



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the absence of our Headteacher, Jo Grayson, I have stepped in as Interim Headteacher for the last term. I have very much enjoyed stepping back into the day-to-day running of North Star 240° and working much closer with our students once again. I hope you will enjoy reading about what your young people have been doing.

As always, the time has flown by; but, as staff and students, we have achieved a considerable amount already in what can be the most difficult terms of the year. Our new year 7 students and new starters across the school have settled into secondary school life superbly and I feel like they've been with us at North Star 240° for years, which is brilliant. It's also been lovely to see our older students in both key stage 3 and key stage 4 welcoming the new students and 'showing them the ropes' in order to make their transition that little bit easier.

As part of our flying start to the year, we've hosted the author of the Ultimate Football Heroes book series, Matt Oldfield. He came and ran two sessions with our students to discuss resilience, setbacks and sport and inspire our young people to improve their reading skills. We also recently hosted the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Early Intervention Team who delivered sessions to our students on topics such as sexting and online safety. Both Matt and the police officers were superbly engaging and informative and our students gained so much from the visits.

Our enrichment programme has picked up where it left off last year and our KS3 pupils have enjoyed trips to Aerospace Bristol, Bristol Museum and MShed, as well as taking part in swimming, construction and catering lessons and forest school. Similarly, to last year, the KS3 tutor groups will take it in turn to take part in all the enrichment activities over the course of the year in order to learn and improve their practical and social skills and experience different opportunities and activities. Over in KS4, our year 11 Duke of Edinburgh students have started their silver awards and as part of this, they have been volunteering at North Star 82° and assisting the teachers and the students. They will be doing this for six months in order to complete the very difficult award!

Of course, the first two terms haven't been without their challenges. Starting school again after the summer holidays can be really tough for our young people and it can take time to settle back into the routines of school and education. At the end of the school year, we had to say goodbye to staff who had worked with our students for a long time and then we welcomed new people to the team in September. This has not been easy for us, as adults, let alone our young people, so I am so proud of the whole school for how well they have adapted to new surroundings and changing environments. It hasn't all been plain sailing; however, it has been admirable how resilient and determined our youngsters can be when they put their minds to it and I feel very proud to get to see this in your children.

I want to thank you for everything you do to support the school and your child's education. Whether this be supporting our behaviour policy or reading with your child so they are more confident when they come to school, it makes a massive difference on the progress of our young people. And, of course, we will continue to support you and your families as much as we can. Similarly, with the Covid-19 pandemic, we are facing more difficult times this winter, so it is vital we all stick together. If you have not seen it already, we have set up a support section on the Parents and Carers page of the website. This is full of financial support, local groups that you can join, and pages with supportive phone lines and advice to help get through this difficult time. However, please do speak to school staff members if you need any advice or support from us.

I hope you all have a nice Christmas break and make the most of an opportunity to spend time with your families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Palmer-Greene'.

Mrs Palmer-Greene CEO

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| A message from the CEO..... | 1 |
| Dates for the diary | 2 |
| E-Safety @ NS240 | 3 |
| Maths@NS240 | 4 |
| English | 5 |
| Art..... | 6 |
| Cultral Capital Visits..... | 7 |
| Author Visit | 8 |
| Children in Need | 9 |
| Our work with the Police | 10 |
| Careers | 11 |
| Anti-Bullying | 12 |
| Safeguarding | 13 |
| Information for parents | 14 |
| Staff Goodbyes | 16 |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|---|---|
| 03/01/2023 Start of Term 3 | 02-03/05/2023 Inset days |
| 16-27/01/2023 Mock Exams for year 11 | 08/05/2023 Bank Holiday - Kings Coronation |
| 09-10/02/2023 Inset days and end of Term 3 | 26/05/2023 End of Term 5 |
| 20/02/2023 Start of Term 4 | 05/06/2023 Inset Day |
| 15/03/2023 Proposed YR 9 Options evening | 06/06/2023 Start of Term 6 |
| 31/03/2023 End of Term 4 Celebration Assembly | 21/07/2023 End of Term 6 Celebration Assembly |
| 17/04/2023 Start of Term 5 | |
| 01/05/2023 Bank holiday | |

E-SAFETY FOR NS240°

North Star 240° have been awarded accreditation from National Online Safety. This is an amazing achievement for the 2nd year running. National Online Safety (NOS) not only provide high quality training to parents, teachers and support staff but also provides everyone with extremely useful and up to date resources in the form of posters, webinars and videos.

