

Diary

24/25 term dates

Spring 1
8th Jan - 14th Feb

Half Term
17th Feb - 21st Feb

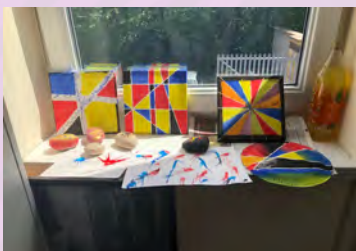
Spring 2
7th Apr - 24th Apr

Welcome to all

The autumn term has brought many changes, with a fresh cohort of year sevens, and a few other new faces across the years groups. We have been delighted to get to know you all

It's not always easy coming into a new setting so staff work especially hard to try to make coming to On Track a positive, person-centred experience.

"I just love it at On Track"
Sienna - year 10



Message from our Head

Dear parents and guardians,

We have had such a change in cohort this term with so many Key Stage 4 and 5 learners leaving us in the summer and a lot of new starters in September; we have been getting to know a lot of new faces. We welcome all new students and stakeholders.

Staff and learners have pulled together to make this term more productive than ever. We also welcome our new Occupational Therapist to coordinate with the invaluable work of our Speech and Language Therapist, Play Therapist and Educational Psychiatrist. We will also be exploring some animal intervention at an external venue next term, which really meets the needs of some of our young people. This work, alongside the curriculum offer, is balanced and supportive for students at On Track, and will enable success for each individual.

Students have been busy: with assessment week, work experience placements, and community events such as, our visit from Roundswell Primary school during which our PE students led sports sessions. We also enjoyed the traditional Queen's theatre trip to see 'Beauty and the beast'.

In May and June 2024 the highest number of candidates in On Track Barnstaple's history sat GCSE exams. Results were received over the summer break and they achieved passes in GCSE Maths (15 pupils), English Language (13 pupils), Biology (12 pupils), English Literature, History, Physics, Chemistry and Psychology, with grades ranging from 1 to 8 (grade 9 is the highest grade available at GCSE). Huge congratulations to all our GCSE pupils on this phenomenal achievement!

Since our return to school in September many of our younger pupils have been busy completing Functional Skills qualifications - so far this term 13 have achieved Entry Levels in Maths, 11 have achieved Entry Levels in English - Writing and 7 have achieved Entry Levels in English - Reading. Lots of pupils are also working towards other qualifications including BTEC Certificates, WJEC Entry Levels and AQA Unit Awards.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Narita House site for an open afternoon on Thursday 19th December. This is a good opportunity to visit sites and experience our learner's physical environments. We continue working towards the family thrive uptake with Lucy coordinating the 'Thrive Excellence Award' and we have had so much success in the reduction of phone use across sites as per our new policy.

Wishing you all a safe, settled Christmas.

Maria Roberts



Support, nurture, inspire, empower

Christmas concert



Rehearsals have been going well for our Christmas concert. We hope for a good turn out and delicious refreshments will be provided. Bring your singing voices and appetites on the 19th December as the holiday season builds.

Christmas prep

On Track Christmas tree is in full display in the Panier Market (look out for Tree 18!) - This is the 2nd Christmas Tree Festival at the St Peter and St Mary Magdalene Church, last year attracted over 2000 visitors. It is FREE for the public to attend, just walk in and look at the lovely Christmas Trees and soak up some of that Christmas spirit in this historic building.



Greetings card and decorations production have been in full swing across sites, with many of our learners working hard to add to our Christmas spirit.



at On Track

This term in our staff training we have focussed on the PACE approach created by Dan Hughes. This reminds us to be playful in our lessons and encourage our students to show empathy and curiosity.

PACE stands for 'Playfulness', 'Acceptance', 'Curiosity' and 'Empathy'. It was developed more than 20 years ago as a central part of attachment theory.

This is in conjunction with focused family therapy where we are supporting adults to build safe, trusting and meaningful relationships with children and young people who have experienced trauma.



<https://www.thriveapproach.com/news/join-our-festive-challenge-the-chain-of-cheer>

Repeated positive play experiences help build connections in the brain.

We have taken part in some acts of kindness to help our students to develop empathy. This has included choosing gifts and donating to the locals toy bank and creating bunting through thrive's 'Chain of Cheer' where Thrive will donate to 'Action for Children' for every 100 metres of bunting that we can make.

