NORTHGATE
*High School*

# Information for Parents, Carers and Guardians, 2026 - 2027

## For Year 7, September 2027

**Respect | Determination | Teamwork**

The information and particulars contained in this prospectus relate to the school year indicated on the front cover and are correct at the time of publication, September 2026.

It should not be assumed that there will be no change affecting the relevant arrangements or some matter particularised before the start of, or during, the school year in question or in relation to subsequent school years.

Parents, carers and guardians are advised to retain this document for reference.

Northgate High School

Headteacher: Miss Rowena Mackie

Sidegate Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 3DL Tel: 01473 210123

Web site: www.northgate.suffolk.sch.uk

Email: info@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk

Suffolk County Council

Email: admissions@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

Tel: 0345 600 0981

Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services: Sarah-Jane Smedmor

## Background Information

Northgate High School is a mixed comprehensive community school, catering for students aged 11 to 18.

The school roll is approximately 1800, including around 500 in the Sixth Form. There are approximately 100 full-time equivalent teaching staff.

## Admissions Intake Limit

The intake limit at 11+ for 2026 was 252.

Northgate remains heavily over-subscribed. Planned admissions at 11+ for September 2027 will be 252.

## Admissions Procedure

The County Council, not the School, is responsible for admissions. The full statement of the admissions policy is contained in the booklet '**Admissions to Schools in Suffolk 2027/2028**', which can be found online, and it is essential that parents, carers and guardians refer to this. Parents, carers and guardians requiring clarification should seek advice from the Suffolk County Council Admissions Team.

Advice on how to apply for a secondary school place for the 2027/2028 school year can be found here: **https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place-2027-2028**.

Please be aware the closing date for applications is 31 October 2026.

## How to Find Out More about Northgate

Our Open Evening for prospective parents, carers and guardians, and their Year 6 child, is being held on Wednesday, 7th October 2026. This will provide an opportunity to see the school, speak to staff and current students and ask any questions about the admissions process.

## In-Year Applications

Advice on in-year applications to Years 7 to 11 can be found here: **https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/move-to-a-different-school-in-year-applications-2026-2027**. If contacting the school for advice please ask to speak to Mrs Barry, Administration Assistant.

## Sixth Form Applications

There is a separate application process for sixth form students. A Sixth Form Prospectus outlining this procedure and the provision Northgate has to offer can be seen online at: **www.northgatesixthform.co.uk**.

Alongside our Open Evening on October 7th, the website contains information on each of the subjects that we offer, contact details and how to apply and join.

The Sixth Form application deadline for September 2027 entry is Friday 29th January 2027.

## Dates

Students allocated a place in Year 7 at Northgate will be invited to two Induction Days on Wednesday, 23 and Thursday, 24 June 2027.

A Parents' Evening will be held on Thursday, 24 June 2027, for the parents, carers and guardians of students who have attended the Induction Days.

## School Hours

School hours are from 8.40am to 3.10pm, Monday to Friday. This includes a 15-minute morning registration. The four lessons per day each last 75 minutes. There is a 25-minute morning break at the end of period 1 and 45 minutes for lunch staggered across Period 3. The length of the taught week is 25 hours, in addition to the hour and a quarter of support provided during morning registration.

## School Meals and Lunch Break Arrangements

During the lunch break students may:

- use a pre-paid lunch account to buy a school meal from our canteen, which can cater for special diets e.g. vegetarian. The canteen offer a fixed priced lunch service, currently £3.30. (Those entitled to a free school meal have their lunch account automatically credited by the school in advance for one meal per day). There is a grab & go service at break time and a hot meal service at lunch time.
- bring their own packed meal to be eaten in the area specified.

In exceptional circumstances, parents, carers and guardians, who wish their child to return home for lunch should apply in writing to the Headteacher for a lunch time pass. Parents, carers and guardians must accept responsibility for their child during this time. In the absence of written consent, no Year 7 – 11 students are allowed to leave the school site at lunch time.

