



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have had a really good first couple of weeks back at Nova after the half term break. We have been exceptionally pleased at how well students have come back to school, arriving ready to learn with all of their equipment and working really hard in lesson.

At Nova we strive to ensure that classrooms are free from disruption, creating an environment where students can learn and teachers can teach. As you walk round the building on a daily basis at Nova this is exactly what you see, students working hard, learning as teachers share their expert knowledge.

This academic year we have replaced DISC Points with Merits and we have had a big drive on issuing as many Merits as possible to students in order to recognise students for their high standards and high achievement. In the first week back after half term we issued almost 7000 merits. As you will be aware all of these merits add up for students to gain weekly rewards but also importantly half termly rewards. We will have a full set of half termly rewards running again at the end of this half term including a cinema experience, pizza lunch and a Christmas themed reward trip.

Beyond the classroom we are fully committed to students receiving an education which gives them the chance to develop their character. Even in just the first two weeks back after half term there has been a wide range of opportunities for students at Nova to take part in and enjoy, these have included:

- A fantastic set of assemblies on the theme of Remembrance led by the chaplaincy team
- The Young Musician of the Year concert – students performances were brilliant
- A year 11 Photography trip
- A fantastic whole school Armistice day event
- Odd Socks day as part of Anti-Bullying week
- A great range of literature based events for students to attend including visiting authors as part of Swindon Youth Literature Festival
- Children in Need fundraising events at break and lunch time

We are confident that this is going to be a really good half term and we know there is lots for the students to look forward to over the coming weeks.

James Harding-Mbogo

Principal

Young Musician of the Year—see Pages 10 and 11



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER 2024

Monday 25th

Non uniform day -see page 3

DECEMBER 2024

Saturday 7th

Catalyst STEM Stream taster Session

Wednesday 18th

Christmas Concert

Thursday 19th

Year 11 Parents Evening

Friday 20th

Last day of term

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL MERITS

W/E 8 NOVEMBER

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11



W/E 18 OCTOBER

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11



HIGHEST ATTENDING TUTOR GROUP

CONGR*A*TULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

W/E 8 NOVEMBER

7E

8A

9G

10F

11C

W/E 18 OCTOBER

7D

8G

9G

10F

11C

HIGH STANDARDS = HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS



Nova Hreod Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning



NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER



**IN MEMORY OF
HARRY PARKER
2007 - 2022**

**RAISING FUNDS
FOR THE
HARRY'S GET HOME
SAFELY CAMPAIGN**

**NOVA STUDENT HARRY LOST HIS LIFE
ON AKERS WAY ON 25 NOVEMBER 2022.**

WEAR HARRY'S FAVOURITE COLOURS OF **RED, **BLUE**
OR **YELLOW** IN HIS MEMORY TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE
ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN SET UP IN HIS NAME.**

DONATIONS VIA PARENT PAY FOR NON UNIFORM

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Year 9 students can now sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award! This incredible opportunity encourages personal growth, adventure, and skill-building beyond the classroom, helping students develop teamwork, resilience, and leadership. Participants will complete exciting activities in areas like volunteering, physical challenges, and expedition adventures. The DofE Award is highly respected by universities and employers, making it a great addition to any CV. Registration is open now through Parent Pay, so don't miss out—secure your place today and take the first step toward achieving this prestigious award!

Mr Stevens

Deputy Faculty Lead Physical Education



YEAR 11 ART STUDENTS VISIT BRISTOL

As part of the course of study, Year 11, GCSE Art and Photography students are expected to have first-hand observations. With this in mind they went on a trip to Bristol. Students were able to take photographs or draw depending on their course of study.

They visited SS Great Britain in the morning and Bristol Museum in the afternoon.



SYFL COMPETITION RESULTS

As part of the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature we held competitions in school before half term. The student entries that came first in their categories have been submitted for judging against 11 other Swindon secondary schools. The winners will be announced in a future issue.



Creative Writing Competition

Year 7

1st - Natalia

2nd - Eliza

Year 9

1st - Esme

2nd - Kaylia

Poetry Competition

Year 7

1st - Natalia

2nd - Imogen White and Alana Hedges

Year 9

1st - Layla

Illustration Competition

Year 7

1st - Lexi

2nd - Charlie

3rd - Hodan

Year 8

1st - Julia

2nd - Ruby

3rd - Finlay

Year 9

1st - Christie

2nd - Alexi

3rd - Giovanna

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YEAR 9



Year 9 have had a fantastic term 1 and a brilliant start to term 2. They are regularly getting merits and star slips to then go onto winning chocolates (full bars or share as a class) and pizza rewards. I would love for more students to be in it to win it, so keep earning the merits both in and out of class!

