



### A Message from our Head Teacher

It is with great pride that I am writing this message as the new Headteacher of North Star 240° and I would like to thank the whole school community for the warm welcome that I have received. Since I have started, I have been impressed with the quality of learning across the school. In the lessons that I have visited I have seen students engaged, working and proud of their work. Lots of students have been to see me with examples of work that is their personal best and it is great to see students and staff working well together to ensure that progress is being made.



I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and seeing the achievements of the young people. There has been much to be proud of this term and I have enjoyed hearing about the positive things that have happened so far this academic year.

As the year draws to a close, we can start to think about 2022 and I look forward to welcoming all students back on the 4th January. Attendance will continue to be a big focus for us and I ask you to work with us in ensuring that all of our students are attending. Year 11 have a busy time ahead of them as they will have mock examinations and will be preparing for their GCSEs and applying for college places and apprenticeships.

On behalf of everyone at North Star 240° I wish you, your family and our students a happy and peaceful Christmas and all the best for 2022. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

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### Dates for your diary

**04/01/2022**

Return to School

**17/01/2022—25/01/2022**

GCSE Mock Exams

**31/01/2022**

Inset Day

**21/02/2022—25/02/2022**

Half Term

**11/04/2022—22/04/2022**

Half Term

**30/05/2022—06/06/2022**

Half Term

**27/06/2022**

Inset Day

## Catering

It has been a very busy few weeks in catering, with students from all year groups commemorating Armistice Day. Catering students and Student Council members then threw themselves into making cakes and biscuits which they sold for Children In Need Day. A fantastic effort!



## Children in Need

Great fun was had by all in School on Children in Need day!

Students paid to sponge the staff and nominate who they wanted to splat!

Suffice to say there were a lot of wet staff  
Students in key stage 4 made yummy cakes and decorated cookies to sell  
We raised a grand total of £130.00 pounds !

Well done to all the students who donated and dressed up.

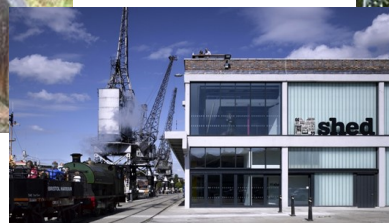
## What we have been up to in Perseus.....

In Term 1, Perseus class spent every Monday travelling around different parts of Bristol for our Enrichment activity. We were lucky enough to visit the M shed, Bristol Museum, Clifton Observatory and Noah's Ark.

All students were impeccably behaved and enjoyed spending time together as a class.

When I asked the students what their favourite part of our enrichment activity was, they said 'The hot chocolate that we got at the M Shed was the best!'

Perseus class worked well together and helped each other conquer some fears, especially when it came to entering the caves at the Clifton Observatory. Both myself and Mr Heron were proud to take them off site and spend time together learning about the history of Bristol and particularly the black lives matter movement



My trip to m she m shed was amazing 😊 because we

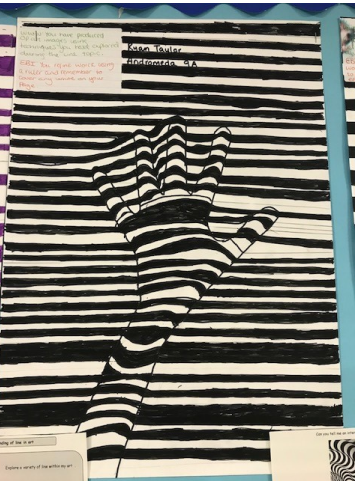
1 we looked at amazing art pieces including some art from old times before I was even born

2 we saw what happened statue called Edward Colston it got dragged into the water because he was one of the people that mistreated slaves and it was there in museum

3 There was a world war bunker and mine and Charlie's coat glowed in the dark. The bunker was uncomfy if that was a hotel bed they'd have a bad review. it was also it was creepy because me my friends freaked out when we heard voices I was mostly freaked out 😬 . |



## Art and Design



In Art and Design Key Stage 3 have developed their knowledge on elements of art through exploring materials, processes and techniques inspired by famous artists such as Bridget Riley. The British artist creates optical illusions using line. Through research and exploration students have developed their own product design and optical art. Students have also explored colour theory in depth through sensory play such as walking water and marbling.

