

# Northgate Review



December 2021



## Little People, BIG DREAMS



During National Inclusion Week 2021 – 27th of September to the 3rd of October, in order to highlight how exclusion can be defeated, we invited our Year 7 students to the library every lunchtime to read the recently bought “Little People Big Dreams” collection of stories.

All of the characters in the books have achieved incredible things, yet each began life as a child with a dream. Told as a story, with a facts and photos section at the back, this sweet series for children celebrates triumph over adversity through some of history’s favourite characters.

The books we read included:

Rosa Parks; Jesse Owens; Malala Yousafzai; Emmeline Pankhurst; Megan Rapinoe; Greta Thunberg; Alan Turing; Stephen Hawking and Anne Frank.

One Year 7 student commented on how they have enjoyed all of the books, particularly the way that each of the characters have done something to help the world!

A massive thank you to our staff and Sixth Formers for helping with this event.

We want everybody at Northgate High School to feel as if they belong here and want to encourage inclusion as much as we can.



## Exploring Windrush stories through poetry

In October, Year 8 and 9 students from Northgate High School were fortunate to work with Curtis Blanc, Karen Walker and Shelby Clarke to explore Windrush stories through poetry, film and first-hand accounts. The day was led by Curtis Blanc (also known as Tisrespect) a two-time Sony Radio Academy Award winner. As a singer songwriter and producer, he founded Radical Lounge (studio and artist development company) to support local artists to establish meaningful opportunities for building their own careers in music. Through poetry and spoken word, Curtis has inspired many audiences, working to empower young people in our community through the creative use of music and speech.

The students enjoyed the day, increased their knowledge of post-war

migration experiences and were inspired to produce their own poetry. We would like to thank Curtis, Karen and Shelby for a fantastic day and the Suffolk Windrush Select Committee for running the event for our students. The Suffolk Windrush Select Committee work in collaboration with other voluntary organisations and charities to raise awareness of the historical and current achievements made locally, nationally and globally, of people of African and Caribbean origin. Much of their work is focused on researching, recording, and archiving the rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean communities living in Suffolk. This work is explored at Northgate at Key Stage 3 in English and History lessons.

A number of our students have been commended for the poetry they have subsequently written, and we are hoping that some of these poems will be published. The names of those students highly commended in Year 8 are:

Windrush Poem:  
 Chilly air bites at my skin,  
 Thick grey clouds concealing the sun,  
 Shading me from the golden rays I'm accustomed to.  
 The waves toss me to and fro:  
 Is it always this cold in the motherland?  
 I'm hopeful, we all are  
 They say the floors are paved in gold,  
 That riches come the second you touch their land  
 But they didn't tell us about how they'd treat us.  
 The way they'd look,  
 The way they'd talk  
 Is it always this cold in the motherland?  
 Esme

### The Windrush

The Windrush,  
 The war come to a hush,  
 Britain need help for themselves,  
 Who better than the common wealth?  
 Families exhilarated,  
 Rushing all elated,  
 Yet in the background,  
 Not making a sound,  
 Kids lives being turned upside down,  
 Friends disappear,  
 No one left to hear,  
 Swept off their feet,  
 Into the marching beat,  
 Boarding this colossal ship,  
 Overcrowded and overwhelming,  
 Yet tell me,  
 How these kids did feel,  
 Bewildered and foreboding,  
 Never knowing,  
 The history of this German ship,  
 Where the Jews had once taken a hit,  
 The bitter chill cloaking them,  
 As their lives change,  
 Warm to cold,  
 Young to old,  
 Fresh air to smoke,  
 Respect to a joke,  
 Windrush brought hope,  
 Disguised under a cloak,  
 Growing up alone,  
 Away from home,  
 The hate and suffer,  
 Along with many other,  
 Enveloped as a sweet note,  
 The 30 long days on a boat,  
 That changes their lives for ever,  
 Including the weather,  
 A new chapter in their life,  
 With ups and downs,  
 Surrounded by frowns,  
 And here it comes,  
 Through the dismal hush,  
**The Wind rush.**

Edward

Edward, Aland, Kirsty, Sabin, and Antoni

The Year 9 highly commended students are: Esme, Maymunah, Fola, Maja, Angel, Galina, Freya, Ruby and Zahraa.

The winning entry from Edward in Year 8 and Esme in Year 9 are pictured.



