



NORTH STAR...BLOG!

# THINK POSITIVE

January generally tends to be a tough month for everyone; Christmas has rapidly come and gone, New Years Eve was a disappointment, our New Year's resolutions are proving to be more difficult to maintain than expected, and the weather is either bitterly cold or torrential rain. Therefore, we think it would be a wise idea to share some of the positive news that has come out from the world this month, both far and wide and close to home, in the hope that moods can be lifted, positivity will be spread, and we can all go into February ready for the last month of winter.



Starting right on our doorstep; both of our schools have been producing some amazing stories of their own in 2023. Our year 11s deserve one of the biggest mentions, as they have been completing mock exams for their academic qualifications. Although the exams were only practice for the real ones in the summer, we all know how scary and stressful tests can be, so well done to everyone for getting them completed! A huge pat on the back is also owed to our students at North Star 82° as well; our Ash class went to Pizza Express as a practical and fun way of engaging in their literacy learning. They learned to make pizzas with professional chefs and then were lucky enough to get to eat them afterwards. To top it all off, the manager of the restaurant said our students were a credit to the school and were some of the most well-behaved students he had worked with. Superb!



North Star 240° have been out and about as well; they were lucky enough to test out the Ninja Warrior adventure park in Bristol that has masses of obstacle courses and inflatable activities to overcome. The arena only opened in December, so our group took on the challenge of testing out the courses and reporting back to our schools.

(We all now want to go!)

For the full story, head over to our new Instagram page to watch the Ninja Warrior VS NS240° after-movie.



There's been plenty of up-lifting news around Bristol and the South West this month; starting with a lovely story from Noah's Ark Zoo Farm. The park teamed up with North Somerset Council to recycle Christmas trees and give them to the animals as late Christmas presents. Some of the trees were cut up into wood chips for the residents of the zoo but the elephants, Janu and Shaka, got to enjoy a Christmas tree forest in their enclosure! They showed their gratitude by crunching, eating and tossing the trees around. Sounds about right.



There were some mixed emotions associated with this next story but a brilliant message for us all came out of it. The UK Space Agency's first mission from British soil ended in disappointment, as the satellite they were trying to launch from Newquay Spaceport didn't make it to its intended destination. However, the UK Space Agency issued an inspirational message to the country - 'We get up, we go back, we try again'. We should all remember this when we embark on our personal ambitions to help us remain determined and focused to achieve our goals in the end.

Take that January!



Keeping on the topics of animals and Earth's atmosphere, there has been some fantastic news stories from around the world this month. A newspaper has reported that no rhinos were poached last year in the world's largest reserve for the greater one-horned rhino and the UN have announced the ozone layer is on track to fully recover within four decades thanks to global efforts. These are both massively significant achievements and make for some much-needed positive news about the wonderful environment that we live in.



The final story we would like to share comes from the UK - a gentleman called Dai Jones from Port Talbot in Wales, who had very recently got married, ended up flying to North Africa WITHOUT his new wife to climb the highest mountain in the area. The couple agreed to delay their honeymoon in order to complete Mr Jones' bucket list task; prompted by his life-saving cardiac surgery. They raised £1,100 for the cardiac intensive care unit at Swansea's Morriston Hospital which looked after Dai. Inspirational.

Thanks for reading and bring on February!