



Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice

October 2026

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Issue 93

Year 6 Open Evening

A big thank you to all those that attended our Year 6 open evening last night. We really hope you enjoyed your time looking round Northgate and have gained a sense as to why we feel the school is so special. From hearing from our Year 11 leadership team and Year 7s, just a few weeks into their time at Northgate, to tours with Prefects and discovering what our subjects have to offer and extra curricular activities, it really was a great evening. There was such a buzz. Thank you to all staff and students involved.

Don't forget there is a dedicated section on our school [website](#) where you can find all sorts of information and answers to questions you may have.

We look forward to welcoming some of you back for tours of the school during school hours over the coming days.



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.

5th October

Post 16 Options Evening - 6.30pm

12th October

Year 7, 8 and 9 Flu vaccinations

14th October

Languages taster day at Girton College - Year 11 students

15th October

Manga Mania National quiz

16th October

Institut Francais authors and illustrators at DSFC for Year 10 pupils + pupils from 3 local high schools

19th October

Year 10 + 11 flu vaccinations

20th October

Dereham Sixth Form Open Evening - 5.30pm - 8pm, talks on college life at 5.30pm + 6.30pm

22nd October

Year 9 Geography trip - TBC

Nature recovery network meeting at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse for Orchard Committee members 3pm - 5pm
Break up for half term

Northgate News

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

[September Bulletin](#)

Year 11 Leadership Team



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In our previous bulletin we announced the new Year 11 leadership team - Head Girls Imogen and Talli and Head Boys Finley and Jude, alongside Deputy Head Girls Colette and Ella and Deputy Head Boys Elliott and Oliver. Year 6s who came to our Open Evening yesterday will have had the chance to meet them and hear from them, alongside our team of Prefects. Over the coming weeks we are going to find out a bit more about each of the leadership team in profiles on our website and social media pages - so keep your eyes peeled!



Year 7s make a positive start to life at Northgate

It's hard to believe that nearly four weeks have passed since our new Year 7s joined Northgate — the time has certainly flown. We've been genuinely impressed with how confidently they've settled into life at High School and how quickly they've become part of the Northgate community.

They have approached their lessons with enthusiasm, shown a positive attitude to learning, and embraced the Northgate Way. Many students have also thrown themselves into the wide range of clubs available, making the most of the opportunities on offer.

Here's what some of them had to say about their first few weeks...

Clay C (7Ten) - 'It's been a good couple of weeks, the teachers are nice and the lessons have been good. Summer school helped me to settle well. I am looking to join the school football team!'

Cayson B (7Mot) - 'It's gone great so far. I've made loads of new friends and everyone is kind. My favourite subjects - I like them all but Geography and French have been the best. I might join the lego club and rugby club.'

Eliza O (7Cour) - 'I've enjoyed Design Tech and Maths so far. I was worried I would get lost but it only happened once - everyone is helpful! I have joined the football team already. People should pick Northgate as the one way system helps and I prefer the uniform.'

Emelia J (7Asp) - 'I was the only one from my primary school so I was worried about getting around and making friends. But, I have made new friends and grown in confidence. Northgate has been really good. I've been enjoying performing arts so far!'

Evie C (7Val) - 'It's better than primary school as it's more fun. My favourite subjects are Maths and Design Tech. So far I've joined the girl's football team. Summer school helped me know my way round a bit before we properly started.'

Jacob P (7Cour) - 'It's been good. Some lessons have been hard but I've made a bunch of friends. Satchel One helps keep me organised with my homework. I am going to join Science club, film club, craft club and dodgeball! Performing Arts with Miss Harris has been great so far. '

Theo G (7Int) - 'At the start of school I was a bit nervous but now I'm fine. I am pleased I chose Northgate. I'm enjoying the new clubs - I've joined football and rugby. In food tech we have already made a fruit salad and fruit kebabs!'





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Updates from the Orchard

It's been a busy and exciting start to the year for the Orchard Committee, and we were delighted to welcome several new members to the team. Over the summer, our flax crop was harvested, and in September Miss Theobald visited Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse to check on its progress. The flax has now been dried, retted, and is undergoing a second drying stage — the fibres are looking promising, and we're looking forward to seeing the next step in the process.



Later this month, members of the Orchard Committee will be attending the first Nature Recovery Network meeting at Gressenhall. This will provide an opportunity to learn more about tree nurseries and explore how this knowledge can support our ongoing work at Northgate.

Back on site, the team has already cut and raked our two wildflower areas, potted up new seedlings, and turned the compost. Upcoming tasks include collecting and stratifying seeds and berries, taking part in tree bingo, and raking leaves to create leaf mulch.

Two projects have been particular highlights over the last year:

Marigold pallet planters - adding even more colour near the fruit trees and supporting biodiversity.

