



Gaining skills for the future

From Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June 2025, Year 10 students at Northgate High School took a break from the classroom to immerse themselves in the world of work for our annual Work Experience Week. This initiative offers students the opportunity to explore career options, build professional skills, and gain a first-hand understanding of what working life is really like.

Over the course of the week, students stepped into a wide range of roles, from assisting in primary schools and shadowing engineers and construction workers, to supporting retail staff and observing healthcare professionals. Whether helping customers on the shop floor, working behind the scenes in an office, or contributing in creative





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industries, every student had a unique and valuable experience.

For many, this was their first time in a professional setting. Students quickly settled and learned the importance of punctuality, communication, teamwork, and taking the initiative. Several employers praised the Year 10s for their enthusiasm, maturity and willingness to learn, with some even offering to support future placements, or part-time employment and apprenticeships.

Staff at Northgate High School are proud of all of our Year 10 students' achievements and the positive feedback received from employers. Work Experience week not only enhances students' understanding of different industries but also helps them develop the confidence and soft skills needed for future education and employment.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the employers, parents, and staff who supported our Year 10 students throughout the week. Opportunities like these are made possible by your involvement and encouragement.

As our students returned to school, many were feeling more focused and motivated about their futures – a clear sign that our Work Experience Week continues to be one of the most impactful parts of the Year 10 journey.



Year 10 Student Reflections:

"I was wondering what jobs there were in the sports industry and I found out that there are many to choose from. The experience really developed my teamwork and communication skills and my confidence."

– Damari

"I enjoyed learning about the technical side of solar panels and the IT design software. I also really enjoyed learning about what everyone does in the company."

– Joseph

"Learning and exploring the different areas of integrated therapies allowed me to explore

the different areas of medicine which was really interesting. All the staff were really nice."

– Amelia

"I enjoyed doing one-to-one work with some of the students as it made me feel like an actual teacher. It has confirmed that I want to be a teacher as I enjoyed all the classroom work and working with the younger students."

– Daniel

"I want to go into hair and beauty when I'm older and work experience gave me the opportunity to see how a salon runs, meet new people and experience the industry."

– Melody



Above left, students with their Junior Maths Challenge certificates, above right, students with their Intermediate Maths Challenge certificates.

A superb achievement

Each year the UK Mathematics Trust runs a series of national competitions known as the Maths Challenges.

The Junior Challenge is for Years 7 and 8 and the Intermediate Challenge is for Years 9, 10 and 11. Depending on their score, students can achieve bronze, silver, or gold awards. The students pictured here with their certificates all achieved the gold award. Nationally, only around 8% of

students reached this level, so this is a fantastic achievement!

In addition, six of our students made it through to the next round of the competition, known as the 'Kangaroo'.

Also, a special mention for Evan in year 8, pictured right, who scored full marks on his Junior Challenge paper – a feat only ever managed once before at Northgate!

Congratulations to all on a superb achievement.



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 22nd July 2025	End of Term
Thursday 14th August 2025	A Level Results Day
Thursday 21st August 2025.....	GCSE Results Day
Wednesday 3rd September 2025.....	Autumn Term Starts – Years 7 & 12
Thursday 4th September 2025.....	Autumn Term Starts – Years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13
Wednesday 17th September 2025.....	Year 11 Pathways & Study Advice Evening
Thursday 18th September 2025	Year 12 Parent-Tutor Evening
Wednesday 24th September 2025.....	Year 10 Information Evening
Wednesday 8th October 2025	Open Evening
Thursday 16th October.....	Year 7 Parent-Tutor Evening

A leader in diversity and inclusion

Anti-Racism

Northgate High School and Sixth Form is currently undergoing the two-year process to become an Anti-Racist School in partnership with Leeds Beckett University. The Anti-Racist School Award is a process which helps schools to evaluate current practices and initiatives. It enables evaluation of the overall anti-racism support and strategies that exist within our school, whilst also helping to give structure to the development plan for any improvements we should make.

We are committed to upholding anti-racist practices and inspiring our students to do the same. We appreciate the support we have already received from the programme and we are looking forward to involving parents/carers, students and the wider community in the process as we learn more and move forward.

Youth Social Action

Northgate has signed the Power of Youth Charter in partnership with Volunteering Matters and the #iwillmovement. As part of this, we have committed to encouraging our students to get involved in social action projects and community youth events, giving young people a chance to have their say on local, regional and national issues.

