



A wealth of culture

Our recent trip to Barcelona was without a doubt a success; exposing Spanish GCSE and A Level students to a wealth of culture through various experiences.

Day 1

After an early start and a smooth journey, we went on a whirlwind tour of Barcelona, taking in the cobbled, narrow streets and the sunny

weather, stopping at key landmarks including the 'Arc de Triomf', a tribute to Picasso and the stunning



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traditional architecture, before ending at the breathtaking coast for a well-deserved rest.

Day 2

The day started with a phenomenal visit to 'La Sagrada Familia' where students were stunned with Gaudi's breathtaking architecture and his use of colour and nature. Our next stop was to treat ourselves to some 'Churros' with chocolate and we

ended the day with a fantastic Flamenco show, which was a very intimate and remarkable event!

Day 3

We visited the Montjuic area which offered beautiful views of the city and then had a guided tour of the Barcelona Olympic Stadium and Museum. After sightseeing and taking advantage of the views (and the sunny weather!) we headed to the Picasso Museum. The evening ended with an all-you-can-eat tapas dinner.

Day 4

Our last day involved some shopping in the morning followed by a coach trip to Montserrat where we climbed a mountain! Students showed perseverance and resilience especially when we found out the funicular wasn't working, and we had to climb back down too!

After such an exciting day it was time to return home!

We are looking forward to organising more Spanish trips in the near future.



A series of fairy-tale creatures, all desperate to get their wish



Did you catch us as we went on a big adventure Into The Woods? If you didn't, then you missed an incredibly brilliant week of talented performers giving their all as a series of fairy-tale creatures, all desperate to get their wish.

Northgate High School and Sixth Form students were outstanding in the characterisations with some amazing vocals delivered too!

It all began with Cinderella, wishing to go to the festival, Jack's Mother and Jack wishing their cow would give them some milk and The Baker and his Wife wishing for a child. These roles were all played superbly by Iris (Year 11), Jemima (Year 12), Finlay (Year 9), Alfred (Year 9), Jacob (Year 12) and Ysabel (Year 13). Before too long, Little Red-Riding Hood, played by Camryn (Year 7) and Matilda (Year 8) went off into the woods to take some cakes to Grandmother, and the Three Little Pigs went off to build their houses. Alicia (Year 11) and Yasmin, Bethany and Evie (Year 9) were all great in their roles



as these characters. They didn't get far before encountering the Wolves who gave a stellar rendition of Hello Little Girl/Pigs. Well done to Alex (Year 11) and Anthony (Year 13). We can't forget the rather dashing princes to Cinderella and Rapunzel: Dylan (Year 12) and Freddie (Year 11) who went off in search of their beautiful princesses. All to the command of the terrible Witch played superbly



by Ilinca (Year 12). We have to mention the comical performances of the Stepmother, fabulously played by Isabelle (Year 13), along with the Stepsisters played by Poppy (Year 13) and Macey (Year 10). All were supported by Cinderella's Father acted brilliantly by Nicholas (Year 13). Into the Woods is a very complex musical which combines well-known fairy tales. The lives of these characters criss-cross and intertwine, whilst searching for the answer

to their dreams. Jack's cow is called Milky-White and the fabulous Mrs Calvesbeart-Rearden made a superb puppet to represent this character, which was then acted out by Roscoe (Year 7). We also come across Rapunzel, beautifully played by Katy (Year 11), kept in a tower by the witch as well as a Mysterious Man, George (Year 11) who seems to turn up unannounced offering strange quotes for the characters to consider. George was very funny in his portrayal of this role.

At the end of Act 1 the fairy tales all come true, and they get their dreams and wishes at last! Or do they? Act 2 lets us see how their lives unfold once they have their dreams. Do we really get to live happily ever after? Are things ever what they seem? As a Giant roams their lands and the characters face loss and sadness, the audience are forced to consider the consequences of their decisions.

Towards the end of the show the cast sang a beautiful version of Children Will Listen led by soloists Ilinca and Ysabel and we, the audience, looked at Little Red-Riding

Hood and Jack, the children in this story and how young people are affected by the choices that adults make and the things that adults say.

