Northgate Council Bulletin

Improving Northgate by giving pupils a voice ...

2025

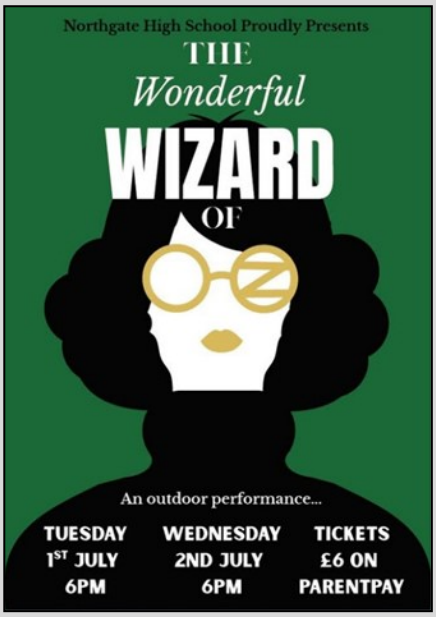
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July 2025

There's No Place Like Northgate!

Wishing everyone taking part in the Northgate production of The Wizard of Oz the very best of luck! Whether you're performing on stage or working hard behind the scenes, we know you'll be amazing after all your hours of rehearsal and dedication.

We can't wait to see all your hard work come to life - it's sure to be a magical show!



Upcoming events continued

14th - 15th July
Curriculum Enhancement Days

16th July
TOAST poetry performance for Year 9 and 10

17th July
Accelerated Reader Celebration in the Library

18th - 22nd July
Year 6 Transition Days

21st July
Joseph Elliot Author Visit

22nd July
Last day of term

Upcoming events

Make sure you know what is coming up at Northgate. Please note these dates are subject to change.

1st - 4th July
Year 10 Mock Exams

1st July
Primary Team Maths Challenge
Wizard of Oz Production to Primary Schools in the afternoon and the public 6pm

2nd July
Wizard of Oz Production 6pm
Dereham Sixth Form Transition Day

3rd July
Year 11 Prom at Glenn Lodge, Bawburgh - 6.30pm for a 7pm start until 11pm

4th July
Team Council and School Council celebration period 4 in The Orchard

7th July
Year 7 Geography Trip to Cromer
Orchard Committee Trip to City Academy Norwich (afternoon)
Year 10C Art Mock Exam

8th July
Year 7 Geography Trip to Cromer

9th July
Year 10A Art, Graphics and Textiles Mock Exams
Sports Awards Evening – 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the main hall

10th July
Summer Music Showcase 7pm in the main hall

11th July
Hunger Games event in The Orchard – after school
Year 10B Photography Mock Exam

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Year 11 Leavers' Day – A Fond Farewell



On a very sunny June afternoon, we came together to celebrate a very special milestone - Year 11 Leavers' Day. It was an afternoon filled with pride, laughter, and a few tears, as we marked the end of our students' five-year journey at Northgate.

From their very first day in Year 7 to their final exams, this year group has shown resilience, growth, and determination. We are incredibly proud of everything they've achieved, both in and out of the classroom.



The afternoon began with the much-loved shirt signing tradition, where students shared messages and memories with friends and staff. It was followed by a leavers' assembly, led by Head of Year, Mr Stirling, who reflected on the group's time at Northgate.

There were plenty of smiles as Mr Stirling presented some light-hearted 'Leavers' Awards', with categories including 'Most Likely to Become Prime Minister' and 'Most Likely to Be a Millionaire'. Each award, voted for by the students, was met with cheers and laughter. Each Year 11 tutor also took a moment to speak about their tutor groups, sharing special memories.





As our Year 11s head off for a well-earned break, we want to wish them the very best for the future. We look forward to welcoming them back on Results Day on 21st August, when we'll celebrate their achievements properly. A huge thank you must also go to the staff, parents, and carers who have supported these students over the past five years. Your partnership, encouragement, and belief in them has made all the difference. To our Year 11s - good luck, and never stop striving. You leave as confident, capable young people ready to take on whatever comes next. We're proud of you!













