



Newsletter

December 2025

The Sixth Form is enjoying festive events! Following Pyjama Day, Culture Week and the Chilli Eating competition, we have been Gingerbread making, taking part in Christmas Jumper Day and held an open mic music event.

It has been fantastic to see so many of you at Open Evening, Assemblies, Pathways Evenings and on Tours. I hope that you can see what a vibrant, caring and thriving community that we are. If you are still undecided on your subjects, we have a subject taster evening on 15th January to help you decide. If you have any other queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Have a fantastic break and I hope that 2026 will be the year when you join our community!

Mr Alexander
Head of Sixth Form



Northgate Sixth Form staff and students, took part in the National Christmas Jumper Day, raising £200 for Save the Children.



An inspiring day in London for our A Level Physics students

Year 12 and 13 Physics students travelled to London for an A-level Physics conference, where they heard a range of eminent speakers, including Prof Jim Al-Khalili talking about Quantum Physics (pictured right), Prof Helen Czerski on the Physics of our Oceans and Prof Trevor Cox on the Physics of acoustics, with some fascinating insights into some unusual spaces with strange acoustic properties.

An inspiring day was had by all, and we even heard about some new findings (only published a couple of weeks ago) from the James Webb Space Telescope which radically change our understanding of how galaxies formed in the early universe.



Drama students go on a wild ride in Colchester

A Level Drama went on a recent visit to see *Lost Atoms* at The Mercury Theatre in Colchester.

Part of the course requires students to watch live theatre. This play did not disappoint. Frantic Assembly had a beautiful vision for this production about a chance meeting, some disastrous dates which led to an extraordinary and sometimes heartbreaking love story.

It was a wild ride through a life changing relationship. Thoroughly enjoyed by all!



Prestigious Anna Airy Award winner 2025

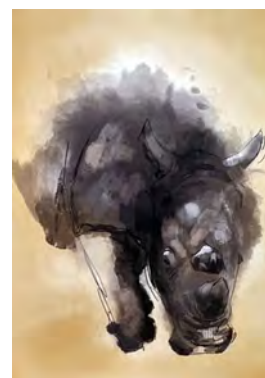
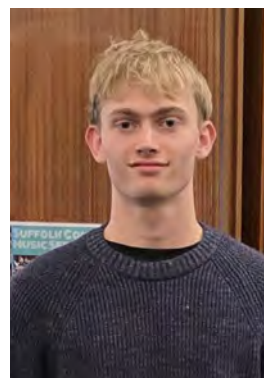
Congratulations to Northgate art student Daniel Ramsden for winning the prestigious Anna Airy Award 2025. The Ipswich Art Society organised the exhibition and hosted it at the UCS Waterfront Gallery overlooking Neptune Quay. The long-established exhibition is renowned for showcasing the talents of young artists aged 16-20 from around the county. Indeed, all the submitted Northgate entries were short-listed from a huge entry of student work from the Ipswich area and beyond.

This year's exhibition highlights the exceptional calibre of emerging young artists, and the winning entry stands out as a remarkable testament to both technical skill and creative maturity. Daniel's work demonstrates an artistic voice far beyond his years, producing a

piece that is not only visually compelling but also environmentally resonant.

The judges praised the student's ability to push boundaries while maintaining clarity and coherence in their artistic vision. Whether through subtle detail or bold thematic choices, the work conveys a clarity of purpose that speaks to rigorous practice and an instinctive grasp of visual storytelling.

Darren Beattie, Head of Art & Design, congratulated all other art and photography Northgate students who contributed to the exhibition and notably, Charlotte Robinson, 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.



Senior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 9th October, 66 brave Year 12 and 13 students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge.

Our students did excellently – achieving 19 Bronze, 17 Silver and 8 Gold awards

Our 8 gold awards qualify for the next round. They are, from Year 12: Logan (best in year), Josh, Tilly and Wyatt and from Year 13, Nathan (best in school), Evan, Christina and Toby.

Congratulations to all and good luck in the next round!



Suffolk Schools Swimming Finals

Huge congratulations to both our Under 14 and Over 14 teams who competed in the Suffolk Schools Swimming Finals recently!

Our Under 14s put in a fantastic performance and secured a

strong 4th place, while our Over 14s delivered an incredible result, taking 1st place!

We're so proud of the hard work, determination, and team spirit shown by everyone in the pool.

Well done, Team Northgate!

Careers Fair at Framlingham College

At the beginning of October, a small group of Sixth Form students had the opportunity to attend a Careers Fair hosted by Framlingham College. The event, which brought together a diverse range of local and national employers and learning providers, offered students a valuable chance to begin exploring their post-18 pathways and to gather ideas about future study or career plans.

Throughout the morning, students were able to engage directly with representatives from a variety of sectors. The Careers Fair showcased a broad spectrum of possibilities. Exhibitors were keen to share their experiences, answer questions and offer practical advice about next steps, apprenticeships, university routes and emerging career fields.

The lively atmosphere of the event added to the experience. Some stands hosted competitions, while others provided hands-on activities or product taster sessions, including



some memorable flavour-testing opportunities that proved very popular. Students also left with a generous supply of resources, brochures and contact details to support their ongoing research.

Despite the wet weather, the journey to Framlingham turned into an unexpected highlight. Travelling by minibus through the beautiful Suffolk countryside gave students time to chat, plan their priorities for the Careers Fair and enjoy the scenic autumn views. Spirits remained high throughout,

and the group represented the school with maturity, curiosity and enthusiasm.

