



NORTHGATE REVIEW

March 2018

Fun in Soest



As readers of previous editions of the Northgate Review will know, over the past twenty years we have been fortunate enough to develop strong links with a grammar school in the picturesque German town of Soest, located about 40 miles east of Dortmund. Just before Christmas a group of Northgate High school pupils took part in the annual German exchange with the Aldegrevier Gymnasium; the trip takes place every year at the end of November and it is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to develop not only their German skills, but to also experience the culture and to make new friends.

For many pupils this was the first time they had travelled without their parents and despite the initial nerves, they were clearly excited as we boarded the coach to take us to the airport.

After spending the first night with their exchange families, the first day saw pupils accompanying their partner to school and for many of our pupils this meant getting up before 6am as the first lesson began at 07:35am! Pupils really tried to get involved in the lessons and put their German to the test, and it was nice to hear from some of the German teachers later in the day that they had been impressed with the effort shown by our pupils. Later that morning we were formally welcomed to Soest by the Mayor at the Burghofmuseum and despite the early start to their day, pupils made every effort to stay awake while the mayor spoke at great length about the entire history of the town, covering around 4000 years' worth of historical facts and figures.

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Fun in Soest



The next day we paid a visit to Düsseldorf, the state capital, where we had a guided tour of the 'Black Box Filmmuseum', a museum which has an impressive collection of props, costumes, set models and other artefacts relating to cinema from the 1880s to the present day.

Later in the week we had our first encounter with snow and while this may have caused some panic for Miss MacEachern, having once been stranded in Germany for an extra three days with a school group due to a blizzard, it added to the pupils' excitement and it did add something special to the atmosphere at the Christmas markets. Thankfully by the time we reached Münster, the snow had stopped. In Münster, a town similar to Cambridge, our pupils and their exchange partners were split into four different teams and tasked with completing an educational booklet about the city. Later in the afternoon we were able to visit the wonderful Christmas markets in the town.

With the week drawing to a close, our last excursion was a visit to the Signal Iduna Park, better known as the home of Borussia Dortmund. We were able to visit the players' changing rooms, walk through the tunnel, sit pitchside on the team bench, stand in the famous 'Südtribüne', home to the 25,000 standing fans known as 'Die Gelbe Wand' (the Yellow Wall), and also pay a visit to the stadium's on-site prison for rowdy fans! Our tour guide was clearly a passionate Dortmund fan as he was able to answer the many questions we put to him throughout the 90 minute tour.

The pupils spent the weekend with their host families and we all met up again on the final day after they had spent the morning attending lessons with their partners for the last time. There were a few tearful goodbyes as our pupils bid their exchange partners farewell, but as one German girl happily pointed out, the return leg was only ten weeks away and she was already starting the countdown!

The German exchange pupils spent a week in Ipswich at the end of February and I am sure they enjoyed the experience here as much as our pupils did in Germany.



The Anna Airy Award



Northgate High School has taken part in the Anna Airy Award for the past 10 years. It has been an excellent way to celebrate student work and it gives them a chance to exhibit in a professional setting.

The exhibition features young artists aged 16-20 and was named in memory of Anna Airy in 1965. She was one of the most distinguished painters of her generation with work represented in many major national collections. Anna Airy was also regarded as an inspirational teacher at Ipswich Art School. Within her Art Club's exhibitions she would always include a 'student section' to give younger artists a chance to display their work in the gallery.

One of our Northgate students, Olivia Sherman, received the Crystal Star Award, which is sponsored by the University and voted for by visitors to the exhibition. While another pupil, Anoop Dey, came second for the Anna Airy Award.

Olivia said, 'It was fantastic to be chosen to take part and I felt extremely proud to represent Northgate and the ArtDepartment. It felt great to be recognised by this award and also by friends who messaged to say they had seen my work in the exhibition. I am looking forward to this year's exhibition and to hopefully be chosen to take part.'

