



## 2024/25 Term 4 Newsletter

1. Welcome from the Head
2. Science
3. Duke of Edinburgh
4. The Old Vic
5. World Book day
6. Religious Education
7. Comic Relief
8. West of England Summit
9. Out Door Education
10. Forest School, Holiday Club
11. Your Holiday HUB Bristol



## Our Mission

---

We **Navigate Success Together** with **Ambition** and **Relevance**



**Welcome to our Easter newsletter of 2025!**

**We have had so many 'wow' moments across Term 4. I am incredibly proud of all our students and their continued hard work. I would like to emphasise that the past term has been filled with remarkable achievements, exciting events and learning experiences. From theatre trips to science experiments. I'm pleased that we are leaving the winter months behind us and ready for the spring term.**

**Term 5 will see the start of the Year 11 GCSE examination session our Year 11's will continue to be supported to reach their true potential. I would like to extend my thanks to the parents and carers, your ongoing support is imperative to the success of our students.**

**I wish you all a Happy Easter, I hope you have a restful break, we look forward to welcoming you all back in Term 5.**

**Kate Luke Head Teacher**



### **Theatre Trip**

The smash hit show Joseph and the amazing Technicolor dream coat arrived at the Bristol Hippodrome last week.

We couldn't not let some of our students embrace seeing this fantastic musical .

Staff and students clap and cheered as Joseph and his amazing cast members sang and danced creating a magical time for us all.

## **Our Mission**

---

**We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance**

# Science



At North Star 240: Science week 16th March we had a competition.

Spaghetti – Marshmallow tower building.

Students had to build the tallest – biggest – strongest structure.

Science Week – Adapt and change.

Work as a team – solve the problem – adapt – communicate – no giving up

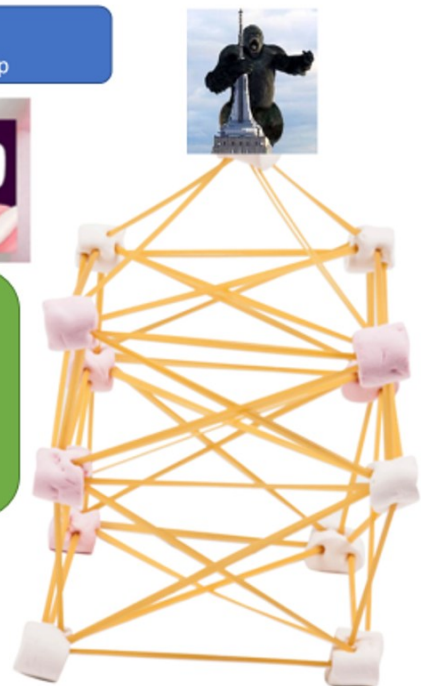


You have to build the tallest and most stable spaghetti-marshmallow tower.  
You can only use spaghetti and marshmallows in your tower. No tape or glue allowed. Your tower has to be able to support the king at the top.



Winning class share out a tub of hero's.

Runners up – some other treats for you.



## Winners

Tallest tower: year 10 Taurus class Alfie Walznik and Mason Allen with support from Ms. Mason and Ms. Bryson.

Biggest tower: year 8 Scorpius class with support from Mr Daley and Mr McCann

Strongest tower: year 8 Perseus class with support from Ms. Bentley

**We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance**



During this term year 10 students have been magnet fishing, clearing out the local brooks and water ways of junk and clearing Severn Beach of litter and plastics as part of our volunteering section of the DOFE award. Students involved have all worked hard and are well on the way to completing this part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteering section.



## Our Mission



---

We **Navigate** **Success** **Together** with **Ambition** and **Relevance**





# The Old Vic

After-school activities play a crucial role in the holistic development of

children and young people. These activities, ranging from sports and arts to academic clubs and community service, offer numerous benefits that extend beyond the classroom. On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April a number of school staff went to see Ja'Dore take part in a play called Ravers in which a rag tag group of self-described 'neeks' (nerds and geeks) gather at midnight in a local park, to hold a 'dry rave' (no intoxicants). Will they succeed in redefining 'cool'? Or will the powers that be succeed in shutting down the neek revolution? It was incredible to see such talent on stage at one of the oldest theatres in Bristol. You have done yourself proud, your family and everyone here at North Star 240°.

