

## Term One - ☑

Term one has whizzed by in a blur of educational achievements, enriching activities and wonderful photo opportunities; but as well as celebrating our successes, it is important that we address the issues that have engulfed us during this term as staff, students and the families of our young people.

It certainly hasn't taken us long to get back into the swing of things and, across the trust, our students and staff have been putting in the hard work and going the extra mile to get the school year off to the best possible start. Both schools have already taken part in some amazing activities that support our curriculum and provide opportunities and inspiration for our young people that we have pledged to offer.

At NS82°, one of the highlights of the term was the trip to Bristol City FC's stadium Ashton Gate where they got taken on a tour of the whole arena, including the changing rooms, doping suite and the stands. The best thing for Mr Lawrence and his aspiring sportspeople was that there was a match happening in the evening so all of the player's kits were on show for them to get some brilliant pictures with. Great photo material!



They were also lucky enough to have a visit from our local Viking Vets earlier in the term, teaching our Ash and Aspen classes how to care for pets, practicing banding skills with them and even showing some VERY interesting x-rays. The winner of the best x-ray was decided by the children as the dog who ate his owner's engagement ring! Everyone was pretty horrified that the owner had to check their pet's poo to get the ring back!

NS240° have been combining educational experiences and exciting opportunities brilliantly this term. They played host to author Matt Oldfield for a day, who ran sessions with our KS3 students focused on resilience, inspiration and, of course, writing! Matt writes the popular book series 'Ultimate Football Heroes' which tells the brilliant stories of how famous football stars went from young lads playing in the garden to world class footballers scoring in front of thousands of people. The sessions were a brilliant opportunity for our students to tell their own stories of resilience and help each other to overcome any barriers to success they may have in the future. We definitely now have plenty of aspiring authors now as well!



Our students at 240° have also had some brilliant school trips in recent weeks; they've sat in aircraft simulators at Aerospace Bristol, tried on old-school military uniform at Berkeley Castle, and climbed very wobbly-looking towers at Bloc Clip'n Climb. It's safe to say the cultural capital enrichment lessons and reward trips have set the bar pretty high already, so keep it up 240°!



We've achieved tonnes this term, so a few well done's are definitely in order. The amazing improvements of our careers programme at 240° was recognised by the West of England Combined Authority and what they call the 'Gatsby Performance' measure. Well done Mr Dickens for spearheading this and organising some fantastic opportunities for our students last year with the help of Bristol Works. I'm sure this year will be even better! Well done to all of our new students for settling into our trust so well. The year 7s, in particular, have been up and down to the head teacher's office like yo-yos to collect numerous headteacher's awards for their exceptional work.



Everyone down at 82° deserves a massive pat on the back for achieving the Bristol Healthy Schools Award AND the Green Level Modeshift Stars accreditation in just one term! Thank you Ms Fotheringham for championing and organising our campaigns for these awards. For those that don't know, the Modeshift Stars scheme recognises schools, businesses and other organisations that have shown excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable and active travel. It's a brilliant award to have, so well done everyone!



And lastly, well done to all of our new school council and anti-bullying ambassadors across the trust who have already started making their plans for the year of what they want to improve in their schools and how they are going to do it. These teams make a massive difference to every student's experience in our schools and it is a very proud achievement to be elected by peers to represent them.

To conclude our first-term blog, we would like to acknowledge the financial, social and emotional difficulties that everyone across the NSAT family will be going through at the moment. The cost of living crisis being the main factor, we are all facing challenges that can affect our wellbeing significantly, so it is so important to look after yourselves and each other. We have compiled loads of resources over the last term that address a variety of issues and can help everyone. There is financial support, mental health and wellbeing advice and various helplines and groups that can help school staff, parents/carers of children with SEN, and for our young people themselves, all across Bristol and the South West. However, it's important to remember that there is always someone at North Star that can help you, so call or email us or speak to your teacher or your colleague and ask for support.

We hope you have a lovely half term; see you on Monday!