you to our student librarians who read out questions, scored the answers, and chaperoned our visitors around the school.





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Celebrating excellence at the Northgate Sports Awards 2026

Last term, the PE Department hosted their annual Sports Awards evening, a chance to celebrate the sporting achievements of both individuals and teams from across the year. It was a wonderful evening recognising the commitment, effort and success of our students across a wide range of sporting activities. It is brilliant to see so many of our pupils enjoying being active and getting involved in sport at school.

Congratulations to all our award winners:

Special Recognition: Harry C, Alexandra A, Phoebe L, Lexi K and Freya N for their exceptional dedication to PE.

Most Valuable Players: Maddox H, Jude C, Harry C, Alexandra A, Toby C, Isabelle S, Oliver F, Emily B, Jenna G, Isaac P, Annabella O, Inoke D, Grace R, Noah T, Megan M, Jacy F, Alanna W, Alfie D, Isla P and Lewis H.

Players' Player Awards: Bryan D, Cole S, Emily B, Jayden G, Tegan L, Jenson P, George M, Grace R, Hudson B, Tessa C, Kyeroe S, Tom O, Theo S, Florence L, Jamie T, Jacy F, Oscar P, Freya N, George O.

Team of the Year: Year 7 Boys Football - South Norfolk League Champions (unbeaten in 9 games!)

Sporting Achievement of the Year: George O - Leicester Tigers U17 Academy

Lewis Hendry Award: Jess Flitton

A huge thank you to all the pupils who have represented the school, attended practices and shown such enthusiasm and pride in being part of the PE Department this year. Congratulations to everyone who received an award on the evening; it was fantastic to celebrate their achievements and dedication.

A final thank you goes to our PE Department for the many extra-curricular sporting opportunities they provide throughout the year, giving our students the chance to develop their skills, try new activities and represent the school.



Sports Day success

Before the end of the summer term it was time for our annual sports day. This year, the format changed slightly, with tutor groups competing against each other. Students took part in the 100m, 800m, shot putt, javelin and relays. Congratulations to the winning tutor groups from each year: 7AB, 8AH and 9AGR and well done to everyone who took part. An extra special well done to Year 7's Elsa C, who broke the Girls 100m record, clocking an incredible 12.97 seconds and breaking a record that had stood since 2018!



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Jacob B, Year 7, from the Northgate News Team interviewed some of the Year 7s after their events. You can read what they had to say [here](#):



Accelerated Reader celebrations

What an incredible term for our Accelerated Reader program! We're so proud of everyone who smashed their personalised reading targets and earned bronze, silver, and gold awards. They were rewarded with badges and ice creams. But the celebrations don't stop there...

Congratulations to our new Word Millionaires Sophia V and Jessica W who've read over 1 million words this year, to Tilly H-B, a multi-millionaire reader with over 2 million words and to Jess J for breaking a school record, with an astonishing 5 million plus words read this year!





Year 11s celebrate GCSE success

Congratulations to Year 11, who received their GCSE results on 20th August. It has been a pleasure to see their hard work pay off, and we are incredibly proud of the commitment, resilience and determination they have shown throughout their time at Northgate. Their achievements reflect not only their effort in the exam season, but the steady dedication they have shown over many years.

We would also like to thank our staff for the support they have given this cohort, from teaching and guidance to encouragement and reassurance. Their commitment has played a huge part in helping students reach this important milestone.

As our class of 2026 move on to new courses, apprenticeships and opportunities, we wish them every success. We look forward to welcoming them back in November for our GCSE Presentation evening, where we can celebrate their achievements together once more.



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Author visits Northgate

Our new and current Year 7s were treated to a visit by author Lisa Thompson last term, who delivered an engaging and entertaining assembly presentation. We are all now eagerly looking for faces in everyday objects! Lisa is the author of over 15 books, many involving vulnerable young characters facing hidden struggles, such as mental health conditions with overriding themes combining personal isolation, empathy, and the power of human connection to overcome fear and adversity. Her books can be borrowed from our library and are highly recommended by Mrs Gill.





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Orchard Committee ends the year on a high

In early July, our Orchard Committee welcomed students from City Academy Norwich to spend the afternoon exploring The Orchard and working together in nature.

After a guided tour, everyone got stuck into a range of activities, including making bug houses, trying the Japanese art of hapa zome, creating beautiful leaf-print coasters and taking a closer look at lichen using handheld microscopes.

It was wonderful to see students from both schools working together so well, making new friends and representing their schools brilliantly. It's safe to say everyone had a fantastic afternoon – in fact, our visitors enjoyed it so much they didn't want to leave! We can't wait to welcome them back for a return visit.