Ipswich Hope Hack

Some of our Year 10 and Year 12 students were lucky enough to have the opportunity to share their views about a range of issues affecting their local community at the Ipswich Hope Hack event at Ipswich Town Football Club. They took part in workshops, heard from community leaders and guest speakers, whilst also meeting other young people who are passionate about social action. We were incredibly proud of how well our students represented Northgate, speaking out about issues important to them. Thank you



to Volunteering Matters, ITFC and the #iwillmovement.

Year 12 students were later involved in an exclusive event with Volunteering Matters at The Hold. The focus was on welcoming new migrants through the lens of arts, culture and heritage. The students were involved in four different activities such as; debate room, interactive map, escape room and a session on civil society, inspiring students to continue their involvement in the #iwillmovement and Volunteering Matters.

Community Day

Northgate has recently hosted its annual 'Great Get Together' Community Day.

The day was an opportunity for all Year 7 students to learn about,

remember, and continue the legacy of Jo Cox MP and her belief that 'We have more in common than that which divides us', coinciding with national events.

Our Year 9 Dora Love students worked hard with members of staff and the local community to organise a fantastic programme of events for all Year 7 students. Their aim was to inspire younger students to follow their lead in becoming Agents of Change and building a better future. Students had the opportunity to attend a range of workshops such as;

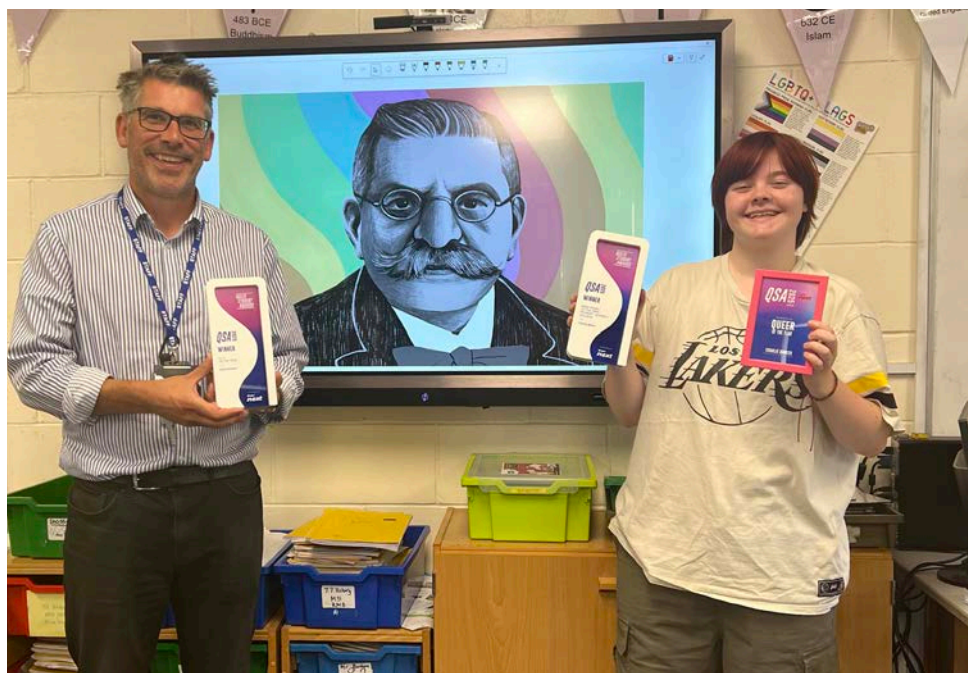
- Understanding the Holocaust
- Understanding Islam
- Understanding LGBTQ and Roma History
- Understanding the need for safe spaces for women in Ipswich
- Understanding Neurodiversity, Sight and hearing impairment.

In the afternoon, students attended a community street fair where they visited a range of stalls from community organisations.

Finally, Northgate continued to celebrate the Sally Samson Community Award, in tribute to the fantastic work and legacy Sally Samson has achieved.

Rise Up, Wise Up Mentoring Programme

Across the academic year, some



Northgate students in Year 9 and 10 have participated in a brilliant new mentoring programme called 'Rise Up, Wise Up' led by Franstine Jones (BEM) of Aspire Black Suffolk. The programme supports young men from African, Caribbean and dual heritage backgrounds. The students have thoroughly enjoyed the weekly sessions which have included one-one and group mentoring, leadership skills development, building resilience and developing self-confidence. Franstine has also brought in many positive role models to share their experiences with the students. In March, the students were invited to join Franstine at the Race, Education and Social Media event at the Houses of Parliament Committee Rooms. This event was



hosted by Ms Dawn Butler MP. The students found this really interesting and would like to thank Mr Jenner for accompanying them on the trip and Franstine for leading this programme and being a fantastic mentor.

