



Diary

24/25 term dates

Autumn 1
5th Sept to 25th
October

Half Term
28th Oct - 1st Nov

Autumn 2
4th Nov - 20th
Dec

ICT safety

The internet watch foundation has just published resources for young people who have concerns about images of themselves appearing online, and who are subjected to the threat of any personal content being shared by others.

The QR codes below both take you to support and resources that can be used by parents and students. It has become possible for the algorithm to search and remove the image, and so we encourage awareness of this.

Of course, should any parent or student need further guidance in this area please get in touch with a trusted adult and their safeguarder as a matter of urgency.



Message from our Head

Dear parents and guardians,

This year has been unusual, with nearly one-third of our students in Year 11 moving on to their next steps towards adulthood. Our college leavers are headed to Bicton, Petroc, and Exeter College, while others are embarking on apprenticeships and work placements. We wish all our leavers happiness and success. The transition and external assessments have been a major focus this term and have seen students reflect on their futures in a range of ways.

We have welcomed many new students via planned transition days and shorter sessions. Using this opportunity to provide more structured support for different age and stage groups will benefit our learners. Through these sessions confidence has grown: students, on new sites, have begun to share their preparedness and interest by setting up their personal learning spaces.

In addition to a record number of GCSE participants, students have enjoyed visits and enrichment opportunities across sites. Exeter Football Club supported our sports leader qualification program, and students visited exhibitions at The Burton. Others participated in surf sessions, climbing, horse riding, and a myriad of outdoor learning opportunities. Several students also had their work published in the 'Young Writers' competitions. We are especially proud of achieving the 'Thrive School of Excellence' award, thanks to the outstanding work of Lucy Basey-Fisher and her team, who has advanced the 'thrive' approach and family 'thrive' initiatives.

We have enhanced our external support team by welcoming Ruth, an occupational therapist, who can provide individual assessments and support alongside our visiting speech and language therapist, Laura, and educational psychologist, Alicia. Their expertise will enable us to offer therapeutic support to learners; complementing the curriculum and in-house therapies.

Our commitment to continuous improvement means we will focus on offering our students the best opportunities and engagement. Next year, we will prioritise attendance and explore new ways to support students in attending and staying in school.

I wish all families a safe and restful summer break, and we look forward to the new term which commences on **Thursday 5th September**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Maria Roberts



A few nerves before the GCSE maths exam



Helping setting up for our Olympic themed sports session

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Cooking BTEC

The cooking department is buzzing with excitement as the students have achieved great success in their culinary endeavours.

This year, five students have successfully passed their BTEC Level 1, showcasing their knowledge and skills. Eleven students have completed the E2 & E3 WJEC entry pathways, demonstrating their dedication to honing their craft. Additionally 200 AQAs have been achieved by students across all three sites.



The department has exciting plans to boost student participation in BTEC home cooking skills level 1 and offer level 2 courses in the near future.

The hard work and dedication of the students, along with the guidance of the talented teachers in the cooking department, has truly paid off.

Congratulations to all the students for their outstanding achievements!



"He just needed the right people to see the best in him and help him thrive."
Parent via text message.

Thrive day - school of excellence

In July staff and students at On Track Barnstaple, were joined by parents and carers, and members of the local community. Niki Tait, Mayor of Northam, Barry Edwards; Deputy Mayor, Reverend Jules Harris; St Margaret's Church and Eva Ford; regional development Manager from 'thrive' visited us on a sunny Thursday afternoon to celebrate the well-deserved 'thrive school of excellence award.'

This was no small feat: a rigorous assessment process took place with the 'thrive' assessors, and we were awarded the highest level of achievement. For the uninitiated: 'thrive' is an organisation that trains staff to support the social and emotional development of children and young people. The five areas being observed were 'environment,' 'leadership,' 'right-time,' 'reparative,' and 'relationship.'



The award recognises the school's unwavering commitment to using this approach in school. 'Thrive' underpins the school's ethos, and supports building positive relationships with young people, helping them feel ready to engage with learning and next steps. It aims to build social, emotional development alongside good mental health.

At the colourful and lively event guests enjoyed music by the school band, a variety of games and activities, a delicious BBQ, and were treated to North Devon's famous #Hockings ice cream.

A wonderful day was had by all!



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School menu

The latest from our kitchen:

Lunch is available every day from our 5 star rated kitchen (Torridge D.CC.)

Meals are freshly prepared for all sites and available to ALL students.

In addition to dish of the day there are five further choices of:

- Jacket potato and filling.
- Pasta & sauce.
- Beef pasty
- Cheese & onion slice
- Assorted sandwiches

All meals include sides and a dessert.

Packed lunch, fruit and chilled water are easy to transport for off site learners.

Published authors



Rhys, Zak and Mario were thrilled to have their work selected for publication in a professionally produced volume, that is nationally available.

www.youngwriters.co.uk



"After surfing they were much more open and able to chat about issues and their mental health"

Liz (Narita staff)

GCSE exams

During the summer term many of our key Stage 4/5 students sat their GCSE exams. In total 25 students took exams across a range of subjects including maths, English language, English literature, biology, chemistry, physics, history, psychology, religious studies and computer science. Our GCSE students made us feel very proud as they approached their exams with maturity and a positive attitude.

GCSE Results Day is Thursday 22nd August 2024 - students are invited to come to Narita House to collect their results in person from 10am-11am and they will also be emailed to families at 11am.



Work experience

This edition we feature Lulu who has been attending 'Maggie's cafe', a day a week.

