

Northgate Review

December 2025



The academic year in the library has been off to a great start. Year 7 and 8 English classes have been coming down to take part in the Accelerated Reader program and are working towards their personal targets and participating in a form-based competition. At lunch times, students have been spending time in the library, exchanging books, completing quizzes and homework. In early December, with the help of some keen KS3 students, the

Christmas tree was put up and decorated.

Recently, we were visited by representatives from the organisations we supported during this summer's Century Read event. The event runs every year and invites 100 students from across years 7, 8 and 9 to read for the entire day to raise money for charity. This year was no exception, with 109 students raising almost £2,000 for the event. During the visit, cheques were presented to both organisations (Northgate's PTA and The Al-Tazid Foundation) by two Year 9 students who raised the most sponsorship money between them - a staggering £443!

In the new year, the library will be hosting a Book Mastermind competition for students to answer questions and to test their book knowledge for a chance to win the Mastermind Champion title. In the Spring term, a small group of students will be reading books in the Carnegie Book Award short list and



voting for a Northgate favourite. Following on from that, the Book Fair will be visiting the library once again, following on from the huge success of last year. Students will be able to browse new book titles and purchase them. All in all, there are many exciting opportunities and events that are right around the corner for the school library.





German department trip to Koblenz

We had an amazing time on the German trip and would totally recommend it. We did lots of fun activities and saw so many cool places!

The hotel had delicious food and there was something for everyone to enjoy. We got to try Bratwurst and other German foods, and we also got snacks at the Aldi next door.

Thursday:- In the morning we went to Cochem Castle and the views and scenery of the valley were so beautiful. Although we visited the town afterwards, we wish we could have seen all of the views up close. In the afternoon, the wave pool had tons of water slides and floaties that were super fun to go down, and the bowling alley was awesome to do with friends.



Friday:- One of the best activities we did was spending the day at Phantasialand (a theme park). We went on the rollercoaster five times and our friends went on a bunch of other awesome rides.
Saturday:- The

town of Trier was very interesting, and we learnt it is one the oldest towns in Germany (amongst other great facts!). On the walking tour we learnt about the tripping stones – stones that told us about families in the war. Afterwards we went shopping and bought cute souvenirs.

Sunday:- We went to Rüdesheim. There were so many vineyards with miles of grapes. During the chairlift ride we got to be suspended over them.

We were worried about having to speak German all the time, but teachers and locals were always willing to help out. "If I could go again, I'd go in a heartbeat" said Chloe, another student on the trip.

By Eliza and Indira, Year 9



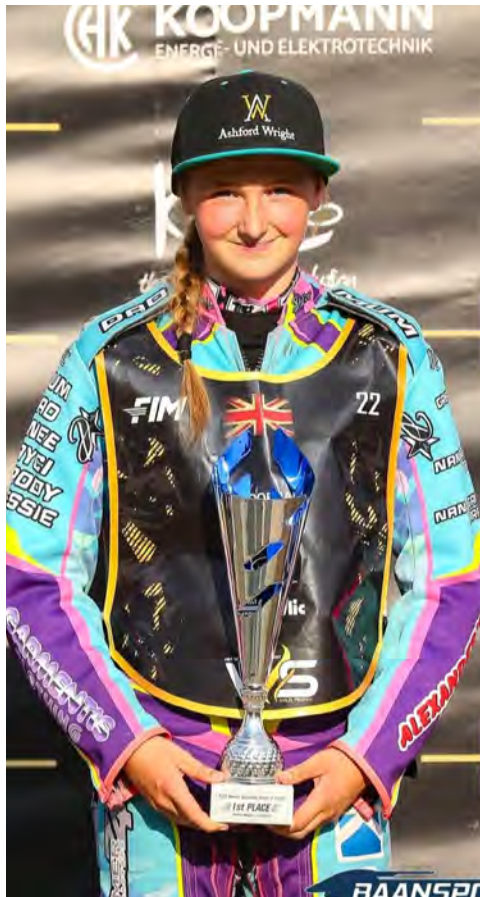


Demi-Blu, Year 10 is FIM Womens Speedway Of Croatia Champion.
Photos: BAANSPORT FANSITE.NL

My name is Demi-Blu, I am 14 years old, I have a passion for speedway and from a young age I wanted to be a speedway rider. At the age of seven my parents took me to Foxhall Stadium to watch the Ipswich Witches race. I enjoyed the sport so much my parents enrolled me in a local cycle speedway club. I went on to compete and came away with Suffolk, South East and British titles. In February 2024 my parents surprised me with a 150cc speedway bike. My dad then took me to Scunthorpe mini-track to try it out. I then had my first amateur race meeting and got four race wins meaning I came 1st overall. My dad and I travelled up and down the country for practice days and more amateur meetings. In September 2024 I moved up to a 250cc bike. I continued to attend practice days and