SparX Project

This year, Northgate students have participated in a fantastic new empowerment project for young people called SparX, led by Karen Walker. The project aims to empower students by fostering confidence, resilience, and supportive networks. Weekly sessions have focused on friendship building, self-identity, resilience and decision-making. This project has supported girls of African, Caribbean and dual heritage



backgrounds in Year 8 and 9. Participants shared their learning by presenting at the Suffolk DEI Network's Schools Showcase which took place at The Hold in November. The students were praised by other schools and community leaders for the way they inspired younger students with their presentation. In April, students received their certificates for completing all of the modules in the programme. We are immensely proud of them. Thank you to Karen Walker for being a superb mentor and inspirational role model to our students.

LGBT+ Inclusion

In February, Northgate's Pride club won 'Best LGBT+ Pupil Group' at the National Education Union's LGBT+ Conference in Birmingham. Mrs Bothwell-O'Hearn accepted the award on behalf of the school, which was voted on by over 300 educators. We are really proud of the students.

Queer Student Awards 2025

We are really excited to announce that Mr Banham has won the Queer Student Awards 'Ally of the Year'. This award recognises the active allyship and inclusion demonstrated by someone in education. We are also delighted to announce that Charlie in Year 11 has also won 'Student Role Model of the Year'.

Congratulations to Mr Banham and Charlie.



The winners of the annual Henry Curtis-Williams Award.

Building upon the high standards set

Once again, the Art & Photography Department were proud to host this year's GCSE and A Level exhibition. Congratulations must go to all 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 printing, photography and installation. A variety of beautiful sketchbooks were also on show to document the creative journey and to give some insight into the hidden thinking behind the ambitious outcomes.

Students responded very creatively to their self-directed themes this year, reflecting on and developing their own practice in innovative and skillful ways.

Family and friends were invited to the Open Exhibitions in May and June which celebrated the culmination of two year's work. For A level, the annual Henry Curtis-Williams Award was given to Daniel for Art, Molly for Photography and Lotte for Diligence. The well-attended event was a huge success and a fantastic finale to showcase the Year 11's and Year 13's talent.







From sunshine to storms

Over the last term, 86 students have been preparing for and completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expeditions – and all lived to tell the tale!

It all began with the practice weekend at Alton Water, where students learned the basics of map reading, using a compass, and the very real difference between a footpath and a field full of confused cows. Let us just say it became clear early on that “finding north” was not as easy as it sounds.

Next came the two qualifying weekends. This time, students were entirely self-sufficient – planning their routes, organising their meals, carrying everything on their backs and camping overnight. Tents were pitched (eventually), stoves were lit and pasta was eaten by the kilo (we may have caused a local shortage).

Both qualifying weekends came with their own unique challenges. The first group faced warm weather and blazing sunshine – a blessing for dry tents, but not for tired legs hauling heavy rucksacks packed with food, sleeping gear and enough water to stay hydrated.

The second weekend brought quite the opposite: thunder and relentless downpours that turned paths into puddles and maps into papier-mâché. And yet, through it all, students remained positive – laughing through the storms, wringing out their socks and proving



that resilience really does come in all weather conditions.

Wake-up calls came courtesy of the sunrise – not an alarm clock in sight – with the first groups packed up and out of camp by 8am. Not bad, considering the struggle of stuffing a sleeping bag into a sack that clearly shrank overnight.

The route took students from Grundisburgh to Wickham Market and back, walking a minimum of six hours a day. Along the way, they faced overgrown footpaths, unexpected detours, achy legs, and the endless mystery of whether they were heading in the right direction. (Hint: if you're back at the start by lunchtime... probably not.)

Despite the sore feet, sore shoulders and a few navigational mishaps, what stood out most was the teamwork. Students supported each other through injuries, shared food and kept going when it would have been easier to just lie down



and become part of the scenery.

A massive thank you goes out to the wonderful team of staff volunteers who gave up their weekends to supervise, encourage and occasionally redirect students who were enthusiastically heading in the wrong direction.

So, well done to all involved – you have earned your badges, your blisters and a very long nap. Now, it is time to focus on the final stages: completing the volunteering, physical and skills sections to fully earn your Bronze Awards. Keep going – you are almost there!