

We've Been Busy

It's safe to say it's been a very busy start to the school year for our wonderful staff and students and for the last week we haven't been able to shout about all the wonderful things that have been going on across the trust. So, you can have it all at once. Enjoy.

New schools for new students!

Starting a new school can be so daunting but our new year 7s starting at North Star 240° and the new students at NS82° have settled in amazingly and have well and truly hit the ground running. Our new year 7s have been getting stuck in on forest school trips where they've been setting up camps and making fires, not to mention the countless headteacher awards they've been receiving for exemplary school work. Our headteacher of 240°, Ms Grayson, has been blown away by how hard they are all working in and out of the classroom in the first two weeks of studying at a big secondary school. At our primary school, NS82°, we have had new starters of all ages and they have impressed Ms Yeo (headteacher) with how well they are making friends and building positive relationships with staff members. Keep up the good work everybody!



Castles and construction mean enrichment lessons have started!

Across both our schools, students and staff have been participating in enrichment lessons across a variety of areas. In cultural capital lessons, the year 9s have visited Berkeley Castle and the Bristol Aerospace Museum, trying on armour and testing out flight simulators, as well as learning about the history of two elements of British culture. Half of the year 7s have been doing forest school and the other half have been learning valuable career and life skills in catering and construction lessons. We start them early! Our year 8s have been having swimming lessons and learning real skills, both of which will support them in the future, and the other half of year 9 have been getting creative in art sensory sessions with Ms Gabb.



Down at 82°, Ms Carr has begun her amazing forest school lessons and the students started with learning how to make mini dens and will go on to learn about foraging, camping and loads more. These lessons are a wonderful opportunity for our young people to get outdoors, learn about wildlife and nature, and have a load of fun! The youngsters have also started their swimming lessons, so expect a few olympians to come out of North Star Academy Trust.



Interventions have begun, supporting students alongside our curriculum.

North Star Academy Trust makes use of targeted intervention sessions that take students out of their regular classes and gives them the opportunity to work 1:1 with one of our therapists or teachers to help support them in their learning. NS82° has a qualified Thrive practitioner and an ESSA therapist to help understand what our young people are trying to communicate with their behaviour and these sessions provide our students with the opportunity to build positive and trusting relationships with adults that they feel comfortable and safe talking to about any issues they may have.

At our secondary school, students continue to be offered ESSA sessions, as well as a variety of interventions, such as art therapy or bike mechanics, that are targeted to individual students depending on their needs identified by EHCPs. This week, our external NAOS therapists began multi-modal creative therapy sessions with three of our students and music therapy sessions with three different students, all of whom have been identified to require this type of therapeutic intervention. NAOS are experienced in working with children who have traumatic experiences in their lives and focus on developing self-regulating strategies and improving self-confidence and self-esteem.



A big thank you to the Greggs Foundation for their continued support this year.

We would like to thank The Greggs Foundation again for their generous support of our Breakfast Club and in providing electrical appliances, beds and bedding and food and uniform vouchers to some of our parents / carers. Not only do they make great cakes and other baked products, but they are generous and supportive in what has been a very difficult calendar year for many people! Their support has been heart-warming.



North Star 82° presented with two awards already!

Our amazing primary school is leading the way with awards this year and has already earned the Modeshift Stars Green award and the Bristol Healthy Schools award. Bristol Healthy Schools particularly admired our dedication to supporting mental health and wellbeing of both staff and students by enabling both to express their views and influence decisions on health and wellbeing in the school. We have shown we are committed to raising pupil's pride and sense of belonging in school and our anti-bullying team were recognised for their fantastic work.

The Modeshift Stars award was presented to us after we showed our excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable and active travel. Modeshift are continuing to support us with this mission by donating bikes, so thank you very much to them, and a massive well done to everyone at North Star 82° for your hard work in earning these awards.



Our off-site education hubs are fulfilling their purpose.

This new year has welcomed two new educational hubs to the NSAT family with the aim of providing a bespoke curriculum for students that are not quite ready to learn at our primary and secondary schools. By combining a core curriculum with vocational and exciting activities such as abseiling and caving, our students can build relationships with staff and learn essential skills in an environment more suited to their needs. The goal is for students attending these hubs to return back to their schools better-equipped to learn in the school environment. One of the hubs is in the Mendips and our students have already been abseiling down cliff faces!



Well done to everyone in NSAT for your hardwork and dedication at the start of the year. Keep it up!