GCSE Art and Design Key Stage 4 have explored the topic surroundings. The topic has encouraged students to explore their local natural and manmade surroundings, gathering first hand images that look in detail at the intricate patterns and bold colours within nature and historic architecture. This has resulted in students creating a variety of final responses and observational studies exploring medias such as water colour, chalk and acrylic, along with developing skills in a variety of art processes and techniques such as print, collage and silk painting, resulting in students producing detailed responses to previous research and explorations.

*Miss Gabb*

# Anti Bullying Week at NS240°

## Our Voice

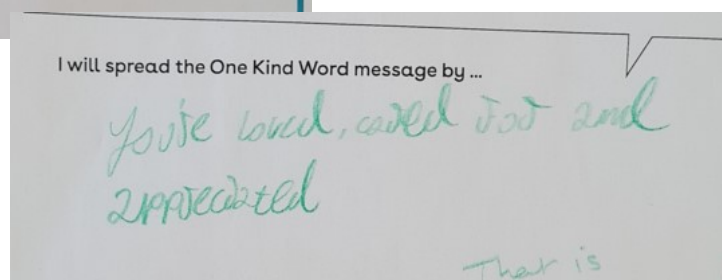
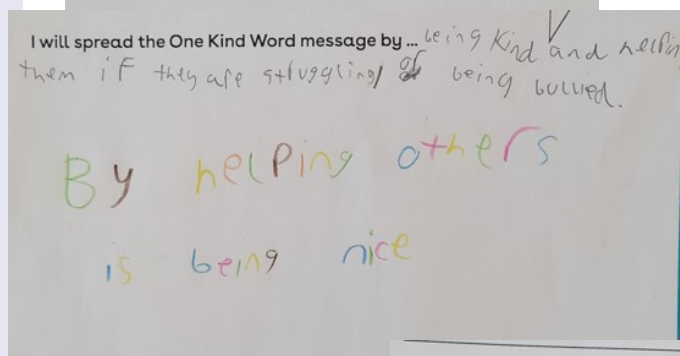
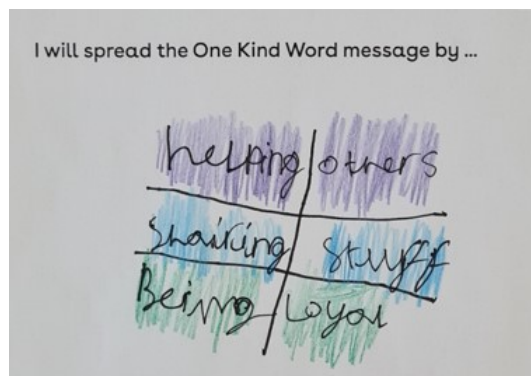
Feeling like the victim,  
sad and alone  
Thrown in the river, sink  
like a stone  
Living in the dark, full of  
fear  
Every day I shed a tear.

Dig my grave, hole in the  
dirt  
Suffocate, aggravate,  
asphyxiate, hurt  
The bully is the criminal  
living at large  
The law is the one that's  
really in charge.

What can I do to save  
them from the pain?  
To keep blood in the  
veins and not down the  
drain  
Is this a game or a cycle  
to break?  
All of this leads to fear  
and heartache.

Is it our job to raise the  
alarm?  
This is an issue we need  
to disarm  
If we don't, is it disre-  
spect?  
Not any more, it's pure  
neglect.

The message is clear,  
we're better than before  
Stamp out bullying forev-  
er more.



At North Star 240°, we believe that all students should have the opportunity to learn in a safe environment. We believe that bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We take all incidents of bullying seriously.

Every November, North Star 240° takes part in Anti-Bullying Week. This is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. Anti-Bullying Week 2021 took place from Monday 15th to Friday 19th November this year and it had the theme 'One Kind Word'.