Attendance Matters



Congratulations to 7HB, 8GC, 9MM and 10NC who have all won the fortnightly attendance competition so far this half term. Trophies and certificates are proudly on display in tutor rooms. We look forward to awarding 100% attendance certificates at the end of the school year!

We all know how important good attendance is and would like to thank all Northgate parents and carers for supporting excellent attendance.

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Battle of the Bookworms

At the end of May, we were delighted to host the Battle of the Bookworms in our lovely library here at Northgate. Book enthusiasts from local primary schools joined us to compete for our coveted Bookworms Shield. It was a fiercely contested event, with only two points separating the top teams! Congratulations to the winners:



1st - Scarning A , 2nd - Toftwood A,
3rd - Toftwood B, 4th - Scarning B,
5th - Dereham B, 6th - Dereham A

All children who took part were a real credit to their schools and were rewarded with a book, sweets, and a certificate.

A big thank you to our fantastic student librarians, who helped host the event - reading the quiz questions, keeping score, and supporting our guests from arrival through to departure. Well done to everyone involved! A great time was had by all, and it was a pleasure to meet some of the pupils who will be joining us this September. We look forward to welcoming you again!

Charlotte, one of our student Librarians, told us about the experience. 'When the students arrived, they sat in their seats and waited for the questions. Some of their parents came to watch as well. I came up first with a list of questions about books and I read them out. They wrote down their answers and the helpers collected up the sheets. While the next person read out the next round, me and the other helpers marked the sheets. This continued until the last round where we added up the marks and gave them to Mrs Gill. She announced the winners. We then gave them a plaque and everybody got a packet of sweets and a book. I think the book quiz was a great idea and everybody enjoyed it. It was such a lovely idea for everyone to do and I think we should continue doing it.'

A few of the pupils who took part told us their best bit about the competition:



Daisy B (Toftwood) said, 'The best thing was working with a new team, working together using our own skills to answer the questions. We came third and got a book to take away as a memory .'

Sophia V (Toftwood) said, 'I loved that I got to look around the library beforehand and I loved the range of topics covered so I had a chance of answering. I also learnt new things. I liked having the new Toxic book first chapter read out at the end too.'



Elsie R (Scarning) said, 'I liked how the Head Librarian was kind and answered our questions about the library and how they presented it. I also liked how the questions had different varieties and themes. Getting a sneak peak of the library was the best day ever (I want to be a librarian when I grow up!)



Rosie G (Dereham) said, 'I loved seeing the library. All the books were brilliant and I loved the sections, especially the Harry Potter section and the displays. I really enjoyed the quizzes as it told me what others were reading which was interesting. I also liked the sweets at the end!'

One of the parents commented, 'I have to say, I watched it and it was so well organised, thoughtfully put together getting the Northgate pupils to read questions and it thoroughly inspired me to read more!'

Well done to all involved and a big thank you to the Northgate Library Team for another successful event.

