



# Newsletter

April 2025

I hope you are all well. It has been fantastic to meet and speak to so many of you over the last few months and hear about the journeys that you are on to bring you to study with us in September. I have been very impressed with your dedication and focus!

I would wish you good luck with your GCSE exams but I don't think that you need it. 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.

I can't wait to welcome you all!

**Mr Alexander**  
**Head of Sixth Form**

**On Friday 14th March, we welcomed Jack Abbott, the newly elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Ipswich since 2024, to Northgate Sixth Form to meet with A Level Politics students. The visit provided students with a unique opportunity to hear directly from an active MP about his political career and the responsibilities of representing a constituency. Jack spoke about his journey into politics and discussed the challenges and rewards of his role as Ipswich's MP.**

During the session, students asked a range of thoughtful questions, including inquiries about the A12 Northern Bypass, how to reduce crime in the town centre, and the day-to-day responsibilities of being

an MP. Jack spoke in detail about the A12 Northern Bypass project, explaining its potential impact on the local area, and discussed his efforts to address issues like crime and safety in Ipswich. He also outlined the various aspects of his role as an MP, including how he works with constituents and advocates for policies at Westminster.

Jack's visit was greatly appreciated by our students, encouraging them to stay informed and engaged in the political process. The conversation sparked further interest in local and national issues, linking the students' academic studies to real-world politics.

We look forward to seeing Jack again when we visit Westminster to tour the Houses of Parliament during the summer term.



# Eggstraordinary donation to local charity

In what is becoming an annual tradition, Northgate Sixth Form students generously donated Easter Eggs to Lighthouse Women's Aid. Lighthouse Women's Aid is a Suffolk based charity that supports women, young people and children who are affected by domestic abuse.

Thanks to an eggstraordinary effort we delivered 2 large crates of eggs to help make Easter special!



# Celebrating the diversity and unity that is our hallmark!

For the fourth year running, we celebrated Culture Week at Northgate Sixth Form. Students decorated the Common Room, wore cultural dress, and made some delicious food!

We have over 30 different nationalities in our Sixth Form and the whole community joined together to celebrate the diversity and unity that is our hallmark!







# Audiences were taken on a fantastically wacky journey

**It is difficult to believe that this year's school show is now over after the months of amazing work from both students and staff in the lead up to the production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!**

Students from Years 7-13 took to the stage playing a variety of roles from Oompa-Loompas to Squirrels and Bavarian Folk to Gum Chompin' Divas! What fantastic performances from all of the students who danced, sang and acted their hearts out at Dance East from 4th - 7th March 2025. Audiences were taken on a fantastically wacky journey; adapted from the book by Roald Dahl. Wonka was played by our very fabulous Alex in Year 13 and he led the show with star quality both on stage and in rehearsals.

One of our wonderful Year 13 students; Matt was the hilarious Grandpa Joe. Matt along with Isabelle and Ysabel both in Year 12 brought such comedic timing and energy to their roles as two of the elderly grandparents along with some excellent vocals.

A number of students in Years 7-11 played main characters in the show, how lucky are we to have such talented young students here at Northgate. Maybe it's not that hard to believe when they have such amazing role models in the Sixth Form such as Sam (Year 13) as Mr Salt and Poppy (Year 12) as Mrs Beauregarde. Mention must also be given to the funny, over the top roles of Mrs Green played by Jessica in Year 12 and Cherry by Anna in Year 12. Well done to all of

you who played roles in the show. You were brilliant and we are so proud of you all.

We must mention the amazing work from our technical backstage team who worked on props, set, lighting, sound and make-up design. In particular, thanks to the team leaders, who are all in Year 13 and leaving us after they finish their A Levels this year. To Isobel, Naomi, Emily, Pip, Rajvinder and Grace. Thank you for everything you did leading your teams on your area of technical expertise. Thank you also to all the students who helped out front of house with selling programs and raffle tickets in aid of Living Grief, the bereavement service run by St Elizabeth Hospice.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was a such a fun and exciting production to bring to the stage. It wouldn't be possible without the work of so many staff members – thank you to all who contributed to the production and who helped chaperone backstage.

Northgate High School and Sixth Form is just a wonderful place to be and it is also wonderful to be able to work together with students and staff to put together such an amazing show each year!







