



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It has been a very busy end to this first half term at Nova. As part of United Learning we have a commitment to providing Education with Character. As a school we believe that character development is best done through giving students access to high quality experiences both in and out of school. Here's a brief summary of just some of the brilliant experiences students at Nova have had access to over the past two weeks:

Our first Global Gala on Monday 7th October was a brilliant event celebrating the diverse cultures which make up our student community, there was food and dancing and a great time was had by all. Thank you to all families who contributed to this event.

On Tuesday 8th October we held our annual Futures Evening and we were very pleased with how well it was attended.

On Wednesday 9th October year 11 students got the opportunity to see a production of An Inspector Calls as part of their preparation for GCSE. Students really enjoyed the performance and we know this will help them in their examinations later in the year.

On Thursday 10th October as a school we fundraised

for Young Minds as part of the national Hello Yellow campaign recognising world mental health day. Students wore yellow accessories and had the opportunity to take part in giant inflatable football, sumo suits and a mario kart tournament all to raise money. Students had a great time and we were able to raise and donate money to an excellent charitable cause.

In addition to these events we have finished the half term with our first merit reward events with over 150 students getting the opportunity to take part in one of our reward events based on the total number of merits they have achieved this half term. This has included a cinema experience, pizza lunch and a bowling trip. We will be running merit reward events each half term and so if a student didn't get chance to take part this term there are another five opportunities over the course of the coming year.

I wish you all a very restful half term break, we look forward to welcoming students back after the holiday.

Mr J Harding– Mbogo



Wellbeing Ambassadors appointed—see page 7

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 2024

Friday 18th— Last day of term

NOVEMBER 2024

Monday 4th November—Return to School

Wednesday 6th—Young Musician of the Year

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL MERITS

W/E 4 OCTOBER



W/E 11 OCTOBER



HIGHEST ATTENDING TUTOR GROUP

CONGR*A*TULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

W/E 4 OCTOBER

7F	8G	9G	10G	11H
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W/E 11 OCTOBER

7I	8A	9G	10A	11E
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HIGH STANDARDS = HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YEAR 8



What a great start to the school term it has been. I would like to thank the students, parents and carers of year 8 for the excellent uniform that has been displayed in roll call so far

this year. I have had the pleasure of signing many character cards for perfect uniform, awarding well deserved merit points. This term year 8 have shown great resilience adapting to the positive changes around school, with the majority making the right decisions first time.

It has been a busy first term with thousands of merit points collected by students in year 8. I have been blown away by the number of positive points that year 8 have been awarded for great work and behaviour around the school. It has been great to be able to award weekly prizes in assembly every week to the students who have gained the most merit points each week. So far there have not been many repeat winners, showing that every student in year 8 is working hard to be awarded points.

Attendance in year 8 has been strong so far this year with 8A leading the way constantly achieving over 95% attendance, however, we are seeking 100% attendance to improve every students chance of success at Nova.

Due to the new rewards system that has been put in place this year the top merit

point winners will be awarded in the final week of term. I can't wait to announce the winners of the cinema experience for the bronze award winners, the cinema experience and a pizza lunch for the silver award winners and the bowling trip for the gold award winners. However, if you were not a winner this term fear not as the counter will be re-set for term 2 with everybody in year 8 able to win a weekly or termly prize.

Mr Silvester

Head of Year 8

Head of Aquila House

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A+CHIEVE**

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*Offer not available on the Monkhouse website.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

A group of year 11 students visited 'An Inspector Calls' at The Hippodrome in Bristol. They really enjoyed seeing one of their GCSE texts performed live! The set and the characterisation were particular highlights for the students as they were able to see the effects of such dramatic methods.

Mrs Unsworth



PE News

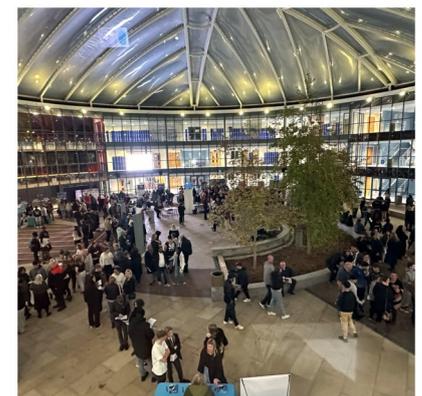
Well done to our Year 7 and Year 8 Netball teams who played against Swindon Academy last week.