The students and staff Anti-Bullying Team have arranged different activities throughout the week to raise awareness. We had our Odd Socks Day on the 15th November. It was a pleasure to see almost all our students and teachers in their odd socks. Our students designed their own odd socks and the winners won a prize at the end of the week!

In addition, we had a collapsed timetable on Tuesday afternoon when we did a variety of activities including art, music, sports, IT and ELSA sessions. Things like this will always help us create the community we want and a better future for the young people we support. Students were so engaged and enjoyed themselves so much during this afternoon of Anti-Bullying activities.



## Sport at North Star 240°

This academic year has seen the return of sporting fixtures to life at North Star 240°, and as always our students have excelled themselves in said fixtures.

Both the KS3 & KS4 teams have had fixtures and represented the school this year, with wins for KS3 coming against Aspire Academy and KS4 drawing with Bristol Futures, however, the standout of the year so far has been the KS4 team, entering the Engage SEMH National Football Tournament.

The tournament started with a Regional Qualifier in Birmingham, which the team attended, placing 3<sup>rd</sup> and qualifying for the National Finals at St Georges Park (England's Training Ground). The KS4 team then attended said finals, and finished Runner Up to a school from Coventry, placing us, currently as the 2<sup>nd</sup> best KS4 SEMH team in the country. As we continue to play in fixtures this year, all eye's will be on the tournament next year where we will aim to go 1 better, and win the National Finals.



***"North Star FC did the school so proud and finishing second was a massive achievement!"***

## North Star 240° FC Reaching High!

North Star 240° FC recently got to play at the England training ground, St George's Park and they did amazing and finished second in the tournament.

In the first two games, North Star won 1-0. Barkhad scored the first goal and the second was an own goal. Bray-Pitt in goal and Mansare, Staynings, Fanty-Lynch and Massiah in defence conceded zero goals. Superb!

North Star FC won the next game 2-0 ! Barkhad and Wright scored two great goals! However, the next game was a 0-0 draw.

North Star unfortunately lost the next game 3-0 but they didn't give up and drew the next game 1-1. Wright scored a brilliant goal like Alan Shearer and Malcolm made some great saves. Plummer-Gordon, Fanty-Lynch and Massiah were solid in defence.

This result helped the team and they won the next game 2-0. Mansare scored the first and Harris got the second. Game number eight finished 0-0 but game nine finished 2-2 after O'Donnell and Wright scored two great goals!

North Star then finished the tournament with two brilliant wins. Staynings and Barkhad scored in the first to win 2-0 and Staynings got the winner in the last game of the tournament.

North Star FC did the school so proud and finishing second was a massive achievement!

***By Shamar Crossfield***



# Christmas at NS240°

## The Snowman in the Igloo

This is the story of a snowman. This snow man lived in an igloo in a snowy field in December.

But, every night a group of children would come to the field and destroy the igloo but in the day a group of other children from the Landlots family would come and rebuild it.

The snow man was so grateful he left a basket full of fruit until the snow faded away and so did the snow-man.

The End.

By Vinny  
Perseus class

We have enjoyed preparing for and celebrating Christmas at North Star 240° this term. We have had a classroom decorating competition, Advent Calendars, Christmas Jumper day and a yummy Christmas Lunch! We also have the chance to go and watch the Pantomime at the Bristol Hippodrome which made us all feel very festive indeed!



Pictures by Josh, Seb and Riley.

# North Star 240° Magazine

This year Mr Lewis and team have launched the North Star News which is written and published by the students, The magazine is a great opportunity to gain work experience, practice literacy skills, and most importantly show off their amazing work to the whole school.

The magazine features columns, reviews and recommendations all written by the students about topics that they are interested in.

A lot of the articles in this newsletter have come from work completed for the magazine.

Well done to the whole team that put this together for us each month.

## Latest North Star News Headlines!

North Star 240° welcomes Mrs Grayson as the new head teacher!

Classes battle it out for the prize of best decorated classroom, with Gemini prevailing as the winners!

Students and staff return to the playground and a brief absence for more gripping games of football at break and lunch!

North Star 240° engage in a classic 5-5 draw over three games with Aspire Academy, with Vinny with the pick of the goals after kneeing the ball in without knowing!