also entered into the British Youth Championship in the 2025 season. During racing and practice days my dad would record my progress and I would upload pictures and videos on social media. In November 2024, I was then contacted by FIM Women's asking if I would be interested in attending the FIM Women's Speedway Academy in Croatia as she had seen my videos and thought I would benefit from the experience. She later informed us that they were



going to put on a competition for under 16 riders on 250cc bikes called the Youth Women's Speedway Trophy of Croatia. After speaking with my parents the lady assisted with the organisation and planning for me to go abroad. We set up a GoFundMe page and my dad prepared to drive to Croatia so I could take up this opportunity. We set off on July 6th 2025 and stopped in Frankfurt, Germany and Austria. It took two and a half days to arrive at our hotel near Stadium Millenium where the FIM Women's Speedway Academy and FIM Women's Speedway Trophy of Croatia was taking place. We then had a two day training camp with a world champion, Greg Hancock. After the two days it was then race day. My dad and I had no expectations as the other girls had been riding since they were six or seven. I had my first race and came 1st! I then had three other races and came 1st in all of them meaning I was crowned Fim Womens Speedway Of Croatia Champion!

By Demi-Blu, Year 10



Back stage at 'Into the Woods' rehearsals

The school show is fast approaching and the cast are already hard at work learning the songs and script for Into The Woods. There are students from across all year groups starring in the show featuring fairy-tale characters such as Cinderella, Little Red-Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk but also featuring perhaps less well known characters such as the Mysterious Man, Trees, Birds, Milky-White the Cow and the Witch. Act One has been completely staged and we have even completed a run-through so we are now on to staging Act Two. Soon, the tickets will go on sale at DanceEast. Make sure you save the dates – 10th-13th February 2026. Will you be coming Into The Woods with us?!



Northgate Dance Show triumphs to a sold-out audience

The Northgate Dance Show lit up the stage at the end of October as eighty talented students performed an impressive range of dance styles to a packed, sold-out audience. From contemporary and jazz to commercial, ballet, and bangra, the evening celebrated both creativity and hard work, showcasing the incredible breadth of talent within the school.

For many students, performing in a professional theatre at DanceEast was a thrilling and memorable experience. In the morning they worked with the technical crew during rehearsals where lighting states were cued and sound checks made. In the afternoon they completed a dress rehearsal and photo shoot in preparation for the evening performance. Taking to the

stage under bright lights and before an enthusiastic crowd boosted their confidence and gave them a taste of life in the performing arts. Their energy, commitment, and passion were clear in every piece of choreography.

The Dance Department watched proudly from the wings, delighted to see the exam students excel with their performance skills honed over the duration of their courses and were equally proud of the KS3 students who dedicate time every week to dance club. It was a joy to watch every individual shine. The performance was not only a celebration of skill but also of teamwork, resilience, and the joy of dance. The success of the Northgate Dance Show has left everyone eagerly anticipating next year's production!





PhysiXfactor winners

Our judges decided that the winning entries were:

Year 7

- 1st Marika (overall winner)
- 2nd Freyja
- 3rd Yuhas & Nareeman

Year 8

- 1st Sophia & Kitty
- 2nd Izabela
- 3rd Finn

Year 7 and 8 students demonstrate that they have the “PhysiXfactor”

In the Summer Term, our then Year 7 and Year 8 students had a very high level of participation in our annual “PhysiXfactor” competition. The brief – to make an interactive model and poster

to explain a Physics – concept was brilliantly tackled by over half of each of Year 7 & Year 8.

We had a re-creation of a Victorian electroscope, models explaining air resistance and

streamlining, tower cranes, cantilevers and suspension bridges, and a whole range of other tricky concepts that were demonstrated enthusiastically and entertainingly.

Success at the Year 9 Physics Olympiad

Our Year 9 teams in the Suffolk Physics Olympiad in July, held at Ormiston Endeavour Academy, did really well – one team got Gold in the “Wind Turbine Challenge” and the other two teams achieved Bronze medals in the “Tower Construction” and “Gravity Drop” challenges, so rather neatly all 12 students received a medal of one kind or another.

The three teams were:

- Macey, Emma, Raphael & Elliot
- Imani, Jude, Hazel & Callum
- Hannah, Sherin, Arnav & Spike



An inspiring day in London for our A Level Physics students

Year 12 and 13 Physics students travelled to London for an A Level Physics conference where they heard a range of eminent speakers, including Professor Jim Al-Khalili talking about Quantum Physics (pictured right), Professor Helen Czerski on the Physics of our Oceans and Professor Trevor Cox on the Physics of Acoustics, with fascinating insights into some unusual spaces with strange acoustic properties.

An inspiring day was had by all, and we even heard about some new findings (only published a couple of weeks ago) from the James Webb Space Telescope which radically changed our understanding of how galaxies formed in the early universe.



Young Musician of the Year 2025



What a fantastic evening was had by all at the Young Musician of the Year 2025!