I know we have a brilliant cohort in Year 9, we are also the largest year group in the school! As such it can mean that there are too many detentions, so in order to help drive detentions down and to

bring out the competitive edge between tutor groups, I have come up with a 3 point per day system per student in each tutor group based on driving down demerits (detentions x2, reflection and suspension knock off points). It also factors in attendance so if someone has been in all week without a single demerit, they can earn their tutor group 15 points!

Above are the rankings so far, some groups have had their names changed via tutor group feedback. I cannot wait to see all the points drive closer to 15 and it is ranging between 10.3 and 12.9 at the moment.

Once we have more Aquila and Cygnus students for House representatives, I will reveal in the next newsletter who will be Year 9 House Representatives. Thank you to all who have applied so far.

Let's smash this term! Only 5 more weeks left of 2024!

Y9 TUTOR PREMIER LEAGUE: w/c 4/11/24

TUTOR NAME:	POINTS OUT OF 15:	RANKINGS:
9A – Arsenal/Aston Villa	11.27586	6 TH
9B - Brighton	11.85	5 TH
9D - Newcastle United	10.31481	9 TH
9E – Everton/Liverpool	12.01786	4 TH
9F - Fulham	11.16	7 TH
9G - Manchester United	12.92308	1 ST
9H - Huddersfield	12.05556	3 RD
9I – Ipswich	10.96296	8 TH
9J - WestHam	12.63462	2 ND

Y9	3885	3164	2917		NO OF STUDENTS	ATTENDANCE	PREMIER LEAGUE POINTS
9A	435	351	327		29	12.10345	11.27586
9B	450	390.5	356		30	13.01667	11.85
9I	390	340.5	328.5		26	13.09615	12.63462
9I	405	324	296		27	12	10.96296
9E	375	297	279		25	13.88	11.16
9G	390	360	336		26	13.84615	12.92308
9H	405	337.5	325.5		27	12.5	12.05556
9D	405	313.5	278.5		27	11.61111	10.31481
9E	420	358.5	336.5		28	12.80357	12.01786



Mrs Malik

Head of Year 9



OPERATION MINCEMEAT

Our year 11 drama students went to the Fortune Theatre to watch the award-winning Operation Mincemeat. Combining musical numbers, history, great acting skills and a bit of silliness, it was a visit to remember.



CATALYST STREAM



Welcome back to a new term at Nova! We've had an exciting beginning of the year within the Catalyst Stream looking at innovative Science and Engineering content, while also showcasing the Catalyst Stream to prospective pupils and parents. Notable contributions have come from Izac and Logan in Year 9, and Evan, Lena, Marcel, Max, Olivia, Evan and Shoaib in Year 8, who have been fantastic representatives of Nova and shared their experiences of the Catalyst Stream during recent open mornings and evenings!

Looking toward this term, we are looking forward to resuming our afterschool seminar series beginning with a Chemistry seminar where we will hear from Bethan Davies, who will share her experiences working at the National Chemical Emergency Centre and

describe how studying Chemistry can provide a wide range of career opportunities. I'm also happy to confirm that Year 9 Catalyst scholars will be attending a workshop later this month delivered by Physics Partners, providing an insight into uses of and careers in Physics.

Finally, scholars in Year 7 and 8 who have been attending CREST club designing and making fizzy drinks are approaching their final few weeks experimenting different flavour concoctions with Ms Ochanda and Mr Chataika before submitting for their Bronze CREST awards! We wish them all the best for their project work and look forward to tasting some of their inventions!

Dr Spreadbury
Catalyst STEM Stream Coordinator

END OF YEAR REWARDS

Well done to everyone who qualified for the end of Term 1 rewards experience and enjoyed either a cinema, pizza party or bowling trip. These students have all worked hard this term to achieve their reward and we are very proud.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Students and staff observed 2 minutes silence on 11th November to reflect and remember.

Thank you to School Captains Dami and Layth who read poetry in the atrium, and to all the students who attended school in their service uniforms.



HOUSE BASKETBALL

A in-house sport competition, house basketball was played, supported and enjoyed by the staff and students.

The competition was a success with a sports hall full of spectators, and a great house atmosphere throughout the week. The pupils that participated also behaved excellently and were a credit to their houses.

Congratulations to the winners KS3 Winners - PEGASUS and KS4 Winners - AQUILA

CYGNUS V PEGASUS



CYGNUS V AQUILA



Young Musician of the Year 2024



Savannah



Our Amazing Performers



Destiny



Bracken



Jami



Amber & Layla



Chloe & Sophia



Jacob



Lisendra



Alice, Annabel & Amella



Henry



Evie



Dominika



The Choir



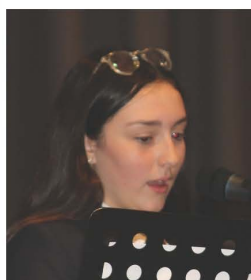
Hettie & Nyanti



Nile



Jorja



Felicity



Harry



Star crazy



Max

Our Judges ...



