



Alexandra and Lorcan, right, pictured with their prestigious Anna Airy 2024 award-winning work



Prestigious award winners

Congratulations to former Northgate Sixth Form Art students Alexandra and Lorcan for winning the prestigious Anna Airy Award 2024. 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 collection of student

work from the Ipswich area and beyond.

Mr Beattie, Head of Art & Design, congratulated all other Art and Photography Northgate students who contributed to the exhibition and notably, Erin, 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. The Ipswich community attended the open exhibition.



Erin's commended work



A journey of endurance and growth

This year, 36 committed students from Northgate Sixth Form undertook the challenge of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expeditions, immersing themselves in an unforgettable experience that demanded endurance, collaboration, and self-reliance. Both the practice and qualifying expeditions spanned three days, with students hiking for over seven hours daily, often navigating longer stretches through rugged landscapes and unpredictable weather.

The Experience

Each day posed new challenges as students carried their gear – tents, cooking supplies, and provisions – making them entirely self-sufficient. Balancing the weight of their packs while preserving energy for extended walks through varying terrain tested their physical and mental limits. Despite the exhaustion and occasional setbacks from minor injuries and blisters, students demonstrated incredible resilience.

The expedition routes led students through diverse landscapes, from open farmland to dense footpaths and renowned nature reserves like Holkham and Minsmere. Navigating these routes required precision and



perseverance, as students relied on traditional map and compass skills. Alongside the physical demands, this experience helped them hone mental fortitude, pushing past fatigue to reach their goals.

Self-Sufficiency and Teamwork

Independence was at the heart of the expedition. Students pitched their own tents and cooked meals under the stars, many doing so for the first time. These moments encouraged problem-solving and resourcefulness, cultivating vital life skills. Beyond self-reliance, the group dynamic played an essential role in success. Team members frequently supported one another, whether by sharing the load or offering motivation during challenging stretches. This sense of camaraderie allowed students to build leadership skills and grow in



their ability to collaborate under pressure.

Overcoming Challenges

The weather, typical of the British countryside, ranged from clear skies to unexpected downpours, making certain days more arduous with muddy, overgrown footpaths and extended routes. Yet, these challenges only strengthened the group's determination. Each obstacle, from navigational detours to the ever-changing weather, brought the students closer together, enhancing their resilience.

For many, the most rewarding moment came at the journey's end – kicking off their boots, reconnecting with their phones, and basking in the sense of achievement that followed the completion of such a demanding but rewarding experience.

Backstage at Charlie and the Chocolate Factory rehearsals



School show rehearsals are well on the way for our production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory showing next March.

It is not quiet on the backstage front either! Under Mrs Jacobs' watchful eye, students are busy behind the scenes making

props, designing the lighting and even planning make-up for the Oompa-Loompas!

Tickets go on sale to the school community in January 2025. In the words of Wonka, make sure you 'Do Come In'.

Miss Tournay-Godfrey



Northgate has been recognised

In July 2024 Northgate High School achieved the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Award. We are delighted to announce that after going through a two day assessment, Northgate has been recognised as a 'Centre of Excellence' for the IQM Inclusive School Award. The IQM provides UK schools with a nationally recognised validation of their inclusive practice and ongoing commitment to developing educational inclusion.

IQM Award Assessor, Hazel Simmons said 'Northgate High School and Sixth Form Centre is an excellent example of inclusive practice in a secondary setting. Every student is valued and the school endeavours to celebrate their unique abilities, recognise every achievement and help them to move on to be responsible global citizens.'

Northgate is a cosmopolitan community. The school has made strenuous efforts to ensure it is a harmonious, integrated environment for all, which has included working very closely with external community groups, embracing other cultures into the school.'

We would like to thank our IQM Assessor Hazel Simmons for spending time with us during the two days. Hazel was fantastic to work with and learn from and we feel she captured the essence of what we are trying to achieve here at Northgate.

A massive thank you to all staff, students, parents/carers and community leaders who contributed to the assessment process. Your passion and enthusiasm for the school and our commitment to diversity and inclusion shone through. We are so proud to have your expertise, knowledge and support.