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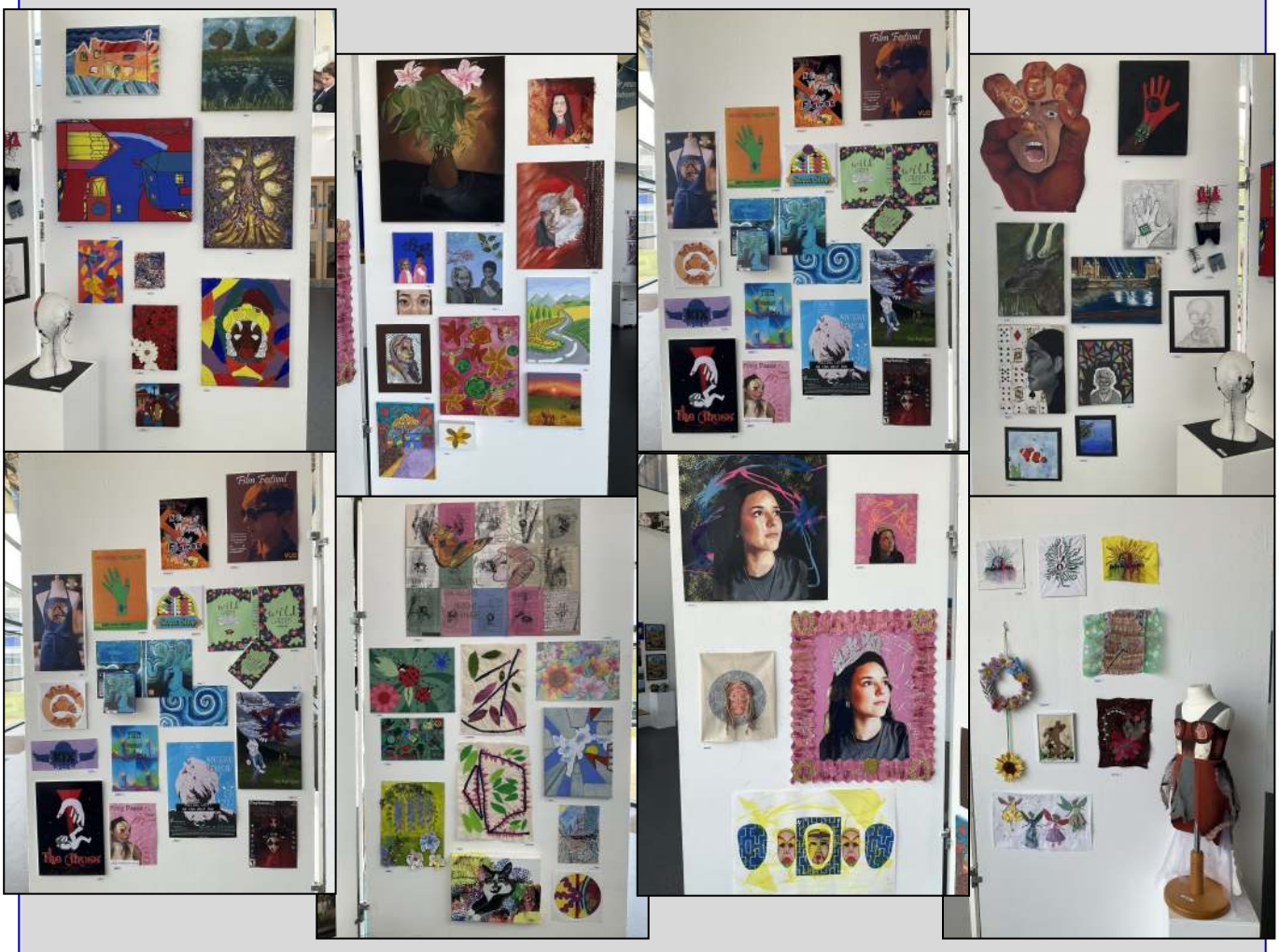
GCSE Exhibition highlights talent, vision and hard work

The GCSE Art & Design Summer Exhibition, held last month, was a resounding success, offering a powerful and inspiring glimpse into the creative journeys of our Year 11 students. Held in the school foyer, the exhibition brought together an incredible collection of work that showcased both technical skill and personal expression across a wide range of media.

Visitors were treated to an array of compelling pieces - from intricate drawings and bold paintings to innovative mixed-media installations, digital work, textiles, photography and product design. Each student's display reflected months of dedicated research, experimentation, and refinement, all tied to themes chosen and developed individually.

The exhibition not only celebrated the artistic accomplishments of the students but also marked an important culmination of their two-year course. Teachers, families, and community members expressed admiration for the maturity, originality, and thoughtfulness behind the work.

Mrs Mottley, Head of Art and Design, said, 'We are incredibly proud of all our GCSE Art & Design students for their creativity, perseverance, and vision. Their work made a lasting impression, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to grow as artists and individuals. Congratulations all!'





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Reading Champions rewarded for remarkable milestones



We're delighted to celebrate the incredible achievements of some of our Year 7 and 8 students in the Accelerated Reader scheme – congratulations to our newest Word Millionaires!

These students have read and quizzed on books totalling over one million words this year:



Ryan E and Charlotte H (Year 8) – over 1 million words each (1,053,517 and 1,020,531 respectively).