To round off the school year, we celebrated the achievements of our Orchard Committee by welcoming their families, staff, Breckland Councillors Helen Crane and Alison Webb, and Breckland Officer Melanie Rushmere to The Orchard.

Committee members proudly showcased everything they have achieved this year, including making use of an Environmental Initiative grant provided by Breckland Council. They were then presented with their Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Gold Award plaque and certificates. This prestigious award recognises the hard work and dedication of both past and present members, who have completed a wide range of environmental projects and challenges over the past two years.

Miss Theobald, Orchard Committee Lead, said: "I am incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved. They have shown such commitment to our projects over the past couple of years, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for nature during our after-school meetings. We are excited to begin working towards the Platinum Award next year and look forward to welcoming new members to the committee in September."

Congratulations to every student involved. Your teamwork, enthusiasm and commitment to improving our environment continue to make a real difference.

Orchard Committee meetings will take place every Thursday after school from 3.15pm to 4.15pm, starting in MA6.





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Future Sixth Formers visit for transition day

Back in July, we welcomed our future Year 12 students to Dereham Sixth Form for their annual Transition Day. The event gave students the opportunity to meet staff and fellow students, explore the site and experience a range of Sixth Form subjects before returning in September. The day began with a welcome from Mr Cushion, Head of Year 12, and Mr Atkin, Head of Sixth Form, before students met their tutors and were

introduced to members of the Sixth Form Senate and our student ambassadors.

Throughout the day, students took part in a variety of subject taster sessions across both A Level and BTEC courses, including English, Biology, Psychology, Media, Maths, Business, Criminology and more. They also visited the library, learned more about the Sixth Form Senate, had a talk about EPQs and some free time.

Student ambassadors were on hand throughout the day to answer questions, offer advice and help everyone find their way around. Lunch provided another opportunity for students to get to know one another before the day ended with tutor sessions and a final assembly, where important information about results day and enrolling in September was shared.

It was encouraging to see so many students embracing the day with enthusiasm and confidence. We wish them well when they receive their GCSE results and look forward to welcoming them back in September as the newest members of our Sixth Form community.

Year 7 Transition

At the end of last term, we welcomed our new Year 7 students for their transition days, giving them their first taste of life at Northgate High School. During the three days, they had the opportunity to experience a wide range of lessons, meet their Heads of Year, Mrs Richardson and Mrs Norman, visit the library, meet author Lisa Thompson and much more.

Our fantastic Prefect team supported the students throughout the three days, helping them settle in and making them feel welcome. Here's a small glimpse of what they got up to.





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If you've ever wondered what it's like to be part of the Team Councils, keep your eyes open in PART lesson this term. You'll find out exactly how you can get involved, share your voice, and help make a difference around school. The Team Councils will be back, and they'll be looking for new faces ready to make an impact.

Recognising the work of our Student Councils

A huge thank you to all members of the Team Councils and School Council for their brilliant work this year.

To celebrate their efforts, students enjoyed cakes, games, and plenty of laughter in The Orchard, where each member also received a certificate in recognition of their contribution. We're excited to work with the councils again next year, and would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Gill, Miss Lyons, and Miss Theobald for their support throughout the year.



Attendance matters

Congratulations to 7IP, 8HB, 9CG and 10JLL who all won the last fortnightly attendance competition of the year. Their trophies and certificates have been proudly on display in tutor rooms.

Congratulations also to our Summer 2 half term attendance raffle winners: Dianne O (Year 7), Liam W (Year 8), Jenson L (Year 9) and Anna W (Year 10). 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.





Year 10 Work experience: A week of real-world learning

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Last term our Year 10 students completed an exciting week of work experience across a wide range of settings, from dog groomers, museums, charity shops and primary schools to hairdressers, vets, garages and more. They embraced new environments, learned important skills, and gained an invaluable insight into the world of work. For many, it was a real eye-opener and a chance to discover strengths they didn't know they had.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the employers who welcomed our students, supported them throughout the week, and provided such meaningful opportunities. The encouragement and guidance given will have a big impact on our students and we are grateful for the positive feedback shared about how hard they all worked and the progress they made. Several students received particularly strong comments from their placements which we wanted to share, although far too many to mention!

Adaptability & resilience - Zak (at the John Innes Centre) showed great adaptability over the week. He had many varying tasks to do and was very interested and happy to help with them all. He was very polite and courteous and had good time keeping, throughout the week. He listened and followed instructions given, understanding the need for accuracy and good hygiene whilst carrying out the tasks. Zak adapted quickly as we moved from one job to another.