A big thank you to Mr Banham for leading this fantastic award and highlighting the wonderful work



Sixth Form students celebrating Cultural Week earlier this year

happening with regards to diversity and inclusion.

■ **To find out more about how we fulfilled the IQM criteria, please visit our website: www.northgate.suffolk.sch.uk/news-and-events/inclusion-quality-mark-award.**

Pride Picnic and Guest Speakers

In the summer, Northgate hosted its annual Pride event. Students got to hear from a range of LGBTQ+ guest speakers from the local community about their lived experiences and their careers.

Guest speakers included:

as a 'Centre of Excellence'



- Isiah Jordan and Eric Jackaman (both Northgate alumni) from LGBTQ+ charity Outreach Youth who spoke about what support was available locally.
- Angelle Joseph – BBC Radio Suffolk – who spoke about her career in the music industry



- and the importance of hearing youth voices.
- Esther Alcock – from Dance East – who spoke about the importance of LGBTQ+ artistic spaces.
- Becki Blackwood and Kate Lankester – Suffolk Pride – who told us all about the Suffolk Pride Fringe Festival and all the amazing

events going on in Suffolk for young people and families.

- A video message from Professor Rainer Schulze, who reminded us of the importance of never taking our rights for granted and not being a bystander.

After the guest talks, Northgate hosted its Pride picnic. All Northgate staff and students were welcome to join in. DJ Angelle Joseph played an uplifting Pride set for everyone and Outreach Youth and Suffolk Pride hosted information stalls. It was an amazing turnout, the biggest yet with so many staff coming to support students. Students and staff were also interviewed about the event by Cad Taylor for BBC Radio Suffolk which went out in multiple pieces over that weekend. Thank you to Mrs Campbell for all her efforts in organising the event and making sure everything ran smoothly!

Queer Student Awards 2024

We were thrilled that Northgate High School and Sixth Form were nominated and shortlisted as finalists in the Queer Student Awards 2024, a national award recognising LGBTQ+ inclusion in education.

In June, Headteacher Miss Mackie and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, Mrs Bothwell-O'Hearn attended the awards ceremony at Birmingham Town Hall. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet other educators and schools to share best practice around inclusion. We were so excited and proud to win a 'Highly Commended' award for Queer School of the Year 2024! The judges said: 'Northgate have not been afraid to stand their ground against hate... their impact extends beyond their school and into the community'.

We would like to thank all the individuals, parents/carers and community organisations who nominated us for this award.



Senior Maths Challenge success

Before half term, 61 brave Year 12 and 13 students from Northgate Sixth Form, took part in the Senior Maths Challenge.

Our students did excellently – achieving 22 Bronze, 22 Silver and 5 Gold awards (a success rate of over 80% compared to a national

average of 67%).

Our 5 gold award winners qualify for the next round. They are, from Year 12, Nathan (best in Year) and Ollie; and from Year 13, Evan and Daniel (joint best in school) and Joshua.

Congratulations to all and good luck in the next round!



Dates for your diary

Friday 20th December	End of Term
Monday 6th January	Staff Professional Development Day
Tuesday 7th January	Spring Term starts
Thursday 9th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday 13th - Friday 17th January	Year 12 Assessment Week
Tuesday 14th January	GCSE Music Concert
Wednesday 15th January	Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening
Thursday 6th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening

