



Matilda Jr. the Musical



Northgate students took to the stage on the 28th February to the 3rd March with their amazing performance of Matilda Jr. the Musical. They performed to sell out audiences every night at Dance East on the Waterfront and it was a huge success.

Mia was our star of the show playing Matilda and she delivered a stunning performance every night, particularly in her vocal renditions on 'Naughty' and

'Quiet'. The cast included students from year 7 through to year 13 including our very fabulous Will as the tremendous Trunchbull, Millie and Grace playing alternate performances as Miss Honey and the Acrobat, Eleanor as Mrs Phelps and Ned as the Escapologist. A fabulous group of students in years 7-10 played Matilda's group of friends. William in year 8 gave a comical turn as Bruce who had to stuff his face with chocolate cake and Emma in year 9 gave

a very sweet performance as Amanda, the girl who Trunchbull throws out of the window by her pigtails! Both Ysabel and Isabelle played Lavender and Big Kids alternatively and did a fabulous job of making Matilda 'their very best friend' as well as dropping a newt into Trunchbull's water jug. Oh how we laughed when the newt headed north into Trunchbull's knickers! Several of our students were in the Big Kid



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ensemble belting out songs such as 'Revolt Children' and 'School Song'. We also had a lovely cast of little kids who performed two shows each. Tuesday and Thursday was the turn of the Bambinatum Maggots and Wednesday and Friday meant it was the turn of the Trunchbull Toads.

Rehearsals were held once a week for full cast on Tuesdays after school, along with smaller group rehearsals for principals/



singers or dancers on other days. Staff have worked really hard to put the show together. Miss Patrick choreographed the energetic numbers with style and Mrs Eden directed the dialogue giving the cast fantastic ideas for characterisations. Miss Jacobs was a stage manager and worked hard on putting together a team of students to operate her lighting design and her various prop ideas. The set was hired in from LX Pro using an idea that Miss Tournay-Godfrey had for letters/alphabet blocks over the stage that could light up in time to some of the musical numbers. The backstage crew were invaluable this year and it was a great opportunity to



get involved with props, scenery, lighting and sound. Mrs Rutter took responsibility for costumes this year and did a great job in making the cast look incredible on stage. Thank you to Mrs Rutter, Mrs Baxter and Mrs Pycock who assisted in chaperoning our students when in the dressing rooms. A huge thank you also to Mr Pettitt who operated the sound desk, supporting two of our students on how to use radio mics and to balance out the sound of the vocals and dialogue.

Three of our year 13s did an amazing job front of house giving out programmes and selling raffle tickets in aid of Papyrus. Thank you to Grace, Annika and Flo. This charity is instrumental in promoting



positive well-being in young people and supporting strong emotional health. At Northgate we take huge pride in the happiness and well-being of our students and we could not think of a more appropriate charity.

Audience and parent feedback has been wonderful. For example: "The show exceeded all expectations. My favourite number was 'Revolt Children'. I loved how everyone was involved; the children's faces said it all. They were so, so happy! Just what everyone needed. A real boost for the kids, the school, the parents and hopefully you as teachers."

"I just want to get in touch with you all to say the biggest thank you for bringing us so much joy with Matilda this week. It was just so brilliant in so many ways, the

singing, the dancing, the acting, the production, every last bit of it!" "I wanted to say a huge thank you to every single child involved in the show. Since you began rehearsals our child has come back week after week red cheeked,

“The show exceeded all expectations!”

enthusied and with so much joy in his world. Being around this like-minded group of students has been so good for him."

It was also wonderful to see so many staff members come along to watch the show. Deputy Headteacher, Mr Banham, said, "Many thanks for the amazing school show last night. Everything

was so professional – the singing, dancing, acting, lighting, staging and it created a real buzz in the audience. I have enjoyed all the school shows but this one was very special. Thank you for all the time that goes into this; it is a real highlight of the school year and creates such a positive impression of the school. I loved seeing year 13 down to year 7 all working together, it was very inspirational."