Independence - Imogen J (at The Museum of Swaffham) showed a mature approach to all the tasks involved in museum life. She worked independently on her personal project on her chosen subject of a pomander. Researching and planning her work was exemplary.

Independence - Harrison L (at CNS Autos) showed his willingness to learn new skills very early on in his placement and his ability to work independently of constant instruction was noted by the technician. Harrison also showed strengths in listening, planning, problem solving, speaking and teamwork and technical reporting. He showed a remarkable ability to learn new skills quickly.

Listening - Layla W (at Swaffham Vets) was enthusiastic in all aspects of her placement and showed genuine affection for the animals, especially during visits.

Initiative - Isla T (at Scarning Primary School) went above and beyond throughout the whole week following the lead of the adults in the room then using her own initiative to continue to support the children in the classroom. This was not only noticed by the staff in the classroom but was also acknowledged by other staff members around the school.

We are incredibly proud of all our Year 10 students for the maturity, enthusiasm and resilience they demonstrated throughout the week. Their achievements reflect the values of our school, and we look forward to seeing how these experiences shape their future aspirations.





Summer School highlights

This summer we were pleased to welcome many of our new Year 7 students to Northgate for our Summer School programme. It gave them a relaxed and enjoyable introduction to secondary school life, a chance to meet new people, and an opportunity to begin building confidence before September as well as to get to know the school a bit more.

At the end of the week, certificates were awarded to students who had shown exceptional effort, those who had noticeably grown in confidence, and those who had demonstrated kindness towards others or courage.

From the very first session, the enthusiasm was there. As the week went on, it was great to see how quickly they settled in, supported one another, and grew in confidence.

The three days were full of activities designed to challenge, inspire and bring students together. They enjoyed lively games of rounders, got creative with Picasso-style mask making, print work and collaging, and tackled problem-solving in the library escape room. They became code-breakers for a session and took on a maths trail around the school with plenty of energy.

Other memorable moments included boom-whacker percussion sessions, a bead-bracelet quiz, and an egg drop challenge from the hall balcony. Using string, cardboard tubes, cardboard boxes, newspaper and tape, students worked in teams to design protective structures, and several managed to keep Eggbert the egg safely intact.

A huge thank you goes to all staff who planned and delivered such a wide range of sessions, and to our brilliant Sixth Form helpers whose encouragement made a real difference throughout the week. We are incredibly proud of our new Year 7s and look forward to seeing them continue to flourish at Northgate in the year ahead.





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Adventures on curriculum enhancement days

The penultimate week of term saw our Year 7–9 students take part in two fantastic curriculum enhancement days, filled with activities, trips and workshops designed to broaden experiences and bring learning to life. Once again, there was an incredible range to choose from. Across the two days, groups headed out to Harry Potter World, Thorpe Park, Banham Zoo, Rutland Water, Norwich Castle, Gravity, and even London for sightseeing. Others enjoyed hands-on adventures closer to home, including STEM challenges, sports, Lego club, film club, go karting, bowling, cinema trips, and creative sessions in The Orchard. Some students also spent some action-packed days at PGL Bawdsey, building teamwork, confidence and resilience.

It was a brilliant mix of fun, learning and new experiences, and the smiles said it all. A huge thank you to staff for putting together such a wide range of opportunities, the planning and effort behind the scenes never goes unnoticed. We're already looking forward to next year's activities!



Year 7 Geographers descend on Cromer

Back in July, some of our Year 7 pupils studied real evidence of erosion when they took a field trip to Cromer. They analysed sea defence strategies, measured pebbles and engaged with the local community through questionnaires. Watching them become confident young geographers in the field is what it's all about. Dr Barret, Head of Geography, said he was impressed with those who attended and in particular Lucy P, Will D, Max W, Poppy B, Ava D and Jess J for engaging really well with the work and for their ideas - well done!





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Battle of the Bookworms competition

Northgate's annual primary school Battle of the Bookworms proved another close competition with Year 5 and Year 6 students from catchment area schools taking part in our lively bookish quiz. The winning school was Scarning Primary School who once again took home the shield.



Thomas Bullock Team A and Team B were joint runners-up, a fantastic result! All of the pupils received a book and bookmark to take home.

Our amazing Year 7 school librarians were the perfect hosts - from meeting and escorting the visiting schools on arrival, reading the question rounds, marking the answers, to handing out the prizes and engaging in book conversations with our visitors, Mrs Gill is very proud of you all!