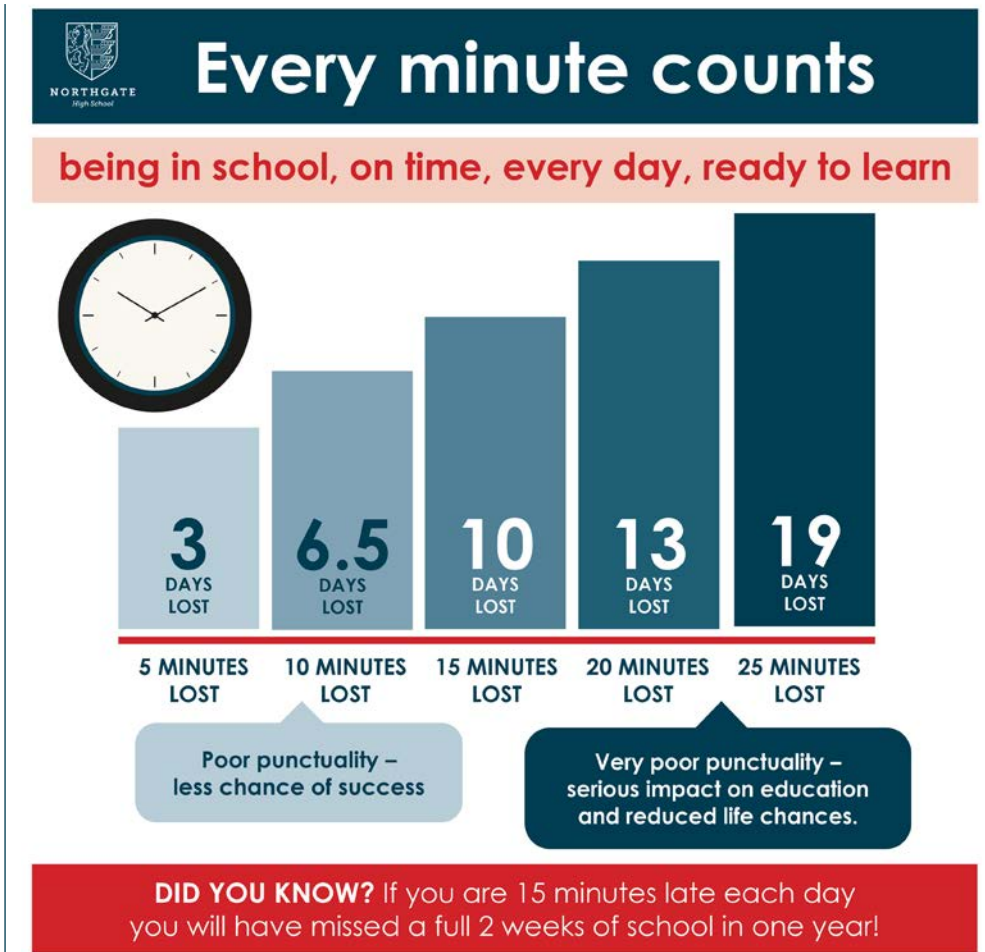
Every day really does matter

It would be a huge understatement to say that schools are just institutions of learning. When students come to school they have many important experiences which help them develop into well-rounded, resilient young people. Good attendance not only supports learning, it also helps the development of social skills and friendships, as well as preparing young people for the transition to adulthood. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

There is evidence that suggests regular school attendance is fundamental in supporting children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes. In addition to this schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which contributes to better mental health and wellbeing.

A day off here or there may not seem anything to be too concerned about, but it can soon add up and have a much bigger impact (as can be shown by the two illustrations).

Unfortunately, attendance figures still haven't matched



those recorded pre-Covid. The DfE is working alongside schools to try and resolve this issue. There has been a significant increase

in the number of students ('ghost children') missing more than 50% of their school year, and the impact of this on such young people is saddening and extremely difficult to rectify.

We are keen to work together with our parents/carers to make sure we are aiming for high attendance for all students. To do this it is crucial we work in partnership to establish high expectations, routines, rewards and sanctions.

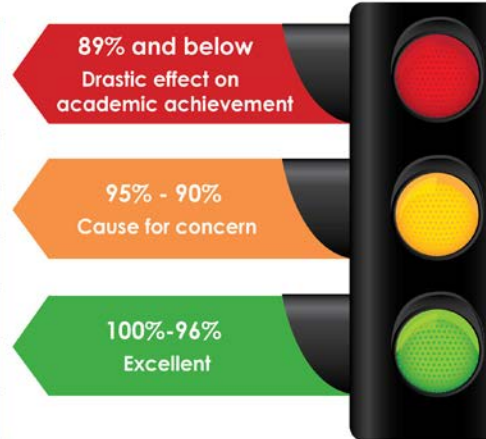
At Northgate High School every student's attendance is monitored, if a child does not appear in school, contact home will be made by our attendance team to establish the reason for absence. Please do contact the team if you are concerned about your child's attendance, or need further support. We are here to help you make a positive difference for your child.