If anyone would like any information about getting involved with any clubs or activities outside of school, contact your tutor who will be able to point you in the right direction.

# World Book Day

MOIIG BOOK DAY

On March 6th lots of our school staff dressed up for world book day. Our students got to take part in a character hunt around the school. The winner received a book token to spend on books for home. It was a fun filled day, I'm not sure who had more fun, the staff or the students!



## Our Mission

---

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance

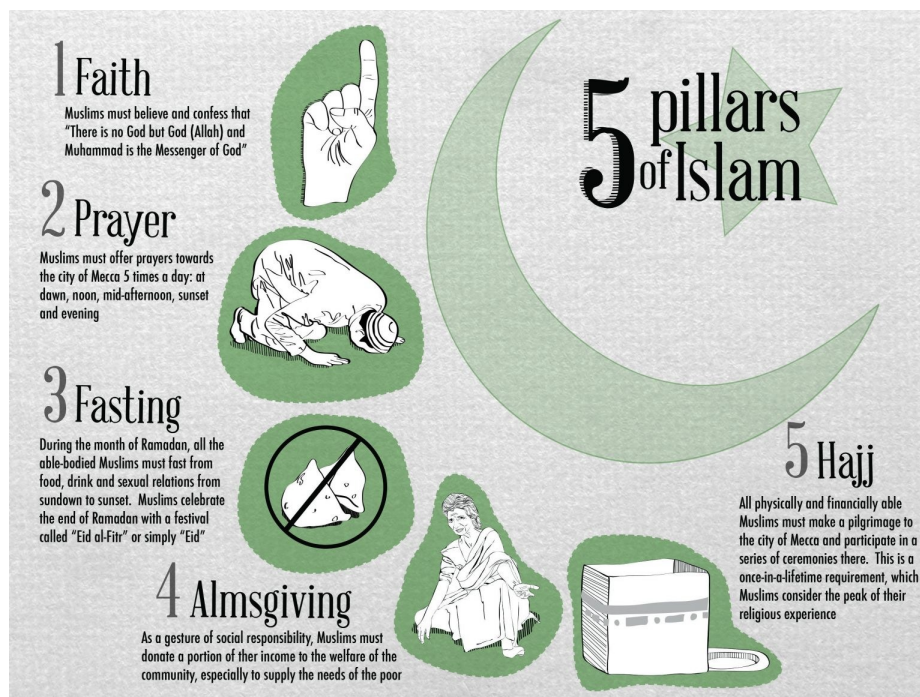
# Religious Education



Year 7 have been learning about various religions. This term it was Islam. The students found out about places of worship (mosques), important book (Quran) and significant traditions (Eid). To enhance their experience, we asked one of our staff members Miss Ali who is a Muslim to help us deepen the understanding of their faith. Students asked many interesting questions: Why do you wear a hijab? Why do you fast? How often do you donate to charity? How do you celebrate important traditions?

Miss Ali was happy and eager to answer all the questions that were posed by students during our Q&A session.

Finally, we found that religions might have different history or beliefs, but they share a lot of similarities. Focusing on being a good citizen, helping your community, celebrating with your friends and family and ensuring everyone is included are just some of the similarities that help everyone fit together as part of the British society following British values.



## Our Mission

---

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance





## Red Nose Day

Student Council wanted to raise funds for Red Nose day with not just a day of activities, but a whole week of them! Throughout the week, Mrs Lamkin ran a funny face competition in art lessons where students made all sorts of weird and wonderful creations!



On Thursday, students organised a pizza sale, which required a big team effort: student council members from 9B helped with the set up and cooking of the pizzas, supported by Mr Hitchcock; at breaktime, more council members came along to help sell. Riley also made bracelets to sell which added more money to our overall total. In the afternoon, students paid an optional fee to take part in some fun options. Student council thought about these activities carefully and it was a really lovely afternoon with everyone doing something they enjoyed – watching films, forest school, a big football match with staff and students and a very lively karaoke! Students also enjoyed a non-uniform day on Friday; thank you to everyone who supported with donations throughout the week, we raised a final total of £102!



