



A fantastically wacky story

It is difficult to believe that this year's school show is now over after the months of amazing work from both students and staff in the lead up to the production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*! Students from Years 7-13 took to the stage, playing a variety of roles from Oompa-Loompas to squirrels and Bavarian folk to gum chompin' divas! What fantastic performances from all of the students who danced, sang and acted their hearts out at Dance East from 4-7 March 2025. Audiences were taken on a fantastically wacky story; adapted from the book by Roald Dahl. Wonka was played by our very fabulous Alex in Year 13 and he led the show with star quality both on stage and in rehearsals.

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Charlie was played by Quincy in Year 8 whose angelic voice and excellent acting brought the well-known golden-ticket winner Charlie Bucket to life. Quincy was

supported by one of our wonderful Year 13 students, Matt as the hilarious Grandpa Joe. Matt along with Isabelle and Ysabel both in Year 12 and Alex and Freddie in



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Year 10 brought such comedic timing and energy to their roles as the elderly grandparents along with some excellent vocals. With the exception of Matt as Grandpa Joe, the grandparents didn't feature in Act 2 so instead, these four multi-rolled as the rather quirky Oompa-Loompas in Act 2!

Alfred (Year 7), Josh (Year 11) as Augustus Gloop, Evie (Year 8) as Veruca Salt, Matilda (Year 7) as Violet Beauregarde and Finlay (Year 8) as Mike Teavee were all brilliant at acting out the roles of the very selfish, bratty, spoilt, greedy and inconsiderate golden-ticket winners, rivals to Charlie in winning the years supply of chocolate. It is hard to believe that nearly all of these students are from years 7 and 8 – how lucky are we to have such talented young students here at Northgate. Maybe it is not that hard to believe when they have such amazing role models in the upper years such as Jemima (Year 11) as Mrs Gloop, Sam (Year 13) as Mr Salt, Poppy (Year 12) as Mrs



Beauregarde, Ilinca (Year 11) as Mrs Teavee and Abigail (Year 11) as Mrs Bucket. Mention must also be given to the funny, over the top roles of Mrs Green played by Jessica (Year 12), Cherry by Anna (Year 12) and Macey (Year 9) and Jerry by Daniel and Bobby, (both Year 10). Well done to all of you who played roles in the show.

You were brilliant and we are so proud of you all.

We must mention the amazing work from our technical



backstage team who worked on props, set, lighting, sound and make-up design for months leading up to the show, meeting once a week to make plans and to start production work. In particular, thanks to the team leaders, who are all in Year 13 and leaving us after they finish their

A Levels this year. To Isobel, Naomi, Emily, Pip, Rajvinder and Grace. Thank you for everything you did leading your teams on your area of technical



expertise. Once again, how lucky are we to have such a wonderful community of sixth form students and younger students who want to experience working backstage on a show. Thank you also to all the students who helped out front of house with selling programs and raffle tickets in aid of Living Grief, part of St Elizabeth Hospice.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was a such a fun and exciting production to bring to the stage. It wouldn't be possible without the work of so many staff members – thank you to all who contributed to the production and who helped chaperone backstage. In particular, praise to



Miss Patrick for the choreography, Miss Bishop for directing the scenes, Mrs Baxter for her work on the vocals with Alex and Quincy and to Mrs Rutter for all the work on the amazing costumes. Thank

you also to Mr Jenner, Mr Pike, Mrs Calvesbert-Rearden, Mr Hopkins, Mrs Magistri, Mr Brailsford and Mr O'Brien for all their work with the set, students and props. Northgate High School and Sixth Form is just a wonderful place to be and it is also wonderful to be able to work together with students and staff to put together such an amazing show each year!

In the words of Willy Wonka
'Who can take a sunrise? Sprinkle
it with dew? Who can take
tomorrow? Dip it in a dream?
Northgate can!'

Miss Tournay-Godfrey
Musical Director/Producer

Our annual German exchange reaches its 30th year!

For thirty years students studying German at Northgate High School have had the opportunity to take part in the annual German exchange, and back in November a number of Year 10 students, along with Miss MacEachern and Mr Cobbold, headed off to Soest to spend a week with a German host family.