Above, the Key Stage 3 and 4 winners: Alexandra, Oscar, Angelica and Milena. Top and above right, Key Stage 5 winners: Honey and Grace.

## Teaching black history all year round

During Black History Month, the Art Department hosted an art competition. The brief was to create a piece inspired by black history, culture or artists. There were some really thought-provoking and powerful entries! As a result, there were winners and commendations for each Key Stage.

All of the beautiful artwork is on display in Middle School in the

### Art competition winners

■ **Key Stage 3:**  
 1st: Oscar 7/9 + Overall winner  
 Joint 2nd: David 7/9  
 Joint 2nd: Milena 8/2

■ **Key Stage 4:**  
 1st: Alexandra 11/1  
 2nd: Angelica 11/02

■ **Key Stage 5:**  
 1st: Grace 12/02  
 2nd: Honey 13/08

History Department. We are proud of all of our artists and strongly encourage you to go and see the original pieces on display.

At Northgate High School we are proud to say we are embedding and teaching black history all year round. We are enjoying delivering our newly diversified History curriculum to Key Stage 3.

Students in Year 7 have been learning about multicultural Roman Britain, the Ivory Bangle Lady and the incredible histories of West African kingdoms. Year 8 have been studying the story of Toussaint Louverture and Year 9 have been learning about the 1919 Race Riots and the contributions of West Indian and Commonwealth soldiers during the First World War, including a study on Walter Tull.

The Northgate Diversity and Community Group also hosted an online webinar entitled 'Conversations about Race' on Thursday 21st October 2021. We

were honoured to have some fantastic guest speakers from the local community talk about their work to tackle racial prejudice.

Thank you to Isiah Jordan (Outreach Youth), Karen Walker (KarMarTri Ltd), Funmi Akinribayo (BME Suffolk Support), Siobhan Kranjanaslip (Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality), Imani Sorhaindo (Suffolk Black Community Forum – Heritage and Culture Task Group) and Melanie Hollis (Colchester and Ipswich Museums). Our speakers inspired our students and staff by sharing their own experiences as well as offering us advice as to how we can make our school more representative. It was superbly hosted by Sascha, Year 8, Alicia, Year 12 and Helena, Year 13. We hope to continue these important and much needed conversations and look forward to working with all of these organisations with our work on diversifying the curriculum.



Northgate Young Musician of the Year performers at Rushmere St Andrew Church.

# A round-up of recent events at Northgate



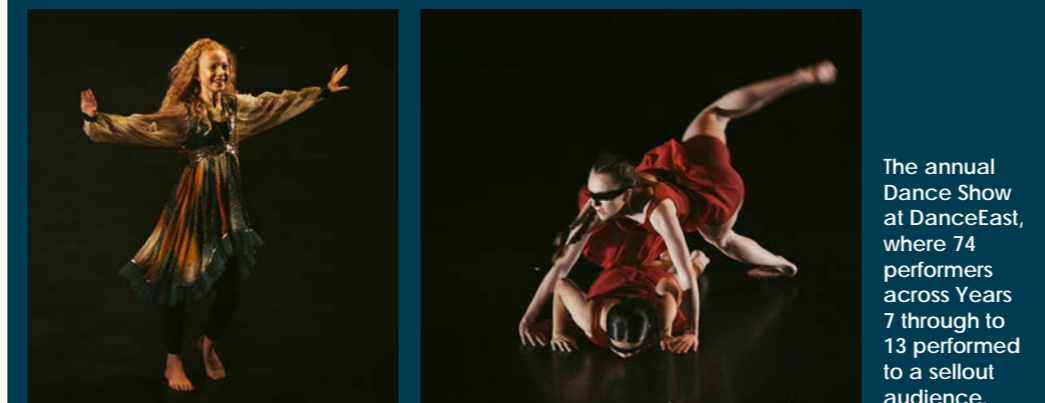
The group of students pictured were very lucky to be given the opportunity to visit Suffolk Punch boxing club recently, to train with a professional coach. They were also fortunate to have Catch22 join the trip. The aim is to help with behaviour management, to give students a positive energy outlet and form good rapports with coaches.



In October, a group of our Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE students were invited along to spend the afternoon with two members of the Royal Navy – Joe and Hannah.



Winners of the Hope Awards 2021; above left, our then Year 9 Dora Love Human Rights students, top, Sixth Form Diversity and Community group, above, Alicia and Violet who ran our Foodbank during the start of the pandemic.



