



Spring Term 2024

Important dates

- School closes for Easter Holidays
Thursday 28th March
- PD Day Monday 15th April

Dates to remember/ Themes of the month

- World Book Day
Thursday 7th March
- Comic Relief Friday
15th March
- Easter Sunday 31st March

Upcoming Themes:

- Comic Relief: 15th March
- -World Book Day: 7nd March
- -Easter Sunday – 31st March



Springing into the New Year

2024 started with enthusiasm at Mackenzie Thorpe Centre, with students and staff returning from their Christmas break full of enthusiasm for the New Year. Despite the cold grey days, pupils and staff love making the most of any dry weather we get with a game of football on the playground. Staff and students work together to develop their team skills, communication and gross motor skills with a regular kick about.

Spotlight on.... Michelle

Michelle has worked at Mackenzie Thorpe Centre since 2020 and in that time has taken on multiple roles to support our students. From organizing the schedules and learning for our community-based students to qualifying as a counsellor and offering nurture sessions to most recently taking on the role of Communication Champion, it seems like Michelle can turn her considerable talents to everything. As well as all this, she is a genuinely loved part of the team by pupils and staff alike. **Thank you, Michelle, for everything that you do!**



"I'm looking forward to working with all of our staff and learners to promote better communication for everyone in lots of different ways! It's an exciting project."

you
said we
did

in the last Student Council Meeting, learners voted for the following actions:

- More PE equipment such as basket balls, table tennis equipment and a badminton net.
- Additions to the school lunch including macaroni & cheese, and vinegar,
- The squeaky gate to be oiled,
- Therapy dogs to come back into school,

All of these have been actioned!

Local contacts for safeguarding:

Redcar & Cleveland Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH)
Telephone - 01642 130700
Email - RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Middlesbrough Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH)
Telephone - 01642 726004
Email - MiddlesbroughMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Sophia for School Council

Sophia Luker has been voted in as Student Council Representative at Mackenzie Thorpe Centre's Student Council. This new role brings an increased level of responsibility for Sophia as she is monitoring the student voice feedback from all 5 classes, as well as feeding back suggestions when other students are unable to attend meetings. We are sure Sophia will represent her peers with integrity and honesty and who knows, maybe a career in politics awaits!



Online Safety

The internet can be a great resource for your child. It can help with research and homework, shopping and making savings or keeping in touch with friends and family through social networks. It is becoming more and more part of our lives and we realise that as parents you may feel concerned about the activities and content your child is accessing

Our Approach: Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school. Our Safeguarding Team and Staff team are available to offer information, advice, guidance and support to students.

What can you do as a parent or Carer? It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online.





MTC's Best Friend!

Learners requested more regular visits from the therapy dogs this term, and staff were happy to oblige. It's not hard to see why so many of our pupils love to have these furry friends pop in to say hi!

Therapy dogs can offer comfort, companionship, and emotional support, aiding children with special needs in reducing anxiety and enhancing social interactions. Pupils also learn to use kind hands to pet the dogs and even get the chance to feed them treats or take them for a walk around the playground.

We hope that they can be a regular visitor to MTC over the next year.

Aiming High....

Pupils from our Post 14 classes took part in a visit to Prior Pursglove College in Guisborough this term to explore options for post 16 study. The Mackenzie Thorpe Centre works closely with local further education providers to ensure our pupils are offered a range of options that will give them a wide choice for success in the future, whatever that looks like for them! Learners enjoyed finding out what a day at college might include, as well as exploring the different vocational and academic options that may be available to them.



Cyber Crime Workshop

Our local community police officer made another visit to MTC recently to discuss the issue of cyber crime with learners. Understanding cybercrime safeguards learners against potential threats like identity theft, online harassment, and fraud. It also helps pupils understand responsible digital citizenship and teaches them the consequences of unethical online behavior. By knowing how to protect ourselves and understanding what's okay and what's not online, we can make the internet a better place for everyone.



Upcoming Events

Learners are looking forward to the build up to Easter with lots of activities and learning planned around this annual time of feasting.

While chocolate eggs are often cited as the most popular aspect of this celebration, learners will also be encouraged to learn about the Christian ideas behind the holiday. As a school, we will also be thinking about links to the celebration of Spring – an ancient tradition that has gone alongside the religious festival for generations. Watch this space for tales of our spring gardening projects!



Amazing Artwork

Sarah Bowman, mother of MTC Student Caleb Kelly, has raised just over £1300 by painting scenes onto windows. She advertised on social media and both private households and local businesses contacted her. She did not charge for her pictures, but asked for donations. The money was split between the Macenzie Thorpe Centre and SCOPE. Sarah says she really enjoys the design and painting process, and she finds the hobby relaxing and a way of doing something for herself. Thank you Sarah for your amazing donation! We think the artwork is pretty amazing too.



Autism Acceptance Week

Every Year, North East Autism Society runs a week long campaign for Autism Acceptance. This campaign aims to ignite conversations, raise funds and awareness and above all, work towards a world where equality and acceptance for all are the daily norm. This year the campaign runs from the 2nd April and the society is hosting a number of large scale events – there is even the chance to join in! Check out the Facebook Page or Website for details.

In school, we will be celebrating Autism Acceptance upon our return after the Easter Holidays.

