



Newsletter

July 2024

Congratulations on completing your GCSEs, I hope that they went well and you are now managing to wind down afterwards!

As I write, we are preparing to welcome you to our Induction Day and are looking forward to meeting you. Hopefully you will get a flavour of what a wonderful community we are and how you will thrive with us. This newsletter is full of the opportunities that our students have taken advantage of this year and you will hopefully be able to take part in if you join us.

If you have any questions that you need to ask, please speak or email and we are here to help.

Enjoy the Summer and we'll hopefully see you all in September!

Mr Alexander
Head of Sixth Form



The Northgate Young Enterprise team emerged as one of the final eight contenders in the regional finals, surpassing 50 teams from the eastern region.

Their commitment was evident as they crafted an outstanding product aimed at enhancing mental wellbeing. Throughout the journey, the team consistently upheld a high level of professionalism.

Presenting their business venture before a notable audience, including industry

professionals, the Lord Left Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, and the CEO of Young Enterprise, making a lasting impression.

Their exceptional performance distinguished them from their competitors, earning them the esteemed award for Best Innovation and Technology, adding to their previous accolades for 1st place business plan, best branding, best presentation, and best business report. A massive congratulations to them all!



Northgate takes to the stage with the Jets and Sharks

The lights went down; the audience were quiet; the iconic saxophone solo began. It was time for Northgate to take to the stage with the Jets and Sharks to tell the timeless tale of Maria and Tony and their star-crossed love, in Leonard Bernstein's hit musical *West Side Story*. And what an amazing show it was!

Miss Jacobs headed up a team of students who took on the technical backstage work of the show. It was the first year that Miss Jacobs decided to do it this way; it was a resounding success. The backstage team worked so hard on the lighting design, painting scenery flats, contributing ideas for the set design and managing/sourcing props as needed. Students in years 7-13 were involved on the technical crew and were thrilled to be sponsored by Gofer, who purchased black technical crew t-shirts to be worn during show week. The technical did an amazing job; in particular thank you to Isobel in Year 12 for her work as stage manager and to Naomi in Year 12 for her lighting design plot, supported by Miss Jacobs. Mrs Rutter did a wonderful job with the costume design and came up with a costume plot based on the 1950s era and choosing a palette of colours for the gangs. We also had a fantastic FOH team headed up by Emily in Year 12.

The story of this show is based on *Romeo and Juliet* but set in 1950s New York amongst the rivaling



gangs on the streets. Puerto Rican Sharks fought over territory with the Jets and we had a fantastic group of boys from years 7-13 who played the parts fabulously. Riff, the leader of the Jets was played by Lewis in Year 13 and his foe, Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks, was played by Alex in Year 12. There are too many talented students in these gangs to mention them all.

Tony was played by the wonderful Sam in Year 12. Fantastic singing and acting as the ex-Jet love interest of Maria, phenomenally played by Eleanor in Year 13. Their rendition of *Tonight* and the famous balcony scene was beautiful.

The show was choreographed by Miss Patrick and loosely based on the original choreography by Jerome Robbins. Miss Patrick was able to not only inspire fantastic dance performances out of our students, she created some of

her own steps and it was a joy to behold. Miss Patrick and Miss Tournay-Godfrey took on the direction of the acting scenes and had great fun getting the students to make the most out of their characterisations. It was also very funny, working with the cast, to hone their 'American' and 'Spanish' accents. Not an easy task!

West Side Story was a wonderful production to bring to life. It is an iconic tale of rivalry, racism, the human condition and of course, love itself. Thank you to all the staff who were involved and a huge congratulations to all 107 of the students who were in the cast onstage or working backstage. Thank you also to our incredibly supportive audiences. Each performance sold out and it was wonderful to see so many people from the wider school community coming to support the show!

Art's Society A Level Art competition winner!

Sophia a Year 13 Art student in 2023 was nominated for a national A level prize hosted by The Art's Society, based in London.

Sophia, also the winner of The Anna Airy Award, was the overall winner with an overwhelming majority of the public vote. For this, her work will be promoted

in several publications, and she will receive the sum of £500. We would like to thank all of those in our Northgate Community who voted for her painting of Frank Bright.

This serves to highlight the strong role of the Northgate community coming together to support our own. The

painting has been given on loan to the school and is currently exhibited in the library. It will be a constant reminder of Frank's positive impact on the school and be a point of reference for future generations.

