



Newsletter

May 2026

It was fantastic to see so many of our ex-students come back for our Careers Fair. It was great to see how far they have come.

I hope that your preparations for your GCSE exams are going well. Make sure that you revise hard, get lots of sleep and drink plenty of fluids! You will have a long break afterwards that will give you a chance to relax and get you ready for starting with us in the next academic year.

The changes to the sixth form block are taking shape at the moment, ready to welcome new students next term. The new study centre has opened and the work on extending the Sixth Form Common Room and the new Café

As I write, we are preparing to welcome you to our Induction Day and are looking forward to meeting you. Hopefully you will get a flavour of what a wonderful community we are and how you will thrive with us.

If you have any questions that you need to ask, please speak or email and we are here to help.

Mr Alexander, Head of Sixth Form



On Friday 6th March, we were delighted to welcome 52 organisations, including Northgate Sixth Form to our Careers Fair as part of our celebrations for National Careers Week 2026.

Throughout the day, students from Years 7-13 had the opportunity to visit the Career Fair and speak directly with employers and education providers. There was a real buzz around the event!

A huge thank you to all of the organisations who generously gave up their time to attend and share their knowledge and experiences with our students. Your support helps inspire the next generation.



Barcelona trip inspires Spanish students

Our recent trip to Barcelona was without a doubt a success; exposing Spanish GCSE and A Level students to a wealth of culture through various experiences.

Day 1

After an early start and a smooth journey, we went on a whirlwind tour of Barcelona; taking in the cobbled, narrow streets and the sunny weather, stopping at key landmarks including the 'Arc de Triomf', a tribute to Picasso, the stunning traditional architecture, before ending at the breathtaking coast for a well-deserved rest.

Day 2:

The day started with a phenomenal visit to 'La Sagrada Familia' where students were stunned with Gaudi's breathtaking architecture, his use of colour and nature. Our next stop was to treat ourselves to some 'Churros' with chocolate and we ended the day with a fantastic Flamenco show, which was a very intimate and remarkable event!

Day 3

We visited the Montjuïc area which offered beautiful views of the city



and then had a guided tour of the Barcelona Olympic Stadium and Museum. After sightseeing and taking advantage of the views (and the sunny weather!) we headed to the Picasso Museum. The evening ended with an all you can eat tapas dinner.

Day 4

Our last day involved some shopping in the morning followed by a coach trip to Montserrat where we climbed a mountain! Students showed perseverance and resilience especially when we found out the funicular wasn't working, and we had to climb back down too!

After such an exciting day it was time to return home!



Before



After



Alumni Support Transforms Sixth Form Study Space

Thanks to the generous donation from an ex-student, the sixth form has an upgrade on its Study Centre. Perfectly timed for Year 13 to be revising for their upcoming exams

Next on the list: an extended Common Room and a brand-new, improved Café 6. Exciting times ahead!

Our Young Enterprise team qualify for the Regional Finals

Our Northgate Sixth Form Young Enterprise team have qualified for the Regional Finals on 13th May in Hertfordshire where they will compete with schools across the East of England.

Their business aims to raise awareness of the harmful effects of excessive screen time on young people, while promoting the benefits of screen-free play, outdoor activity, and connecting with nature.

This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the team's hard work, creativity, and commitment.

■ If you would like to support the team by purchasing one of their gardening boxes, please complete the following order form: **Gardening Box order form.**



■ You can also follow their journey on Instagram: **@sproutandabout2025**

■ Watch their advert here: **https://www.instagram.com/reel/DUBAy4TDBTm/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA=**





Into the Woods: A Spellbinding Week of Talent and Storytelling

Did you catch us as we went on a big adventure Into The Woods? If you didn't, then you missed an incredibly brilliant week of talented performers giving their all as a series of fairy-tale creatures, all desperate to get their wish.

Northgate High School and Sixth Form students were outstanding in the characterisations with some amazing vocals delivered too!