Cosmos Corner - a bright, pollinator-friendly habitat that has brought a burst of colour to the Orchard.

We are always keen to welcome new students. The Orchard Committee works towards different awards throughout the year and has plenty of exciting activities planned. It's a friendly, hands-on group making a positive impact on nature and biodiversity at Northgate. If you're interested, see Miss Theobald, or just come along to MA6 at 3.15pm on a Thursday to get involved.





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Celebrating success

What a summer it's been for Karlina, Devon, and Chevy! Our sailing trio have been crushing it at regattas across the region:

🏆 Horning Regatta Week - All three came away with glasses and a collection of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place silver spoons

🏆 Oulton Regatta Week - Devon claimed the trophy for 1st in 5.3 Topper over the week

🚢 Barton Broad Regatta Weekend - Mixed results in challenging conditions, but great experience gained

🎉 Broadland Youth Regatta - The grand finale!

Teaming up with Snowflakes Sailing Club against 8 clubs, 108 boats, and 134 sailors from across East Anglia:

Devon: 1st in 5.3 Topper fleet

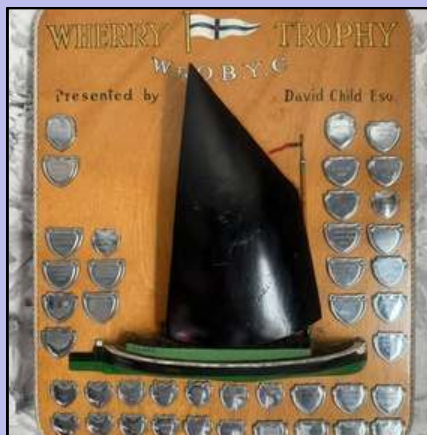
Chevy: 2nd in 5.3 Topper fleet

Karlina: Solid mid-fleet finish in Laser Radials

Snowflakes SC: A very close 2nd place overall!

Congratulations to you all - thank you for sharing your achievements with us.

If you would like us to celebrate your successes in a future bulletin, please let your tutor know or send information and photos into the school office.



Merit Update

It's been a very positive start to the year with over 9,700 merits having been awarded already. This includes all of the bonus merits from the second summer half term as well as merits for attitude to learning/effort from AP3. Hawking have taken an early lead in the House merit competition, however it is all to play for over the coming months. The first set of 20 merit virtual certificates will be emailed out over the next couple of weeks - keep an eye on your inboxes.

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](#):

Please note that students who cashed in merits in July, where items were out of stock, these have been ordered so keep a look out on the tutor notices for when to come and collect them.

<u>Hawking</u>	<u>Attenborough</u>	<u>Rowling</u>	<u>Holmes</u>
11.19	11.06	10.91	10.89



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Sparx
Maths

Sparx
Science

Sparx
Reader

Positive start to SPARX learning

Students have made a really positive start to SPARX learning this year. SPARX Maths has now been launched with all year groups and already 660 hours of personalised learning have been completed, with more than 50,000 questions answered correctly. Mrs Smith, Head of Maths, has been impressed with the engagement so far, with plenty of merits awarded and the first virtual certificates already sent home to students who have levelled up.

We're also pleased to have launched SPARX Reader and SPARX Science during September. Year 10 and 11 students are currently completing SPARX Science to support and consolidate their classwork and, in just the first couple of weeks, they have completed over 230 hours of learning and answered more than 37,000 questions correctly.

Mrs Simms, Head of Science, said the first homework focused on practising the maths skills needed for Science and she was pleased with the strong start.

Year 7, 10 and 11 students have begun their SPARX Reader journey (with Years 8 and 9 to follow). Mrs Villarde, Head of English, has been encouraged by the approach shown so far and, within the first couple of weeks of launch, students had already read the equivalent of 124 books, completing over 640 hours of learning - a brilliant start.

We look forward to celebrating our SPARX stars in the next bulletin and on the school social media pages. Well done to all those who have started their SPARX learning journey in such a committed way.

Attendance matters

Congratulations to 7LO, 7JB, 8CM, 8AB, 9DNI, 9HA, 10CC, 10SJ, 11VE and 11RP who have all won the fortnightly attendance competition so far this year. Their trophies and 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. Thank you to parents and carers who support positive attendance at Northgate. We all know the impact this has on our students' learning and progress.





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Interested in cryptography, puzzles and codebreaking?

Have you ever wondered how secret messages are created and decoded? The National Cipher Challenge, launched at the end of September, is a free competition that gives you the opportunity to develop your problem-solving, logical thinking and cryptography skills through a series of increasingly challenging codebreaking puzzles.