## Our Mission

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance





### West of England Schools' Summit

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March, Year 10 students from all schools across the West of England were invited to attend the Schools' Summit and meet the Mayor (and his dog!). The event was held at Ashton Gate and around 20 schools attended. Alongside students from both mainstream and special schools, Riley and Alfie took part in a range of activities around some of the most pressing issues facing our region, including how we ensure the safety of our communities, develop the green skills of the future, and ensure that our world-leading creative and cultural sector continues to thrive.

They were able to try out some leading AI technology where their voices were transformed into moving pictures as they spoke their ideas about the future of our region. They also took part in a "marketplace" session where they spoke confidently with a range of employers and further education providers. They represented North Star brilliantly throughout the day and, after the activities, Riley and Alfie had the opportunity for a photo with the Mayor and spoke to him about their positive experiences of the day.



---

**We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance**





## Outdoor Learning Newsletter: Winter to Spring Update

As we transitioned from winter to spring over the past two terms, our pupils have been incredibly busy transforming our outdoor learning area and embracing nature through hands-on activities. Here are some of the highlights as to they've been up to!

### Allotment & Garden Development

Our pupils have rolled up their sleeves to develop our allotment, building raised beds and choosing their favourite fruit and vegetable seeds during a visit to Blaize Nursery. They've also been maintaining the space, in mowing the grass, cutting back brambles, and helping to create a brand-new log circle.

### Pond Restoration & Wildlife Projects

The pond restoration continues, with more logs added around the outside, providing a habitat for local wildlife. Pupils have also been creating a bug hotel to encourage minibeasts to visit, while in construction with Mr Shaw, they've built planters and birdhouses to enhance our outdoor area.

### Forest School Adventures (Year 7 & 8)

Our Forest School pupils have been exploring the outdoors beyond our site, enjoying nature walks at Blaize Castle and Lawrence Weston Moor. These off-site adventures have helped them connect with the nature and appreciate and make the most of our local green spaces.

### Land-Based Studies

Land-Based Studies pupils have continued to build practical skills through hands-on work in our outdoor area. They've also had exciting off-site experiences, including meeting park rangers and learning animal herding techniques at Lawrence Weston Farm, and also fed some baby goats.

### Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

Our DofE pupils have been making a difference by volunteering at Severn Beach, carrying out beach cleans to protect local wildlife, and additionally, some volunteering at Lawrence Weston Farm. They've also been honing their survival skills at Ashton Court and completing local hikes in preparation for their summer expedition, stay tuned for more updates!



## Our Mission

---

**We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance**

A poster for 'Forest School and Outdoor Cooking' during the Easter holidays. The background is a close-up of a campfire with logs and flames. The text is overlaid in various colors and fonts. At the top, 'FOREST SCHOOL AND OUTDOOR COOKING' is in green and yellow, followed by 'EASTER HOLIDAYS' in yellow. A green starburst on the left says '8-15 year olds'. A yellow box on the right lists activities: Campfire, Group Games, Rope Swings, Climbing Nets, Den Building, Whittling, Foraging, and And more... At the bottom, 'HEART OF BS13 CLIMATE ACTION HUB' is in green. Logos for 'NATURAL NETWORKS' (a circular logo with a bird) and 'Your Holiday HUB Bristol' (a colorful logo) are at the bottom left and right respectively. An email address 'info@natural-networks.co.uk' is in a brown box at the bottom center. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'NS82°' featuring a stylized compass rose with a flame at the top.

**FOREST SCHOOL AND  
OUTDOOR COOKING  
EASTER HOLIDAYS**

**8-15  
year olds**

- CAMPFIRE
- GROUP GAMES
- ROPE SWINGS
- CLIMBING NETS
- DEN BUILDING
- WHITTLING
- FORAGING
- AND MORE,,,

**HEART OF BS13 CLIMATE  
ACTION HUB**

**NATURAL  
NETWORKS**

**info@natural-  
networks.co.uk**

**Your  
Holiday  
HUB**  
Bristol

**NS82°**

Mr. Croney is the Senior Outdoor Practitioner at North Star. This Easter, he will be leading Forest School and Outdoor Cooking activities in South Bristol. Thanks to funding from Bristol City Council's Holiday Activities and Food programme, children and young people who qualify for benefits-related free school meals can participate at no cost. Affordable rates are available for other families. The activities are also suitable for younger siblings aged 5-7, though they must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

## Our Mission

---

We **N**avigate **S**uccess **T**ogether with **A**mbition and **R**elevance



# Your Holiday HUB Bristol

0°



## Your Holiday Hub is back for 2025

Children and young people in Bristol who receive benefits-related free school meals, can now book lots of fun activity sessions taking place during the spring school holidays (7 April to 18 April). All our Your Holiday Hub sessions are fully funded and include a healthy meal as part of the day. Activities range from sports to crafts, and from drama to baking plus so much more. It's a really great way for children to stay active, meet friends, have fun and learn new things.