FUTURES EVENING

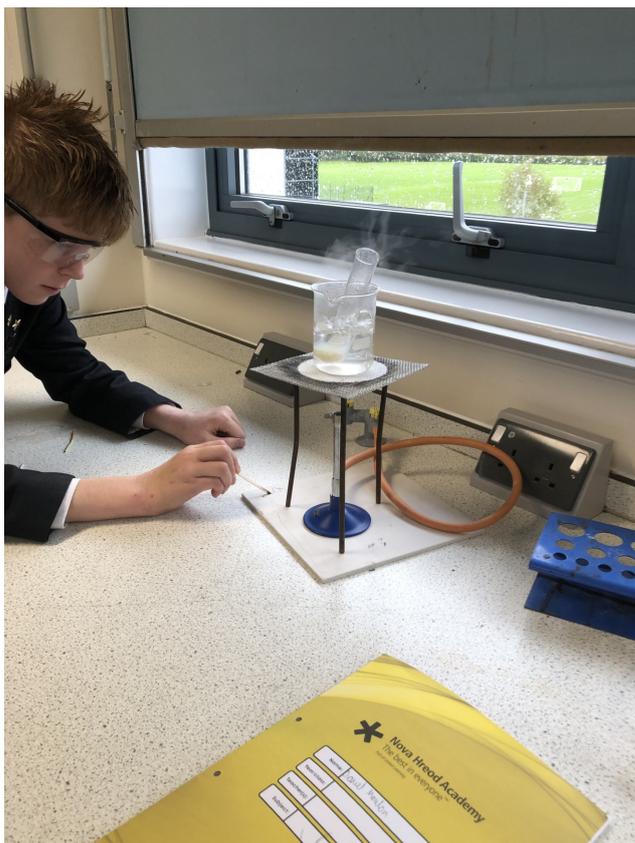
Despite the weather conditions last Tuesday, it was pleasing to see so many students and families from years 9, 10 and 11 turn out to meet employers from a range of sectors, as well as discuss future pathways with local sixth forms, colleges and universities. This valuable event offers an insight into the world of work and education to help them make informed decisions for their futures.

To find out who won the Futures Evening competition, visit the school website.



READ [MORE](#)

CATALYST STREAM UPDATE



As an exciting first term comes to a close, it's been great to see enthusiasm for STEM as well as admirable commitment and aptitude from our Catalyst Scholars. Year 7 Engineering students have successfully designed and evaluated a method to save the school from a toxic chemical spillage (albeit rice was our dangerous toxic waste!) and have been showing fantastic drive when presenting their results each week. In Science, they've also been getting to grips with new topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, showing excellent scholarship in these subjects.

Year 8s and 9s have been further developing their science understanding through covering topics including Light and Sound, the Periodic Table, Chemical Rates and

7C must also be congratulated for having the highest completion and accuracy on Tassomai for the whole of year 7, showing what an excellent start to the year the scholars have made.

Reactivity, Biological Systems and much more! Scholars are showing exceptional scholarship and drive in lessons and we're looking forward to beginning some project work in each subject next term. Meanwhile, in Engineering, Year 8 have been designing and constructing shelters using their technical drawing skills and research into the aftermath of natural disasters, while Year 9 have been busy completing their Engineering materials unit and will be developing their understanding of Engineering by looking at pneumatic systems and designs next half term.

We've been really impressed too by the spectacular commitment within the Catalyst Stream towards developing their research and practical skills, with the majority of KS3 Catalyst scholars opting to complete CREST awards after school. As such, we have three CREST clubs running simultaneously on Tuesday after school! Mr Chataika and Ms Ochanda are working with year 8 and year 7 respectively on designing fizzy drinks, while year 9 are working with myself to look at the chemical and physical changes happening when pasta is cooked, hoping to ultimately answer the question, how do you cook the best pasta!

Dr Spreadbury

Catalyst STEM Stream Coordinator

GLOBAL CULTURAL GALA

On Monday 7th October we had our first ever Global Cultural Gala in honour of Black History Month. There was an array of food, drinks, dessert, henna, jewellery, homewares, and handmade tapestries for sale. One stall even had exquisite table runners made out of colourful embroidered fabrics that are off cuts from celebratory/wedding clothing.

The students helping were exemplary and the stall holders were impressed with how helpful they all were!

The students were in charge of the speaker and started vibing with each other as Savannah taught them how to dance in a special way in the middle of the atrium near our Henna artists - Fozia and Nada - who used both organic henna and Jagua henna gel which is very popular in parts of Africa especially for Sudanese and Somali weddings.