If you are interested in gaining further access to these resources, please contact us and we can set you up an account. The training courses are amazing and are CPD certified.

For any concerns regarding safety online, please do not hesitate to speak to your tutors or you can directly email tom.marsh@northstar-academy.co.uk

Alternatively you can text any concerns you may have to our anonymous text service the number is **07860 021 323** start your message with **NSA240**

When to report...

- You or a friend are being bullied

- You are concerned for a student's welfare

- A student, member of staff, or parent has behaved inappropriately

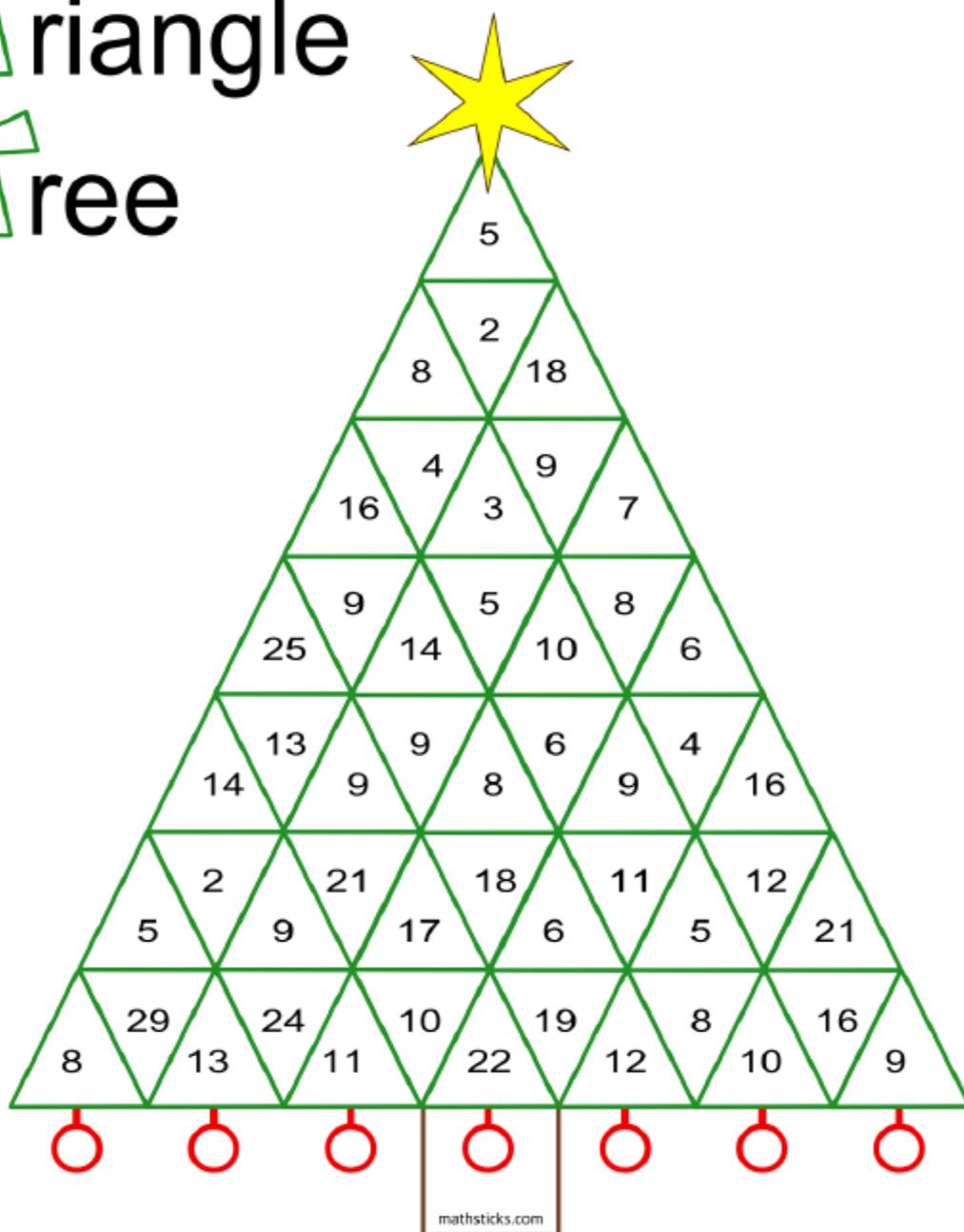
- You need to talk to someone about a problem