Forest School hots up with games of manhunt, dens being built and Crumpets being fried!

Bristol Works and the army take over the kitchen, cooking up a beautiful selection of Samosas and Lemon Drizzle Cake!

North Star host Covid-secure parent's evening with staff and students in high attendance!

## **Nathans Movie of the Month** **Home Alone 2: Lost in New York**

### **Premise of the Movie:**

The film is a follow on from the successful 'Home Alone' movie featuring Kevin McAllister. In Home Alone 2: Lost in New York Kevin tries to board a plane with his family, managing to get to the Airport unlike the first movie. Kevin Follows the wrong person and boards a plane to New York on his own. While in New York he is surprised to see the very same Burglars that attempted to burgle him in the first movie. Fresh out of Prison, the burglars will stop at nothing to get their revenge on Kevin, but can Kevin stay out of their grasp....

**Storyline:** **9.5/10** – Good comedy.

**Visual effects:** **7/10** – Movie is quite dated.

**Quality of Acting:** **10/10** – Kevin McAllister, good comedy timing.

**Scenery:** **8/10** – Not bad, could be better. The inclusion of Donald Trump was not needed.

**How Christmassy is it?** **10/10** – Lots of snow and Christmas decorations.

**Worst Feature of the film:** The cameo of Donald Trump.

# Safeguarding update

## Seeking medical support.

During the pandemic accessing support from doctors can be hard to secure. The NHS have created the HANDi app that can offer support when a child has a mild medical condition:

Our HANDi app aims to provide advice and support to parents and carers when your child is unwell. To find the app search HANDI app in your app provider.

The HANDI app offers simple and straightforward advice, for the following conditions in children:

- diarrhoea and vomiting
- high temperature
- 'chesty baby' illnesses, such as bronchiolitis, asthma and croup
- 'chesty child' illnesses such as wheezing and asthma
- abdominal pain
- common new-born problems.

## Domestic Abuse

During the pandemic there has been a national increase in calls to domestic abuse support lines. If you or someone you know is in trouble there are national and local support centres available to offer advice and support:

Help is also available National Domestic Violence Helpline – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Freephone 0808 2000 247.  
Next Link domestic abuse telephone help lines are open 8.30am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.30am – 1pm Saturday  
0800 4700 280

## E-Safety

Nationally there has been an increase in online safety concerns. Contextually in our school we are seeing an increase in students talking about using/viewing or playing games with inappropriate age content. Please see the attached flyer from National Online Safety regarding what this term means and how you can help keep your child safe.

If parents would like more support in regards to online safety please do not hesitate to contact school or ask for a log in to our on line safety provider, National Online Safety.

## Sensory Issues

Students at North Star are looking fantastic in their new school uniforms. It has also identified that some students are really struggling with sensory needs that may have been undiagnosed before. If you need support with this please see NHS advice below and the attached leaflet.

Occupational therapy helpline for advice with sensory processing concerns - 07971035385. Available on Thursday mornings. Please call between 8am and 9.30am to book a 30 minute slot for that morning.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please feel free to call the school safeguarding number during school hours: 07785696238.

Or email the safeguarding team on [safeguarding@northstar-academy.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@northstar-academy.co.uk), this email address is checked each morning term time only.

In an emergency consider calling 999 or First Response on 0117 9036444



## Contact us

To find out more about the services we offer, and for advice and support, you can contact the team in the following ways:



**Advice line**  
07917 393196 (Wednesdays, 9:00am-12:00pm)



**Email**  
ahpintegratedtherapy@cchp.nhs.uk

You can also find a wide range of information, including resources and frequently asked questions, on the CCHP website:



cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/childrens-occupational-therapy

### Is this leaflet hard to read?

Please email [briscomhealth.comms@nhs.net](mailto:briscomhealth.comms@nhs.net) or speak to a member of the team to ask for it in another format or language

This service is provided by Bristol Community Health, as part of the Community Children's Health Partnership. Last updated 03/08/2018.

