



Diary

25/26 term dates

Summer term 1

20-21st April - INSET days

22nd April - 22nd May

Half term: 25th -29th May

Summer term 2

1st June - 24th July

Bank holiday

Star Wars Day - May 4th

WJEC Success

This year, many students have been entered for WJEC Entry Pathways across Art, Cooking, English, Maths, Outdoor Learning, PSHE, and Science. Students have worked incredibly hard to complete their coursework portfolios, which are essential for these qualifications.

With dedicated staff support, learners have gathered evidence of their skills, and these portfolios are now being finalised for the April submission window. We are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by everyone involved and look forward to celebrating their achievements.



Message from our Head

As we come to the end of the Spring term, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the progress and effort our students have shown over the past few months. BTEC coursework is now well underway, Mock exams are complete and some are preparing for GCSEs. Our new starters have been working closely with staff to make sure the 1:1 support we offer is meeting their individual needs and the school is in a real rhythm of learning balanced with the targeted Thrive development for all to make progress.

We are incredibly proud to have achieved Gold Status in the School Mental Health Award this term. The well-being of our pupils and staff is at the heart of everything we do, and this recognition reflects the commitment, care, and dedication shown by our whole school community. I would like to thank Lucy Basey-Fisher who drove the award forward, and the entire team for their passion and hard work in ensuring mental health and well being are fully embedded across the school.

It's been great to see students continuing to grow—not just academically, but also in their personal development and social skills. Through personalised learning, each student has made positive steps forward, showing resilience, creativity, and determination in a range of ways.

The recent parents evening showcased this development. The pupils were so proud of the performance for the BTEC music alongside sharing their books and subjects. I'd also like to say a big thank you to our staff team, who work so hard to support every learner, helping them build confidence and succeed.

As always, our school community has come together to celebrate what makes our students unique. From Mental Health Awareness Day and World Book Day to visits to the farm—where students have enjoyed seeing new life—it's been a busy term.

We've also been planning next steps and new placements for students, working closely with families. The recent sunshine has definitely been a welcome bonus as we head into Spring.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the break as we continue to support pupil's academic and personal development. Please note that after the Easter break, there will be INSET days, and students will return on Wednesday 22nd April.

Warmest wishes,

Maria Roberts



Parent's Evening

We were delighted to see so many parents and carers. Our learners were proud to show off their efforts this year, including the eye-catching Space themed art work.

We were also treated to a fantastic concert with all performers battling nerves to entertain us all. Weren't they all brilliant?!

Big thanks to all who attended.



Meet the Team

Liz Clifford - PSHE



I'm Liz, the PSHE Lead across our three sites.

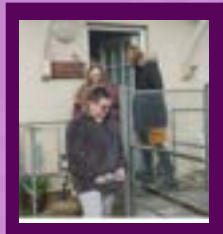
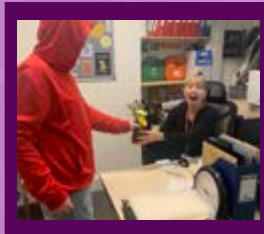
PSHE is vital for building self-confidence, emotional well being, and adulthood skills. My goal is to equip students with the tools to build positive relationships and thrive. My favourite part of On Track is watching our amazing young people grow in self-belief.



at On Track

This term in the Thrive curriculum and the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural curriculum we have been looking at spreading kindness within our communities and also considering our own self awareness to include our hopes and dreams for the future.

Students have also created vision boards to consider short and long goals for the future. This has helped our pupils think about where they might like to travel in the future and what they might like to achieve and enjoy.



SEN Department

SEN Team Update: Transitions & New Specialist Support

It has been a productive term as we conclude this year's Annual Reviews. A huge thank you to staff for your passionate input. Your dedication ensures the best outcomes for our students. As we move into the Summer Term, our focus shifts to transition and leavers' reviews.

We bid a fond farewell to Laura Tydd (SALT) and warmly welcome Jade Duffield, our new Occupational Therapist. Jade will visit half-termly to support sensory diets, with Sensory Circuits now being planned for the Narita site. Post-Easter, we launch our new Provision Maps—a "one-stop shop" for EHCPs and Access Arrangements designed to streamline pupils' planning.

British Science Week - Curiosity In Action

Students investigated osmosis and ion exchange by creating artificial marine life, linking these reactions to climate change. They also joined a nationwide "myth-busting" experiment, discovering that toast lands butter-side down 62% of the time due to rotational physics and gravity.

By recording data from 21,000 toast drops, students practiced collaborative research and articulated complex physical laws with impressive clarity.



Family liaison

As another busy term concludes, I want to personally thank you for your incredible engagement. Your open communication and genuine interest in our school community are what make this environment so special.

Thank you for being such a vital part of our team!
Cheryl Morgan



Chinese New Year

Our students enjoyed a productive term, balancing academic progress with cultural exploration. Pupils earned AQA Unit Awards by researching Chinese New Year and the Zodiac.

By investigating their own animal signs, they broadened their cultural perspectives while maintaining fantastic academic momentum. A brilliant achievement for all involved!



Sustainability

Our student Eco Team has been busy planting wildflower seeds to boost biodiversity and growing fresh peas, carrots, beans, and lettuce to encourage healthy, homegrown eating. We've also prepared our gardens for the vibrant spring and summer seasons ahead.

Next term, we are launching a "No Electricity Day" to raise awareness about energy reduction and our carbon footprint. With warmer weather arriving, we are encouraging all staff and students to embrace outdoor learning opportunities



World Book Day

World Book Day was a vibrant success across all three sites! Students joined the National Literacy Trust for a "Footy & Booky" quiz and enjoyed a multi-site story session with Andy. Using Authorfy, they explored author interviews and extracts, sparking deep interest in storytelling. A huge thank you to the Plough Arts Theatre for the fantastic costume loans, which allowed students to truly bring their favorite characters to life through imaginative play and creative expression.



Exam Results

Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils showed great maturity during February's Mock GCSEs, providing excellent preparation for the Summer term examination series. Final entries are now submitted, with timetables included in the end of term reports.

Progress in Functional Skills remains strong, with pupils moving confidently from informal Entry Level assessments to formal Level 1 and 2 exams.

These qualifications, alongside BTEC qualifications, offer a practical alternative to traditional GCSEs, with a Level 2 pass being widely recognised by colleges and employers as equivalent to a GCSE Grade 4 (C), while Level 1 aligns with GCSE Grades 2-3.



ON TRACK
EDUCATION

Photo Drop

Events and activities, this term



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

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Support, Nurture, Inspire, Empower