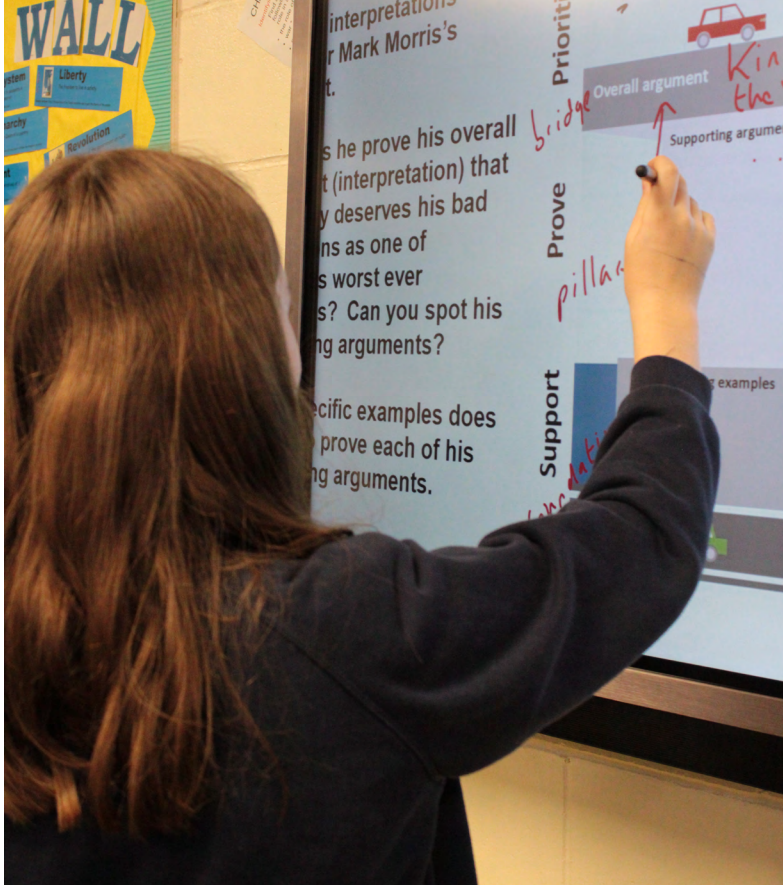
## Curriculum

Our intention is to provide our learners with a curriculum that:

- is broad and balanced
- values subject disciplines and builds subject knowledge
- promotes Northgate's values – respect, determination and teamwork
- creates responsible, healthy and aspirational citizens
- fosters a love of learning

### Religious Education and PSHE

Religious Education and collective worship are non-denominational in character. Religious Education is taught in accordance with the statutory requirements. Parents, carers and guardians who, on grounds of conscience, wish to withdraw their child from Religious Education should give written notice to the Headteacher. Religious Education is not a public examination subject and a student who wishes to study it as an examination subject must opt for Philosophy, Religion and Ethics at Key Stage 4. Social, moral, cultural and spiritual development is delivered across the curriculum at all key stages and is a core element of our PSHE programme. This includes embedding the Fundamental British Values of democracy, liberty, law, responsibility and tolerance.




**Key Stage 3 Curriculum**

Students in Years 7 to 9 will have timetabled lessons in English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, PRE, German and/or Spanish, Art, Design and Technology, Computing, Music, Drama and PE.

Students also follow a programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, with key elements of this led by the History, Geography, Science and the Philosophy, Religion and Ethics departments.

This covers:

- Relationships Health and Sex Education (RSHE)
- Healthy living
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects of life (SMSC)
- Fundamental British Values (FBV)
- Careers guidance
- Citizenship

This curriculum will be enhanced and extended by what is delivered in Languages, Computer Science, Design & Technology, Physical Education, Tutor periods and assemblies. More detailed information about the curriculum followed in each subject can be found on the Northgate website. Form groups represent a mixture of ability, but in appropriate subjects setting is introduced progressively through Key Stage 3.

Provision is made for students with Special Educational Needs, who may be withdrawn from a lesson for specific help, but for the majority of time, will operate in the normal curriculum, with appropriate support. For a small minority of students, a bespoke curriculum is available in our Learning Support department where students have access to specialist intervention programmes delivered by Northgate staff and external services. This is regularly reviewed in the light of student progress. Similarly, a small number of students are offered literacy and numeracy intervention in the Learning Support department as appropriate to their learning need.

**Key Stage 4 Curriculum**

In Years 10 and 11, students study GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science (combined or triple). Further GCSE subjects are chosen from Art, Business, Child Development, Computer Science, Creative iMedia, Dance, Design Technology, Drama, Economics, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Geography, German, Graphic Communication, Health & Social Care, History, Music, Physical Education, Psychology, Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, Photography, Sociology, Spanish and Textiles. Choices are guided to ensure appropriate breadth, whilst maintaining as much student choice as possible. In addition, a non-examination programme of study is followed in Physical Education.

**The availability of all option subjects will depend on sufficient uptake to ensure that each course can run.**

The Core Curriculum programme builds upon learning experiences from Key Stage 3. It includes the following elements:

- Personal Development
- Healthy living
- Fundamental British Values (FBV)
- Economic awareness
- Relationships Health and Sex Education (RSHE)
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects of life (SMSC)
- Careers guidance
- Citizenship

This Core Curriculum is delivered by subject expert teachers. The curriculum includes time for open discussion of topics that students tell us they find particularly relevant. Students in Year 10 undertake a period of Work Experience during the Summer Term which further enhances students' knowledge and understanding of careers and post-16 pathways.