Attendance why is it important?

Children are required by law to attend 190 school days per year. The Government states that every student's attendance should be at least 95%

How do YOU measure up?











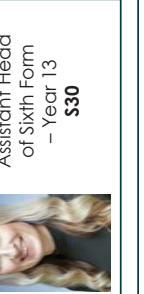

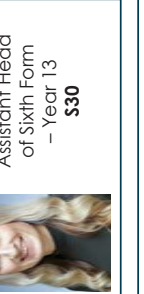
Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	36 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	76 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	116 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	152 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	192 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	228 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	268 Lessons





Pastoral Team 2024/2025



<h3>SLT</h3> <div data-bbox="339 1792 531 2094">  <p>Mr Tunaley Deputy Headteacher L13</p> </div> <div data-bbox="544 1792 735 2094">  <p>Mr Alexander Assistant Headteacher - Head of Sixth Form S50</p> </div> <div data-bbox="748 1792 940 2094">  <p>Mr Bluck Assistant Headteacher - Learning Support A34</p> </div>	<h3>Year 7</h3> <div data-bbox="387 974 523 1288">  <p>Mr Gaffney Head of Year 7 L01</p> </div> <div data-bbox="387 801 523 1048">  <p>Mrs Pilsworth Assistant Head of Year 7 Intervention Centre</p> </div>	<h3>Year 8</h3> <div data-bbox="387 629 523 712">  <p>Mr Graver Head of Year 8 L01</p> </div> <div data-bbox="387 224 523 465">  <p>Mrs Porter Assistant Head of Year 8 Intervention Centre</p> </div>	<h3>Year 9</h3> <div data-bbox="592 974 727 1288">  <p>Mr Baalham Head of Year 9 M01</p> </div> <div data-bbox="592 801 727 1048">  <p>Mr Hall Assistant Head of Year 9 Intervention Centre</p> </div>	<h3>Year 10</h3> <div data-bbox="592 629 727 712">  <p>Mr Peffitt Head of Year 10 M01</p> </div> <div data-bbox="592 224 727 465">  <p>Mrs Stone Assistant Head of Year 10 Intervention Centre</p> </div>	<h3>Year 11</h3> <div data-bbox="798 920 932 1003">  <p>Mr Songhurst Head of Year 11 C01</p> </div> <div data-bbox="798 680 932 763">  <p>Ms Ward-Ashton Assistant Head of Year 11 Intervention Centre</p> </div>	<h3>Learning Support</h3> <div data-bbox="1067 1792 1251 2094">  <p>Mrs Allsop SENDCo A34</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1264 1792 1463 2094">  <p>Mrs Baalham Assistant SENDCo A34</p> </div>	<h3>Safeguarding</h3> <div data-bbox="1067 1435 1251 1720">  <p>Mrs Harvey Safeguarding Manager L13</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1264 1435 1463 1720">  <p>Mrs Wright Safeguarding Practitioner L13</p> </div>	<h3>Intervention & Inclusion</h3> <div data-bbox="1067 981 1251 1288">  <p>Mr Forbes Intervention Centre Manager Intervention Centre</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1264 981 1463 1288">  <p>Mr Liddamore Inclusion Facilitator Intervention Centre</p> </div>	<h3>Sixth Form</h3> <div data-bbox="1067 1176 1251 1435">  <p>Mr Watson Assistant Head of Sixth Form - Year 12 (12/01 - 12/08) S30</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1067 548 1251 840">  <p>Mrs Pope Assistant Head of Sixth Form - Year 12 (12/09 - 12/11) S30</p> </div>	<h3>Intervention & Inclusion</h3> <div data-bbox="1340 981 1484 1288">  <p>Mr Liddamore Inclusion Facilitator Intervention Centre</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1340 548 1484 840">  <p>Miss Fowler Assistant Head of Sixth Form - Year 13 S30</p> </div>	<h3>Sixth Form</h3> <div data-bbox="1340 1176 1484 1435">  <p>Mrs Newbold Sixth Form Student Support Officer S30</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1340 548 1484 840">  <p>Mrs Newbold Sixth Form Student Support Officer S30</p> </div>
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