Evelyn B (Year 7) – our latest Multi-Millionaire, reading an impressive 2,036,376 words.

Tess C and Mason W (Year 8) – true Multi, Multi Word Millionaires, with an extraordinary 3,895,653 and 3,130,994 words respectively!

This is an amazing achievement – well done to all of you! Each of our Millionaires were rewarded with book tokens, badges, certificates, and of course, some well-deserved chocolate.





Also, a big shout-out to our latest fortnightly quiz draw winners: Oscar Y and Lola W, who each received a book and a chocolate bar for their efforts.

Miss Theobald caught up with Tess to find out what it feels like to by a multi, multi word millionaire and all about her reading.

How do you feel about becoming a multi-word millionaire?



It is really cool and I can't believe I have read that many books already this year.

Do you have a target of the number of words you would like to read this academic year?

I would like to get over 4 million.

Why do you love reading so much?

I find it so interesting how books make me feel like I'm in a different world or across the ocean and I also find it quite calming to curl up with a book and a mug of tea.

Do you have a favourite book or author at the moment and why?

My favourite book is a dragon with a chocolate heart and it has been my favourite since I was really young. I have never found another book quite like it and I have read it over 5 times because it is just that good. My favourite authors are Emma Carroll and M.G Leonard. Emma Carroll is a historical fiction writer and I have read almost all of her books. M.G Leonard writes lots of books about lots of things like beetles and birds but my favourite books by her are the adventures on trains series that she co-wrote with Sam Sedgman.

Why should everyone take time out of their day to read a good book?

It is very relaxing and calming, especially before bed, and you learn lots of new things and it can even improve your creativity!

Do you see yourself in a job involving books in later life or is it just a hobby?

I think I could see myself helping out in a library or running a little book cafe when I'm older. It has always been a dream of mine to write my own book.

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Spotlight on Student Life: Poppy's Scouting Journey



Many of our students at Northgate take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities in their own time, and we love celebrating their achievements outside the classroom. Poppy R, Year 9, has been involved in Scouting for nine years, including four years as a Scout. She shared some of her experiences with us:



"Scouts is a wonderful place to hang out and learn new skills. We do fun challenges like the £5 Challenge, where you have to plan and cook a three-course meal for under £5. We also go on exciting trips like wide games, where we head into forests or woods and play different games in the dark. Everyone is warm and welcoming - it feels like one big family."

Scouting opens the door to a wide range of opportunities, from jamborees and camping trips to local and national events. This summer, Poppy and her group are looking forward to attending Norjam at the Norfolk Showground, a highlight on the Scouting calendar.

"I think people should consider joining Scouts because you get to do things you wouldn't normally do in school or other clubs. It helps you develop leadership skills and work towards different awards, giving you a real sense of achievement."







Poppy is currently volunteering as a Young Leader with Cubs as part of her Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and she hopes to become a Scout leader in the future.

Well done Poppy, your dedication and enthusiasm are a great example of how extra-curricular activities help build confidence, skills, and community spirit.

Students shine in Grease

We are so proud of all our Northgate and Dereham Sixth Form students who starred in the DOSYTCO production of Grease over the May half term. They were working hard since February with rehearsals and it really showed as it was a fantastic production.

A huge well done to Emma, George, Keira, Marcia, Miami, Robyn, Charlotte & Jasmine for your professional performances!



Northgate News

Missed our last Northgate Bulletin? Follow this link to read about all the exciting activities and news from last month.