## Sixth Form Curriculum

The Sixth Form curriculum offers a 2-year A Level course. Students study 3 subjects and take part in an enrichment programme.

There are currently 31 A-Level and 4 Level 3 subjects available.
More information can be found in the Sixth Form Prospectus, available from the school or online at: **www.northgatesixthform.co.uk**.

## Code of Behaviour

At Northgate we expect students to show consideration and respect for others. Rules should be fully observed. In particular, students are expected:

- to behave in a sensible and considerate way
- to be punctual and to work hard
- to respect the school buildings and environment, for example, by keeping all areas clear of graffiti, by placing all litter in bins and by not bringing chewing gum into school
- to wear full school uniform in school, and on the way to and from school
- to have hair within a range of naturally occurring human hair colours
- not to arrive on site before 8.30am, and to leave by 3.20pm unless involved in supervised activities
- not to bring tobacco and cigarettes, vapes (electronic cigarettes), alcohol, matches, lighters, knives or other dangerous items, illegal substances or new psychoactive substance onto the school site
- to remain on the school site unless they have permission to leave
- to remain within their designated areas of the site at break and lunchtime unless they have a pass to go home for lunch
- to mark all property clearly with their name
- to follow the guidelines for cyclists on the site
- to keep ball games to the designated areas
- not to eat food in any school buildings other than in the dining room or designated areas outside.

The Headteacher delegates overall responsibility for discipline on a day-to-day basis to a pastoral team, led by a Deputy Headteacher but supported by all members of staff. Individual form tutors have particular responsibility for their own groups.

Breaches of discipline may be punished, depending upon the severity and frequency, by a range of sanctions including loss of personal time during the school day without notice. For more serious offences there are longer detentions after school of which parents, carers and guardians will be notified either

by a telephone call or via Bromcom. We also run an Intervention Centre for students where appropriate supervision, pastoral support and academic assistance will be provided for the duration of the school day.

In the most serious cases the Headteacher reserves the right to suspend a student from attendance (informing the Local Authority and the Chair of the Governors of the action taken), or to take other measures considered appropriate by the school and governors.

### Mobile Phones

We encourage our students to leave their phones at home as we aim to create a phone free environment. If your child has an individual health care plan that requires a phone for medical reasons, please, in the first instance, contact the Headteacher. If your child requires a phone for the journey to and from school, then it must be turned off and put in their bag before entering the school gates.

### Jewellery

Jewellery should not be worn, apart from watches and a single pair of simple studs for pierced ears (no hoops, dangling designs or large gems). Students in Years 9 – 11 may wear one discreet nose stud.

### Make-up

Make-up and nail varnish should not be worn to school. Students will be required to remove nail varnish (gel and acrylic nails) and/or make-up that is clearly visible.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Students are expected to attend punctually and regularly. If your child has a legitimate reason for being late, please make sure that they have a signed explanatory note, or leave a message on the attendance line: 01473 210123, Option 2 for years 7-11, Option 1 for Sixth Form absence. Students should be seated in their from rooms ready for morning registration at 8.40am.

Parents, carers and guardians are required to telephone the school to notify absence on the first day and each subsequent day by 8.30am. In the case of long or repeated absence, formal medical evidence may be requested.

Requests for absence other than for illness should be made on an Exceptional Leave of Absence form, which can be obtained from Reception or the school website. The Headteacher reserves the right to refuse permission for absence.

## Student Absence Statistics 2025/2026

- Total number of students of compulsory school age on roll for at least one session – 1294
- Percentage of student sessions (half days) missed through authorised absence – 5.3%
- Percentage of student sessions (half days) missed through unauthorised absence – 3.4%

Attendance data has been calculated up to the end of the academic year on 17 July 2026.

## Emergency Procedures

In case of accident or emergency the school will endeavour to contact one of the child's parents, carers and guardians using the contact details we have on record. Please ensure these contact details are always kept up to date. If in a case of illness or accident it proved impossible to contact a parent/carer, the Headteacher would act on the advice of the first aid trained staff or, where appropriate, consult a medical professional.

Owing to the large number of students attending Northgate High School, it is not possible to transmit routine messages to students, so where possible arrangements for pickups and medical appointments should be sorted out prior to the start of school.

Office staff will, however, always attempt to pass on messages to students in the event of an emergency.