The visit was a fantastic way to kick-start conversations about life after Sixth Form. Students returned feeling inspired, better informed and more confident about the possibilities ahead. We will build on this momentum with further opportunities later in the year and would like to thank Framlingham College for hosting such a welcoming and engaging event.



University of Suffolk Mock Trial

On the 25th July 2025 Year 12 students were lucky enough to attend the University of Suffolk Law department to take part in a Mock Trial.

Students were given a

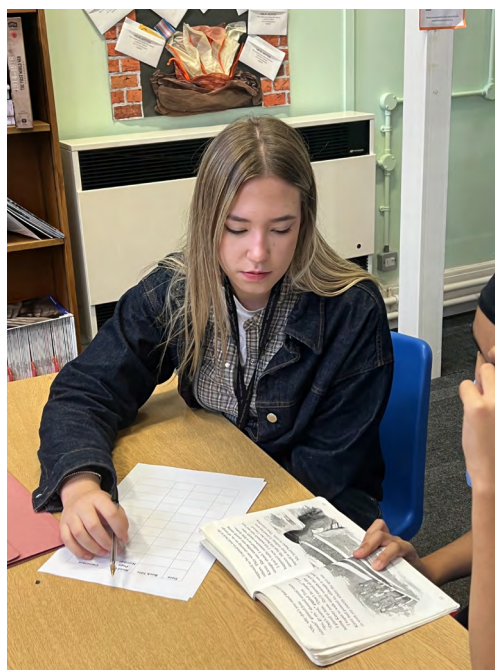
scenario, involving an alleged assault in advance and allocated various roles such as the defendant, witnesses and defence and prosecution advocates.

Students did an amazing job of getting to grips with the case, learning their roles and dealing with cross examination. They all learnt a lot about the process of a criminal trial.

Volunteer opportunities

As part of Sixth Form enrichment, Northgate offers volunteer opportunities to support KS3 students with maths and literacy. The support programmes are a great way to showcase skills and knowledge, forge new friendships and build the bridge between High School and Sixth Form.

Sixth Form enjoy reading with KS3 or providing hands on, one-to-one support to boost their maths skills. Both programmes run throughout the school year, so there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.



Sixth Form Rugby team



The Sixth Form Rugby club trains every Wednesday after school and has regular matches during the year. It is open to all levels of experience from beginners upwards. Last week the boys played Ipswich High School, putting in a good performance and eventually narrowly losing by 1 try.

Aspire Programme Celebration Event

The end of the academic year marked a special moment for our Sixth Form, as students from the Aspire Programme came together to celebrate their achievements. Throughout Year 12, students engaged in a rich and varied programme designed to develop the essential skills that employers, universities and apprenticeship providers increasingly value in young people.

Students attended a series of targeted sessions that focused on strengthening both academic and professional competencies. Workshops covered Career Roadmaps, motivation and goal-setting, time management, and effective study strategies. Students also developed key written communication skills through personal statement and CV writing sessions and enhanced their verbal communication through activities centred on interview techniques, presentation skills, debating and structured argument.

A particular highlight for many was the teamwork and leadership session on the school field, where students took part



in practical challenges requiring collaboration, problem-solving and creative thinking. Another memorable experience was the mock interview morning, in which students had a mock interview with either an employer or a university representative. This provided invaluable insight into real interview expectations and helped build confidence for future applications.

Throughout the programme, students worked towards building a personal portfolio of evidence demonstrating their progress. At the celebration event, participants were recognised for their commitment and hard work,

receiving Bronze, Silver or Gold awards based on the quality of the challenges completed and skills demonstrated. Our Year 12 students' determination and enthusiasm were clear to see, and we are incredibly proud of all who took part.

As our new Year 12 cohort begins their Aspire journey, we look forward to seeing them embrace the opportunities ahead. The programme continues to play a vital role in preparing our students for Year 13 and beyond, equipping them with the skills, knowledge and experiences needed to take their next steps with confidence.

Showcasing their work to a sellout crowd!

A Level Dance students gave a fantastic performance at DanceEast at the end of October as part of the schools annual Dance Show.

The work showcased their study of practitioners and the development of their technical and performance skills to a sell out crowd. In lesson, students had studied the work of Hofesh Shechter, Akram Khan and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, three very different dance practitioners with very different stylistic features.

They demonstrated fantastic understanding through performances in the style of these artists. Students were also joined by other dancers in the school at GCSE level and those younger students who attend dance club.

Aaliyah, Izzy and Charlie are our dance leaders who run the Year 9 dance club and their choreography of Thriller went down brilliantly with the audience.



A European Karate champion in our ranks!

Northgate Sixth Form is very proud to have a new European champion in their ranks!

Jace has recently returned from the European Karate Championship in Riga, Latvia with 2 gold medals. He placed first in the 16-17 Team Rotation and the 16-17 Team Sambon.

Congratulations Jace, this is outstanding and we are proud to have you as part of our sixth form.

Year 11 Taster Event

Thursday 15th January 2026, 4 – 6.15pm



Are you considering studying A Levels at Northgate Sixth Form?

Would you like to attend two subject taster sessions to find out more about studying these subjects at A Level?

Please sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/e/xANeF7pfbD>, or scan the QR code to book a space, by Friday 9th January 2026.

If you have any questions please email Miss Smith on: csmith@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!