Musicians from Years 7-13 performed in front of a packed out audience and three judges. The audience were treated to a range of music from a phenomenal Led Zeppelin guitar solo to beautifully delivered piano pieces by Scarlatti and Debussy. Singers gave us delights from musicals such as, Annie, Six and My Fair Lady, and

there was some fantastic string performances of Habanera from Carmen and The Swan from Carnival of the Animals. Woodwind and Brass instruments were also featured – we heard talented flute, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet and cornet pieces too! The 30 strong choir also gave the audience a lovely rendition of Wait For Me from HadesTown and Big Yellow Taxi.

We are so proud of all of our students. Well done Northgate!



The winners

Grades 1 – 3

- Runners up – Camryn (Year 7)
- Winner – Sophia (Year 9)

Grades 4 – 6

- Runners up – Katy (Year 11)
- Winner – Hannah (Year 10)

Grades 7 – 8

- Runners up – Jemima (Year 12)
- Winner – Emily (Year 11)

Junior Musician of the Year

Matilda (Year 8)

Senior Musician of the Year

Emily (Year 11)

The Audience winners

Grades 1 – 3

Sophia (Year 9)

Grades 4 – 6

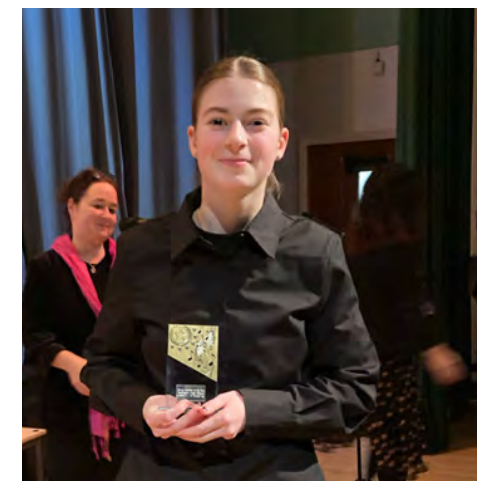
David (Year 12)

Grades 7 – 8

Phoebe (Year 13)

Junior Musician of the Year

Evan (Year 9)





Northgate swimmers make a splash at every level

The Northgate Swimming Team continues to succeed, with over 20 dedicated swimmers now representing the school. Each member trains between 10 and 16 hours per week and competes with Team Ipswich, demonstrating exceptional commitment both in and out of the pool.

Northgate swimmers compete at county, regional and national levels, regularly taking part in fixtures against other schools across Suffolk. Their recent regional success was particularly impressive, with both the mixed intermediate



and senior teams securing medals in every event they entered. Following this achievement, both teams qualified for the National Finals, which took place on

15th November at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre in Birmingham.

In further news, huge congratulations to both our Under 14 and Over 14 teams who competed in the Suffolk Schools Swimming Finals! Our Under 14s put in a fantastic performance and secured a strong 4th place, while our Over 14s delivered an incredible result, taking 1st place!

We're so proud of the hard work, determination, and team spirit shown by everyone in the pool.

Well done, Team Northgate!

Anna Airy Award 2025 winner

Congratulations to Northgate art student Daniel for winning the prestigious Anna Airy Award 2025. The Ipswich Art Society organised the exhibition and hosted it at the UCS Waterfront Gallery overlooking Neptune Quay. The long-established exhibition is renowned for showcasing the talents of young artists aged 16-20 from around the county. Indeed, all the submitted Northgate entries were short-listed from a huge entry of student work from the Ipswich area and beyond.

This year's exhibition highlighted

“ Daniel's work demonstrates an artistic voice far beyond his years

the exceptional calibre of emerging young artists, and the winning entry stands out as a remarkable testament to both technical skill and creative maturity. Daniel's work demonstrates an artistic voice far beyond his years, producing a piece that is not only visually compelling but also environmentally resonant.

The judges praised the student's ability to push boundaries while maintaining clarity and coherence in their artistic vision. Whether through subtle detail or bold thematic choices, the work conveys



a clarity of purpose that speaks to rigorous practice and an instinctive grasp of visual storytelling.

Darren Beattie, Head of Art & Design, congratulated all other art and photography Northgate students who contributed to the

exhibition and notably, Charlotte, a former Year 13 student whose work was awarded a commendation certificate. All the work looked stunning within the space and was admired by fellow students, family, teachers and artists of all ages.

Dates for your diary

Friday 19th December 2025	End of Term
Monday 5th January 2026	Staff Professional Development Day
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Spring Term starts
Thursday 8th January 2026	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday 12th - Friday 16th January 2026	Year 12 Assessment Week
Monday 12th January 2026	GCSE Music Concert
Wednesday 14th January 2026	Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening
Friday 30th January 2026	Closing Date for Sixth Form Applications
Thursday 5th February 2026	Year 9 Parents' Evening

Year 11 Taster Event

Thursday 15th January 2026, 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: <https://forms.office.com/e/xANeF7pfbD>, or scan the QR code to book a space, by Friday 9th January 2026.

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

We look forward to seeing you there!