From all of us in the Music, Drama and Dance departments we have really enjoyed bringing Matilda to life on stage and we look forward to seeing lots of you auditioning to take part in next year's show or getting involved backstage. Watch this space...

**Miss Tournay-Godfrey,
Joint Head of Music**



Making life long experiences

During February half term, 58 students and staff travelled to Italy for the school ski trip!

The trip was a long time in the planning as we had to postpone the trip twice due to COVID restrictions but our year 10 and 11 students finally got to take part in the trip of a lifetime. We left early on the Friday morning on a 27 hour coach journey that took us through France and Switzerland on the way to our resort of Folgarida, situated in the Italian Dolomites. We had five days on the slopes with students having five hours tuition each day. This was a tiring schedule for them but they coped brilliantly and I can report that by the end of the trip all students could ski down blue and red runs. Most even had the confidence to start trying a few jumps!

This was the first ski trip to be held by the school in many years and we were determined to make sure that it was a success so that future ski trips take place. With that in mind we are currently gathering quotes for the next ski trip in 2025. Skiing is an expensive activity to take part in, but by giving families a longer



“ I know this will be an experience which will stay with him for the rest of his life.

period of time to save and pay for the trip we hope that it will be more accessible for more families. We have had many positive emails from families about the experiences that their child had. Some of those comments included:

"We really hope this trip has



helped our child build their self-confidence. It has encouraged them to try new things and speak to different people."

"Even after a long journey home our child had so much to tell us and with such enthusiasm. They have absolutely loved the skiing (sounding like they got the bug!) and spoke highly about the support and encouragement from other students and the instructors."

"Our child had the most amazing time and hasn't stopped talking about it since, I know this will be an experience which will stay with them for the rest of their life."

**Mr Tunaley,
Deputy Headteacher**



A fantastic opportunity to perform

Although the Dance Show was back in November, we have already secured our performance date for the next academic year and students are already creating work for it.

Many of the performances seen in November link directly to the GCSE and A Level courses that students study and act as a revision tool for when they sit the written exams this summer. A vast collection of practitioners are studied, from Bob Fosse and his jazz isolations to Akram Khan and the study of Indian katak. The performances will prompt the students to remember the creative journey, discussion and analysis that took place in lesson, along with understanding the choreographic process. Although the students enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to perform at the Jerwood Theatre, the evening also acted as an intense revision session that will help them prepare for assessments and written examinations.

It was also wonderful to include



work created by all our extra curricular clubs. We have clubs in KS3, an options focused club in year 9, a year 10 club for those not studying GCSE and sixth form enrichment club. The ability to express, communicate and learn

through dance is something we promote at Northgate High School and it was a pleasure to see all 60 students have so much fun on stage.

**Miss Patrick,
Head of Drama and Dance**





Fantastic community spirit

As we navigate our way through one of the worst cost-of-living crises in a generation, food banks have become a vital source of support for families across Ipswich. As a school, we are always keen to engage with and support our local community and a group of year 9 students took it upon themselves to establish, promote and distribute an in-house food bank to support families in time for Christmas.

The message was spread far and wide throughout the school via posters and pre-recorded videos that the boys created and recorded. We always knew that we had a fantastic community spirit; however, we were not sure how many donations we would receive.

The response was overwhelming. The boys quickly got to work boxing and packing up the donations ready to deliver to our partner charity – FIND Families in



Need – along with a handwritten note from each student to be delivered to families wishing them a prosperous festive period. To all the families who supported



us with our Food Bank, we want to thank you as it would not have been possible without the selflessness and generosity of everyone who donated.

An evening of celebration and networking

The Suffolk DEI Network Inaugural Schools Showcase took place on Thursday 20th October 2022 at The Hold, Suffolk Archives on Ipswich Waterfront. The network was founded by Mrs Bothwell-O'Hearn who is a History teacher and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead at Northgate High School. The network is a group of educators across Suffolk and Essex from primary, secondary, further and higher education who collaborate on ways to diversify the curriculum and improve representation.