<https://theartssociety.org/arts-news-features/level-art-competition-20232024-results>



Spectacular Geography trip to Italy

Last term, 26 A-Level geographers travelled to Italy for an amazing four day residential, basing ourselves in Sorrento. A stone's throw away from Vesuvius, Pompeii and the Amalfi coast, Sorrento provided a very safe and ideal base for us to explore Italy.

On day one, we visited Naples and the underground tunnel systems used in the Roman era. The tunnels also served as air raid shelters during the Second World War. It was an ideal chance to investigate how fluvial processes have created opportunities for human civilization for centuries and to see how place identity can be solidified through sport - a key element of the Changing Spaces



part of the A Level course.

Day two saw us heading to the Vesuvius volcano, which is still active, for a twenty-minute hike to the crater. Exploring such a contrasting landscape to the arable lands of Suffolk provided a great learning opportunity. The dramatic landscape thoroughly helped our students to see how the sheer size and power of natural hazards are influential in creating 'place' profiles. Vesuvius famously erupted in 79AD, covering the neighbouring settlements in a heavy layer of volcanic tephra, most notably Pompeii. This was our venue for the afternoon's activities, where our party had an excellent guided tour of the preserved Roman amphitheatre, villas, spas and sports grounds.

On day three, we were very fortunate to travel along the stunning Amalfi coast, with its breath-taking views and fantastic coastal landforms. This was very useful to us as we were able to apply some of the key coastal processes that occur on high-energy coastal environments and see, first-hand, how lithology affects landforms. In Amalfi, some of us were very lucky to witness a traditional Catholic Mass, the spectacular architecture and embrace the local cuisine once more.

The last morning gave us the opportunity to visit a traditional family-run Limoncello business, whose hospitality was second to none. It was a fantastic way to round off a thoroughly enjoyable and enriching trip!

Researching particle physics

We recently hosted a talk by Jasmine Simms, a PhD student researching particle physics at the University of Oxford. Jasmine spoke to our Physics students about her career path so far, and about careers in physics research.

She also talked about her research, hunting for some of the most elusive particles in the Universe – neutrinos. She described how she uses data captured 2km below the surface of the earth, at a lab in Sudbury, Ontario and how the research she's carrying out may help us better understand neutrinos. The talk was very much appreciated by all who attended and Jasmine has kindly agreed to speak to next year's cohort of students.

See snoplus.phy.queensu.ca/about.html for more information.



Applying their theoretical understanding

Year 13 PE students had the opportunity to visit the Human Performance Unit at the University of Essex, last term.

The trip allowed students to apply their theoretical understanding through a variety of physiological and psychological field-based tests.

The morning session consisted of exercise physiology testing, where students analysed data collected from several sub-maximal and maximal tests they undertook. The end of the morning session saw one of our students given the opportunity of undertaking a full VO2 max test using state of the art gas analysis equipment.

The afternoon session gave students the opportunity to reflect upon how varying psychological

factors can impact the performance of an athlete. This included reaction time, the effects of an audience on social facilitation or inhibition, and stress management techniques to control arousal and anxiety levels in sport. The afternoon session generated a lot of good-natured competition amongst the students.

Students were also able to evaluate the effective use of such tests in elite sport and analyse how they are used to support athlete progress.

The students got a real experience of some of the detailed theory and work that would form part of several careers in sport, such as sport and exercise physiologists, sports therapists and strength and conditioning coaches.

An array of different musical styles

Earlier in the year, our Year 13 A Level Music students undertook their Performing component exam and the visiting examiner commented that it was good to hear the work the students had been preparing and to see that A Level Music is doing so well here in Suffolk!

In order to share how well the students have been doing we held a recital evening for family, friends and staff to attend. The audience were treated to some amazing performances. Ned's recital included a moving interpretation of Apres un Reve by Faure. This was followed by a fabulous piano recital from James. Audiences particularly enjoyed the version of What I've Done by Linkin Park.

A Level Music is open to all types of musicians and one of our students is a musical theatre singer. Eleanor sang a very comical interpretation of One Hundred Easy Ways to Lose a Man by Bernstein.

Giles, performed some rather difficult pieces on the violin, including Schon Rosmarin by Kreisler. What an eclectic evening of music, so eclectic, that it was finished off by some rousing and lively Drum Kit playing by Ben who treated us to pieces such as Seven Days by Sting.



We are really proud of all our students and want to congratulate them on their hard work. Thank you to all who came along to support their performances.