Northgate Review
October 2026



Dora Love Prize winners!

During the last academic year, a fantastic group of Year 9 Northgate High School students took part in the Dora Love Prize, 2026.

19 schools and over 250 students took part in the competition, representing different regions of the UK and Canada.

The Dora Love Prize is an annual prize for secondary school students informed by the Holocaust. It asks students to develop projects which link what they have learnt about the Holocaust with the world they live in today, and to take action to put an end to identity-based prejudice, discrimination, marginalisation and violence.

The prize goes to the project which expresses best that which was most important to Dora Love: speaking up against hatred wherever it occurs, never forgetting the ultimate consequence of seemingly small acts of discrimination and developing a sense of personal responsibility.

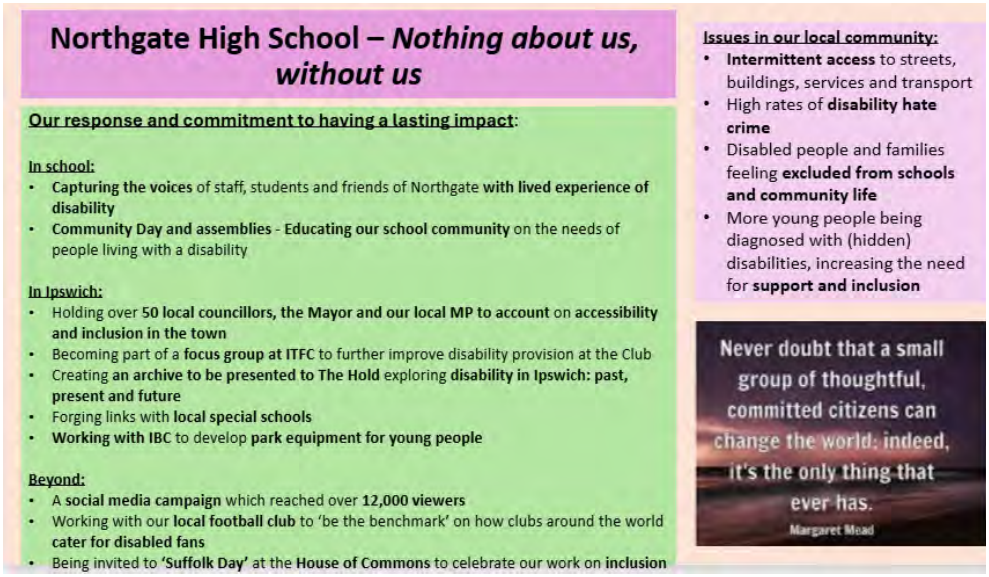
At Northgate we focused on Disability and Hidden Disability for our 2026 project.

The students took part in both the Suffolk Finals and the Grand Final of the Dora Love Prize 2026. They did an incredible job presenting to the judges and audience about their project and we are delighted to let you know that Northgate has won the Suffolk Finals and the Grand Final Dora Love Prize 2026!

■ Continued on Page 2



The Suffolk finals of the Dora Love Prize. The students were presented their award by the Mayor of Ipswich and Dora Love's granddaughter.





From Page 1

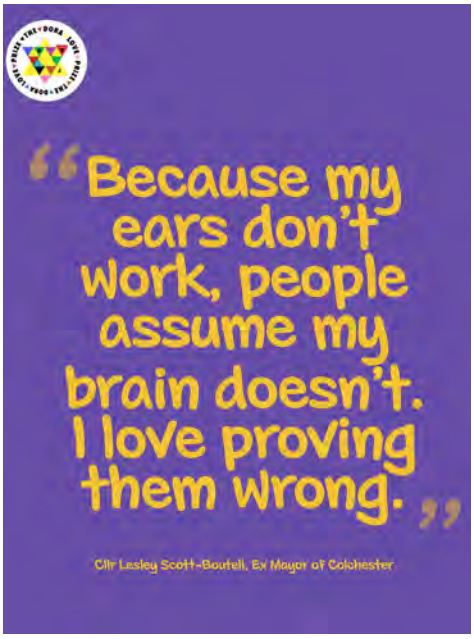
The students have been superb – an absolute credit to our school, showing real maturity and empathy whilst exploring a challenging issue: disability. It has been wonderful to see so many of them grow in confidence and develop so many skills during the project.

