



# Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

October 2020

2020

Issue 29

## It's great to be back!

It's so good to welcome back all our staff and students after what seems like such a long time learning from home.

Whilst Year 10 and Year 12 students were able to attend school for their face to face sessions at the end of the summer term, it has been good to see everyone back in school.

Students have adapted well to the new ways of working at Northgate. These include year group bubbles, a one-way system and new timings for the school day. We have been impressed with the mature attitude our students have displayed on their return to school.



## Upcoming events

Due to the current situation and restrictions, event dates have not been included, however keep an eye out on the school website and social media for any updates.

## Virtual Tour of Northgate

In July our 360° virtual tour went live on social media and the school website. We are proud of the facilities we have on offer. The tour provided a perfect opportunity for our new Year 7 students to familiarise themselves with the school environment virtually before they joined us in September. It will also be beneficial for prospective students to take a look around.

You can navigate your way through the school halls, familiarise yourself with the layout of the school and even take a look inside the classrooms.

Follow the link [here](#).

Want to keep up to date with all the goings on at Northgate?

'Like' our Northgate High School Facebook page (@northgatedereham)



Follow us on Twitter:

@NGateDereham, @NgateCouncil



Follow us on Instagram:  
NgateDereham



## Merit Update

Students have made a fantastic start to the new school year, in terms of the number of merits awarded so far, **3819** merits already! Whilst students are currently not able to cash in their merits earned since September, there are plenty of rewards they can save up for in our new rewards catalogue. Take a look at what's on offer [here](#). All merits awarded contribute to the overall House competition.





## In the News

Here are some recent news items from the local press:

- [Dereham Times - Northgate High School hosts virtual tour](#)
- [Dereham Times - Northgate High School's 360° tour for new students](#)

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### Northgate Celebrates Lockdown Achievements

A huge amount was achieved by students and staff during lockdown and our Northgate News lockdown edition gave us the chance to celebrate this with our whole school community. Students had to quickly get used to a new way of working and adapted well to learning from home. Teachers provided lessons and resources to support learning, tutors made calls to their tutees and staff also completed courses online for their own professional development.



A jam packed 20 pages of the Northgate News included competition updates, department highlights, sporting news, individual celebrations, and staff news as well as updates from Dereham Sixth Form. Staff celebrated the work accomplished during lockdown and nominated students for special mention. Heads of Year praised the hard work during difficult circumstances and in particular those students who demonstrated the core values we have as a Northgate community – our 5 Rs: Respect, Readiness, Responsibility, Resilience and Resourcefulness. Click [here](#) to have another read and please share with friends and family.

### Year 7s make a positive start to life at Northgate

It's been almost 4 weeks since our new Year 7s started Northgate - how time flies! We have been impressed with how quickly they have settled into high school and embraced the Northgate way. Here's what they have to say about their time so far....

Jasmine (7Val), 'It's not that scary, and after the first few days I'm finding it really fun. The teachers are really helpful too!'

Felicity (7Mot), 'It was hard to find my way around the school to begin with but now I'm used to it and there are plenty of staff around to help if you get lost.'

Callum (7Asp), 'It was definitely the right choice for me, coming to Northgate. Everyone is so friendly and the teachers are really nice!'

Elliot (7Mot), 'Satchel One is where we are set our homework. It is easy to use from home, you can see what the homework is and when it is due. You can submit work online and it even sends you reminders.'

Sophie (7Ten), 'Starting high school is nothing to worry about, don't be afraid to ask questions in class or if you are stuck, everyone is really helpful. I have enjoyed meeting new people in my class.'

Oscar (7End), 'It's been great so far and I've made friends already. The lessons are interesting too. I was worried about finding my way round but it's been ok. I'm glad I came to Northgate.'

Wyn (7Int), 'At first there are lots of new faces, classmates and teachers, but now I've settled in quickly and I'm getting to know people. I've made new friends in my class too.'

Emma (7Mot), 'It was nerve wracking to begin with having to change classes every lesson but I soon got to know my way around the school. Now I'm less nervous and more excited!'

Livvy (7Asp), 'The first couple of weeks went really quickly, the hardest thing was finding my way around but now I know where I'm going. I'm really happy I chose Northgate.'



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## Welcome to new Northgate Staff

A big Northgate welcome to staff joining the school this year. Mrs Chalmers and Miss Petcher-Ellison join the Maths Department, Mr Fox joins Science, Miss Sanders joins English, Mr Dungar joins Drama, Ms Garland and Miss Peach join Art and Design and Mr Lennard joins Humanities.