Maths, teamwork and a little competition

In the last week of term, Year 7, 8 and 9 students took part in our House Maths competitions. Each year group faced a different challenge, with plenty of problem-solving, teamwork and a healthy dose of competition along the way! Year 7 took part in a Gold Hunt, putting their mathematical skills to the test as they collected as much gold as possible around Norfolk. Year 8 used their number skills to explore the London Underground, while Year 9 took on the challenge of reducing their carbon footprint, applying their maths to a real-world problem.

It was fantastic to see students working together throughout the challenges. There was some great mathematical thinking on display, as well as plenty of determination. Well done to everyone who took part. Here are the results:

Year 7: 1st: Hawking, 2nd: Holmes, 3rd: Rowling, 4th: Attenborough

Year 8: 1st: Attenborough, 2nd: Hawking, joint 3rd: Rowling + Holmes

Year 9: 1st: Rowling, joint 2nd: Hawking + Attenborough, 3rd Holmes





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Celebrating achievement and school values

A huge well done to our amazing Key Stage 3 students! At the end of last term, we held our awards afternoon, highlighting outstanding academic progress, those that had achieved an impressive 150+ merits and students who consistently live our school values: Respect, Responsibility, Readiness, Reflectiveness and Resilience.

Every class had at least one award winner, a brilliant reflection of the effort, commitment and spirit shown across the year. Well done to all our winners - you've made us proud!

Respect award (respect for yourself; for each other; for learning and the learning environment; for people who have beliefs or lifestyles different from your own) - Saffire R, Poppy C, Lotte L.

Readiness award (readiness to learn; to challenge yourself; to have an open mind; to accept that in order to develop there will be set backs along the way) - Jess J, Gethin H, Imogen H.

Responsibility award (responsibility for your own actions; for looking after each other as part of the Northgate community; for your own learning and increasing independence; for knowing what you need to do to improve and how to do it; to be the best you can be) - Ruby B, Isabelle S, Ellis E.

Resilience award (to recognise that not everything will come easily to you, but that to keep trying and to learn from your setbacks is as important as the end result; to develop moral courage and know you're true to yourself and the values of the school community) - Pru K, Sophie S, Poppy C.

Reflectiveness award (to be able to reflect upon your attitude to learning and make changes (with support) if you are not yet fulfilling your potential; to reflect upon your own learning as a result of assessment and feedback; to reflect on your place in society and how to be a valuable member of the community) - Evelyn T, Isaac Y, Tessa C.

Community award (awarded to a student who have contributed to our school community and/or has also been involved in projects or volunteering work outside of school) - Sophia V.

Above and beyond award (awarded to a student (or students) who have gone above and beyond in their approach to school and their life in general) - Jacob B and Amari N.

Outstanding contribution award (awarded to a student (or students) who have made an exceptional contribution to life at Northgate and therefore affecting other students in the most positive way) - Harry E and Mason W.



Goodbyes and hellos

At the end of the summer term, we sadly said goodbye to a number of staff who are moving on to positions in new schools or going on to teacher training: Mr Ahrenfelt – Science teacher, Mr Kemp - Drama teacher, Mrs Mack - Art and Design teacher, Ms Venediktova - Art and Design teacher, Miss O'Callaghan - Cover supervisor, Mrs Humphries - Cover supervisor and Mrs Terry - Art and Design technician. We wish them all well in the future and thank them for their commitment to Northgate and the countless students they supported in their roles.

At the start of a new school year, we also welcome not only our new Year 7s to Northgate, but new members of staff too: Mr Jones - English, Drama, Media and Criminology teacher, Mr Buckle - Cover supervisor and Miss Swain - Art and Design technician.

We also see Mrs Norman + Mrs Richardson as Heads of Year 7, Mr Lennard + Mrs Harris as Heads of Year 8, Mr Stirling as Head of Year 9, Mr Guy as Head of Year 10 and Mrs Graves as Head of Year 11.



SPARX Maths success continues

Students across the school have once again shown real commitment to SPARX Maths last half term, with Year 8s throwing themselves into their homework each week now they are confident with the platform.



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SPARX continues to play an important role in supporting learning beyond the classroom, helping students build confidence through personalised practice.

Many students have pushed themselves to complete their homework to 100% and attempted the Personal Practice tasks each week, and the effort they put into revision ahead of assessments was clear. We have also been impressed with how they have embraced the new 'Flashcards' element.

Last term, we were delighted to share that students had answered over 1 million questions correctly since September, a fantastic milestone and a real reflection of their hard work. This total has now risen significantly.