Moving forwards, we hope to work alongside Woodbridge Road Academy to help them become the first special school to enter the prize.

Our work has not finished on this project… so, watch this space!

Mrs Hazell, Mrs Campbell and Mr Banham





Top, a summary of all their wonderful work. Above left, Year 9 students taking part in this year's Dora Love Prize visited Ipswich Town Hall to attend a council meeting. They were also welcomed into the Mayor's Parlour beforehand. Above right, A selection of Dora Love Prize Social Media Takeover posters that were shared on our social media pages.

Putting women in the sequel

A fantastic evening was had by all who attended the Northgate Music Department Summer Concert!

Audiences were treated to a wide range of music, mainly written by female composers. The concert was titled 'Putting Women in the Sequel' to celebrate the achievements of women as composers in the Music Industry. This year we chose to learn music written by female composers where possible; or music that perhaps celebrates the role or character of female figures, whether they be fictional or non-fictional. Looking back at the history books, in many areas of the arts, women were not encouraged or even allowed to work as composers, or so these books would have us believe. It has been really interesting to find out more about women who did work as composers; such as Nannerl Mozart, Clara Schumann, Pauline Viardot and Louise Farrence. Sadly, these are not household names largely because their works were not published or even kept, or because they were not publicised or given the precedence in composing that for many years, male composers have had the privilege of enjoying. It is time to remedy this discrepancy.

Today it needs to be an age of equality and diversity, so we still featured music written by men too. From the first symphony ever written by a women called Sinfonia in C, to Misery Business written by Hayley Williams, lead singer of the band Paramore, we listened to the incredibly talented students from Northgate High School and Sixth Form.

The choirs performed a song called 'Wait For Me' from the musical Hadestown, written by Anais Mitchell. Musical Theatre has previously been dominated by male composers, so we were delighted to showcase songs written by women working in this industry. The Jazz Band performed 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough', written by Valerie Simpson.









The Northgate Band performed a lovely rendition of 'Firework' by Katy Perry and rousing finale piece by Meghan Trainor titled 'All About That Bass.' Our year 10 GCSE class had been hard at work rehearsing an ensemble piece called 'What About Us' by Pink and some of them performed 'Valerie' and 'No More Mr Nice Guy' too. They did an amazing job as did our fantastic A Level students. Ilinca (Year 12) showcased her vocals in a performance of 'Shallow' by Lady Gaga, accompanied by Billy on acoustic guitar and Alice on flute. Evlyn and Ella also joined in this ensemble piece playing cello and violin respectively and ex-student Giles came to join us as well on violin. Last but by no means least, the group were also accompanied by Kaci-Jean on cello. Kaci-Jean was a Year 13 A Level Music student who was with the school since year 7 and more particularly, an integral part of all our extra-curricular groups and events in the Music Department. We will miss her very much as she ventures off to pastures new.

The concert took place at Colchester Road Baptist Church and despite the heatwave, the students wowed audience with their performances. We are so proud of them all.

Miss Tournay-Godfrey

Year 10 step into the world of work

During the week commencing Monday 8th June, our Year 10 students took part in an exciting and valuable Work Experience Week, gaining first-hand insight into the world of work and developing skills that will support them in their future careers.





Finding the right opportunity

Students secured their placements in one of two ways. Many applied for opportunities advertised through the school's Work Experience Job Board, completing a CV and cover letter as part of a realistic recruitment process. Competition for placements was strong, and students rose to the challenge by producing professional CVs and thoughtful applications that showcased their skills, interests and aspirations. Others demonstrated impressive initiative by contacting employers directly and arranging their own placements.

Our students completed placements across a wide geographical area, ranging from Norwich to London. They worked with organisations of all sizes, from small and medium-sized enterprises to large multi-national companies. The range of industries represented was equally impressive, including healthcare, heritage, green energy, education, childcare, retail, hospitality, construction, hair and beauty, sport and insurance.