Whether you are a mathematician, a problem solver, or simply enjoy a good quiz, this competition is for you. You can participate as an individual or as part of a team. When you begin, you are guided through some practice problems to get you thinking in the right way and, before you know it, you'll be hooked!

You will learn how to crack different types of ciphers, uncover hidden messages and compete against students from across the UK. No previous experience is required, just curiosity, perseverance and a willingness to have a go.

Taking part can help you:

Develop analytical and mathematical thinking skills, improve problem-solving and teamwork abilities, learn about the history of cryptography and codebreaking. You can challenge yourself with fun and engaging puzzles and enhance your university and career applications by demonstrating resilience and independent learning.

Whether you enjoy Maths, Computing, Languages, History, or simply solving puzzles, the Cipher Challenge offers something for everyone. For more information, visit the cipher challenge [website](https://www.cipherchallenge.org).

If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with Mrs Chalmers or Mr Collyer.

(nchalmers@ng6.unity-ed.uk or jcollyer@ng6.unity-ed.uk). They will be happy to provide further information about registration, resources and how you can participate as part as a team.



Celebrating success

Huge congratulations to Rocky S (Year 9), who has made it through the Norfolk County football trials after competing against more than 100 young players. It's a fantastic achievement and we're all incredibly proud of him. Being selected to represent Norfolk County this season is a real testament to the hard work, commitment and love of the game he shows week in, week out. Well done, Rocky - a brilliant moment and thoroughly deserved.





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Roald Dahl week

The splendiferous storytelling of Roald Dahl was brought to life every lunchtime during our celebration week, with staff sharing extracts from some of his best-loved stories in the library. Staff from across the school volunteered to take part, creating a lovely buzz each day as students dropped in to listen. A big thank you to everyone who got involved, we hope students enjoyed hearing these much-loved tales read aloud.



European Day of Languages

On Friday 25th September, we marked the European Day of Languages with a complementary French breakfast for all our Year 7 students. They had puzzles to complete including a code breaker and recognising European flags. They also practised ordering croissants, pains au chocolat, jus d'orange, jus de pomme and chocolat chaud, and were expertly served by our GCSE linguists who acted as waiters for the event.

A school-wide escape room challenge will run from Monday 28th September to Friday 2nd October so why not get involved? A big thank you to Mrs Norman, and the languages department for putting on these activities.



Updates from the Library



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Mrs Gill, Head Librarian, is excited to launch a number of new reading reward schemes for all year groups this year that encourage students to read a variety of genres and authors.

Year 7 and Year 8 can embark on the Genre Explorer - earning a genre coloured bead for their keychain alongside review prizes. Three books from the same genre will earn a special bead, merit and extra prize.

Year 9, 10 and 11 are invited to our Starbooks Loyalty Scheme. Each completed book and customer feedback form will earn a stamp on their loyalty card. Three stamps allows students

to choose a gift from the library espresso treasure chest and a completed card of six stamps earns a free book and a VIP Starbucks tasting and refresher making session at the end of term.

All students can take on the year long Bookopoly Challenge - a reading challenge based on the monopoly board game with the ultimate goal of completing all four sides of the Bookopoly board.

Details of all these can be found on the school Accessit library page alongside reading recommendations.

A new KS3 book club invites students to join together to solve A Connie Carew Mystery, 'The Ship of Secrets'. Limited places available for the opportunity to discuss and solve the mystery whilst bedazzling and spine painting their copy and crafting bookmarks and bead charms. The club will meet Monday lunchtimes - please see Mrs Gill to sign up.

Finally, spine tingling spooky stories will take place in the last week of half term at lunchtime in the library - enter if you dare!

Library stats - our top 3 borrowers are Lexi-Mae K (Year 7), Elijah C (Year 7) and Osian K (Year 7), with the most active tutor group for borrowing, 7LO.

The top 4 most popular books so far this year are The Mega Complicated Crushes of Lottie Brooks by Katie Kirby, Heartstopper 6 by Alice Oseman, Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince by JK Rowling and Miles Morales, Spiderman graphic novel by Justin Reynolds and Pablo Leon.

We have some exciting competitions coming up so please consider getting involved.

- October 15th - Manga Mania National Quiz. If you love manga and anime and wish to represent Northgate on one of our teams, competing against 83 school teams across the country please see Mrs Gill.
- Our annual book character pumpkin competition will be accepting entries from 13th October. Halloween hamper 1st prize and merits and treats for all who enter.



Celebrating success

Last year, Jacob B (Year 8) was part of the Northgate News Team. He regularly interviewed members of staff as part of this role. It was therefore fantastic to see him use these skills back in September to interview staff and players at Carrow Road. A great experience for a Canary fan. Well done Jacob! You can see the full interview [here](#).