There was a Nova Nibbles table which had snacks and nibbles from around Europe too including Romania, Spain, Wales, Cornwall and more. Special thanks to Ms Millan & Ms Sweeney (baked goods including scones), Judith (Spanish nibbles), Ms Georgescu (an array of Romanian nibbles), Mrs Kilic (chocolate cupcakes) and Eliza (Welsh cakes) for these contributions.

This event would not have been possible without all those who attended and hosted stalls so thank you to all who came along to support our very first Gala. Stockers Food Truck was selling Jerk chicken wings, Goat curry, mac and cheese, veggie burgers and fries outside. Inside we had Changing Suits, Jewellery, Styles and Trends, Mummy's Kitchen, Zudozu kitchen, Bindi (cakes brownies and karak chai), Henna (Fozia and Nada), Sim's Kitchen (Goan food) and a pre-loved book stall.



WELLBEING AMBASSADORS

After an online application and short interview process, we have our new cohort of Y10 Wellbeing Ambassadors.

They have already represented the school on both Open mornings and other schoolwide errands this term. Next term they will be on rotation for the Buddy Bench in the Library, pairing up with new Y9 House reps to represent the students in their leadership positions. Many of the WBA are also in other roles such as Sports Captains/mentor/ambassador or Sparx Ambassador. This is brilliant to see as Wellbeing covers physical, emotional and mental health too.



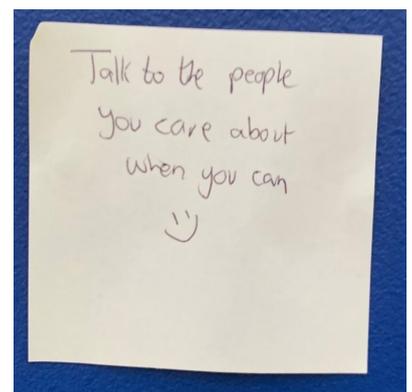
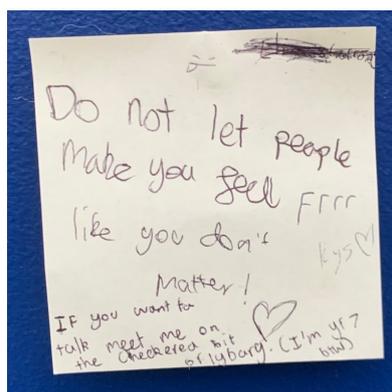
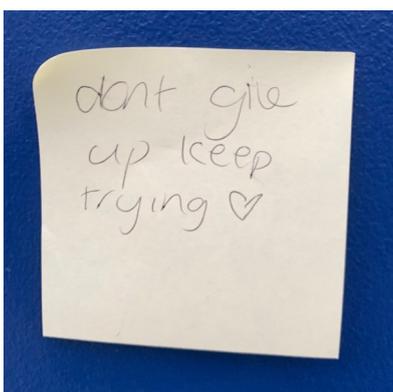
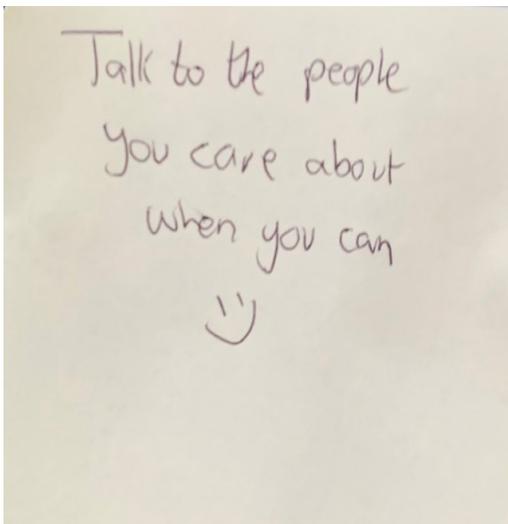
HELLO YELLOW FUNDRAISING

In honour of #WorldMentalHealthDay on 10th October we had our 3rd annual *Hello Yellow* at Nova. This year students were encouraged to wear yellow accessories with their uniforms and all staff were encouraged to wear as much yellow as possible which was superb to see across the school especially as it is getting colder, wetter and grey now that summer is officially gone.