## Homemade cake

Year 12 Biology class has a double lesson Period 2 and 3 on a Friday so they have a treat rota. Most students bring in shop bought biscuits or cakes. However, James brought in an amazing homemade cake showing the detailed structure inside a cell!



## Psychology themed bake-off

The Psychology department recently hosted a bake-off. The bakes were on the following topics: "Brain, Harlow's monkeys, conformity and Skinner's box".

They had a good turn-out of Sixth form students with Mr. Alexander judging the winners (everyone won a chocolate bar!) and we all had so much fun.

Special thanks to Hayden and Luca (Year 13 students) for their exquisite last minute efforts.



# Excellent rugby team performances

An excellent performance by the Sixth Form Rugby team early last term, winning at Hartismere 39-19 (pictured right).

It was a great atmosphere at the match, getting on very well with the opposition showing great sportsmanship, politeness to the referee and generally representing the school very well.



Towards the end of the Spring Term saw the Sixth Form rugby team take on St. Joseph's College.

Although they eventually lost by one try the team put in an excellent performance scoring tries through Ethan J, Toby, Jr and the two for the ubiquitous Jasper who was also man of the match.





## ‘Text in Practice’

A Level Drama students finished the first half term by performing their ‘Text in Practice’ practical work to a visiting examiner.

This component requires students to perform a monologue and a group performance and is worth 20% of their final A Level grade. Plays that featured in the exam included *Many Moons* by Alice Birch, *Things I know to be true* by Andrew Bovell and *Pool (no water)* by Mark Ravenhill just to name a few. Everyone was extremely happy with how the exam went.

A Level Dance students participated in two intensive workshops with dance practitioner Mel Simpson to



create a quartet piece for their practical exam. Mel certainly put them through their paces and delivered challenging but enjoyable workshops. The quartet which was developed was grounded in contemporary and featured styles from Akram Khan and Jasmine Vardimon. The students are thrilled with the work they have produced and can’t wait to submit it for their exam.



Before

## Brand-new look to our Common room

In June 2024, we sent out an email to local firms asking if they could help with a refit of our Common Room. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Ipswich community, the Northgate Site Team and the Student Common Room Committee, we have a brand-new look to our Common Room and outdoor spaces. We are very grateful to the following companies and individuals:

- Willis Towers Watson
- The East of England Co-op
- The Greyhound
- Venue 16
- Hannah Wright
- SET Saxmundham School
- Clare Yelland (nee Friel)

We are proud to be part of our community!



After





## Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition

At the end of January, three Year 13 students - Isobel, Isobel and Nimay - part of the Sixth Form Debating Society Executive, participated in the prestigious Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' public speaking competition (hosted at St Joseph's College, Ipswich).

They had prepared a speech, debating either side of the question 'should the right to vote be taken away after retirement age'. Their speech was very well received, and certainly the most engaging and well researched of the evening. They placed 2nd on the night, value being placed more on 'style' over 'substance'.

Well done to the team, and for running the Debating Society so well during their tenure. The reigns have now been handed over to the next cohort of Sixth Form students.

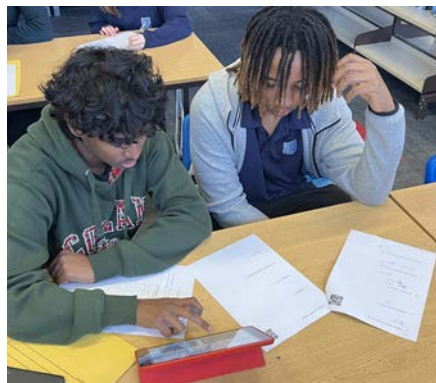


## Student enrichment

As part of student enrichment, Sixth Formers have the opportunity to volunteer in some student support programmes to assist the younger years at Northgate with either their maths or literacy skills.

These are a great chance to show off your skills and knowledge with the added

boost of knowing that you are providing necessary support to our students. They also act as a bridge between the two parts of the school and allow new friendships to be created. These programmes can also be used as a UCAS enrichment requirement, so become a positive role model and get involved.



## Photography trip to Cambridge

Our Year 12 Photography students enjoyed their recent trip to Cambridge by train. They visited Cambridge Botanical Gardens in the morning and then went on to the Fitzwilliam Museum in the afternoon.