- Suggestion for changes or improvements in school

You can also report online using the following link:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/nsa240/>

 riangle
 ree



Start on **any** of the bottom seven baubles and make your way to the star at the top of the tree. Move from one triangle to the next by crossing a side, adding up the numbers in each triangle you visit.

Can you find a route to the star that adds to 100?

Can you find a route which gives the lowest possible total?

What is the largest total you can make passing through only 15 triangles?

Have a go at creating your own Triangle Trees.

ART @ NS240

GCSE Students are developing their own ideas and responses to a number of exciting topics such as natural form and identity . This has created opportunities for students to explore a variety of art subject areas and skills such as textile design, three-dimensional design, painting, collage and print. Discovering imaginative and innovative ways of working and understanding media, materials and technology through overcoming a variety of challenges. Producing amazing responses that evidence mastery of many materials and techniques such as detailed silk painting and Lino prints to bold , bright ink paintings.



Key stage 3 students have developed their observational drawing skills and explored the art of famous artists in history such as Keith Haring and Andy Goldsworth .Students have been supported in exploring materials and techniques such as, watercolour, acrylic ,collage and print inspired by their artist. Revisiting previous explorations, developing a deeper knowledge in elements of art such as line, shape, texture, form, space, colour and value



CULTURAL CAPITAL VISITS AND SCHOOL TRIPS



As part of our enrichment activities, our students at North Star 240° have had some brilliant Cultural Capital visits up to now.

They've sat in aircraft simulators at Aerospace Bristol, tried on old-school military uniform at Berkeley Castle, walked on the Suspension Bridge and had a journey in time in MShed and Bristol Museum. All students involved enjoyed their visits and joined in workshops where they built space rockets, flied them, created their own coat of arms and built bridges.



We've also been lucky enough to go on some awesome school trips this year.

Climbing walls, bowling, and tobogganing are just some of the highlights and on each trip our young people have had an opportunity to let off some steam and take some time away from the classroom to have some fun.



AUTHOR MATT OLDFIELD VISITS NS240°

On the 5th October, North Star 240 was visited by Matt Oldfield, author of the acclaimed *Football Heroes* series, as well as *Unbelievable Football*, and *Johnny Ball: Accidental Football Genius*. He ran workshops on resilience and story telling with our KS3 students, who all participated brilliantly, and asked many fascinating questions. Using Gareth Bale's early injury problems as a basis to explore the theme of resilience, the students came up with their own stories for overcoming problems and achieving greatness. Year 8 student Alfie Wlaznik reports:



“He explained the books that he’d written—both fiction and non-fiction. We asked him lots of questions about new books he might be writing in the future, and gave him some new ideas—like *Deadly Duos*, a book about siblings who are both footballers. He said he liked our ideas and he might make a book about them. It was fun, it was interactive, it was inspirational. He was really kind and funny.”

It was a great day for our students, and perhaps it inspired some of them to pick up a pen and write about their passions!