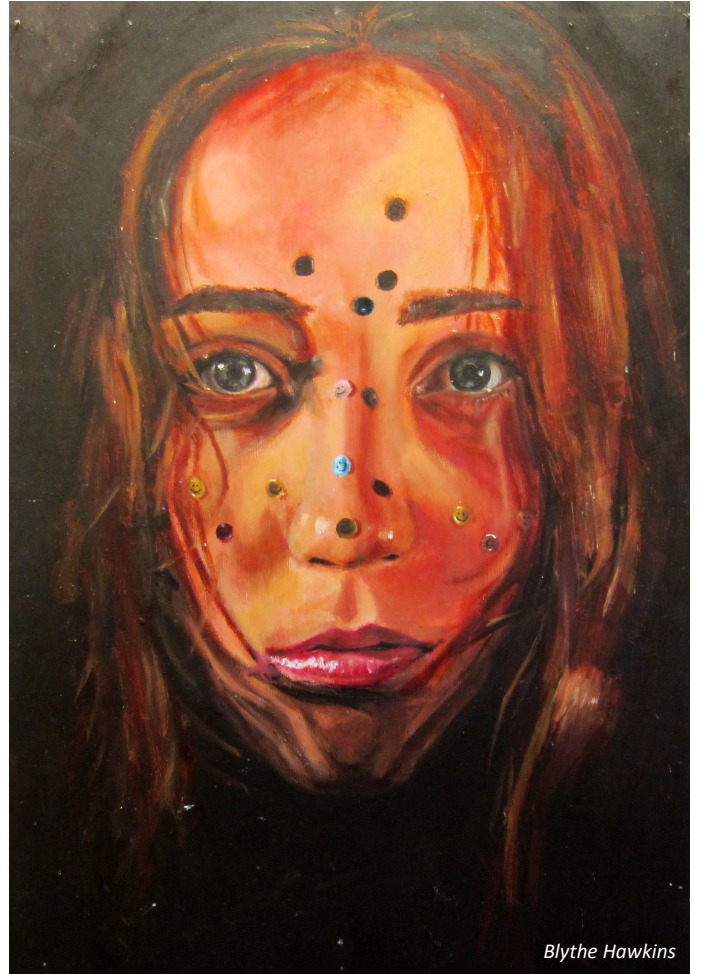


Anoop
Dey

The Anna Airy Award



Rachel Bones



Blythe Hawkins



Ella Rayment

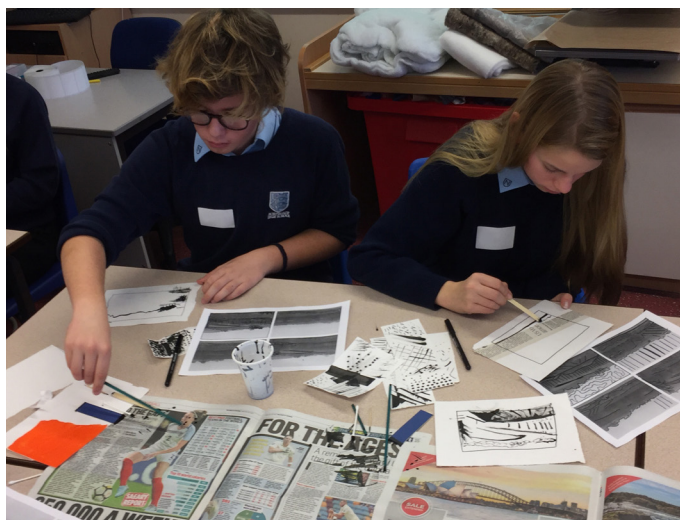
Maggie Davis Visits



During the autumn term local artist Maggie Davis visited Northgate High School to run a workshop in the Textile Department for Years 10 and 12. She is a former teacher of Art and Textiles of 35 years, and is now a successful freelance designer based in Little Bealings, Suffolk. Maggie finds inspiration in nature. However, her textile work tends to be abstract. At present she explores the raw quality of natural materials and works with surface embellishment including hand stitching.

Maggie spent two lessons with the Year 10 pupils and Year 12 students working on 'mark making' techniques using landscape imagery. Their drawings were then built into fabric samples using fraying and free machine embroidery. The workshop encouraged them to think of new ways of drawing and to improve their confidence in practical skills. This is all part of the new AQA Textile Design curriculum the department have started teaching this year.

It has been a very productive start to the new courses for GCSE and A Level, with positive responses from pupils and students. Year 10 are currently completing their Thematic Response Project for Component 1 (coursework worth 60% of their GCSE grade) with the theme based on Marine Life.