The students and their host partners took part in a number of day trips together and the first full day of the exchange saw us all head off to the city of Cologne. Students and their exchange partners were able to visit the impressive gothic cathedral before heading to the Rautenstrauch-

Joest Museum where they had a guided tour and learned about different cultures around the world. The following day we all headed to Münster where our students and their partners took part in a competitive town trail where they needed to find the answers to numerous questions about the town's history, architecture and main tourist sites. They also had some free time to explore the festive Christmas markets in both cities.

Our students also spent a day attending lessons with their exchange partners and in a German exchange first, we were invited to a 'Richtfest' – a topping



out ceremony to symbolise the completion of the roof being added to their new school building, with free sausages at break-time!

Before the weekend, there was time for another excursion to Dortmund where students spent some time exploring before we headed to the Signal Iduna Park, better known to us as Borussia Dortmund's football stadium. Mr Cobbold prepared a factual tour of the stadium, and he was also able to share his own experiences of attending matches there. 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.
The students then spent the weekend with their host families before the trip came to an end, and after a week of history, culture and Christmas markets 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 beginning of March, and in a similar

format, our students visited London with their partners, before the German students visited Cambridge and returned 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!



Dates for your diary

Monday 27th - Friday 30th May 2025.....	Half Term
Thursday 5th June 2025.....	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 9th - Friday 13th June 2025	Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 19th June 2025.....	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 25th - Thursday 26th June 2025	New Year 7 Induction Days
Thursday 26th June 2025.....	New Year 7 Induction Parents' Evening

Inspiring Futures at Northgate

Careers events in schools play a crucial role in preparing students for the world beyond the classroom. At Northgate High School and Sixth Form, we are keen to give every student a variety of opportunities to help bridge the gap between education and employment. Throughout Years 7 to 13, we run a programme of careers events to inspire and inform our students by exposing them to a range of industries, professions and qualification pathways.

Exciting Opportunities Explored at our Annual Careers Fair

National Careers Week, at the beginning of March, saw Northgate proudly host our annual Careers Fair, a much anticipated event that brought together students, learning providers, employers and other professionals. Held in the sports hall, the event featured 50 exhibitors, including representatives from universities, apprenticeship providers, public services and a variety of industries such as healthcare, engineering, law, IT and the creative arts. Each stand offered valuable insights into the skills, qualifications and experiences



needed for success in a range of different jobs and careers.

Students from Years 7 to 13 had the opportunity to ask questions, collect brochures and engage in meaningful conversations with experts. Many students were particularly excited to try out the interactive displays and hands-on demonstrations that exhibitors offered, including hairdressing heads, industry quizzes, bandaging, historic artefact handling and tech games. Exhibitors praised our students for their enthusiasm and curiosity, commenting on the great questions that our students asked and the confidence with which they

approached thinking about their futures.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the exhibitors, and our staff and students, who helped to make the Careers Fair a success. We hope the event has sparked new ideas and ambitions for every student who attended.

Year 10 Students Gain Real-World Insights During Workplace Visits

As part of our ongoing commitment to careers education and the personal development of our students, students in Year 10 have had the opportunity to





take part in a series of workplace visits designed to give them first-hand experiences of the working environment. Students have had the opportunity to visit a variety of businesses and organisations, including The Royal Navy's HMS Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) Aircraft Carrier in Portsmouth, BT at Adastral Park, Westerfield House Residential Home, Barnes Construction, NatWest Bank and Birketts Solicitors.

During the visits, students were able to see how different departments function, learn more about the skills and qualifications needed in each industry, and gain a better understanding of workplace expectations such as time management, teamwork and communication. These workplace visits provided a valuable chance for students to explore different working environments, observe professionals in action, take part in interactive workshops and ask thoughtful questions about the world of work.

