



## Focussing aspirations

July saw our Year 10 students venture out into the workplace to undertake a week of work experience. The week offers students the invaluable opportunity to personally find out more about the world of work.



■ From Page 1

Determined that this week would go ahead for all of our Year 10 students, we encouraged them to find their own work experience placements and learn about the resilience and persistence needed to succeed in the job market. The school also ran a 'Work Experience Job Board', advertising work experience placement opportunities for students to apply by submitting a copy of their CV and a cover letter. Replicating the job application process gave our students first-hand experience of searching for, and applying for, a job.

An amazing number of local (and some not-so-local!) employers opened their doors to our students, and we saw a range of placements from construction to insurance; from hospitality to education; from engineering to healthcare and from leisure to animal care. Every one of these work experience placements provided our students with an



invaluable, real life appreciation of what work involves.

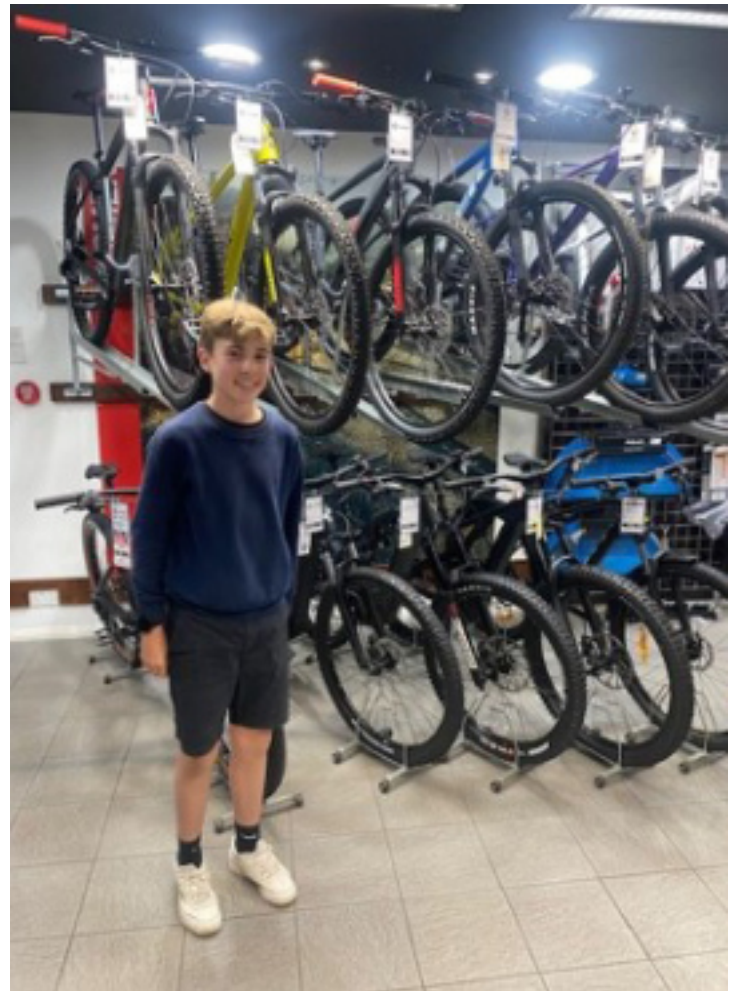
Students completed a Work Experience Logbook which allowed them to record activities that they had undertaken and reflect on the range of experiences they had in the workplace. Logbooks were completed to an incredibly high standard and reflections shared on returning to school.

Work experience is a huge milestone in a young person's life; you can probably still remember

where you spent your work experience week! I am sure that our Year 10 students will always remember their week of work experience too, whether it be because it has strengthened their commitment to their chosen career or because it has given them the confidence to say they have learnt what they do not want to be in the future. As our students move through Year 11, their experiences in the workplace will help inform and focus their aspirations as they

begin to think about the next steps in their educational journey.

If you are able to offer a work experience placement to one or more of our Year 10 students for the week of 12th -16th June 2023, please contact [workexperience@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:workexperience@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk)



# Encouraging a love of reading

On 23rd June 2022 the library held its annual Century Read. One hundred students each year are invited to spend the day in the library reading and raising money for charity. This year's charities were UNICEF and Suffolk Refugee Support.

The spaces for Century Read went very quickly, it was lovely to see so many Year 7 students wanting to take part. The day began at 9am and finished at 3.10pm. Students made themselves comfortable in little dens all around the library and not a sound could be heard as they devoured their reading books. We are very proud to say that their fundraising was magnificent. A huge total of £1508.30 was raised.

However, the Century Read day is not just to raise money but to encourage a love of reading and help improve our students' literacy. At Northgate High School we value and encourage reading across the curriculum.