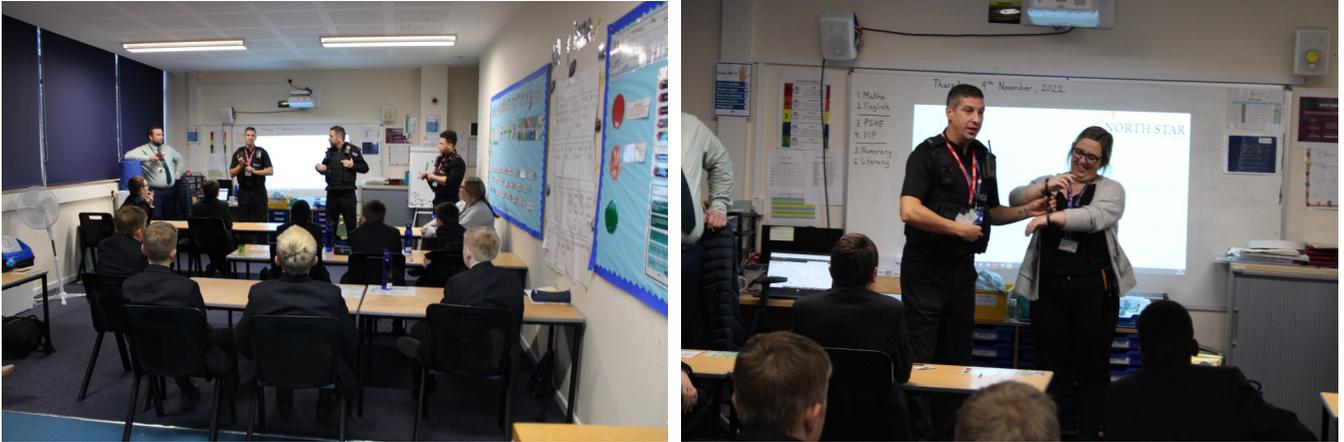
CHILDREN IN NEED 2022



Our amazing students in KS4 gave up lots of their time to bake delicious cakes and then to decorate and sell them for Children in Need! We had several welcome contributions from parents too. We raised lots of money and had a great time!



TEAMING UP WITH AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE



North Star 240° has enjoyed the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Early Intervention Team's first visit to the school. As part of their intervention programme and our PSHE curriculum, we will have termly sessions with them on these topics: online Safety, hate crime, knife crime, antisocial behaviour, child criminal exploitation (County Lines), peer on peer abuse, gender-based violence, stop & search.

In their first visit, officers used slightly different methods to engage our students – they put our teachers in handcuffs – to explain and show the equipment they carry in their job. The three police officers that gave up their time to talk to our young people introduced themselves in a very engaging way. They also spoke about what their jobs involve and why they do them, and they even came out for a kick about on the football pitch during breaktime.



CAREERS AT NS240°

A key part of our careers strategic plan is Job of the week. Every Monday a different job is sent out and looked at in tutor time and then referenced throughout the week across all of their different lessons. This is giving exposure of many different career paths to all students so they can then choose to explore further any jobs that they may be interested in.

Below is an example of the information included using the week which was a sports coach. The information includes an informative poster which is displayed in the classroom, roles and responsibilities, career pathways, labour market information (statistics on jobs in our area) as well as live job adverts.

What do you think a sports coach does?