This was an evening of celebration, networking and a showcase of the amazing collaborations, projects and work going on in Suffolk and Essex schools and community groups such as; Aspire Black Suffolk, Suffolk Windrush, Outreach Youth, Ipswich Community Media and Volunteering Matters.

The event saw a number of schools, staff and students present their work on equality and diversity. We are proud that Northgate staff and students led this showcase.

The Northgate Diversity and Community Group presented their 'Smash the Stereotype' campaign



and video; the Northgate Gender Equality Group launched and presented their 'zine'; the Food Technology students presented their 'Food from my Table' recipe book; the Northgate Forefront group presented their 'Tell Your

Story' memory box; the Dora Love Group presented their work on human rights, poetry inspired by the Windrush generation and Holocaust Memorial projects; the Northgate Neurodiversity Group shared their incredible work on autism and Northgate's GCSE Dance class performed their Brazilian inspired dance.

Thank you to all students and staff involved and to Suffolk Archives. We also are thankful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Mrs Bothwell-O'Hearn

Ipswich Holocaust Memorial Event 2023



On the 26th January our year 9 Dora Love Prize students attended the Ipswich Holocaust Memorial Event 2023 at The Hold.

Each year we are honoured that our students are invited to speak at the ceremony. Their presentations were the result of their own hard work, in their own time and contemplate the Holocaust Memorial Day theme of "Ordinary People" caught up in the Holocaust because of their faith, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability.

We are forever grateful to Frank Bright MBE, Holocaust survivor, Historian and Friend of Northgate High School for inspiring our students and giving them the courage and determination to make a difference.

Young Musician of the Year

On the 21st November 2022 Northgate High School held their annual competition Young Musician of the Year. What a very talented and hard-working group of musicians and performers we have here at Northgate!

The competition was a huge success with performers in various categories playing a variety of pieces such as 'Concerto in G Minor' by Vivaldi, musical theatre songs such as 'Burn' from Hamilton and 'The Sound of Music' from the show with the same name. We had a flute performance of 'Super Trouper' by Abba as well as a rock vocal performance of 'Let Me Entertain You'. We heard cello, guitar, piano, violin and vocal performances throughout

Young Musician winners

- **Senior Musician of the Year**
– William
- **Junior Musician of the Year**
– Samuel
- **Grades 7-8 Winner**
– Eleanor
- **Grades 7-8 Runner-Up**
– Ivan
- **Grades 4-6 Winner**
– Giles
- **Grades 4-6 Runner-Up**
– Erin
- **Grades 1-3 Winner**
– Antoni
- **Grades 1-3 Runner-Up**
– William



the evening and we were very privileged to have in attendance, Caroline Finlay, Andrew Rowe and Mary Armitage who judged the categories and chose the winners. Our audience also had the opportunity to cast their own vote!

A fantastic evening was had by performers and audience alike. The competition was incredibly tough and all our entrants performed brilliantly in front of a live and very welcoming audience. The judges had a very difficult decision to make in awarding their chosen winners for each category. Thank you to the professional musicians who gave up their time to adjudicate the evening.

Thank you also to Mr Armitage who accompanied several of our performers and to all staff who

Audience Choice winners

- **Senior Musician of the Year**
– Ivan
- **Junior Musician of the Year**
– Noah
- **Grades 7- 8 Winner**
– Ivan
- **Grades 4-6 Winner**
– Katy
- **Grades 1-3 Winner**
– Layla

were involved whether singing with the choir, assisting with refreshments or setting up the event. In particular, huge thanks to the Music Department for the work in providing this opportunity for our fantastic musicians here at Northgate.

**Miss Tournay-Godfrey,
Joint Head of Music**

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 29 March 2023.....	Physics Talk – Vacuum Bazookas & Custard Fireballs
Friday 31 March 2023.....	End of Spring Term
Monday 17 April 2023	Professional Development Day
Tuesday 18 April 2023	Start of Summer Term
Thursday 27th April 2023	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Monday 1st May 2023.....	Bank Holiday
Monday 8th May 2023	Bank Holiday