Mr Davies and Mrs Mitchelle join as cover supervisors, Miss Loh as Art Technician, Mrs Boyle-White as Science Technician and Mrs Yarham joins as our new receptionist. Over the coming weeks we will be putting out profiles of our new members of staff on social media so we can find out a bit more about them.

The Northgate Way is a belief that every child deserves to be developed to their maximum potential in every area of school life. It centres around supporting the whole child and is built around having a growth mind-set and the 5 Rs. Students are reminded of the 5 Rs through discussions in PART lesson, assemblies and during lessons.

**RESPECT - READINESS - RESPONSIBILITY - RESILIENCE - REFLECTIVENESS**



## Recycling Updates



The School Council's recycling endeavours continue and although the School Council are currently not able to meet, they are still keen to promote the recycling schemes we have at Northgate. Every classroom has a pot in for used writing instruments. This Terracycle scheme started at Northgate back in October 2018 and since then, with the help of some of our feeder schools, we have sent away over **132Kg** of pens, felt tips and markers that otherwise would have gone to landfill. Students are encouraged to put their used pens from home or school in the classroom pots and think about the positive impact they can have.

The second scheme, recycling crisp packets, was launch in April 2019 and in that time over **157Kg** of crisp packets have been sent away to be recycled. Northgate has been supported by the local community, schools and businesses in this scheme. Through recycling these items, we have also raised over £400 for the School Council's chosen charity, Cancer Research UK. Whilst most students are unable to access the crisp collection boxes in the main hall at the moment, there are some boxes in classrooms where crisp packets can be deposited or they can be dropped off with Miss Theobald.

Again, we would encourage students, staff and families to do what they can to help our efforts – it's something very easy we can all contribute to. Thank you to everyone who has supported the schemes so far.

**ATTEND  
TODAY  
ACHIEVE  
TOMORROW**



## Attendance Matters

At Northgate we understand the importance of excellent attendance and the impact it can have on progress and attainment. We are looking forward to starting up our fortnightly attendance competition between the tutor groups again and celebrating great attendance on social media.





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## Updates from the ELF

The ELF (External Learning Facility) is now in its 6th year. Home to a whole range of animals including pigs, a goat, chickens, ducks, rabbits, a guinea pig and love birds, it offers a unique outdoor learning experience for Northgate students. There's also seating at the amphitheatre, a stage for performances, vegetable patches and an Anderson shelter.

Mr MacDonald, gives us an update on life in the ELF since lockdown. 'This has been a challenging period in the ELF throughout lockdown and the return to school. The summer and recent weather has doubled the time I spend in the ELF. This does not phase me though as I understand the routine and needs of the animals in the ELF. The water is transported daily in a range of containers. Snuffle & Truffle our Kune Kune pigs snort their way through many litres of fresh water, it's important to keep them hydrated. I have recently made use of the old artificial grass, recycling it and putting it in the ELF. Ben our Pygmy goat loves jumping all over it and teasing Snuffle & Truffle from the other side of his paddock woodland area. There has been an increase in wildlife in the ELF during lockdown, I rescued a deer, spotted a family of new hatchling pheasants and our regular oyster catcher took up residence in the ELF with three chicks.

I have also entered the Solana schools potato growing competition, which we have previously won, and our entry was collected during lockdown.

It is clear the way we conduct ourselves now due to COVID-19 has impacted everyone's lives including animals. Farm life plays a huge part in Norfolk and the ELF offers an early insight into farming, and veterinary and social care, as being with animals and working outdoors can improve wellbeing and mental health. Each year I offer a work experience placement in the ELF to give students an insight into working outdoors.'

Unfortunately due to the current challenges and restrictions in school it has not been possible to open the ELF to the students. It is hoped it will in the near future.



## Virtual Open Evening 2020

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 6s and their parents to our virtual open evening this year. There is a whole section of our [website](#) dedicated to Year 6s with a host of information. There will be a virtual tour, videos from our Heads of School, Heads of department, Mrs Graves (Head of Year 7 and transition), as well as a number of Year 7 and Year 11 pupils, introducing you to various aspects of life at Northgate, the subjects they enjoy and the 'Northgate Way'.

Learn about our academic standards and ethos, the house system, subject areas, clubs, discover the opportunities available to Northgate students and much more.



## Well done Class of 2020

Congratulations to our class of 2020. All of our students worked incredibly hard and we are proud of each and every one of them. We wish our students the best of luck as they continue their education, whether this be A-levels or apprenticeships. We have already met many of them again, studying at Dereham Sixth Form.