The school library has in excess of 17000 books and resources. Our students are encouraged to use books as well as the internet for their homework. Year 7 students have an induction lesson during their first two weeks at Northgate and thereafter weekly English lessons in the library. The use of the library is intrinsic to their education through all school years and fully supported by Senior Leadership and Governors. Sixth Form students have their own designated area in which to work and students have access to the library during lunch times. It is worth noting that the library is closed at breaktime and is open before school from 8.30 and after school. Also, the library is closed Friday lunchtime for Film Club Friday.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive, forward thinking library. We have a good balance of representation in mainstream books across all genres and school ages. We reflect current world

events where possible, we have an extensive 'wellbeing' section, and reading material for all abilities including large format books and braille.

We are in the process of holding interviews for the role of student librarian for our Year 8 students and encourage our young people to take ownership of their library where possible. We currently have two Year 9s and a Sixth Form librarian.

An after-school reading club has begun for Year 7 students. Every year this has been very popular;

it is mainly run by our Sixth Form Ambassadors and this year there has been a super response.

A new academic year is always a very exciting time for the librarians, we welcome back our users and thoroughly enjoy the delight of the new students as they start their journey as eager borrowers. The library buzz is wonderful and we are proud that so many find it a lovely place to be.





## Energetic and challenging

On Wednesday 13th July 2022, as part of our RSHE (Relationship Sex Health Education) & PSHE (Personal Social Health Education) programme, we had the INK Theater Company visit Northgate High School to deliver their production of 'Cuckoo' to Year 8.

INK is a theatre company and registered charity, specialising in short new plays, based at The Cut in Halesworth, Suffolk. They work throughout the year on a continuous programme of community projects including working in schools. 'Cuckoo' is a new play that was commissioned and fully funded by the Arts Council and has been taken on tour as part of the County Lines Schools' Tour for the Summer Term of 2022. The play was written by Martha Loader who is a producer, playwright and performer based in East Anglia.

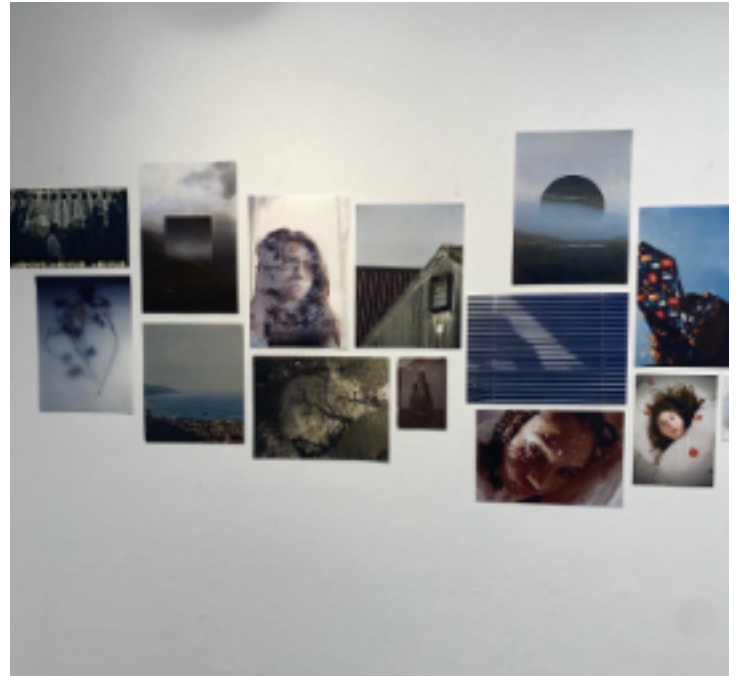
The play is a hard hitting and gritty performance about how easily young people can be influenced by the relationships they form with people they believe are good for them, but ultimately end up being exploited and falling into a lifestyle that becomes abusive, violent and uncontrollable. The play focuses on the relationship between three characters - a brother and sister that are of school age and live

together, and a third much darker influential character, that exploits the relationship he builds with these two young people to involve them in his County Lines drug dealing activities.

The play is energetic, fast moving and challenging. After the performance was finished a supported discussion of the key topics took place with the audience. The performers were excellent and explained their characters and the important messages that they were communicating; Jane Zarins the Associate Director explained why the play was commissioned and how it had influenced young people that had watched it. Our local PCSO concluded the session by explaining to our students how accurate the play was in terms of the real-life crime that she witnesses every day in her role.

The students engaged with the play very responsibly and with genuine interest. At the end many stayed behind to talk with the performers. As well as communicating a very important message to the students it was once again fantastic for us to be able to host and experience live performance back at Northgate.





