

Diary

What's coming up...

Spring

4th Jan - 9th Feb

HT: 12th - 16th Feb

19th Feb - 28th March

Summer

17th April - 24th May

HT: 27th - 31st May

3rd June - 25th June



Inset 2023/24

2nd & 3rd Jan

April 15th & 16th



Message from the Head

This term has been another busy one! Staff and learners have pulled together to make this term more productive than ever.

Firstly, we welcome all new students and stakeholders. We are also about to welcome our new Speech and Language Therapist to coordinate with invaluable work of our Educational Psychiatrist, Play Therapists and Creative therapists. This work, alongside the curriculum offer, should feel balanced and supportive for all students at On Track and will help enable success for each individual.

Students have been busy: some on work experience placements, some with community events such as the mental health awareness work, a football tournament, our forest school open day and our theatre trips amongst the learning. Helen has coordinated the 'postcrossing' student writing event for the English department that many students have taken part in, and remembrance tributes, alongside seasonal learning has taken place.

Exam successes: our students are currently taking a range of assessments to ensure they have all they can from us, and themselves, in terms of qualifications. These range from AQA unit awards, WJEC entry pathways, functional skills assessments to BTEC and GCSE exams.

We have also welcomed visitors to one of our sites for an open afternoon at Saunders House. Please look out next term for something similar at Narita House. This is a good opportunity to visit sites and experience learners' physical environments. We continue working towards the family thrive uptake with Lucy coordinating the 'Thrive Excellence Award' and we have also aligned with a government wellbeing pilot over the last 12 Months. I am delighted to announce the award of Silver status for the school students and staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, settled Christmas

Maria Roberts

School attendance

We are continuing to work with parents, carers and the Local Authority to ensure that our students are in school when they should be. Good attendance is crucial to achievement, and we aspire for our learners to achieve their their full potential.

If your son or daughter is regularly absent we will discuss with you any issues that may be preventing regular attendance, and then decide how we can move things forward. Without attendance in school, learners have less opportunity to access their education and develop their knowledge and skills further.

Please let us know as soon as possible on 01271 372269 if your child is not going to be in school—please leave us a message if nobody is available to answer the telephone.

Support, nurture, inspire, empower



Parents Useful info

CEET

(Community Environment Education Therapy)

A local group are having a HAF (holiday and food) day on December 19th at an allotment in Braunton. There will be activities, a hot meal and Xmas hampers. Limited spaces: further details available - email sarah@ceetic.com



Oral Health Info

Here is a link to an NHS initiative with advice about how to give your teeth the best possible protection

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-teeth-and-gums/take-care-of-your-teeth-and-gums/>



Money Helper

Money Helper, provided by the Money and Pensions Service, has released a range of resources to help educate and engage children about finance and money. The platform includes resources on shopping, pocket money and saving, digital money, online scams, and app purchases.

This has been a great resource for our students - who we always strive to encourage with their independent skills.

Mental health & wellbeing

Hello Yellow day & Silver Award achieved

Many of us took part in the World Mental Health #HelloYellow day. There were some imaginative outfits on display! To raise money for 'young minds' a selection of pens & badges were available, alongside the 'tea and talk' session and a special yellow lunch.



The staff teams of Saunders and Narita House adding a splash of colour to the day

National wellbeing award

At On Track Barnstaple, our approach to wellbeing is a big part of our school development plan alongside our own mental health team initiative.

Continued work in supporting our student's emotional, social and mental health has improved attendance. Engagement in learning has been more consistent, and we aim for our learners to feel heard and supported during their time with us. A massive thank you to family members for their efforts, which further endorses our team's value.

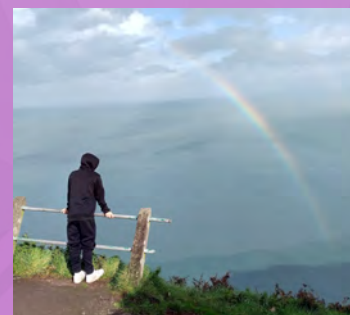


Environmental work

We have found that exploring local surroundings can do wonders for our relationship building with students.

We completed a litter pick to create awareness of how important it is to keep our local environment clean and tidy which is part of our green flag award & eco school status.

Many students commented on the positive feelings they experienced when they were able to make this kind of contribution to their local community. A sterling effort!



Gym redecoration



The Narita House gym is looking particularly smart due to the hard work of the students and staff. This involved a lot of shifting heavy kit to get into all spaces, and a fresh new paint job.



Before and after

School Menu

Students have been given feedback on the recent food options, which has created a few edits in the great menu options that are offered! Here are some examples of next term's menu.:



Chicken goujons, or salmon fillet with chips and peas.

Pasta box with meatballs or tomato, carbonara sauce and salad.

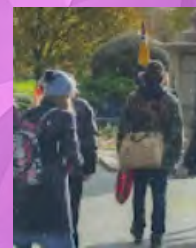
Sausages with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, carrots and gravy.