It was an absolute pleasure to produce and musically direct this show. It is written by Stephen Sondheim, and it is a difficult musical to sing. The cast were excellent and tackled the challenge brilliantly. There were students in the ensemble from Year 7 upwards and they all did a great job as trees, festival goers or playing cameo featured roles at times. Special mention must be made to some of the principal soloists in the cast for learning such difficult songs and for acting them through so well. What an achievement Ilinca, Ysabel, Jacob, Iris, Finlay, Alfred, Camryn, Matilda, Jemima, Dylan, Freddie, Alex, George, Isabelle, Poppy and Macey! You are all superstars. To all our Year 13 students who are leaving us for pastures new - we are very proud of you and can't wait to see how your futures unfold! We are very lucky to

be able to offer the opportunity for students to be involved in the backstage and technical aspects of theatre. Thank you to the students who worked on the set, props, lighting and sound. In particular, kudos to Freya (Year 12), William (Year 11), and Alexis (Year 11), who were in charge of lots of the younger students during show week and who set such a great example to them all. We really admire you all and are very grateful for your contributions to the school show productions.

No school show can happen without the brilliant staff who work on the creative team. Thank you to Miss Patrick, Miss Bishop, Miss Griffiths, Mrs Rutter, Mrs Baxter, Mr Pettitt, Mr Hopkins and Ms Magistri as well as all of the lovely staff volunteers who came along to chaperone. You are also all superstars.

And now it's time to ponder on what the next school show will be. Who knows?

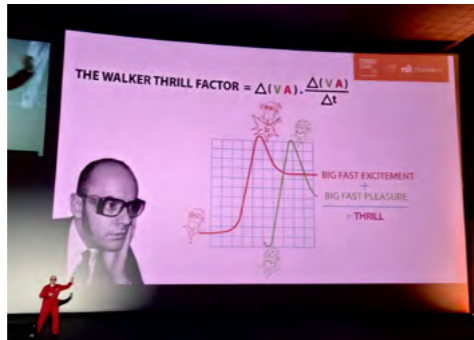
Jade Tournay-Godfrey
Musical Director



Science conference at Disneyland Paris

Early in March, 52 students attended a science conference at Disneyland Paris. They had an incredible time. They had the opportunity to hear from four fascinating science professionals. Our Year 9 students impressed everyone with the thoughtful and challenging questions they asked the guest speakers.

The conference was introduced by Dr. Matt Pritchard, a maths and science magician who loves being creative and is passionate about simplifying the complexities of science, explaining how the ghosts appear in the Phantom Manor ride. We heard from Prof. Brendan Walker, who shared his fascinating expertise on the science behind rollercoasters and theme park attractions - exploring the physics that makes the thrills possible! Dr. Claire Waddington delivered an inspiring talk about her work on the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine trials, alongside her role as a clinical doctor in the NHS. It was a powerful insight into science in action and real-world impact. We also heard from Dr. Sai Pathmanathan, who explored what we can learn from entertainment - including animated Disney feature films - diving into how our brains respond to movies and uncovering the environmental messages woven into many of them.



I asked some of our students to tell us what they thought:

"I loved hearing from the lady who worked on the COVID-19 vaccine, it was so interesting and inspirational to hear about. This has inspired me to look into scientific careers. I also liked how much trust the school had in us, letting us explore in our friendship groups and then checking in several times a day. Overall a great trip." Melissa.

"My favourite speaker was the woman who helped develop the COVID-19 vaccine - it felt like a story, with all the high stakes and the way she told it made me feel like I was really there." Lily.

"My favourite thing about Disneyland is that we went on most of the rides I wanted to, the



weather was really good. I found it interesting hearing from people who are actually doing different science jobs." Talullah.

We also asked students if they had any advice for Year 8 students who will be attending the conference in 2027:

- Go on the busier rides in the late evening, the queues are a lot shorter!
- Fill up on food from the breakfast buffet, food in the parks is expensive and you'll need the energy as we walked over 20,000 steps a day.
- The Avengers roller coaster was a favourite, and it often has short queues.
- Get the Disneyland Paris app - you can see which rides have short queues.
- Take a power bank so your phone doesn't run out of charge.
- Pre-plan your days and pack lots of extra food; the queues for McDonalds were really long.

Throughout the visit our students demonstrated and improved so many additional skills: navigating their way round the Disney parks,



being in the right place at the right time, managing their money, agreeing with their friends how to spend their time in the parks, and looking after one another. We were so incredibly proud of our students throughout the trip.

We loved this quote from Scarlet: "I already have nostalgia for it, and I miss it soooooo much. I would do anything to go back."