Your day-to-day duties might include:

If you're working with schools and community groups, you'll:

- plan fun, engaging coaching activities, sessions and programmes in a safe environment
- give feedback on performance and help to improve technique
- work with young people, schools, community groups and sports organisations to promote the sport

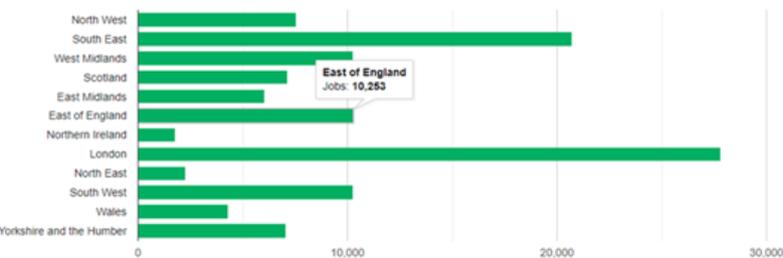
If you're working with young people involved in competitive sport, you'll:

- design basic training programmes
- work on developing more advanced techniques and tactics
- support performers at events and competitions

If coaching at national or international level you'll:

- design challenging and varied training programmes
- monitor the physical condition and mental attitude of the people you coach
- work with experts in sport like sports scientists, nutritionists, physiotherapists and programme managers
- mentor other coaches

People currently working in the job by region



Pathway

College

You can do a qualification at college like a Level 3 Diploma in Coaching. Many courses are specific to a particular sport, for example coaching tennis or basketball.

Entry requirements

4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course

Apprenticeship

You can start by doing an advanced apprenticeship in sports coaching.

University

- You can take a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in:
 - sports coaching and development
 - sports and exercise science
 - sports studies
 - physical education

Entry requirements

- 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

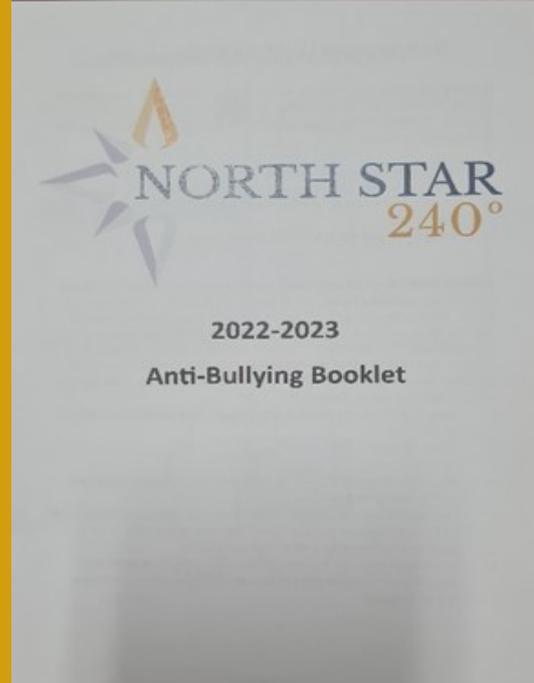
ANTI-BULLYING WEEK AT NS240°

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 2022 took place from Monday 14th to Friday 18th November this year and it had the theme 'Reach Out'.

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 14th November. It was a pleasure to see 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 an assembly on Anti-Bullying on Wednesday and had different tutor activities throughout the week. Please remember to have a look at our mini Anti-Bullying booklet which has been sent to you in the week!



SAFEGUARDING

As the cost of living increases so do the pressures on families. Exposure to the massive increase in online safety concerns we have seen could really be fuelling fires in the home. At North Star we want as much as possible to help out and often are able to sign post families to the support they may need:

Food Bank Vouchers

Please speak to the safeguarding team in school if you need a food bank referral.

Crises prevention fund

Emergency payments or household goods

Get help if you can't afford the basics like food, gas, electricity or household goods.

The Fund will be open to applications for school uniform between 11 July 2022 and 9 October 2022.

Please do not apply before this date.