## School Uniform

All students wear school uniform or PE/Dance kit on specified days, until the end of Year 11. Students are expected to be well-presented, neat and tidy. All items must be clearly marked with the student's name.

A full list of school uniform and PE kit, will be available on our website, well in advance of the new school year.

## Photographs

Students are photographed individually each September so that an up-to-date likeness can appear on each student's record. Copies of these photographs are available for purchase by parents, carers and guardians. Students may also be photographed or filmed on other occasions as part of an activity, either by a member of staff, or by the local press. We will seek the consent of parents, carers and guardians of new students around photo permissions on enrolment.

## School Health

The Local Health Partnerships NHS Trust is responsible for providing the School Health Service in this area and immunisation programmes are arranged periodically. Students are able to book appointments with the School Nursing Team through the Pastoral team.

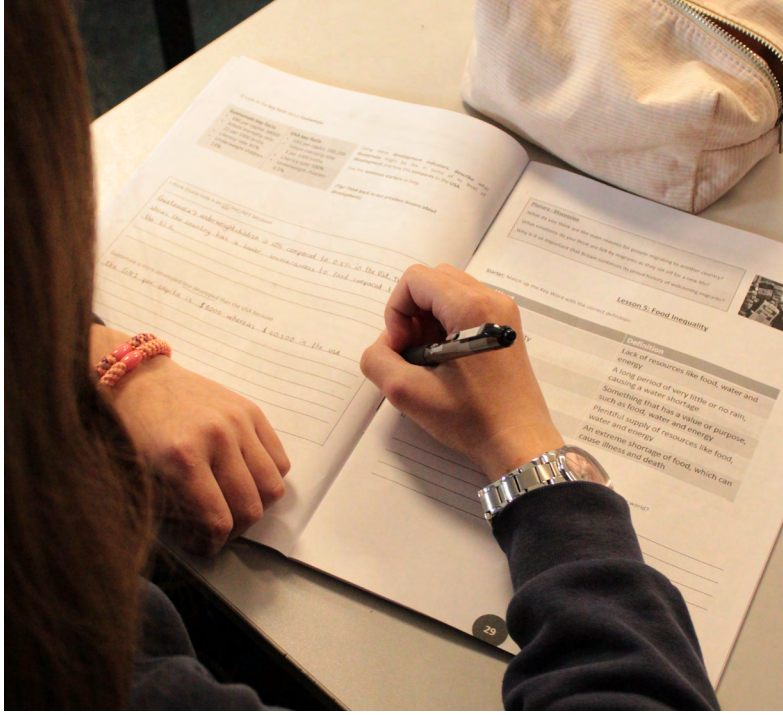
## First Aid and Managing Medicine for Children in School

Any student requiring First Aid should report to Student Reception in the Admin (A) Block where trained help is available. For more serious incidents a first aider will attend the scene.

Parents, carers and guardians continue to have responsibility for their child's wellbeing at school. At present the school encourages the students to be responsible for managing their own medication needs (e.g. the use of asthma inhalers and allergy auto-injectors). Where it is agreed by the school that a member of staff will hold medication for students, it will only do so if satisfied that this is the parents, carers and guardians' wish and the details of the dosage and timing have been conveyed precisely. Please note that it is the responsibility of parents, carers and guardians to ensure that medication is in date and it is the responsibility of the student to come to the office to take their medication when required. The school reserves the right not to agree to administer medicine.

## Parent Teacher Association

The PTA organises various opportunities for fundraising for the school. Parents, carers and guardians of all students are automatically members of the Association. The Committee, elected annually, consists of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, together with other members elected at the AGM each year. The current Chairperson of the PTA, Mrs Niki Downey, can be contacted via the School.



## School Governors

Full current membership of the Governing Body is provided on the school website. The current Chair of Governors is Mrs J Ferguson, who can be contacted via the School.

## School Policies

In general, policies receive the approval of the Governing Body, having been formulated through consultation with stakeholders. A list of the Governors' Policies, and the full text of each relevant to parents, carers and guardians is available on the school's website. For guidance, brief outlines of some policies are noted below.

## Safeguarding Children Policy

Northgate High School takes the safeguarding responsibility placed upon it very seriously and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students. As a school we have a statutory duty to assist Children and Young People's Services departments acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of abuse. If we have a concern that a child has been abused or is at risk of being abused, we have a duty to refer this to Children and Young People's Services. In most cases we would also inform parents, carers and guardians of our concern. The school has a Safeguarding Policy, which is available to parents, carers and guardians on request and may also be viewed on the school website.