The annual Dance Show at DanceEast, where 74 performers across Years 7 through to 13 performed to a sellout audience.



Earlier in the term, Tom Hunt came to Northgate Sixth Form to speak to our Year 13 Politics students, discussing his role as Ipswich's MP since he was elected in the 2019 general election.



Sixth Form students: Veronica, Eleanor, Daria and Amy who have been awarded a Volunteer and Community Action Award at the Suffolk Care Awards.



## Bringing tree-rific Christmas cheer!

After a year's gap, when the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary Le Tower church in Ipswich didn't run, the Forefront group once again dressed a beautiful tree on behalf of the school. This year's theme is "Hearts." The heart has long been associated with positive emotions such as love, hope and gratitude, and students from Years 7 and 8 were invited to design a heart with a positive message to add to the

tree. The students created some beautiful designs, showing their creativity and kind hearts!

Our tree is to be exhibited at the Trees at the Tower Christmas Tree Festival. For more information visit: [www.TreesAtTheTower.org.uk](http://www.TreesAtTheTower.org.uk).

After the festival, the tree returns to school for everyone to enjoy and then it is taken to the Ipswich homeless shelter to add some seasonal cheer for the guests.



### Dates for your diary

Friday 17th December 2021 .....	End of Term
Wednesday 5th January 2022.....	Spring Term starts
Thursday 13th January 2022.....	Year 11 Parents' Evening – online
Thursday 10th February 2022.....	Year 10 Parents' Evening – online
Monday 21st - Friday 25th February 2022.....	Half Term



## A thank you to local businesses

Although our July 2021 Year 10 work experience week wasn't going to be exactly the time that we had hoped for, it still proved to be a really worthwhile and positive experience. Our students did us proud with the resilience and determination they demonstrated, either going out into the workplace and experiencing first-hand what it would be like to work for an organisation, or by completing the school's virtual work-related learning week.

Students who went into the workplace had the opportunity to explore a wide range of different industries and put the theory learnt at school into practice.

We had students complete their work experience with employers from areas as broad as hospitality, leisure, business administration, retail, law, education, agriculture, animal care, sport and logistics.

Students taking part in the school's virtual work experience week had the opportunity to engage with 42 different employees from 25 different organisations. They took part in enterprise events, a public services day, speed networking, industry explorers and mini-taster sessions. Over Microsoft Teams, we had 24 different events running across the week for students to attend.

Whether students completed

work experience with an employer in the workplace, or virtually through the offer run by the school, they all had the opportunity to learn new skills and prepare for the demands and expectations of the working world.

These experiences give students the opportunity to enhance their CV and learn valuable new skills needed to thrive in the workplace.

In what were very challenging circumstances for all, we are proud of the commitment and enthusiasm with which Year 10 approached their work experience.

Congratulations to everyone who took part!



Well done to all students that represented Northgate in the area cross country running event in October. There were some great results with many qualifying for the next round!

## Competitive sport is back!

Competitive sport is back! Students and staff have relished the opportunity to engage again in local, county and national competitions. Our student body continue to confront any challenges put in front of them and have embraced the opportunities to represent Northgate High School and Sixth Form.

We are so proud of the students' resilience and positivity, and the way they have represented the school has been fantastic. It is so positive to see our young people expressing themselves, showing unity as a team and enjoying and embracing the exertion and



Sixth Form Netball team.



Northgate Under 15 Boys Football team.

physical and emotional challenges that sporting competition can bring.

COVID restrictions have delayed or postponed some events, but where competition has continued our students have competed superbly in football, cross-country, netball and badminton.

Alongside competitive sport we offer a range of after school sports clubs, including; badminton, table tennis, basketball, football, rugby and netball. Some afternoons have seen over 150 students attending various clubs and engaging in some physical activity and sport to support their health, fitness and well-being. The students bring with them a fantastic attitude and seem

to have really relished just letting themselves go and forgetting about all the pressures of normal life.

The reintroduction of further sporting and physical activity opportunities has been an incredible outlet for students during these difficult times and it is great to see students socialising, interacting, collaborating and playing with a smile on their faces!

■ Our calendar of activities will be refreshed after Christmas. The school website and PE department Instagram page: @Northgate\_pe\_department will be updated in the new year.