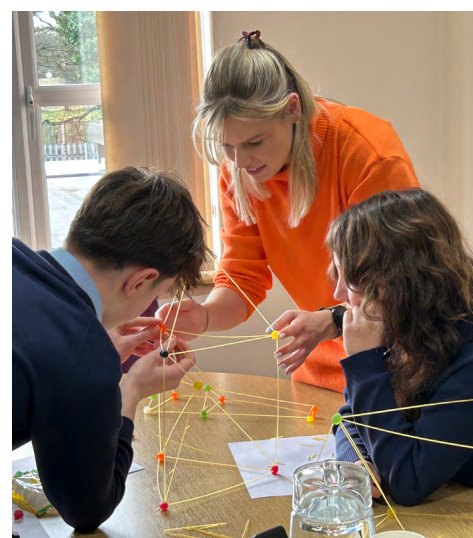
We would like to thank all the businesses and organisations who welcomed our students and supported their career exploration. Experiences like these are invaluable in helping students connect classroom learning to real-world opportunities and plan more confidently for their futures.

Year 11 Students Explore Their Next Steps with College Visits and Sixth Form Taster Sessions

As part of our Careers programme, our Year 11 students have had the opportunity to visit local colleges, sixth forms and other post-16 providers to help them explore their options for further education.

The visits and taster sessions included guided tours, presentations and interactive workshops at several institutions including Suffolk New College, MPCT Ipswich and Northgate Sixth Form. These local learning providers offer a wide variety of academic and vocational courses. From A Levels to apprenticeships and technical qualifications, students were given a clear overview of the pathways available to them after their GCSEs.

Visits and taster sessions to post-16 providers supported students in thinking about important decisions such as subject combinations, travel arrangements and the differences between school, and sixth form or college life. The hands-on experiences helped students better understand the content and structure of the courses they are considering in the future, and many students said the visits and taster sessions helped them feel more confident about their next steps. One Year 11 student commented,



"It made everything feel real. I can actually imagine myself at college, and now I know what I need to aim for."

We are so proud of how mature and engaged our Year 11 students have been in exploring their next steps and extend a big thank you to the post-16 providers who have welcomed our students for such positive experiences.

Our careers programme at Northgate is about inspiration and information. It is clear to see by the range of careers events offered to our students that careers learning at Northgate is highly valued; it is essential in helping students to envisage and plan their futures. By supporting our students to connect their learning in school with life beyond school, we are empowering them to pursue their further learning and career pathway with confidence.

Northgate Bike Club... New members welcome!

This year, a new bicycle maintenance club has started for students of all abilities to develop their mechanical skills, meeting once a week on a Wednesday afternoon in the technology workshop at 3:20pm. In setting up the club, we wanted to create an atmosphere where students can learn in a practical way, can problem solve and can take away essential skills as part of a well-rounded curriculum offer. At Northgate High School, we also take great pride in the large proportion of students who cycle to school each day, and we want to create an opportunity for them to become more adept at maintaining their own equipment.

Our club members started in November by learning the names of bicycle components and tools required to work on their bikes, before moving on quickly to puncture repair and inner tube replacement. This was then followed by training in brake adjustment, gear indexing and overall troubleshooting. At Northgate's bike

club, we have donated club bikes that students work on, providing a great opportunity for students to learn and make mistakes without affecting their safety.

December saw the arrival of our first restoration bike, a 1990s Dawes Galaxy which had seen better days; it arrived in a series of boxes of donated parts. Working under supervision, our trained Northgate student technicians reassembled our Galaxy, which for its speed and stunning red paintwork, was appropriately named the 'Red Baron'. By the middle of January, we had completed our first rebuild and gave it a thorough road test, proving how well our club members had worked together. As a Geography teacher, it was also very encouraging from a sustainability point of view, to see a bike that many would have taken to the tip restored into a functional machine that will easily last another twenty years.

We have already started on a full strip down and rebuild of a BMX which was in a very poor



condition having been left outside for several years; however, given a little time and some replacement components, we are confident that we can save another bike from the tip. Even when faced with a real puzzle to solve, it has been very rewarding to see our Bike Club members showing resilience, patience and problem-solving.

■ If you or your child is interested in joining the Northgate Bike Club, please see Mr. Coles in M45 for a consent letter or for more information.