In order to Fundraise for **YoungMinds**, a mental health charity that campaigns across the country and even goes to Parliament on behalf of Young People and their mental health, we had an atrium full of activities at break and lunch. Kindness is free so the Kind messages written on the Mural wall, plus the uplifting tunes including Afro-Caribbean tunes on the speaker were free to do and supervised by Wellbeing Ambassadors. The Chaplaincy team brought in Sumo Suits, Inflatable Football and Mario Kart which required 50p donations to do. A lot of laughter, entertainment, kindness and cheering filled the atrium during the day, making this another successful Hello Yellow Day hosted by the Y10 WBA team 2024.

Mrs Malik

Head of Student Leadership



HELLO YELLOW CHARITY FUNDRAISING



Thank you to everyone who contributed, we managed to raise **£41.33** for YoungMinds.



FRIDAY CHALLENGE

Each week the Friday Challenge takes place in the atrium at lunchtime and students compete to win points for their house.

All houses joined in with bowling.
Congratulations to Pegasus who won 5 Points for their house.



The following Friday students enjoyed welly wanging where students tried to throw the welly as far as they can. Congratulations to Cygnus house who won 5 points for their House.

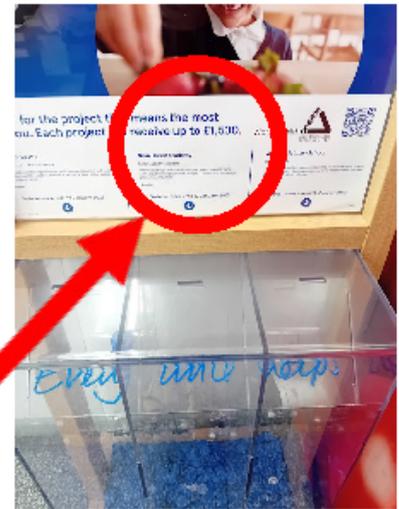


MATHS STAR OF THE TERM

Every term, the Maths, Computing and Business teachers each nominate one scholar to receive the coveted 'Star of the Term' certificate. Congratulations to all the recipients for their hard work.

Star of the Term		
 <p>Akshaj - Year 8 Mr Hind - Maths <i>Excellent attitude to learning and fantastic Sparx homework effort</i></p>	 <p>Petar - Year 8 Mrs Thomas - Maths <i>For consistently working hard in lesson and brilliant contribution in "Turn and Talk" activities</i></p>	 <p>Ollie - Year 11 Mrs Stubbs - Maths <i>Amazing start to year 11, consistently high effort, great manners and mature attitude</i></p>
 <p>Holly - Year 9 Mr Aburam Hebrew - Maths <i>Very focused and consistently showing high level of achievement</i></p>	 <p>Ethan - Year 11 Mr Clarke - Maths <i>For consistent drive and scholarship</i></p>	 <p>Joseph - Year 11 Mr Watkins - Maths <i>Massively improved attendance and exceptional attainment in every lesson</i></p>
 <p>Scarlet - Year 7 Mr Rutherford - Maths <i>Being consistently fantastic!!</i></p>	 <p>Talat - Year 9 Miss Liu - Maths <i>Displaying high levels of drive and integrity in all maths lessons</i></p>	 <p>Evie - Year 7 Mrs Malik - Maths <i>There have been some tears but Evie has persevered and worked hard despite finding some content difficult. An excellent example for her peers</i></p>
 <p>Joshua - Year 10 Ms Forrest - Computing <i>Consistent hard work and displaying excellent DISC values</i></p>	 <p>Taylor-Jackson - Year 11 Mrs Evans - Business <i>Consistent hard work, routinely getting all ten questions done on the Do Now whilst also being helpful and kind. Excellent achievement in CIAs</i></p>	 <p>Aiden - Year 11 Ms Forrest - iMedia <i>Consistent Hard work in his Course Work</i></p>
 <p>Lola - Year 11 Mrs Evans - iMedia <i>Consistent hard work showing wonderful attention to detail and creativity in her coursework</i></p>	 <p>Lila - Year 10 Sparx - Maths <i>Lila the Jewel is top of Y10 Sparx for XP, 5051 and counting! Amazing!!</i></p>	 <p>Abby - Year 10 Sparx - Maths <i>Abby the Elder is top of Y10 Sparx for XP, 5051 and counting! Amazing!!</i></p>

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Abbey Mds Exp SN25 4YX
Pinehurst Exp SN2 1QR
Cheney Manor Rd SN2 2PF
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Please see Miss Fitzgerald if you have any questions



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Nova Hreod Academy

Akers Way, Swindon, SN2 2NQ

01793 528800

www.novahreodacademy.org.uk

admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk



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