A number of students reached an impressive 3,000 XP or more last half term, earning themselves a place as our SPARX Maths Stars. This achievement highlights their determination, resilience and consistent effort. Congratulations to:

Year 8: Benjamin C, Molly C-F, Lena P, Clarissa F, Gethin H, Isaac Y, Daniella D, Adam E, Isabelle S, Lillian C, Rowan T, Millie S, Harry E, Eloise T, Oliver O, Anjola O, Casey I, Jayden G, Chloe F, George M, Crimson R, Liam W, Natalie P, Olivia D, Theo M, Mason D

Year 9: Austin B, Edwin R, Noah P, Phoebe L, Henry G, Ryan G, Imogen B, Oscar B, Leo G, Rayne N, Swaylee O-K, Lilly A, Ellise D, Freya M, Aston B, Biyon B, Ellis E, Alina W, Elizabeth H, Riley H, Robin W

Year 10: Oliver C, Imogen O, Harry B, Jude B, Oliver G, Talli B, Lily J, Charlie J, Alanna W, Eva C, Layla M, Yi Han G, Evie W, Melody S, Cassidy D-G, Poppy R, Dakota H, Imogen J

A special mention goes to Year 10 students Oliver C (45,162 XP) and Harry B (26,051 XP) and Year 9 students Austin B (51,910 XP), Edwin R (38,119 XP), Lilly A (28,236 XP) and Rayne N (25,200 XP) who have all earned over 25000XP this year - very impressive!

Since September, students have collectively achieved:

✓ 1,202,707 questions answered correctly

🕒 10,828 hours of personalised learning completed

📅 Hundreds of students have improved their times tables recall

🎯 Hundreds of students have progressed to new SPARX levels

✉ More than 1000 virtual certificates shared with families to celebrate achievement and progress.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, perseverance and positive attitude our students continue to show towards their maths learning. Their achievements have been exceptional.

Merit Update

Wow - what a year for merits - close to 70,000 were awarded across the year including 19,910 bonus merits. 245 students gained 100 or more merits, 58 students gained 150 or more merits, 6 students gained 200 or more merits and 2 students gained 250 or more merits.

Congratulations to all those who earned bonus merits from last half term which included 640 for 100% attendance, 516 for >95% attendance, 960 for no negatives, 703 for excellent attitude to learning/effort in AP3 (Year 7 - 9) and 250 for 100% attendance for the whole year!

Merit cashing in continues to take place on Mondays this year, in the main hall from 12.30pm - 12.50pm. You can find this year's catalogue [here](#):

Congratulations to Rowling who won the House merit competition!

Rowling	Holmes	Hawking	Attenborough
79.91	79.15	78.12	77.41



Year group book recommendations

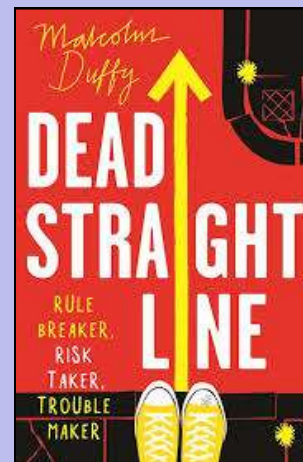
Mrs Gill, our Head Librarian, has provided some recommended reads for students. Please note that the library has been restocked with a wealth of new fiction, non-fiction and manga/graphic novels to suit all interests, so make sure you pop in at break and lunchtime to be top of the list for borrowing!

Year 7 - Six Weeks by Matt Goodfellow. The latest verse novel book by the author/poet of The Final Year and The First Year.

Year 8 - What Happens Online - Nathanael Lasso. Desperate to fit in, unpopular schoolboy Fred uses his secret gaming persona to build his friendship status but how far will he be prepared to go? A brilliantly funny story of being true to yourself as a teen navigating social peer acceptance.

Year 9 - Dead Straight Line by Malcom Duffy. A game initiated by teen 'gang' leader, Rory, goes tragically wrong and changes the lives of those around him with devastating consequences. Desperate to prove his innocence, Rory reluctantly befriends Tanker, an elderly Northerner in a care home, whose wise words and attitude set Rory on a different path.

Year 10/11 - Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir. Whether you watched the movie or it passed you by, this sci-fi novel is highly recommended for its fast paced breakdown of scientific problem solving, unlikely friendships and positivity in overcoming unbeatable odds.



Reading intervention

We were delighted to award certificates of achievement and small rewards to celebrate the 'turtley awesome' Year 7 and Year 8 students who have completed their reading intervention programme this year. 40 out of the 52 on the programme have graduated through 1:1 intervention with our Sixth Form mentors, volunteer Mrs Walker and Mrs Warrington-Price. Congratulations - we are so proud of you all. Keep it up!