The students are working on an Architecture project, and the trip allowed them to gain a better understanding of the work of India Hobson and Magnus Edmondson, who inspired their work in the Victorian green houses and the botanical garden.





## The National Cipher Challenge award ceremony

Every year we offer sixth form students the opportunity to take part in the National Cipher Challenge run by The University Of Southampton in conjunction with GCHQ. This is a cryptography (coding!) challenge where students complete a weekly code-breaking task. Week by week the encryptions become more and more difficult and student teams get scored on their accuracy and speed. There were 8000 entries

this year from across the country.

The top code breakers were invited to attend the award ceremony at Bletchley Park and we were extremely proud to have 2 of our teams attend. These were Josh, Ralph and Paul competing as Team Turing and Haodong and Ryan competing as team Prompt. All received a Silver Medal and certificate – an amazing achievement.

During the day, all the finalists were allowed to explore Bletchley

Park, seeing where Alan Turing carried out his work during World War II. They also enjoyed a new exhibition about AI and its history and advancements. Following this tour there were two really interesting presentations given by Alex Bellos (author of many maths books) and A. N Other from GCHQ (name not shared with us due to the nature of his work!)

Congratulations to all 5 – an excellent achievement.

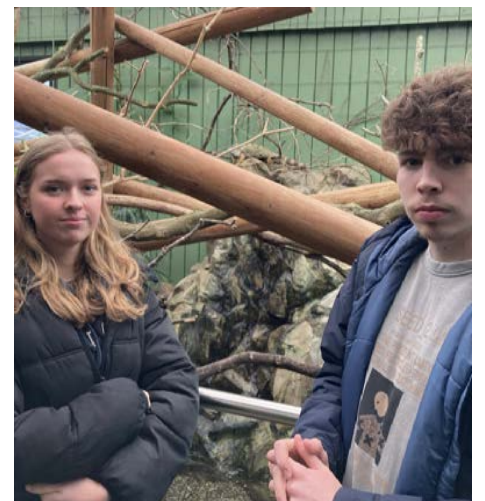
## Psychology in the zoo

On Friday 14th of February, a group of Year 13 Psychology students visited Colchester Zoo to look at the evolutionary changes in certain species of animals.

We started our visit with a lecture on the application of Psychology in the zoo. It was quite fascinating to learn that so many different aspects of the animals' lives and the keepers' daily routines are affected by human psychology. From the allocation of the different sections of the zoo to specific animals to the height of each confinement and the length of time spent by visitors looking at the animals in each area, it is all calculated and planned with human psychology in mind in order to ensure a

great time for the visitors whilst maintaining a calm and relaxing home for the animals.

We were very lucky to have a beautiful sunny day as well and thoroughly enjoyed the visit.







## Physics trip

A-Level Physics students from Northgate spent a fun and educational day in London at the "Physics in Action" conference, where they learnt about the Physics involved in exploring Mars with the "Curiosity" and "Perseverance" rovers, Fluid Dynamics, Detecting Radiation and Exploring the Ocean Floor.

## An unforgettable and enriching experience

Our recent school trip to Krakow, Poland was an unforgettable and deeply enriching experience. The itinerary was thoughtfully planned, including powerful visits to Auschwitz, the historic Jewish Quarter, the breathtaking Wieliczka Salt Mines, and the vibrant Old Town Square. Each site offered unique insights into history, culture, and resilience, leaving a lasting impact on everyone.

The students were exceptionally well-behaved throughout the trip, showing maturity, respect, and genuine curiosity at every stop. Their conduct was a credit to the school and contributed to a smooth and meaningful journey for all involved. We couldn't be prouder of how they represented themselves and our community. A truly memorable and successful educational adventure!



## Our Young Enterprise team reach the regional final

Exciting news! The Northgate Young Enterprise team @LimitlessRDT is through to the Regional Final!

After months of dedication, creativity, and teamwork, we're thrilled to represent our school and share our business journey on a bigger stage.

A huge thank you to our amazing business mentor Josh Wade from OCS for the guidance, and to Orchard Toys for the valuable feedback that's helped us grow.

We're just getting started — watch this space as we prepare for the next chapter. Let's do this, Team Northgate!

