

13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear parent/carers,

Yesterday marked the start of our second week back with your child(ren) at Nova. I'd like to start by thanking you for all of your support in getting your child settled into or settled back into Nova for the 2023-24 academic year.

When I wished them a warm welcome back to school last week, I couldn't have envisaged just how warm that welcome would be! The week has indeed been a warm welcome on a number of levels. The main warmth last week was not of the temperature kind. Instead, what I have felt, as I've walk around the school, is a genuine emotional warmth from scholars and staff. It seems to me, judging by the number of smiling faces and engaging conversations, that we are glad to be back together and pleased to be learning again. Very soon, the SuperNova programme will be in full flow again and that means more opportunities and challenges for your children to enjoy. I hope they make the most of everything on offer.

Below are some key messages for the coming week:

**Key events for this term:**

| Event                 | Details  | Date and time   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Open Evening          | An opportunity for families with children in Year 6 to visit Nova and hear about the school.   | Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September<br>6pm-7.30pm   |
| Catalyst Open Evening | Catalyst is Nova's specialist provision for ambitious KS3 scholars who have a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. This evening will give year 5/6 students an opportunity to find out more about Catalyst                           | Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September<br>6-7pm  |
| Open Morning          | An opportunity to come and see the school in action. This is primarily designed for Year 5 and 6 parents, but if you've never been into Nova before to see the school in action, please contact our admin team and they will be able to help you book a place. | Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 9-11am<br><br>Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 9-11am<br>(with Catalyst STEM Stream 11am-12pm) |
| Futures Evening       | A fabulous evening providing an opportunity for you and your child to find out more about their potential future pathways from us, local and national employers and local colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeship providers.                                  | Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October<br>6-8pm   |

\* Drive \* Integrity \* Scholarship \* Contribution



## **Road Safety and Parking:**

During Launchpad with Year 7, Mr Wilkinson and I led a road safety session with all of our new Year 7s. This included taking them up to the crossings on Akers Way to talk them through how to cross safely. We also have a weekly reminder of elements of road safety during Roll Call and it is woven into our PSHE and tutor programme. The key messages we share with children are:

- We always use the crossings and wait for the beeps.
- We have “Phones Down. Eyes Up” when crossing the road.
- We have headphones off when we cross.
- We use Stop. Look. Listen. Think.
- We walk scooters and bikes up and down the hill.
- We leave space for cyclists on the cycle path at the top of the hill.
- We only use the correct side of the path. Cyclists on the cycle path. Pedestrians on the walking side.

We will continue to remind the children of these messages and are sharing them with you so that you can reinforce them at home too.

I'd also like to remind those of you who drive your child(ren) to Nova in the morning or pick them up in the evening to please show consideration to the other children and our neighbours. In particular, please:

- Wait until the crossing at the top of our hill is clear before pulling out to go when the green light shows you can. Sometimes, if a bus has stopped at one of the stops on Akers Way, the road can become jammed and it's important we keep the cross clear.
- Avoid waving children across the crossing so that they might ignore the beeps.
- Don't pull onto the zebra crossings at the turning circle if there are children crossing.
- Be mindful of the safety of others at the turning circles at the bottom of the hill and on our site
- Avoid parking in the staff car park. There have been reports this week of children stepping out of their family car as staff are driving through the car park.
- Avoid parking in residential areas in our local community and obstructing people's houses/driveways during the school run.

We know that we share your desire for all of our children to be safe on their way to and from school and know how important it is that we work together on this.

## **School events**

We're really keen to have as many families as possible attend or access events like our Year 7 and 11 Family Launchpad Evenings which happened last week. We know the partnership between home and school is incredibly important. However, we also know that there are sometimes reasons which may prevent you from attending.

It would help us to help as many of you as possible to attend or access our events if you could respond to the question in [this form](#).

We can then look to see what we can do to further improve our partnership with you and find solutions where possible.

**Parenting support:**

Being a parent/carer of a child at secondary school is filled with challenges, particularly if you've never been through it before. For some, it can sometimes feel you are all alone. There is certainly no instruction manual or single way of doing things. However, we work with an organisation called Team Teach who have a site called My Family Coach which is filled with advice and guidance to help families deal with situations that teenagers can typically face. It contains videos and quick reads that families could watch or read together. The site can be found [here](#).

For Year 7 families, a good place to start would likely be this page about [making and keeping friends](#).

For families of older children, you might want to take a look at this page about [helping your child deal with peer pressure](#).

To see the full articles, you will need to register with the site, but it is free to do so.

Thank you very much again for all of your ongoing support and do contact us through EPraise if you need to do so. Our EPraise help page can be found [here](#), if you're not sure how to get set up or use it. There are help videos and a guidebook to support. If you believe that you have no access to EPraise, or if you feel like you would like some support on how to communicate with us via EPraise and this isn't available in the videos or handbook above, please contact [u.gawthorn@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:u.gawthorn@novahreodacademy.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Nick Wells (Headteacher)

| I'd like to contact...   | EPraise message   |
|--|---|
| About attendance   | Attendance  |
| About the curriculum including: classes, timetables, options, reports    | Mrs S Unwin   |
| About teaching or learning   | Mr J Delap  |
| About behaviour/pastoral matters/uniform/bullying                        | Your child's House Manager:<br><b>Aquila</b> : Miss K Bellamy<br><b>Cygnus</b> : Mr R Branigan<br><b>Orion</b> : Miss G Saunders<br><b>Pegasus</b> : Mr T Wykes   |
| About safeguarding   | Mrs E Stephen   |
| About transitions/Super Nova/student leadership/the tutor programme/PSHE | Mr R Nash   |
| About Parent Pay/Free School Meals/Trips and Visits                      | Admin   |
| About SEND   | Miss L Parsons Years 7-9<br>Miss E Griffiths Years 10-11  |
| About careers  | Mrs U Gawthorn  |
| About home study generally   | Dr J Clapp  |
| Subject areas  | <b>Creative Arts and Design</b> (art and DT) Mrs K Camm<br><b>English</b> Miss S Unsworth<br><b>French</b> Mr S Miller <b>Geography</b> Miss K Waters<br><b>History</b> Miss B Sayers<br><b>Maths/Business/Computing</b> Mr T Watkins<br><b>PE/Sport</b> Mrs J Mason<br><b>Performing Arts</b> (music and drama) Mr T Griffiths<br><b>RE</b> Mrs K Bekir<br><b>Science</b> Ms C Brogden or Mr R Power |
| About Year 11  | Miss B Sayers   |
| The Headteacher  | Mr N Wells  |