## An inclusive and welcoming ethos

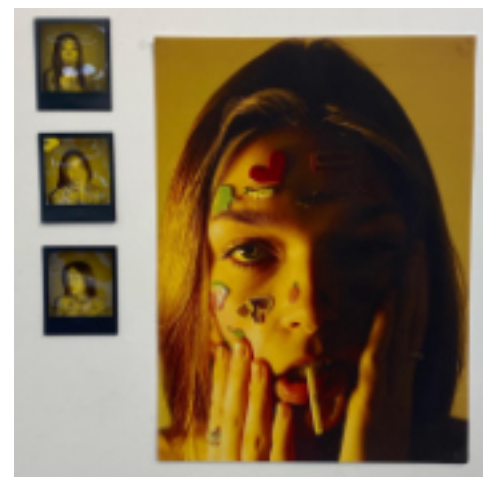
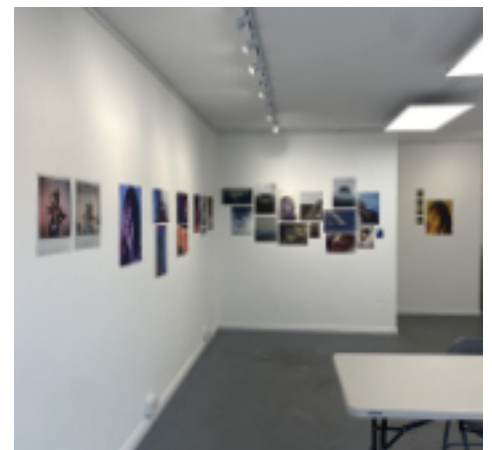
In the summer term the Photography Department had an exhibition with our link gallery 142 Hamilton Road based in Felixstowe. We have exhibited with the gallery before and love their inclusive and welcoming ethos. Students past and present from Northgate Sixth Form gathered together to exhibit current work.

The students worked through a number of art, design and photography techniques and processes to experiment with image making.

With access to fantastic facilities and expertise from staff, students create a personal body of work that realises their project intentions. Their practice is informed by a wide and diverse range of sources leading to exciting and experimental outcomes.

The show ran for a week and was really well received by the local community with lots of positive comments and interest in the work.

Photography students will be returning to exhibit there again this year 13th -19th July 2023. We hope to see you there!



# Drama Workshop - performing Cuckoo



Year 9 students were able to develop their understanding of the performance 'Cuckoo' (see page 5) when the actor, Flora Douglas, who performed as the sister in the production, came into school to lead a day of devising dramatic scenes with them. The workshop began with some drama games that set the tone for the whole day. The games promoted focus, creativity and immensely fast thinking which is a great skill to have when improvising and developing new work. The students were immediately engaged and participated with energy and commitment.

Later discussion led to exploring their understanding of the County Lines theme that was the main narrative of the Cuckoo performance and students showed maturity and sensitivity as they explored backstories as to what surrounds young people who may be involved in similar situations.

Tasks were set and worked on throughout the day and the end result was an original piece of theatre which was performed in light of the 'Total Theatre' style, embracing an ensemble approach to explore the consequences of County Lines involvement.



## Dates for your diary

Monday 21st Nov 2022 .....	7pm Young Musician of the year - Final
Tuesday 22nd Nov 2022.....	7pm Dance Show
Wednesday 14th Dec 2022.....	7pm Carol Service
Friday 16th Dec 2022.....	End of Term
Wednesday 4th Jan 2023 .....	Spring Term begins
Tuesday 10th Jan 2023.....	GCSE Music Concert
Wednesday 11th Jan 2023 .....	Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening
Thursday 12th Jan 2023.....	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 1st Feb 2023.....	Year 11 Revision Advice Evening



## Teamwork and togetherness win the day

Forty-five Northgate High School students competed at the Suffolk Area Cross Country Championships at Royal Hospital School on Thursday 13th October 2022. Competition for selection was on show when we staged our own internal school races during the weeks that preceded this event and there were some fantastic times clocked by the 45 students to secure their selection for the area championships.

On the day of the championships, despite some substantial rain over night and into the morning, the weather soon cleared and some sunshine was present on our arrival for the first races of the afternoon.

All 45 students competed superbly, pushing the Northgate value of determination to its limits. Students were competing to try

and claim a spot in the top 50 and secure an invite to the next race in late November at Wolverstone Hall School.

There were some notably outstanding performances from several runners, including:

Junior boys = Noah Raishbrook finished 9th, Harrison Smith 14th and Tyler Jones 26th.

Junior girls = Darcy Bowen finished 4th, Anna Sullivan 29th, Fran Burch 35th and Evie Armstrong 49th.

Minor boys = Isaac Leys finished 20th, Zac Whattley 30th, Seb Buczek 34th and Edward Quinton 47th.

Minor girls = Sienna Jones finished 4th, Demi Blu Harris 24th, Jazzy Rankin 30th.

Inter boys = Sidney Tilley 1st and Aidan Crispin 31st.

Inter Girls = Isabel Roberts 15th.

Senior boys = Sam Davey 30th.

All students represented Northgate superbly well, demonstrating great togetherness and teamwork when supporting each other throughout each race. A real highlight of this togetherness and positive community spirit amongst our students was evident when seeing all our students cheering Sidney down the finishing straight to his 1st place finish. A truly inspiring performance from Sidney!

Keep a look out for further sporting opportunities coming soon at Northgate. Please contact the P.E department if you have any questions.