Rising to the challenge

Throughout the week, our students embraced the opportunities and challenges presented by the workplace. Whether supporting customers, assisting with projects, learning new technical skills or working as part of a team, they demonstrated maturity, enthusiasm and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones. Employers consistently praised our students for their positive attitudes, professionalism and readiness to take on new challenges.

Our staff thoroughly enjoyed visiting students during the week and seeing them thrive in real-world working environments. It was fantastic to witness students applying the skills they have developed in school and growing in confidence as they engaged with professionals in their chosen fields.

Skills for the future

The benefits of work experience extend far beyond the week itself. Many students returned with increased confidence and a clearer understanding of the skills and qualities that employers value. They developed their communication, organisation and time-management skills while gaining valuable experience of workplace expectations



and responsibilities. For some students, the experience has already opened doors to future opportunities, with a number being offered part-time employment or even the prospect of an apprenticeship after Year 11.

In an increasingly competitive job market, work experience provides an important bridge between education and employment. It helps young people develop employability skills, discover where their strengths and interests lie, and build the confidence needed to take their next steps. Experiences such as these play a vital role in helping students make informed decisions about their future pathways.

And a big thank you...

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the organisations that supported our Year 10 Work Experience Programme. We are incredibly grateful both to our long-standing partners and to the many new employers who welcomed our students into their workplaces. Your support, guidance and encouragement have made a significant difference to our students' development and future aspirations.

Well done to our Year 10 students for representing the school so positively and making the most of this fantastic opportunity.

Mrs Calder







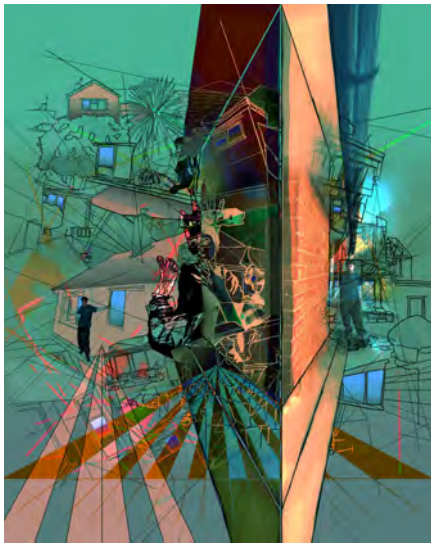
A well-attended open exhibition

Congratulations to this year's Art & Photography A Level students who have sustained and built upon the high standards set by previous years. Students exhibited some exciting responses in a wide range of media from oil painting to digital prints, ceramics, sculpture, photography and installation. Students had responded very creatively to the exam theme this year which was entitled 'Origins.'

Family and friends were invited to the Open Exhibition in June which celebrated the culmination of two years' work. The well-attended event was a huge success and a fantastic finale to showcase Year 13 talent. Indeed, The Ipswich Arts Society earmarked some of the work for external exhibitions both locally and nationally. The Art & Photography Department would like to wish all students the very best for the future.

Mr Beattie







Students perform at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

On Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd June, a group of 28 students travelled to London to rehearse with a professional orchestra, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, alongside students at Acland Burghley School. This trip had been many months in the making, and the students had been working hard with the composer James Redwood to come up with music for a performance the following evening of a show called 'The Life of the Sea' at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

The students are pictured here with James Redwood in rehearsals at Acland Burghley.

After a pizza tea we headed off in the minibuses to our hostel accommodation in Elephant and Castle. There, we settled in and celebrated the birthday of one of the students.

The next morning, after a visit to the Imperial War Museum, we headed to the Queen Elizabeth



Hall in the Southbank Centre where we were shown to our own dressing room. It was an exciting moment to be backstage in a professional theatre and have our own room complete with lights around the mirrors! The day was filled with rehearsals and lots of nervous excitement in anticipation for the final performance that evening.