### About the Occupational Therapy Service

Occupational Therapists can help babies, infants and young people grow, learn, have fun, socialise and play so they can develop, thrive and reach their full potential. (RCOT 2018)

Our Children's Occupational Therapy service is designed to help children who have a physical difficulty participate in activities (or Occupations) of daily living, to improve their health and wellbeing.

Occupations for children and young people may include, self care (dressing, eating a meal, using the toilet), being productive (participation in activities and routines within nursery or school) and leisure (playing with friends or doing hobbies).

An Occupational Therapist may suggest alternative ways of doing things; provide advice on learning new approaches and techniques, or making changes to the environment i.e. through using equipment or adaptations.

### Who we work with

Community Children's Occupational Therapists see children from birth to school leaving age, who are finding everyday functional activities difficult.

### What happens at the first appointment?

The first appointment will last about an hour. We aim to make the first session relaxed and playful for your child.

Your child will usually be assessed through observation, conversations with parents, family or carers and others involved in their life.

## Community children's occupational therapy service



*Working together, working with you*

Other information is gained by asking the child or young person to complete different types of play activities.

### Your occupational therapist will try to find out about:

- Practical difficulties in everyday activities such as dressing, eating and self-care
- School skills, such as handwriting, pencil skills and scissor skills
- Play skills
- Fine and gross motor skills affecting movement abilities

### After the appointment

After the assessment the following may occur:

- A written report will be sent to you and the person who referred you. If the therapist needs to discuss this information with school, nursery or other professionals for the benefit of your child, this will be discussed with you first.
- A school visit may be offered.
- Some ideas may be suggested which can be tried at home or school.
- Sometimes ideas are provided for the school and carried out by teaching assistants.
- Occupational therapy individual or group sessions may be offered.
- If your child needs special equipment, this will be discussed with you and, if appropriate, your child's school.



## Safeguarding update

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

### GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

### STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

### ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

### CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

### BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

### GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

### STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.



## Parents Evening

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended our parent/carer evening, it was lovely to see you all and great to have the support of City of Bristol College, SGS, the army and Bristol Works.

The feedback from you was really positive and we are pleased that you found the evening useful.



### 1. I found the parents' evening to be informative and worthwhile

Fully disagree	Partly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Partly agree	Fully agree
			6%	94%

### 2. I have a clear understanding of how my child is doing in their learning

Fully disagree	Partly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Partly agree	Fully agree
			12%	88%

### 3. I know what my child needs to do to improve their learning

Fully disagree	Partly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Partly agree	Fully agree
			12%	88%

### 4. I know how I can support my child in their learning

Fully disagree	Partly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Partly agree	Fully agree
		6%	6%	88%



## Medications

Please can we remind parents of the importance of providing up to date medical and allergy information for your children. If we medicate your child during the school day then you must ensure that we are provided with sufficient supplies in order to complete this.

If your child's medical needs change in any way then you must inform the school as soon as possible.

If your child is un-medicated then this poses a health and safety risk which could result in your child being sent home.

## School Dinners & Pupil Premium Funding

The cost of school dinners is £2.50 per day and needs to be paid promptly to the office.

We're encouraging all parents to find out if their child can get free schools meals and to register for Pupil Premium funding.

Pupil Premium funding goes directly to the school and pays for things like school trips, breakfast clubs, or additional teachers and assistants to provide extra support and 1 to 1 tutoring.

Please visit <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/free-school-meals> to see if you are eligible

## Staff Changes



We wish to bid a fond farewell to Mr Casey who is leaving us at the end of this term.

Thankyou for everything you have done over the last two years, you will be missed by staff and students alike.

Good luck in all your future endeavours.

**North Star 240°**

01173 772275

[northstar240@northstar-academy.co.uk](mailto:northstar240@northstar-academy.co.uk)

In order to keep your children safe at all times we must be able to reach you so we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of keeping your details up to date with the school office.

Please inform us of any changes as soon as they occur so that we can update our contact systems.

We are especially in need of your email address' as in order to save costs we will be sending more communications electronically.

All contact details are stored confidentially and will not be shared.