It all began with Cinderella, wishing to go to the festival, Jack's Mother and Jack wishing their cow would give them some milk and The Baker and his Wife wishing for a child. These roles were all played superbly by Iris, (Year 11), Jemima, (Year 12), Finlay, (Year 9), Alfred, (Year 9), Jacob, (Year 12) and Ysabel, (Year 13). Before too long, Little Red-Riding Hood played by Camryn (Year 7) and Matilda (Year 8) went off into the woods to take some cakes to Grandmother, and the Three Little Pigs went off to build their houses. Alicia, (Year 11) and Yasmin, Bethany and Evie, (Year 9) were all great in their roles as these characters. They didn't get far before encountering

the Wolves who gave a stellar rendition of Hello Little Girl/Pigs. Well done to Alex, (Year 11) and Anthony, (Year 13). We can't forget the rather dashing princes to Cinderella and Rapunzel, Dylan, (Year 12) and Freddie, (Year 11) who went off in search of their beautiful princesses. All to the command of the terrible Witch played superbly by Ilinca (Year 12). We have to mention the comical performances of the Stepmother, fabulously played by Isabelle, (Year 13), along with the Stepsisters played by Poppy, (Year 13) and Macey, (Year 10). All supported by Cinderella's Father acted brilliantly by Nicholas, (Year 13).

Into the Woods is a very complex musical which combines well known fairy tales. The lives of these characters criss-cross and intertwine, whilst searching for the answer to their dreams. Jack's cow is called Milky-White and the fabulous Mrs Calvesbeart-Rearden made a superb puppet to represent this character, which was then acted out by Roscoe, (Year 7). We also come across Rapunzel, beautifully played by



Katy, (Year 11) kept in a tower by the witch as well as a Mysterious Man, George, (Year 11) who seems to turn up unannounced offering strange quotes for the characters to consider. George was very funny in his portrayal of this role.

At the end of Act 1 the fairy tales all come true, and they get their dreams and wishes at last! Or do they? Act 2 lets us see how their lives unfold once they have their dreams. Do we really get to live happily ever after? Are things ever what they seem? As a Giant roams their lands and the characters face loss and sadness, the audience are forced to consider the consequences of their decisions.

Towards the end of the show the cast sang a beautiful version of Children Will Listen led by soloists Ilinca and Ysabel and we, the audience, look at Little Red-Riding Hood and Jack, the children in this story and how young people are affected by the choices that adults make and the things that adults say.



It was an absolute pleasure to produce and musically direct this show. It is written by Stephen Sondheim, and it is a difficult musical to sing. The cast were excellent and tackled the challenge brilliantly. There were students in the ensemble from year 7 upwards and they all did a great job as trees, festival goers or playing cameo featured roles at times. Special mention must be made to some of the principal soloists in the cast for learning such difficult songs and for acting them through so well. What an achievement Ilinca, Ysabel, Jacob, Iris, Finlay, Alfred, Camryn, Matilda, Jemima, Dylan, Freddie, Alex, George, Isabelle, Poppy and Macey! You are all superstars. To all our year 13 students who are leaving us for pastures new - we are very proud of you and can't wait to see how your futures unfold!

We are very lucky to be able to offer the opportunity for students to be involved in the backstage and technical aspects of theatre.



Thank you to the students who worked on the set, props, lighting, sound. In particular, kudos to Freya, (Year 12), William, (Year 11), and Alexis, (Year 11), who were in charge of lots of the younger students during show week and who set such a great example to them all. We really admire you all and are very grateful for your contributions to the school show productions.

No school show can happen without the brilliant staff who work



on the creative team. Thank you to Miss Patrick, Miss Bishop, Miss Griffiths, Mrs Rutter, Mrs Baxter, Mr Pettitt, Mr Hopkins and Ms Magistri as well as all of the lovely staff volunteers who came along to chaperone. You are also all superstars.

And now it's time to ponder on what the next school show will be. Who knows?

Jade Tournay-Godfrey
Musical Director

Netball success

Congratulations to the Sixth Form Netball team who placed second in the state school netball competition recently. The girls were superb and showed amazing spirit!



Inspiring the next generation of writers

Before half term we had the incredible opportunity to welcome back award-winning author **Ashley Hickson-Lovence to Northgate!**

Ashley led a series of creative writing workshops with our students from Year 7 - 13, sparking imagination, building confidence, and leaving everyone

feeling truly inspired.

A huge thank you to Ashley and the Ipswich Book Festival for making this fantastic experience possible.