Mr Harding-Mbogo
Nova Hreod Academy
Principal

Mrs Hawkins
Singing Champion for
Swindon Music Service

Miss Welsby
Head of Performing Arts
at Swindon Academy

Mr Clarke
CEO of Swindon
Music Service

Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable experience at our Young Musician of the Year competition. Every student gave it their all. Thank you to everyone who helped along the way and to all the parents and carers who came along to watch.

Mr Griffiths
Head of Year 10 and Music

Our Winners ... Soloists



1st - Jacob



2nd - Max



3rd - Harry

... Overall



Jacob

... Groups



1st - Hettie & Nyanti



2nd - The Choir



3rd - Starcrazy

HALF TERM HISTORY WORKSHOP

On the first day of half term, a group of 11 keen KS3 historians came into school to complete a workshop with Ms. Gilbertson, a PhD researcher from the Royal Holloway University of London.

Throughout the day, pupils learned about the process of studying history at university and explored different stages of World War Two through the experiences of people who were children during the war and were then interviewed afterwards. What emerged from Ms Gilbertson's research was a complex tapestry of experiences, showing how everything from age and gender to religion impacted how people experienced World War Two. The use of recorded interviews also helped to bring history alive and helped pupils to see how historical interpretations can be enriched by body language, tone, and emotion.

Ms Gilbertson, Miss Sayers, and Miss Manterfield were absolutely blown away by the behaviour and contribution of everyone who attended. The workshop was six hours in total and throughout all pupils were focused, attentive, and hard working. They were a credit to the school and Ms Gilbertson has asked to come back to hopefully deliver more workshops in the future, including an exploration of how World War Two helped to create the concept of being a teenager.

Mrs Sayers
Head of Year 11 and Humanities



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YEAR 10



This has been a fantastic start to the year where Year 10 have stepped into KS4 confidently and made huge strides towards their GCSE courses. Since September I have been amazed by the level of focus from students across the school, I have two year 10 Music classes and they have both excelled while learning complex knowledge.

Thursday 6th November was a great example of the Year group's contribution with 6 students out of 20 performances coming from Year 10: Savannah, Harry Jacob, Annabel, Isabella and Michael.


Jacob was the overall winner and the winner of the solo performances and group. Harry L claimed 3rd in the solo group and Isabella, Michael and Annabel claimed 3rd in the group performances.




Year 10 have also played an active part in the House competitions. So far we have had paper airplanes, musical chairs, connect 4, bowling, balloon tower and KS4 basketball. Year 10 have set an example for how to contribute during these clubs, especially displaying a competitive edge in the basketball! Coming up before Christmas we have lots of other competitions to get involved in so let's see as many of year 10 as possible representing the year group on a Friday lunch time.


Mr Griffiths
Head of Year 10


SUPERNOVA ENRICHMENT


Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Year 10 Supplementary Club FD4 (Catch Up) Mrs. Rennie	Choir Mrs Griffiths GA8	KS3 Band Club Mr. Griffiths	KS4 Art Club Week A Ms Millan FA6
	Book Club Ms Shurley Library	History Club RSA FE5	Coding Club Ms Forest SB9	
	"Come and See" Film Club 15:00-16:30 Ms Vandervalk Theatre	Carrom, Duolingo, Finch, Nasheed & Qirat club <u>Break Time</u> RMA	Carrom, Duolingo, Finch, Nasheed & Qirat club <u>Break Time</u> RMA	
		Mandarin Club Mr. Brown FE4	Minecraft Ms Vandervalk GA10	
		Badminton Mr. Harbour Gym		
 Nova Hreod Academy The best in everyone™ <small>Part of United Learning</small>			Super Nova Term 2 Clubs are 15:00-16:00	


Monday



Football
Girls: LPA JMA


Weightlifting
Boys and Girls: Y8-11
Y7 from Week 3


Netball
Girls – JMA LPA


Fitness Club
Girls and Boys: Y7-11
AST TCO JMA


Football Fixtures
Girls: Y7-11



Basketball Fixtures
Boys: Y7-11


Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday


These activities can be used as your "physical" section of the Duke of Edinbrugh Award


Sports CLUBS

TERM 2



Year 6

CATALYST STREAM TASTER SESSION

ACIDS, BASES AND DNA

The second in a series of challenging taster sessions for pupils considering the Catalyst STEM Stream for September 2025.



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**SATURDAY
7 DECEMBER
2024**

9.45am – 12.15pm



[Register here](#)

CATALYST STEM STREAM

Catalyst is Nova's specialist provision for ambitious KS3 scholars who have a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/catalyst-stream



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