Discovery Sports – Game, Set and Match



Discovery Sports is an established and thriving club at Northgate High School. It has approximately 30 members, and is currently open to new pupils by invitation only. Pupils from Years 7-11 meet on Wednesday lunchtimes in the practice hall, and play any one of a wide range of sports, from cricket to tennis, football to boccia or even dodgeball! The games are directed by Discovery Sports representative Jo, who gives instructions, selects teams and referees.

Regular club attendance brings with it the chance to be invited to various events taking place off-site. This year, Northgate Discovery teams have already enjoyed phenomenal success competing against other schools, winning first place trophies for gymnastics, tennis and boccia. With boccia, which is a bowls-type sport played from a sitting position, there is still more to play for as the team head off to Lowestoft for the Regional Finals in March. We are currently assembling a team of eight pupils to take part in a local swimming gala, where they will compete in

individual races and team challenges. Club members are also looking forward to trips to play Ten Pin bowling and tri-golf/cricket, and twelve pupils will enjoy a day's sailing and wildlife spotting on the River Orwell this summer.

The core purpose of Discovery Sports is to provide an opportunity to have fun playing sports in a fully inclusive and welcoming environment. This is a club that supports the many and various needs of pupils right across the school. The Northgate values of respect, determination and teamwork underline everything we do at Discovery Sports, where attitude is all important. We cannot deny we like winning trophies though!

It is a pleasure for us, the staff who run Discovery Sports, to witness the positive impact it has on pupils' wellbeing. We would like to thank the Learning Support Department for their financial help, which means this important club can continue to flourish.

Mr Forbes, Mrs Graham and Miss Irwin



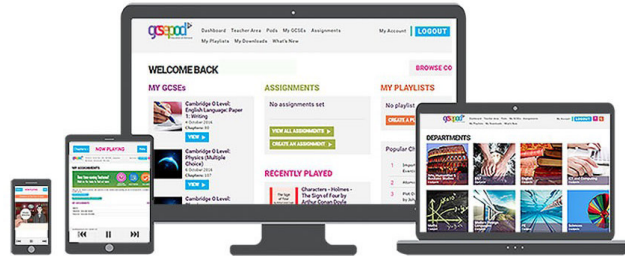
Ways to Help Support Your Child



EXPLORE GCSEPOD 

KEY FEATURES

- Watch online/offline
- Organise revision with bespoke playlists
- Keep up with homework
- Memorise key information



HOW DO YOU WATCH YOURS?

- In class
- On the bus
- At the gym
- On holiday

THE MORE PODS YOU WATCH, THE BETTER YOUR GRADES WILL BE

Northgate High School have subscribed to this award-winning online service thanks to the generosity of the PTA. Every pupil is able to access over 5,000 teacher-written, audio-visual podcasts that can be viewed on mobiles, tablets and PCs.

Each podcast is about four minutes long and contains all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that pupils need for GCSE success. They are tailored to each subject's exam board. Pupils can explore the site on their own, and teachers have also been setting specific pods to view and questions for pupils in Years 9-11 in many subjects throughout the year.

The website is being used successfully by many of our pupils. Ethan commented, 'It helps my understanding and it helps me to remember work that I did the lesson before.'

GCSEPod is an informative and fun teaching and revision tool

Shannon said, 'It explains ideas clearly and provides a quick and easy way to make sure you understand a topic. It helps me to revise and learn at home.'

GCSEPod is also popular with our teachers. Miss Smy, Co-Head of English, explained, 'GCSEPod is an informative and fun teaching and revision tool. It is encouraging pupils to get online and interact with English curriculum content. We are using it in lessons and as homework assignments and the results are really encouraging. We are finding that more and more pupils are completing these homework tasks both on and ahead of time and they seem to like the online interface for answering questions and receiving our feedback.'



All pupils have already been registered with GCSEPod and simply need to activate their account and choose a username and password. To access GCSEPod for the first time, pupils should follow these simple steps:

- 1) Go to www.gcsepod.com and click "Login" in the top right hand corner
- 2) Click "New here? Get started."
- 3) Select "Student"
- 4) Enter your name, date of birth and type the school name. Northgate High School should appear in a dropdown list. Click on the school in this list to confirm it.
- 5) Select a username, password, and a password hint to help you remember the password.