The performance went well and we really enjoyed how everything came together after all our hard work. Cherry Forbes (Education Director at the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) sent an e-mail the next day:

"I wanted to say a huge thankyou for working with us on the Life of the Sea project! The Northgate students were fantastic last night (and have been also in every workshop in school too) and it has been a pleasure to work with them and you across this year.

I was particularly impressed with how professional and polite your students are as well as being great creative musicians – they are a credit to you and Northgate school!"

Mrs Rutter

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 25th November 2026	**Young Musician of the Year Final**
Monday 30th - Friday 4th December 2026	**Year 10 German Exchange in Germany**
Friday 4th December 2026	**Staff Professional Development Day**
Wednesday 9th December 2026	**Carol Service**
Wednesday 16th December 2026	**Catwalk for a Cause – Charity Fashion Show**
Friday 18th December 2026	**End of Term**
Monday 4th January 2027	**Staff Professional Development Day**
Tuesday 5th January 2027	**Spring Term starts**

Are we nearly there yet?



Last term, 59 Northgate students swapped their classrooms for the great outdoors as they took on the challenge of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expeditions. Armed with oversized rucksacks, walking boots and varying levels of navigational confidence, they set off on an adventure filled with sunshine, teamwork and a few questionable decisions!

The adventure began with a practice expedition at Alton Water, where students learned the essentials of map reading and compass skills in the great outdoors. It quickly became apparent that following a footpath wasn't always quite as straightforward as it looked on a map, particularly when the footpath seemed to disappear into a field.

With their practice completed, it was time for the real challenge: the qualifying expeditions. Students were now responsible for planning their routes, navigating through the Suffolk countryside, carrying their equipment, preparing meals and camping overnight. What could possibly go wrong?

This year's biggest challenge was undoubtedly the weather. With temperatures soaring, students faced the prospect of long days walking in the blazing sunshine. The unusually hot conditions meant some adjustments were needed to ensure everyone could participate safely. Rucksack loads were reduced and walking routes shortened to accommodate the additional challenges posed by the heat. Despite these changes, there were still plenty of tired legs and aching shoulders by the end of each day.



The routes took students from Grundisburgh towards Wickham Market and back, although getting from A to B wasn't always quite as simple as anticipated. Several groups found themselves navigating through fields of rapeseed, where paths seemed to disappear and even the most confident map readers began questioning their sense of direction. What should have been a straightforward walk quickly became an unexpected adventure through towering crops, with students eventually emerging slightly more confused, considerably warmer and perhaps a little less confident in their navigational skills.

After a long day of walking, arriving at the campsite was a welcome relief. Tents were pitched (eventually), sleeping bags unpacked and attention quickly turned to the all-important task of preparing dinner. However, some students had made rather questionable choices when it came to their expedition menus. Despite advice about suitable food, a few decided that carrying fresh sausages around in their rucksacks all day, in the sweltering heat, was a perfectly reasonable plan. Unsurprisingly, the sausages did not survive the journey quite as well as the students did! Thankfully, alternative meals were







provided, and an important lesson was learned about food hygiene and the limitations of a rucksack as a refrigerator!

Of course, being away on expedition didn't mean missing out on the football. With the World Cup taking place, the campsite briefly transformed into an outdoor fan zone as students gathered to watch the match. After hours of walking in the heat, there was somehow still plenty of energy left for cheering and celebrating. It turns out that even the Duke of Edinburgh's Award cannot compete with the excitement of the World Cup.

Following a night under canvas, students were up bright and early, packing away tents and attempting to squeeze sleeping bags back into impossibly small bags before setting off for another day of walking. For some, getting everything back into their rucksack proved almost as challenging as the expedition itself.

Despite the heat, navigational mishaps and questionable food choices, what stood out most was the determination and teamwork shown by our students. They supported one another, worked together to overcome challenges and demonstrated the resilience, independence and problem-solving skills that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is all about.



A huge well done to all 59 students who took part. You should be incredibly proud of what you have achieved. The expeditions provided fantastic memories, plenty of laughter and valuable life lessons that extend far beyond the classroom.