Mrs Rojek
Head of Science



Dates for your diary

- Thursday 21st May GCSE Art Exhibition
- Monday 25 - Friday 29th May Half Term
- Thursday 4th June Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Monday 8th - Friday 12th June Year 10 Work Experience





Inspiring students' futures during National Careers Week 2026

Our annual Careers Fair was a fantastic way to bring our celebrations for National Careers Week 2026 to a close. Held at the end of a busy week of career-focused activities, the event brought together an impressive 52 organisations, giving students a valuable opportunity to explore the wide range of pathways open to them in the future.

Throughout the day, students from Year 7 through to Year 13 attended the Careers Fair in timetabled slots, ensuring that every student had the chance to meet with both employers and education and training providers. The organisations represented a broad range of sectors including energy, law, accountancy, insurance, engineering, health and social care, heritage, and public sector organisations, alongside several local universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers.

The event created a vibrant atmosphere as students moved between stands, asking questions and learning more about careers, qualifications and the many routes

available after school. Many students commented afterwards that they would have loved even more time at the Careers Fair, as there were so many interesting conversations and opportunities to explore.

Employers were equally positive about the experience. Several organisations commented on how polite, respectful and well-mannered our students were, and how impressed they were with the thoughtful and insightful questions students asked. It was wonderful to see students of all ages engaging confidently with professionals and beginning to think seriously about their future ambitions.

A highlight of the day was the number of interactive activities and competitions provided by the organisations. These 'have a go' opportunities allowed students to take part in practical challenges and hands-on demonstrations, helping them to better understand the skills involved in different careers. From problem-solving activities to industry-specific challenges, students were able

to learn in an engaging and memorable way.

The Careers Fair also provided an important opportunity for students to start building connections with local organisations and to gain a clearer picture of the opportunities available within our region. Experiences like this play a key role in helping students explore their interests, develop aspirations, and begin planning the pathways that might lead them to future careers. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all 52 organisations who generously gave their time to attend and support our students. Their enthusiasm, advice and encouragement made the event such a success. Partnerships like these are incredibly valuable and help us provide meaningful opportunities that inspire our students as they consider their future.

The Careers Fair was a wonderful way to end our National Careers Week celebrations, and we look forward to continuing to build on these connections and opportunities in the future.

The Year 10 German exchange continues to thrive!

The Year 10 German exchange continues to thrive at Northgate High School. This well-established trip offers students the chance to spend a week in Germany with host families before returning the hospitality for the return visit later in the school year. This cultural experience between Northgate and the Aldegrevier Gymnasium in Soest is a partnership we very much value in the German department. This year's group of students, accompanied by Miss MacEachern and Mr. Cobbold, flew out to Germany at the end of November for the first leg of the 2025/26 exchange before the return leg in March.

Each year we have a planned programme of activities and on the first day we visited Münster, a city similar to Cambridge, where our students and their partners took part in a 'Stadtspiel', a town trail where they had a couple of hours find the answers to numerous questions about the town's history, architecture and main tourist sites, and this was then followed by some time exploring the Christmas markets.

The following day was spent attending a wide range of lessons in the German school with their



partners which gave our students the opportunity to compare their own school to the German system. Later in the day we were formally welcomed to Soest by the deputy mayor, Mrs Mackensen. Mrs Mackensen has been welcoming Northgate students to Soest for the past 16 years and this year our visit coincided with her retirement from office so it will be all change next year!

Later in the week we visited the Signal Iduna Park; home of Borussia Dortmund, where we had a tour of the whole stadium by a guide who was clearly a passionate Dortmund

fan. Students were able to visit the players' changing rooms, walk through the tunnel to the pitch, sit pitch-side and stand on the famous Südtribüne – Europe's largest standing-area grandstand, holding up to 25,000 fans.

On the Friday we visited the city of Cologne, where students had time to visit the impressive cathedral before having a guided tour of the Farina Haus Museum – the birthplace of the original Eau de Cologne. Students' noses were put to the test trying to identify various scents used in perfume-making.

It was then time for students to



spend time with their host families for the weekend before the trip drew to a close. After a week of history, culture and Christmas markets the trip came to an end and it was time for the students and their exchange partners to say goodbye to each other for a few months.

The return leg took place at the start of March and in a similar format, our students visited London with their partners before the German students visited Cambridge and had a second visit to London where they took the boat from Greenwich into central London. The German students also attended lessons at Northgate with their partners.

We look forward to maintaining this cultural experience for many more years to come!