Once logged in, pupils can search for Pods by keyword, a specific exam or subject area.

For more ways you can help support your child using GCSEPod, visit www.gcsepod.com/parents where you will find lots more information and resources.

If you have any questions regarding GCSEPod please contact Miss Hallett who is GCSEPod Lead for the school.

We Will Rock You – Rehearsals

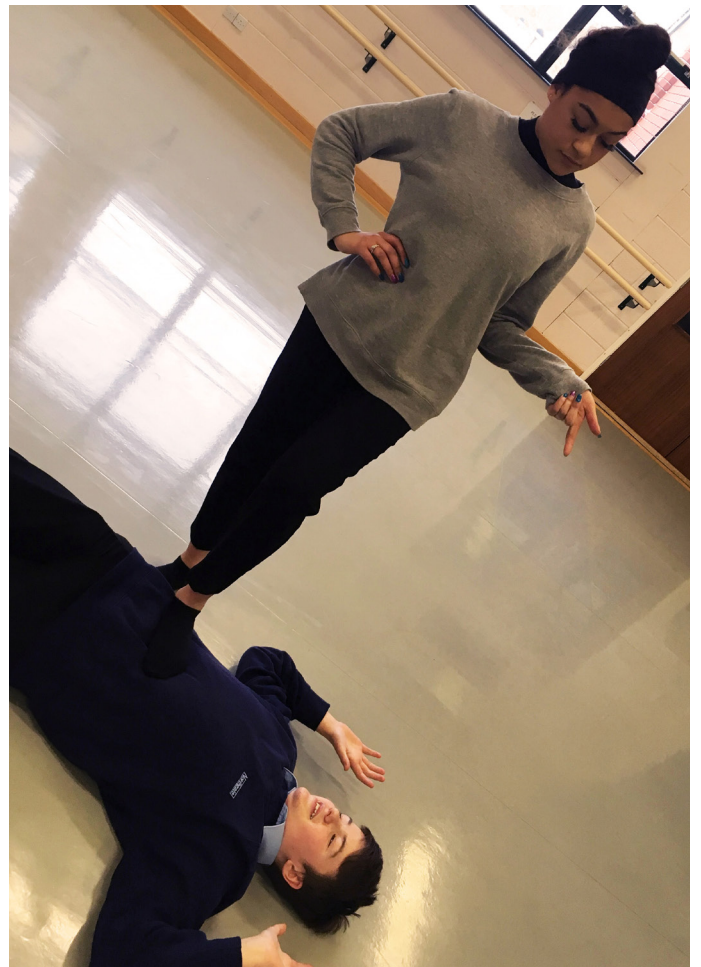


The Music, Drama and Dance Departments will be performing the much anticipated school show *We Will Rock You* on Thursday 26 - Saturday 28 April 2018 in the theatre at Dance East on the Waterfront in Ipswich. These evening performances begin at 7.30pm.

We Will Rock You is a story about Earth in the future which has been renamed Planet Mall. People conform to the rules of the worldwide company Globalsoft headed up by Killer Queen, her commander Khashoggi and the Super Yuppies. Musical instruments are banned, GaGa kids wear the same clothes and have the same thoughts and opinions. However, a small group of 'Bohemians' struggle to overthrow Globalsoft and restore free thought, free fashion and most importantly free live music with the help of rebels Galileo and Scaramouche. The musical is a spoof of a classic quest tale which cleverly allows a talented cast to perform covers of Queen's greatest hits. Songs included are 'Another one bites the dust', 'Under Pressure' and 'A Kind of Magic'.

Finally, no school show is complete without an audience. The pupils have been working so hard and need you and all their friends and families to come along to watch.

Tickets are priced as £10 for Adults and £8 for Concessions and Children, and are available at the main school reception, 01473 210123. Or alternatively can be purchased via the Schoolcomms system (information about which you can find on the Northgate High School website). We are looking forward to seeing you there!



Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 17 March 2018

PTA Team Trivia Evening

Wednesday 21 March 2018

7pm Year 11 Revision Advice Evening

Thursday 22 March 2018

5pm Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 29 March 2018

End of Term

Tuesday 17 April 2018

Start of Summer Term