Devon apple cake and custard

Remembrance Parade

On Friday 10th November On Track Education were represented at the Barnstaple children's remembrance service by Zak Phillips and Rhys Brock. This was a unique opportunity for both pupils to pay their respects, on behalf of the school, for those who have given their lives in the service of our country as members of the armed forces.

The event took place in Rock Park in Barnstaple and was attended by other schools, civic dignitaries, representatives of the Royal British Legion and local churches. A range of readings were given as part of the service and a minute's silence was observed. At the end of the service the school wreath was laid, by Rhys, as a token of our own support. Both of our representatives - impeccably behaved, and moved by the ceremony, were perfect advocates. At forest school, further tributes were created with a number of poppies adding both colour and a chance to reflect on the sacrifices made. Lest we forget.

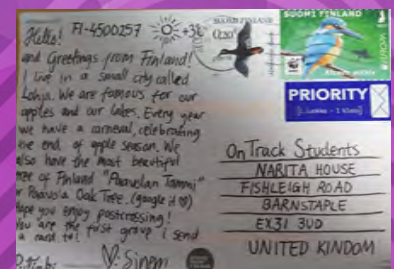
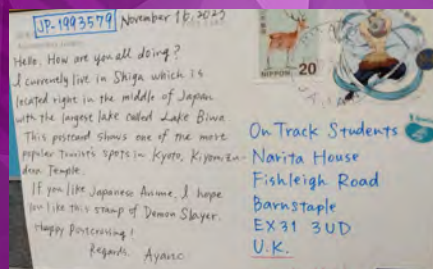


Country	Received	%	Travel (avg)
Canada	1	16.7%	7
Japan	1	16.7%	11
Lithuania	1	16.7%	14
Singapore	1	16.7%	7
Taiwan	1	16.7%	13
U.S.A.	1	16.7%	17

Postcrossing initiative

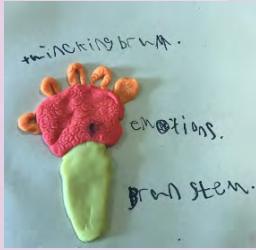
Students at On Track Barnstaple have taken part in a postcard writing opportunity with 'postcrossing'. The goal of this project is to allow anyone to send and receive messages from all over the world using traditional, hand written physical postcards and registering them through postcrossing.com

The idea is simple: for each postcard you send, you will receive one back from a random postcrosser from a unique location in the world. So far many of our On Track learners have submitted a card as part of their written assessments at school and we have received cards back from Belgium, the Netherlands, Singapore, Finland and the other from Algeria. Students are able to track their cards distance, timing and responses online through the web site. It has been a real talking point, and great success!





Thrive at On Track



This term students have been learning about managing stress & self-esteem needs. We have been looking at celebrating differences through debating topics, trying new foods and talking about our own strengths. We have also spent some time learning about the hand brain model, where we represent the three main parts of our brains using our hands. We talked about what happens to our bodies when we feel stressed and things that help.



We are aware of the positive effects that fresh air and physical activity has on our young people's mental health and we have enjoyed time outside in the woods, or going for walks in our local area. We had a fabulous session of geocaching in Northam. As we near the end of the term we have focussed our efforts on Christmas box projects which includes creating crafts and treats to show kindness to the people we care about. We will be singing carols to our neighbours and will deliver our baked goods to them as an act of community. Students have also been building staff and peer relationships through a shared enjoyment of playing board games.

Forest School

The students have experimented with recipes this term at forest school, with some great success.



We have also continued our tool skill development at Forest school this term. Students have contributed to improvements to the camp area, harvested resources for activities and prepared wood for the fire.



This term the students have continued to develop their knife and craft skills to produce some successful instruments, and interesting ornaments.



Theatre Royal

Some of our students were lucky enough to visit the Theatre Royal Plymouth in October, to watch a performance of the award winning book: 'The House With Chicken Legs'. Linked to their English course.



This is a book that some of the students are reading in English lessons and it was a great opportunity to see the story come to life!



A great time was had by all!



Inter schools football tournament

In October we entered two teams as On Track Education hosted its first ever Football tournament at Sandymere. Five other schools were invited to take part, including Marland, Lampard Community School, Acorn, and Shoreline Academy. We also had Pathfields School in attendance to add their vocal support as well as participating in their own skills based coaching session.

Competing for 2 trophies: 'Champions' and 'Cup': games were played in good spirit, also highly competitive. Overall 'Champions' were Marland Barnstaple, beating our first team in the final. Our other team went one better, WINNING their final and bringing home the 'Cup' trophy. A real feel good factor!

Extended praise to all staff and students who helped support and play. It really was a huge success with the overall winner being students and staff of all schools building good relationships, and promoting good sporting values.



Burton art gallery visit

We went to the Burton Gallery and had a great time checking out the Louise Bourgeois exhibition.



Photo Drop



Keep up to date by following us on Instagram

 @ontrack_education

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