For more about Your Holiday Hub Bristol, please go to: <https://news.bristol.gov.uk/press-releases/4a2e907e-70dd-4ed9-87cd-066cfe4b7f2b/get-ready-because-your-holiday-hub-is-back-again-for-2025>

To search all the latest sessions and book online, please visit <https://eequ.org/bristolyourholidayhub>. If you have any questions, contact [haf@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:haf@bristol.gov.uk) and a member of the team will get back to you.

## Our Mission

---

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance

## Big thank you!

All staff and students would like to say a BIG thank you to our supply agencies, they have been so kind and have donated enough Easter Eggs, so that every student at a North Star School will receive one. Our supply agencies are a constant support to us and have helped us grown our staff community, keep up the great work!



Five Education, Zen, Lexia Education, Long Term Teachers, Vision for Education, Hanson and Suppleo we thank you!



## Our Mission

---

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance





#### E-Safety

Wake up Wednesday—our IT lead has carefully selected the most appropriate wake up Wednesday poster. Every news letter addition this will be attached to back of the issue.

Should you want any further help or advice on E-safety please don't hesitate to contact the school.

#### Community offer

There are a number of free events happening in and around Bristol over the half term break. Follow the link below to explore the different opportunities [Free Events in Bristol - VisitBristol.co.uk](#).

[Home](#) | [What's On](#) | [Free Events](#)

## Free Events in Bristol

#### Feedback

North Star Academy Trust is committed to listening to you and working with you to resolve any concerns or complaints you may have.

In the first instance, please talk to your child's tutor if you have any concerns. They will be able to make sure they understand your concern in order to resolve it informally as soon as possible to avoid the need for you to make a formal complaint.

However, if the matter has not been resolved you may raise it formally. To do this you need to state that you are making a complaint, this can be done via telephone, email, in writing, through our 'get in contact' button [www.ns240.northstar-academy.co.uk/contact](http://www.ns240.northstar-academy.co.uk/contact). If you would like help to do this, please talk to your school reception staff who will make arrangements for someone to get in touch with you to give you any assistance you may need.

North Star Academy Trust will then review and/or investigate your complaint and this will include talking to you about it in further detail to find out what you would like to happen in order to resolve it.

## Our Mission

---

**We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance**

# Uniform



Please remember your child should come each day in the correct uniform, which is:

## Boys

- Navy blazer
- Black tailored trouser
- White school shirt
- School tie - clip on
- Navy V jumper (V-neck so tie is visible)
- Black, plain, sensible shoes
- Hijab – Navy Blue or Black

## Girls

- Navy blazer
- Black school skirt
- Sensible black tights to be worn with school skirt
- Black tailored trousers
- White school shirt
- School tie - clip on
- Navy jumper (V-neck so tie is visible)
- Black, plain, sensible shoes (open-toed or backless sandals are not appropriate)
- For safety reasons, high heels are not acceptable.
- Hijab – Navy Blue or Black

**Free school Meals/Pupil premium** : Your child could be entitled to receive free school meals as well as pupil premium funding for the school. Please read this important letter for more information about how to claim. You can apply to see if you are eligible for Free School Meals here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/travel-and-free-school-meals/free-school-meals>

If you are not entitled to free school meals a hot meal can be purchased for £2.90. Payments can be made over the phone or by sending in cash or cheque, payable to North Star Academy Trust and via Arbor app. Payments for meals are needed in advance.

## Our Mission

---

**We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance**



# Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

## GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

## TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

## GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

## LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

## AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

## HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

## BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

## 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

## SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

## TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

## SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

## WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE  
BOX

The  
National  
College



National  
Online  
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday