



Nova Hreod Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Headteacher: Nick Wells

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Nova Hreod Academy – New Academic Year

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family have had a really lovely summer. We are now very much looking forward to welcoming your children back to Nova for the 2023-24 academic year.

You can find out Parental Information Guide for 2023-24 [here](#). Over the following pages, I'd like to outline some key information for the start of 2023-24 so that you can help your child prepare for September. There is a separate communication which will be coming out from Mr Nash for Year 7.

If you have any questions regarding Nova in September, please contact me using EPraise. If you are new to Nova this academic year, there are some video guides to setting up and using EPraise here: [Nova Hreod Academy > Information for Parents > EPraise](#)

Yours sincerely,

Nick Wells (Headteacher)

* Drive * Integrity * Scholarship * Contribution



Term Dates:

The term dates for 2023-24 can be found [here](#). The September start dates for each year group can be found in the table below.

Year group	September start date and time
7	Tuesday 5 th September 8.20am
8	Thursday 7 th September 8.20am
9	Thursday 7 th September 8.20am
10	Thursday 7 th September 8.20am
11	Wednesday 6 th September 8.20am

Key Dates for September:

Event	Details	Date and time
Vulnerable Scholars Transition Event	An opportunity for those scholars who have Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities to visit the school and to go through their timetables before the start of the academic year.	Tuesday 6 th September 11am-12.30pm
Year 7 Family Launchpad Event	An opportunity for new Year 7 families to hear key messages from Senior Leaders.	Thursday 7 th September 6pm-7pm
Year 11 Family Launchpad Event	An opportunity for Year 11 families to hear key messages from Miss Sayers, the Head of Year 11, and Senior Leaders.	Thursday 7 th September 6pm-7pm
School photographs	Scholars will have their photographs taken at the start of the academic year.	Wednesday 13 th September throughout the day.
Open Evening	An opportunity for families with children in Year 6 to visit Nova and hear about the school.	Thursday 21 st September 6pm-7.30pm

Communications:

Our primary way of communicating with families is through EPraise, with the exception of messages relating to detentions or reflections and reports which we send separately. EPraise is the best way to get in touch with us. The member of staff you have contacted will try and get back to you within two working days (not including weekends).

If you do not get a timely response, this could be for a range of reasons. For example, the person may be unwell. If you haven't heard from someone within two working days, please copy and paste your message directly to Mr Wells by creating a new message with the original content and including both the original recipient and Mr Wells. He will either ensure the message receives a response from the most appropriate member of staff or respond himself.

In the case of an emergency, please phone Reception 01793 528800. Please be aware that unless it is an emergency, reception will only EPraise the most appropriate person. When you call through to Reception, you should receive two options during the school day (until 4pm):

- Attendance
- Reception

If there is ever a technical fault with the line, please EPraise message Admin and include Mr Wells in your message so that we can ensure any fault is fixed as well as respond to your concern.

It is really important that all parents and carers can access EPraise with their own account and, if necessary, are supported in feeling confident to use it. To achieve this, we have produced a range of help videos which can be found at these links.

[Logging into your account for the first time](#)
[Checking your child\(ren\)'s DISC points and rewards](#)
[Checking your child\(ren\)'s behaviour records.](#)
[Checking you child\(ren\)'s home study planners](#)
[Sending, receiving and managing EPraise messages](#)

You can also find these videos on the EPraise page of our website, alongside a guide to using EPraise. The guide covers how to access EPraise on the app or on your computer; how to use messenger and access information about your child.

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

Below is a list of the best people to contact on EPraise with different areas of concern. When you open a new message, it is best to type their surname into the box rather than their whole name.

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: Aquila : Miss K Bellamy Cygnus : Mr R Branigan Orion : Miss G Saunders Pegasus : 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 Miss E Griffiths Years 10-11
About careers	Mrs U Gawthorn
About home study generally	Dr J Clapp
Subject areas	Creative Arts and Design (art and DT) Mrs K Camm English Miss S Unsworth French Mr S Miller Geography Miss K Waters History Miss B Sayers Maths/Business/Computing Mr T Watkins PE/Sport Mrs J Mason Performing Arts (music and drama) Mr T Griffiths RE Mrs K Bekir Science Ms C Brogden or Mr R Power
About Year 11	Miss B Sayers
The Headteacher	Mr N Wells

New Staff Introductions:

With the growth of the school at Nova, as well as some relocations and some promotions to posts at other schools from staff at the end of last year, we have taken on a number of new staff from September.

In particular, it will be important that you are aware there have been some changes to our House Manager team as they are your first port of call for behaviour and pastoral incidents. Our House Manager team for this academic year are:

House	House Manager
Aquila	Miss Katie Bellamy
Cygnus	Mr Richard Branigan
Orion	Miss Georgia Saunders
Pegasus	Mr Tony Wykes

We also have four new Senior Leaders joining Nova this academic year. They are:

- Ms Rachel Fox – Vice Principal Student Support
- Mr Justin Delap – Vice Principal Teaching and Learning
- Ms Faye Green – Assistant Principal Key Stage 3 Raising Standards and Pupil Premium Lead
- Ms Kirsty Honeysett – Assistant Principal Literacy and Oracy

Conduct Cards

At Nova, we know that the overwhelming majority of our students behave excellently for the overwhelming majority of the time. Sometimes though, even when they are being watched, even some adults don't do the right thing. If this is accepted in an organisation or culture, the culture is affected.

Sometimes, in a school, the little things which matter can be dealt with differently by different members of staff. This can lead to frustration for students and staff who can see these differences as being unfair. In addition, when small behaviours, like an untucked shirt or someone jumping the Diner queue, aren't addressed at an appropriate level or addressed in inconsistent ways, the number of them can become more significant.

It's for these reasons that we're introducing a DISC Conduct Card from September. The DISC Conduct Card will be a small card – slightly smaller than the size of a blazer pocket - which children will be given by their tutor. If a scholar is found to be doing any of the following by a member of staff, then the staff member will ask for their card and will put their initials onto the card in the appropriate column.

- Incorrect uniform and no note of explanation from the Hub
- Untucked shirt
- Being in the wrong place at social times
- Not moving around the school sensibly/running in corridors
- Not queuing appropriately for break or lunch
- Not respecting the personal space of others

Any scholar with a clean card at the end of the half term will receive 10 DISC points and be entered into a prize draw so this is an opportunity for those who do get it right all the time to receive further acknowledgement.

If scholars have to hand over their cards five times, receiving five sets of initials, then they will be given a detention and will be issued with a new card.

Cards will be checked each morning as part of our equipment check during Roll Call. If a scholar loses their card or refuses to hand over their card when asked as a result of their behaviour, a detention will be issued.

These cards are a way to further acknowledge when our scholars get it right and fairly act when you don't quite get it right. They are also a way to ensure consistency in dealing with the little things which make a big difference.

Your child will receive their first card when they start with us in September.

Uniform expectations

I'm sure you will have been preparing over the summer for the coming academic year so that you can relax in the knowledge that your child is ready to hit the ground running in September. I would like to remind parents of the Nova expectations around uniform which can be found [here](#).

At Nova we feel that a uniform helps create a sense of belonging and identity, which underpins the ethos and culture of our school. Uniform goes even further than this as it allows pupils to be treated as equals, promoting togetherness and a sense of Nova team spirit.

In particular, I'd like to draw attention to the point in the uniform standards about footwear. We do expect scholars to wear plain, leather or leather look shoes. These should be substantial, hardwearing and of a formal style. There should be no high heels, boots, trainers, skate shoes (such as converse) or shoes with logos. We made some exceptions to this towards the end of last academic year as a small number of children had outgrown their shoes in the last couple of weeks and we were aware of the current issues with the cost of living. We are now starting a new academic year so we are expecting all children to be in the correct style of shoe.

In addition to school uniform, all pupils should have a school bag to carry books and basic equipment, including PE kit on days they have PE lessons. It is impossible to turn up to school and be successful without a school bag.

Please be aware that should a pupil be found to have the incorrect uniform, items may be confiscated on entry to school and returned at the end of the day. It may also mean that children choosing not to adhere to the uniform policy will be confined to the Reflection Room whilst parents/carers are contacted to resolve the situation.

We know that you send your child to Nova as you are aware of our high standards and we really appreciate your support when enforcing these standards. Children shouldn't need to lose valuable time away from their education to address situations regarding any uniform issues and won't do so when they are correctly dressed and presented on a daily basis.

Timetables

Each year group will receive a paper copy of their timetables on their first day in school. We know that some children like to look at their timetables on EPrise before they arrive. Please do note that the timetables they see won't be finalised until their first day when they receive their paper copy.

DISC Point Carry Over

Any DISC Points which scholars didn't use from last year have been kept on a central record by us. These will be kept as a central account and they can be redeemed against the cost of their Prom ticket at the end of Year 11.