Students can now borrow Ashley's brilliant YA novel *Wild East* from our school library - don't miss it!



Creative Exploration at the Natural History and V&A Museums

Mrs Hunting and Mrs Stopher took a group of Art, Graphics and Textiles students to The Natural History Museum and the

V&A museum to collect primary research for their Externally set assignment.

Lots of photos were taken,

drawings sketched out, culture absorbed and... the sun came out, amazing!

A great day had by all!

History, culture and discovery in Berlin

Our Year 12 German and Year 13 History students enjoyed a 5-day trip to Berlin at the start of February half term.

Despite the sub-zero temperatures and snowy conditions, the itinerary was packed and involved early mornings, late nights and a lot of sightseeing in between! The highlights of the trip included a guided tour of the former Stasi prison Hohenschönhausen by a former prisoner, a thought-provoking tour of the Resistance Museum which focused on the impact of young people and resistance during WW2, a visit to Bernauer Straße to see the Berlin Wall in its original form, and a sobering visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. We also visited numerous museums; the Spy Museum, the DDR Museum and the Deutschland Museum to learn more about the Cold War and German history, as well as taken in the famous landmarks along Unter den Linden. The students impressed staff with their maturity and knowledge,



as well as their ability to engage with tour guides and both ask and answer questions to develop their understanding of their chosen A Level subjects.



Hands-on teamwork and leadership session

Our Year 12 students from the Aspire Programme, alongside our Sixth Form Ambassadors, had an incredible opportunity to take part in a hands-on teamwork and leadership session delivered by the Royal Navy.

Through a series of engaging and practical activities, students were able to bring their classroom learning to life, developing essential skills in communication, collaboration and leadership in a fun and dynamic way.

A huge thank you to the Royal Navy's Youth Engagement Team for providing such an inspiring and memorable experience for our Sixth Form students.

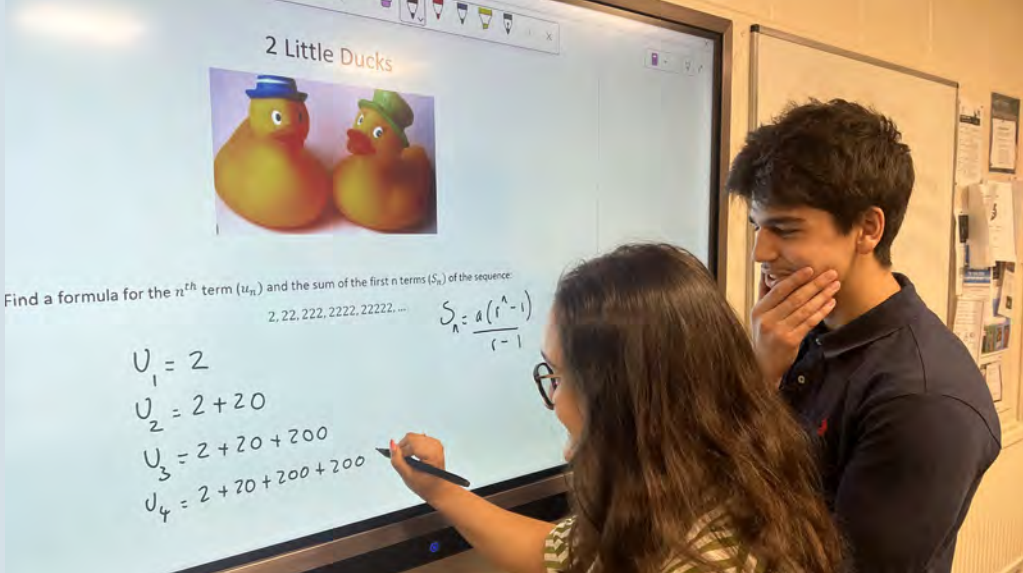




Red nose day

Northgate Sixth Form students showed up in style for Red Nose Day - raising money for Comic Relief while having plenty of fun along the way!

We are proud to support such a great cause.



Maths Challenge Triumph

Following on from the (difficult) Senior Maths Challenge, we had 8 students qualify for the (very difficult!) next round. Congratulations to Toby and Nathan who achieved Silver and to Logan and Josh who achieved Bronze.