Continued success in the cooking department

The Cooking Department has welcomed 12 new students onto the BTEC Level 1, while BTEC Level 2 currently has enrolled. This flourishing programme, based at our school, is dedicated to equipping young people with essential skills to prepare delicious and nutritious meals using fresh ingredients. The initiative, which started at the beginning of the term, aims to nurture a new generation; passionate about cooking and the importance of sharing culinary knowledge within their communities.

The BTEC course focuses on introducing students to various cooking techniques, enabling them to create simple, healthy dishes. Students have learned vital skills such as knife safety, meal planning, and the importance of nutrition. The course encourages creativity in the kitchen and also fosters a sense of confidence as students master new recipes, cooking methods and surprise themselves.

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Outdoor learning



Kenzie has shown an interest in working with animals and we enjoyed a lovely day out at Exmoor Wildlife park. Kenzie was able to correctly identify many of the rare and unusual breeds of animals, and listened well to the zookeepers. .

Armistice Day 2024

We raised awareness and money and students went to the Rock Park commemeration and supported by laying poppies. Badges were hand made and shared with students and staff on the week and we are very proud of student creations.



Mental Health day

For 'World Mental Health Day', and in support of young minds' 'Hello Yellow' campaign, staff wore yellow, and also enjoyed yellow food as part of their monthly Fika Thursday, which involves a short wellbeing activity followed by the opportunity to take a break and spend time with colleagues



Playing in the sand

We were playing in the sand
And you found a little band
You told me you fell in love
with it;
Hasn't gone as I planned

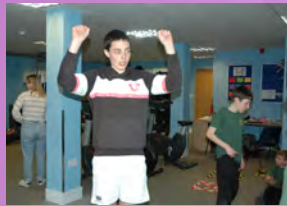
We were even in our tomb
Said you never want a new
I wondered if I could go own
way
Everything's a bit tuned
Everything's perfect
but you're so excited too

We were playing in the sand
and you found a little band

by Marley White

PE afternoon with Roundswell primary

In November, On Track Barnstaple held a sports event for Roundswell Primary School. A group of 21 students joined us for an afternoon of physical activity, coached by some of our sports leaders. The afternoon was split between our sports hall and gymnasium. There was football coaching plus table tennis in the sports hall, and a fitness circuit of 12 stations in the gym.



Hanging on his every word: Charlie puts his young charges through their paces.

Our students showed their strengths in coaching these young people and were a credit to our school - the primary school children loved it and were excited to work collaboratively with us on future events!

English competitions

We have been taking part in a writing competition based around the 90th Anniversary of Lord of the Flies and the recent release of the graphic novel. 8 learners have written fantastic diary entries as if they have been marooned on the island. We wish them the best of luck.



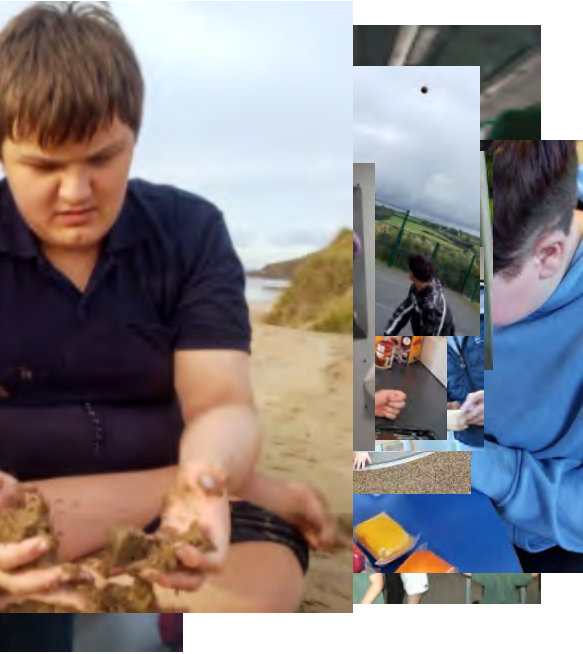
Work experience



Here is a picture of two of our learners completing work experience. Mercy and Nicky were rewarded with a nice drink, Nicky was able to communicate perfectly to order her own drink. This was also a reconnaissance trip to get information about ski slopes.



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EDUCATION



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

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