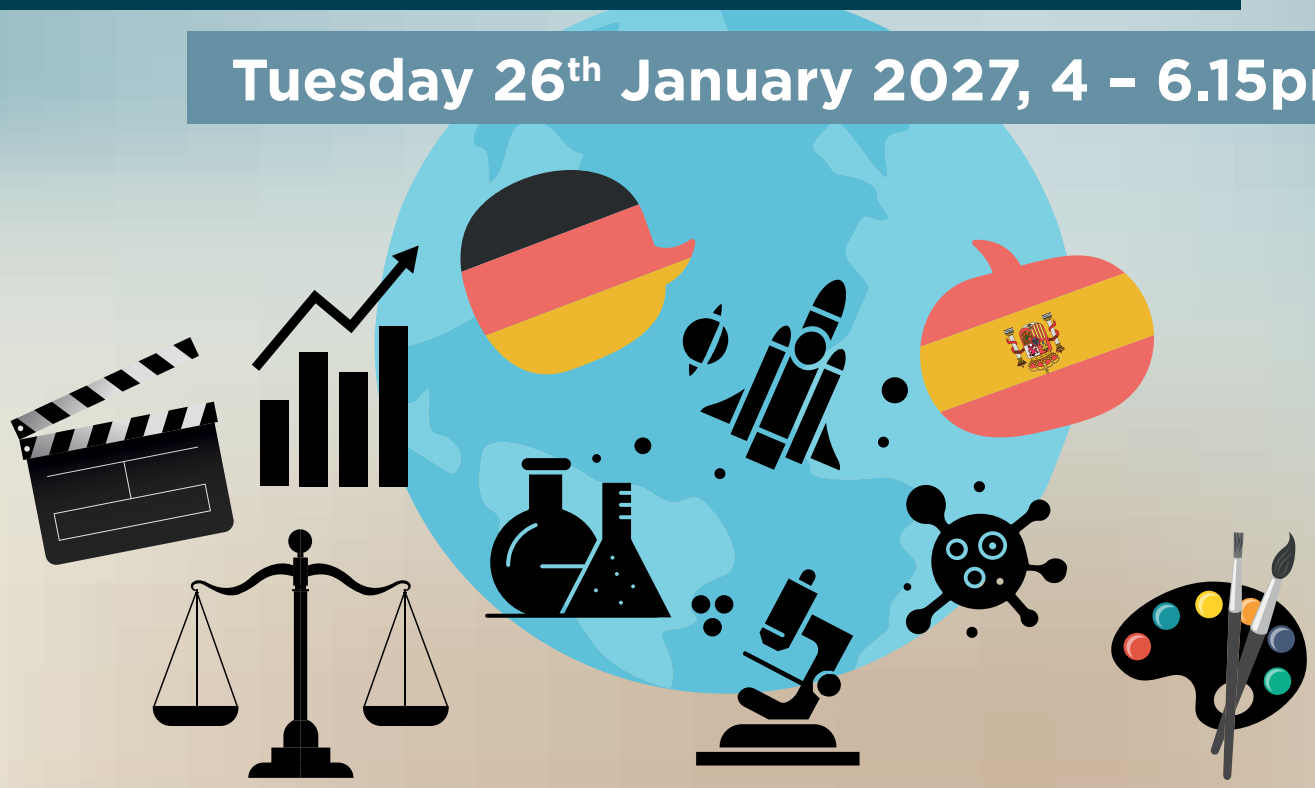
A special thank you must also go to the staff and volunteers who gave up their time to support the expeditions, particularly during the exceptionally hot weather. Their flexibility, encouragement and commitment helped ensure students could safely make the most of this fantastic opportunity.

Miss Hyland

NORTHGATE SIXTH FORM CENTRE IPSWICH

Year 11 Taster Event

Tuesday 26th January 2027, 4 – 6.15pm



Are you considering studying A Levels at Northgate Sixth Form?

Would you like to attend two subject taster sessions to find out more about studying these subjects at A Level?

Please sign up here: Northgate Year 11 Taster Event 2027, or scan the QR code to book a space, by Monday 18th January 2027.

If you have any questions please email Miss Smith on: csmith@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!

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