To get a feel for how tricky the questions were:

An almost number is defined as an integer which is divisible by exactly eight elements of the set $\{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9\}$. What is the largest almost number below 1000?

Year 12s have recently been working on sequences - applying their problem-solving skills into unfamiliar areas. Can you answer the question.....?

With the exam season just around the corner, our weekly workshop sessions are getting busy! These workshops are drop-in sessions where students can get help on any homework, classwork or revision topic that they are working on. They are usually staffed with four teachers, giving students an excellent weekly chance for some one-to-one tuition.

Year 13 students bring theory to life at the zoo

Our Year 13 Psychology students recently visited Colchester Zoo to explore key topics from their studies in a real-world setting.

From observing evolutionary adaptations and natural selection to discussing sexual selection and attachment behaviours, students were able to see how animal behaviour and survival strategies link directly to what they learn in the classroom.

They also explored how zoos carry out research while prioritising animal welfare, through enclosure design and enrichment activities.

A great day connecting psychology theory with real-life animal behaviour!



Come Get Active: Northgate Sports Centre Enters an Exciting New Chapter

From 1st April, Northgate High School officially took over the running of Northgate Sports Centre — and we are excited about this new chapter!

We're also delighted to welcome Chris our new Leisure Facilities Lettings Manager, who will be helping us open up our fantastic facilities to more groups, teams, and individuals in the community.

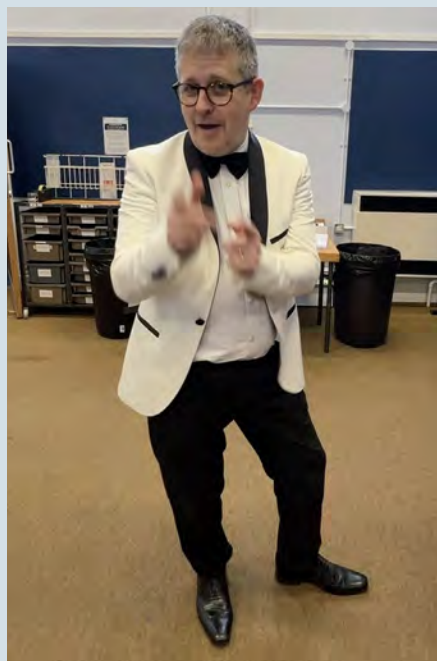
Whether you're looking to train, compete, or just stay active, Northgate Sports Centre has something for everyone:

- Running Track
- All-Weather Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Sports Halls
- Football Pitches

Perfect for clubs, casual bookings, and community groups
Book online now: <https://portal.sportskey.com/venues/northgate-high-school>.

Spread the word and come make the most of your local sports facilities.

We look forward to welcoming you!



Formal Friday

On the last Friday in January, students took part in Formal Friday.

It felt like the 234th of January, so we shook off the winter blues by dressing up in our finest!

Donate old tech

We are seeking donations of laptops, PCs, tablets, servers and projectors to support our school's technological initiatives.

We are seeking devices that remain operational, may be reused by students, or traded in to generate funds for school programmes. Such as:

- PC's
- Laptops
- Projectors
- Tablets
- Servers

Any equipment deemed no longer fit for purpose will be responsibly and securely disposed of, with environmentally sustainable recycling practices in place. Your generous contributions will help to enrich learning opportunities while fostering sustainability within our community.

Please contact: info@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk to discuss this further.

A successful season for the Sixth Form rugby team

Another successful season for the Sixth Form rugby team with matches against Woodbridge School, Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form, Ipswich High School, Hartismere School and Royal Hospital School among others.

More than 30 year 11, 12 and 13 students participated during the season. All levels of experience are welcome from beginners to experienced club players.



Students' Easter Egg Collection Brings Joy to Local Families

Every year, Northgate Sixth Form students come together to collect Easter eggs for a local charity.

This year, we were proud to support The Phoebe Centre and we hope our donation brings smiles and joy to families and

children this Easter.

P.H.O.E.B.E (Promotion of Health, Opportunity, Equality, Benevolence and Empowerment) is an Ipswich-based registered charity that offers specialist advice, information, casework,

advocacy and support and counselling services to black and ethnic minority women and children.

Well done to everyone who contributed — your kindness makes a real difference!