## Charging and Remission Policy

The Governors recognise the value of activities beyond the curriculum in extending students' opportunities and experience, but reserve the right to make a charge for:

- voluntary activities which are not an integral part of the school curriculum
- the board and lodging element of residential activities required for specific public examinations
- vocal or instrumental tuition that is not part of the normal school curriculum
- materials involved in production of an article which parents, carers and guardians wish to own

The full policy is available on the school website and includes details of financial help available to families experiencing financial hardship.

## Equality and Diversity

The staff and governors of Northgate High School are committed to equality of opportunity being available to all members of the school community. For our school, this means understanding and tackling the different barriers that could lead to unequal outcomes for different groups of students in school, while celebrating and valuing the achievements and strengths of all members of the school community. These include students, teaching and support staff, parents, carers and guardians, governors, multiagency staff linked to the school, visitors to school and contractors.

At Northgate High School, equality is a key principle in the way that we treat all members of the school community irrespective of their gender, race, disability, religion and beliefs, sexual orientation, age, ability, first language, economic disadvantage or any of the protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act (2010). We actively involve students from our various student diversity and human rights group such as the Northgate Diversity and Community Group to gather and represent views. Our young people have the chance to get involved in social action projects and we have a range of student working groups on diversifying the curriculum.

Every year, Northgate hosts a Community Day, sharing the exceptional work of our students in promoting the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion. We are proud that Northgate is a founding school member of the Suffolk Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Network, which was recently awarded a 'Highly Commended' Award for the BBC Make a Difference Award 2023. Furthermore, Northgate students are involved in the annual Suffolk Schools' Showcase run by the network, presenting their work on diversity and representation. The ongoing work undertaken to promote and support diversity and inclusion has seen us achieve, and sustain, the Inclusion Quality Mark award of Centre of Excellence. We are also working with Leeds Beckett University towards becoming an anti-racist school.

Whilst we always celebrate and commemorate key awareness days and months, our long-term aim is to fully embed diversity into our curriculum all year round. We always welcome opportunities to work with a range of communities and families to be better equipped to support and encourage all our students to achieve success.

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The school recognises its responsibility to support students who have Special Educational Needs of any kind, to make appropriate provision to meet those needs within the school and to liaise closely

with parents, carers and guardians, primary colleagues and educational support services. The school supports students with Education Health and Care Plans and School Support Single Category status and identifies students for teacher support outlining strategies to address students' needs. The Learning Support department offers a hub service to students with additional needs.

Northgate High School is committed to a policy of inclusion where this meets the child's needs best. The individual needs of students are largely met through high quality teaching: some students with more significant need may receive support from additional staff as appropriate within lessons or in individual or small group situations. Additional support is provided by teaching assistants, mentors and other services where there is an identified need. The Foundation Learning team addresses gaps in attainment and aims to support students with strategies for how to become more independent learners. The Emotional Literacy Support Assistants and TA team aim to support students in social and classroom settings. Learning Support provides a bridge for students who arrive at secondary school needing a more gradual adjustment and additional support. Progress for all is regularly reviewed, allowing flexible and appropriate allocation of support and intervention to boost attainment.

## Sex Education

Sex Education is seen as a whole school issue, to which all students have an equal entitlement. Account will be taken of differing levels of maturity, of differences in ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, and care will be taken to avoid stereotyping. The role of parents, carers and guardians is recognised in helping students to achieve a balanced view of the physical, emotional, moral and social aspects of human development from conception to old age, including the role of family life. Parents, carers and guardians have the right to withdraw their child from certain aspects of sex education, and should contact Mr Grainger, Deputy Headteacher (Teaching and Learning) if they wish to exercise this right.

## Complaints Procedure

We hope that your child will be happy at Northgate and the school will do it's upmost to address any concerns that you may have. However, should you feel the need to complain the Complaints Procedure can be found on the school's website.

## Destination of Leavers 2025

(Figures for 2026 were still being compiled at the time of publication)

**A. From Year 13 – 202 students, including third-year Sixth Formers:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Higher Education – 2025 entry | 110 |
| Higher Education – deferred entry 2026 | 11 |
| Gap Year | 26 |
| Sixth Form | 0 |
| Further Education | 5 |
| Employment with training (Apprenticeship) | 13 |
| Other Employment | 24 |
| Not in education, employment or training (NEET) | 2 |
| Medically unfit for learning or work | 0 |
| Unknown | 11 |

**B. From Year 11 – 254 students**

| | |
|---|---|
| Northgate High School Sixth Form or another Sixth Form | 170 |
| Further Education | 75 |
| Work/Training (Apprenticeship) | 2 |
| Not in education or training | 2 |
| Not in education, employment or training | 4 |
| Alternative Post-16 Provision | 1 |
| Unknown | 0 |

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