



# Newsletter

January 2024

I hope that you had a fantastic festive season and you got a chance to relax!

It has been great to meet so many of you already at our interview night and look forward to getting to know everyone at future evenings. Hopefully you will get to see what a fantastic centre we are and all that we can offer you. From specialist teachers to our many extracurricular activities, we will provide you with the springboard to future success. Meanwhile, I hope that your preparations for the GCSE exams go well. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, whether it be changing subjects or information regarding the Induction day, we are here for you - you're part of our community now!

Take care,

**Mr Alexander**  
Head of Sixth Form



**In December 2023, Northgate Sixth Form staff and students, took part in the National Christmas Jumper Day, raising over £230 for Save the Children.**



## Live theatre performances

A Level Drama students have already been to see two live theatre performances.

Abigail's Party at the Wolsey Theatre and Metamorphosis at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester. Witnessing live theatre plays a significant part in the A Level and sparks great discussion within the group about what was inspiring.

These discussions often lead to students adopting similar approaches and experimenting with different theatrical styles within their own work. The Drama department will take any opportunity to take students to the theatre and enrich their A Level course. As the course requires students to respond as directors, designers, performers and audience members, it is integral to learning! This picture is of the set design for Metamorphosis which was analysed in a practice exam question.



## Digital Dance Studio

A Level dancers were invited to attend a Digital Dance Studio workshop, hosted by Alexander Whitley Dance Company's at DanceEast, Ipswich.

The Digital Dance Studio is a cutting-edge software prototype that enables people to create, visualise, and share digital choreography using motion capture and 3D animation technology. The students got involved with VR technology to see what their ideas would look like in the space with multiple dancers and had great fun exploring and understanding motion capture which is often used in CGI filming.



## Showcasing exam work

Northgate, once again, performed their annual dance show to a full house at DanceEast.

This event is one of many highlights of the year and tickets sold out in record breaking time. A Level dancers use this performance opportunity to showcase their exam work. This year they featured in 14 pieces out of 27 and received high praise for their skill and ability. The first half term of A Level dance is devoted to exploring practitioners and creating work in their style. Not only does the work get featured in the dance show but it acts as a revision tool for later on in the course. When it comes to revising all



they have to do is remember their performance in order to trigger their memory to recall significant features. It was a fantastic night which featured outstanding performances

# We will remember them

On Friday 10th November, students from Year 7 led Northgate's Remembrance service in our garden of remembrance.

This year we chose to mark the anniversary of the Korean War, which is often called the 'forgotten war' as it has been overshadowed by the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Cold War. We also chose to commemorate the arrival of the Empire Windrush, which brought citizens of the British Empire to England from the Caribbean. Many of those on board had

contributed to the war effort during World War Two.

The service included readings, a two-minute silence and moving rendition of the Last Post played by Ned Pettit in Year 13. Ned has played for us for a number of years and we would like to thank him for his commitment, as this was the last time he will play for us.

If you play a bugle, a trumpet, or a similar instrument, please let us know if you would be able to take over this role next year.



# Prestigious Anna Airy Award winner 2023

Congratulations go to former Northgate Sixth Form Year 13 Art student Sophia for winning the prestigious Anna Airy Award 2023, with her portrait of Frank Bright MBE (pictured right).

The exhibition was organized by the Ipswich Art Society and hosted at the UCS Waterfront Gallery overlooking Neptune Quay. The long-established exhibition is renowned for showcasing the talents of young artists aged 16-20 from all around the county. Indeed, all the Northgate entries that were submitted were short-listed from a huge entry of student work from the Ipswich area and beyond. Mr Beattie, Head of Art & Design, offered his congratulations to all other Northgate Art students who contributed towards the exhibition and notably, Phoebe, a former Year 13 student whose work was awarded a



commendation certificate. All the work looked stunning within the space and was admired by fellow students, family, teachers and artists of all ages. The open exhibition was well-attended by the Ipswich community.

## English Lit book recommendations

Thinking of taking English Literature?  
Love to read?  
Never found the right book?  
Try one of these...







## Physics in Action

Northgate Sixth Form A Level Physics students, spent a fun and educational day in London at the “Physics in Action” conference.

They learnt about the Physics involved in exploring Mars with the “Curiosity” and “Perseverance” rovers, Fluid Dynamics, Detecting Radiation and Exploring the Ocean Floor.



## Criminology Day at the Uni of Suffolk

In November 2023, Year 13 Sociology students visited the University of Suffolk for a ‘Criminology Day’ featuring lectures, workshops and seminars on areas of the A Level Sociology course.

Students conducted their own research on the waterfront, exploring examples of situational crime prevention strategies and applying the concepts and theories they had learnt in the classroom.

# Geography A Level fieldwork

In September, our Year 13 Geographers completed three day’s worth of fieldwork, in preparation for their independent investigation (NEA) which is worth 20% of the course.

Each student is required to conduct their own research on either a coastal or urban environment and so our fieldwork prepares students for this.

On day one, students went to Walton-on-the-Naze to investigate coastal process and

how they would be assessed. Our Year 13’s are now adept at beach profiling, evaluating the success of sea defences to protect the Naze cliffs, and even found a few fossils too.

Days two and three saw our students investigating two contrasting urban areas in Frinton-On-Sea and Walton on the Naze, where they completed land use surveys and environmental quality assessments. The third day

comprised a visit to investigate the success of Ipswich Waterfront’s rebranding, evaluating service provision, urban decay and the impact of regeneration.

As always, our students conducted themselves impeccably, we were very proud of them and how well they worked as a team. In February, we have an optional A Level fieldtrip to Sorrento in Italy to investigate tectonic processes, the impact of tourism and how globalisation and natural hazards influence place identity. Watch this space for some amazing photographs!