We aim to process claims within 10 working days.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/benefits-financial-help/emergency-payments-local-crisis-and-prevention-fund>

Esafety

School have a subscription to National Online Safety where resources can be found relating to a large number of things from toddler screen time to how to set up parent controls on Roadblox. Some content is available online or feel free to ask for a free log in and gain access to a whole host of online information and online education programmes.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Domestic Violence Support:

Lines are open 24 hours a day and will support any family member who is in danger:

Next Link: 0800 4700 280

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Clean Air zone Bristol—Message from Bristol City Council

The clean air zone in Bristol starts on Monday 28th November. The aim is to reduce public exposure to nitrogen dioxide through:

- restrictions on the highest polluting vehicles
- encouraging the use of cleaner vehicles
- encouraging people to walk, cycle or use public transport

You can check if your vehicle will be charged here: Bristol's Clean Air Zone charges and vehicle checker [Bristol's Clean Air Zone charges and vehicle checker](#)

To help families understand the details of the Clean Air Zone a video has been produced. [Clean Air Zone for Bristol - YouTube](#)

For more information, please visit Bristol's Clean Air Zone.

With the winter months firmly upon us, it is worth remembering that there is loads of support available for you or your family members, for friends and neighbours. It is more important than ever that we all stick together and help each other as much as possible during the cost of living crisis.

A full list of supportive websites, schemes and charities is on our website on the parents and carers page of our website so please head online and have a look. The page includes financial advice, mental health support and help for families with SEND children. Citizen's Advice Bristol and Bristol Mind are two of the brilliant website that have tonnes of supportive information and advice for everyone living in and around Bristol, and Bristol City Council have some great tips on how to save on your energy bills and they have set up a network of Welcoming Spaces which is a great scheme and well worth checking out.

Please head over to our website to get some more information or give us a phone call if you would rather and we can help you access the right support.



Free and independent advice and support
For North Bristol and South Gloucestershire

- ▶ Welfare Benefits
- ▶ Universal Credit
- ▶ Debt Advice
- ▶ Appeals and representation
- ▶ Help to Get Online

Enquire using our Advice Tool at www.northbristoladvice.org.uk
Or call 0117 951 5751

Registered Charity number: 1066921

Food Banks and Food Clubs:

School have information about these.

Please contact the school office if you would like further information.

Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service

WRAMAS' Services

- Don't know what you may be entitled to?
- Need some help or advice on a benefit related issue?
- Not sure how to fill in a claim form? Having difficulty writing about your problems?
- Want to know how your other benefits may be affected?
- Would like some advice on a new or existing claim for a disability benefit?

Claiming the right benefits or finding information can be hard work and very confusing, but don't give up!

WE CAN HELP.

If you need help or advice there is a confidential helpline available:

T: (0117) 352 1888 E: welfarerights@bristol.gov.uk

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8.30 am – 1.00 pm (Wednesday closed all day)

If you prefer not to make a call or email us yourself, you can ask a professional working with you, a friend or relative, to contact us on your behalf.

You can also find advice and information, some of it specific to the coronavirus pandemic, on our website: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/benefits-financial-help>

Key Numbers:

Childline: 08001111

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

Samaritans: 116 123

Next Link Domestic Abuse Telephone Help Line: 08004700280

Mon – Fri 8.30-5.30 and 1pm Saturday.

Social services:

South Gloucestershire – Access and Response Team – 01454 866000

North Somerset- Single Point of Access – 01275 888808

STAFF GOODBYES

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Medina-Rivas and Miss Gabb who are off to ventures new. We would like to thank them both for their hard work and commitment to the students at North Star 240° in the time they have been with us.



They will be missed by both pupils and staff

Good Luck



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 .

MEDICATION

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.

School Communications

Our main way of communicating with you will now be via **email** .

This will ensure that you get information quickly and means we reduce our carbon foot-print as a school.

If we do not yet have your email address please email the school with your Child's full name.

If you need support creating a free email address please contact the

Help us Fundraise @ NS240°

If you still have last minute Christmas present to get why not buy them via the easy fundraising link below and help raise money for North Star Academy Trust [North Star Academy Trust - Bristol Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#)

Ways to contact North Star 240°

By phone : 01173 772275

Via email : northstar240@northstar-academy.co.uk

Website : [Homepage - Northstar ns240 \(northstar-academy.co.uk\)](http://Homepage - Northstar ns240 (northstar-academy.co.uk))



Twitter