June Bulletin

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

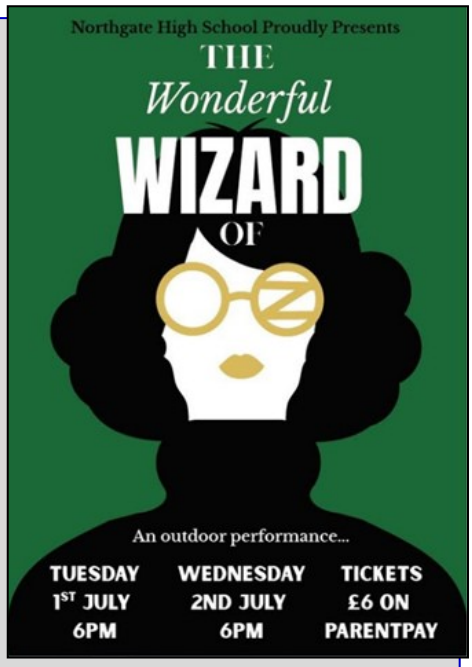
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Talent, teamwork, and a touch of magic: The Wizard of Oz comes to Northgate



Today and tomorrow our students are putting on an amazing performance of The Wizard of Oz. Miss Martinez from the Drama Department tells us all about it.

Why did you decide on putting on the Wizard of Oz as the school production this year?

Following the cinematic release of 'Wicked' I really wanted to capture that craze and revisit the original source material. Wicked has brought a whole new generation to The Wizard of Oz which is really exciting.

I absolutely loved the film when I was younger, and I think it's a timeless story because Dorothy is on the road to self-discovery which makes it a great story to explore and create with young people.

We hear you and the students have written the script - are there any twists on the original story?

There is a cool twist at the end which I won't spoil! There are also a few new additions which the students have come up with, for example we meet Dorothy's mother! We've drawn on the original novel and added lots of things that were left out of the film. Our version is really an amalgamation of the book, the film, The Wiz, Wicked, plus our own ideas - a true celebration of all things Oz!

How many people are involved in the production both on stage and back stage?

There are 65 students in total.

What can visitors expect from Northgate's version of The Wizard of Oz?

A fun eclectic soundtrack - I really love the music in this show.

What are you most excited about for the production?

To share all our hard work with the community and showcase our talented students! There are so many surprises and each ensemble gets their own moment within the story.

What are you most proud of with this production?

The students! All their hard work, some of them have rehearsed three times a week since January!

Our Dancers have given up three lunchtimes a week too. They've all been so dedicated and it's about to all pay off!

Do you have a message for everyone involved in the Wizard of Oz?

The biggest of thank yous! It has been such a joy to create this show with you and I can't wait for you all to share it with your friends and family. Even at the end of a difficult day you would all really lift my spirits with your creativity, enthusiasm, and humour. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

Do you have any ideas for next year's production?

No plans as of yet but I am excited to collaborate with Miss Harris and create something together.

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Northgate students step up to the challenge on Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a youth development program aimed at building life skills, confidence, and resilience in young people aged 14 to 24. It consists of three progressive levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold, each requiring participants to complete four main sections: volunteering, physical, skills and an expedition. The Gold level includes an additional residential section. The scheme encourages personal growth through service, adventure and practical challenges.









A group of 14 Year 9 students from Northgate headed to Hunworth last month to complete their practice expedition. Denver B, tells us a bit about the experience. 'When I did the Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition last month, it was a hard but cool experience for me and my friends. It would've been better had the weather not been quite so hot, but if you like walking, and being outdoors, then I highly recommend it. The views were beautiful too. We had to carry everything we needed for the two days, and we had to cook our own meals. I got to share a tent with two of my good friends, which was fun. It was a hard but fun and worthwhile experience and it's definitely prepared me for the proper expedition. I just hope it's not as hot! '

Poppy R was also part of the expedition team and said, 'What I found most difficult was definitely the heat as it was very hot Friday and Saturday. I definitely enjoyed the walk though with my team, I had a great team and we worked really well together. I can't wait for the real thing and I hope we do well.'

Merit Update

We are coming to the end of term and students are so close to hitting the 100,000 merit mark - that would be a fantastic achievement! We have 17 students with 250 or more merits, 61 with 200 or more merits, 201 with 150 or more merits and an impressive 484 students with 100 or more merits. There will certainly be lots of certificates and badges to hand out at the end of term!

Merit cashing in continues to take place on Mondays, in the main hall from 12.30pm – 12.50pm. Don't forget merit totals reset to zero in the summer so make sure you spend those hard earned merits! Take a look at what you can exchange your merits for in our rewards catalogue.