She serves tea, coffee, cakes, as well as speaking to customers. She enjoys work: especially visits from staff and her peers. Her confidence is growing week by week thanks to extensive praise from the volunteers at Maggie's, and she fits in well.

The Reverend of St Margaret's said that it is awesome to see a student performing so well as part of the local community and there may be more opportunities for students in the future. It has been lovely to see the change in Lulu, during her work.

We are also fortunate to have some local companies, willing to provide placements, such as Charlie (pictured) at a local sawmill. Charlie was subsequently offered a job after making a good impression. We are always working on expanding the variety we can facilitate. As a school we are very proud of how our students have conducted themselves during their placements. It has been terrific to see the progress they have made in so many areas as a result of their experiences. They have been a credit to us!



Leavers video

Follow this link for the video of the year, produced by Cheryl and featuring many staff cameos - a present for our cohort of leavers.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GBQqfFfJ0-mFA23NOV5lep3HF8avNoYd/view?ts=667d7eea>

The buzz created also inspired Nicola to spontaneously rap the track, with musical accompaniment when we were setting up for a performance.



Amazing art work

Take a look at this exceptional exhibit created by one of our gifted art students.



Abi researched historical and modern influences around the Norse god Loki. She designed and built this mask from polymer clay with a wire structure. I think we can all agree the resulting artifact is something to be proud of.

thrive at On Track

The thrive approach continues to really make a difference to our young people and staff. We strive to cater for the wonderful uniqueness of each student and also support our colleagues to maintain their energy and enthusiasm. Thrive is the best antidote to a student experiencing a difficult moment, as it is non-judgemental, tries to engender positivity and is targeted to each individual.

Thrive has created a calm, caring environment. Where all of our students feel valued and have an opportunity to thrive at being themselves.



On matchday i walk to the dressing room The nerves are growing and the music is playing.

I walk out of the tunnel and the fans are shouting loudly. The atmosphere is electric.

My team mates and I stand in our positions, excitedly, waiting for the whistle.

Up and down, up and down, while the fans whoop and cheer.

Goal! I dived in celebration and the grass tickled my cheeks.

The final whistle blows. A rollercoaster of emotion comes to an end.

'Match day'
by
Charlie
Chichester



Football Exeter city & sports leaders

On May 1st, we were blessed to have a football coaching session from Exeter city community trust. The students and staff were put through their paces, and enjoyed a structured, fast paced developmental session to inspire their own sports leaders qualification. There was a great physical and mental warm up, skills based activities and the obligatory match at the end. Students went on to demonstrate the skills picked up from this session, in their own subsequent sports leaders assessments.

In June staff and students gathered for a Olympian day of sports at the park. There were a choice of activities and it was great to see some of the students utilising their sports leaders knowledge to help set up and create games. Among these were cricket, frisbee and catching games. It is always lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves and coming together as a group.



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Cross Combe Farm BTEC work

This term the students have experienced lambing and calving season; supporting with moving them to the new pens, bedding down and feeding.



Charlie P, Ashley, Casey and Matthew have completed a BTEC level 1 in land based studies. They should be very proud of all of their hard work.



Immersive experience

Our offsite learner Mario visited an immersive experience that focussed on the plight of people fleeing terror and seeking sanctuary in the UK. He asked a question of the actor's process and was reflective afterwards.



Forest School

This has been another exciting term of discovery, creativity and productivity: as well as finding animal bones and evidence of small forest creatures in the camp, the students have been getting back to nature. We have constructed planters, and continue to improve the forest camp with a new wood store, furniture and an arboreal nursery has been developed to save young saplings, fostering the children's understanding of the value of trees. We have made fritters from elderflower, carved heads inspired by Easter Island and students also rose to the challenge of building the tallest possible structure. Outdoor learning has included river studies, surfing, magnet fishing and commemorating D-day.



Eco school

We created a picture from discarded materials, as part of the ongoing green flag initiative; award status.



The sea is my home, a land of my own.

Tethered to the sea, forever I will be.

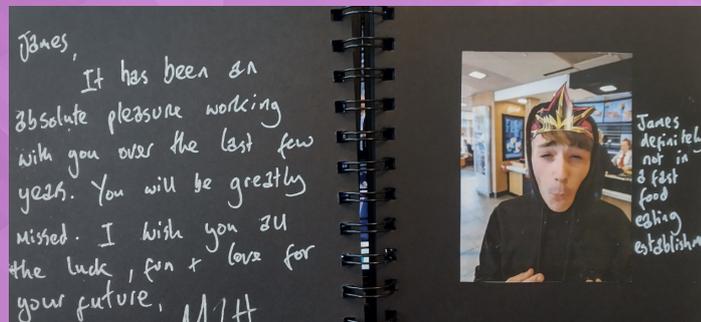
With my glint of light I cause quite the fright, but at the end of the day that's alright.

For I have my home belonging to the anglerfish for who I am known.

Anglerfish - Zak Phillips

Year 11 leavers - farewell

With a proliferation of year 11 students this year, there have been a lot of farewells this term. Key-workers have been handing around leaver's books for comments, pictures and this has naturally lead to reflecting and reminiscing. There has also been a programme of activities such as kayaking, wake-boarding and meals out in Exeter. We wish all students the best of luck





ON TRACK
EDUCATION

Photo Drop



Our usual selection of pics to show some of the term's highlights!

Please check out our website for contact information and any help or support you may need: ontrackeducation.com/barnstaple

Keep up to date by following us on Instagram

 @ontrack_education

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