Attenborough maintain their lead in the House merit competition but it's very close between second and third.

Attenborough	Hawking	Rowling	Holmes
115.18	110.69	110.59	107.02

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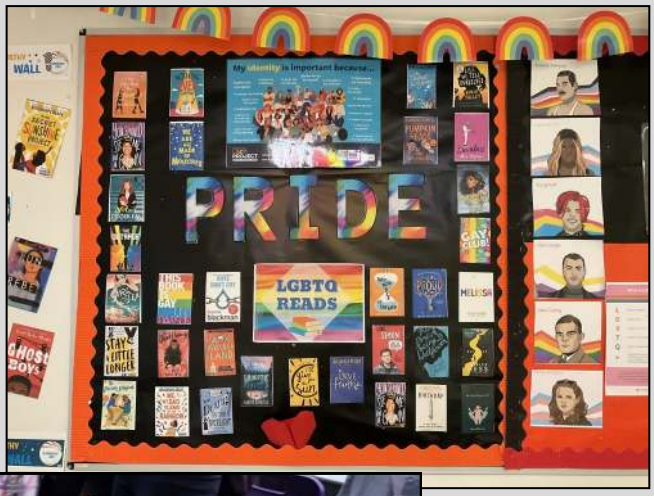
Celebrating Pride: A lunchtime visit from Norfolk LGBTQ+ Project



We were delighted to welcome back Sophie from the Norfolk LGBTQ+ Project for an informal lunchtime session in the library celebrating Pride month. With an array of freebies and merchandise available, it was wonderful to see so many students stop by, chat with Sophie, and show their support for our LGBTQ+ community.

The library continues to offer a wide range of diverse, inclusive, and age-appropriate books for students to borrow throughout the year. Mrs Gill also created a fantastic display in the library for Pride month.







Year 7 readers attend inspiring author event

Our top Year 7 Accelerated Reader (AR) students were given the exciting opportunity to attend a morning of magical words at Norwich School, featuring poets Matt Windle and Ashley Hickson-Lovence, and author Julian Sedgwick.

Although we unfortunately missed Julian's live talk due to unforeseen circumstances, students were still able to meet him briefly and purchase his fabulous books. Everyone agreed the morning was engaging, enjoyable and inspiring - with many students leaving with books signed by the poet and author.



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Poetry in motion: Matt Windle packs a punch



It's always a pleasure to welcome back the Poet with a Punch, Matt Windle and this month, he certainly hit his mark with inspiring and engaging sessions for all of Year 7 and Year 8. Using his unique freestyle approach, Matt showed students that everyone has the potential to be a poet.

He also worked with a group of Year 10s, introducing alternative poetry study techniques to support their GCSE Power and Conflict module. Additionally, two classes had the opportunity to take part in a lively oracy debate workshop. Working in groups, students discussed and presented arguments around the topic: The internet is safe/dangerous/good/bad. Every student rose to the challenge, demonstrating confidence, creativity, and persuasive reasoning.









Updates from the Library

We have already received lots of entries for our Lego Camera Kit competition but there's still time to pick up an entry form and match the clipped book covers with the covers displayed in subject classrooms around the school.

It may be nearing the end of the year but there are still lots of activities happening in the library:

Summer bingo read competition forms are available in the library - how many can you read over the summer to earn merits ready for September?

Extreme reads photo competition - take a photo of you reading in an interesting or unusual place/situation (whilst being safe) and email lgill@ng6.unity-ed.uk. Prizes awarded in September.

Our first **Hunger Games event** will be held on 11th July, 3.45pm -5.15pm in The Orchard. All year groups are welcome but Tribute volunteers must sign up in the library to be assigned a District and take part in an array of themed activities. May the odds be ever in your favour.

16th July - a return visit by **TOAST**, performing for Year 9, 10 and DSFC students. This year we are delighted that the multi award nominated poet, Dean Atta will be in attendance.

21st July - author and actor Joseph Elliott (TV Swashbuckling fame!) will be visiting Y6 transition and current Year 7s. Personally signed books will be available to buy on the day.