



HEADTEACHERS' MESSAGE

In the short time since returning to school, we have already visited a number of exciting locations with our students, including the French Alps and two trips to Bristol! Our Executive Principal, Mrs Robinson, accompanied the staff and students on the ski trip and was hugely impressed by the level of maturity and determination that they demonstrated. We're already making plans for our next ski trip in 2022.

The SPR exams for students in Year 7-10 are now complete and reports will be sent to parents as part of the Achievement Review process in the lead up to ARD on 13th February. We encourage all parents to make an appointment to meet with their child's tutor. If parents are not available to attend, students are expected to book the meeting with their tutor for Achievement Review Day to discuss their progress and targets for the year ahead.



SKI TRIP

This month we saw Nova Hreod Academy run its first Ski trip; Mr Wilkinson, Mr Stevens, Mrs Robinson and Miss Dominy took 38 year 8/9 students to the French resort of Les Orres in the Alps. The group departed on Saturday 11th January and travelled via coach overnight. The coach journey was very entertaining and a great opportunity for students to become excited together.

We arrived on Sunday afternoon where students settled into the hotel and collected their skis ready for an early start on the Monday. Throughout the week all students were involved in intense ski lessons everyday, we ice skated, bum boarded and had a thrilling ride on the luge. All the students faced every challenge with determination and enthusiasm, they were an absolute credit to their families and a pleasure to spend the week with.



YEAR 11 ART TRIP TO BRISTOL



This week the Art and Photography Year 11 groups visited Bristol to gather images and inspiration for their current GCSE exam projects.

We visited Arnos Vale Cemetery on a very cold, but beautifully frosty morning. We then travelled into Bristol Temple Meads Station to photograph commuters, crowds and the very old stone building and to Bristol Cathedral which was magnificent. Both groups had the opportunity to photograph the Planetarium, a huge mirror ball on the harbourside. The many galleries we visited were informative and will help to lead these students onto create many different kinds of artworks. The Pacita Abad exhibition at Spike Island was particularly fascinating. The curators gave us a tour and told us that they have chosen to hang the painted textile works so that you can walk all around them, observing the front of the textile pieces as well as the stitches on the back. This is only the second time ever that the works have been displayed in this way.



SWINDON MATHS LEAGUE

Six of our fantastic mathematicians represented Nova Hreod at the Swindon Maths League this week. This first round of the year was held at Kingsdown where students worked in teams on a range of puzzles and challenges to compete against other schools in Swindon. Our students were exemplary with their enthusiasm and engagement. They enjoyed the event so much they could not believe they had been there two hours! The next round is at Dorcan in May and in the meantime, we are preparing a team for the regional UKMT Team Challenge in March.



A WARM WELCOME



We are delighted to welcome Rebecca Ludlow as the new House Manager for Pegasus House. Ms Ludlow has a wealth of experience working in mainstream, SEN and behavioural schools in Swindon and has been part of the Early Help Team for Swindon Borough Council.



"I am delighted to be part of the Nova Community and look forward to meeting all of the Pegasus students. I am well equipped to be able to provide robust pastoral support for Nova Students and I truly believe that wellbeing, education and robust foundations will ensure that every young person succeeds in their own, unique journey. I am willing to support and help all students as effectively and as fast as I can to ensure good, achievable outcomes for all."

Interesting fact about me: I rescue all sorts of breeds of rabbits and give them a loving, forever home."

Ms Ludlow

SCIENCE TRIP TO BBC BRISTOL

This week, four students visited BBC Bristol to take part in a STEM careers workshop, where they were introduced to some people with some of the coolest roles in the BBC. The workshops and activities meant that the students met individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, opening up the students' eyes to the huge range of opportunities and roles relating to their science, technology, engineering and maths subjects that could lead to jobs like the STEM ambassadors in the media.

The BBC STEM ambassadors were a truly amazing group of people, and very inspiring. Using their own career experiences, they each designed and delivered practical challenges for the students to work on. We took part in seven STEM challenges, including weather forecasting; news deployment planning; production planning and budgeting for a TV show; coding and website personalisation; user-testing games and apps; design and engineering; 3D animation and communication. We had a fantastic day and came away feeling truly inspired at the huge variety of prospects that studying STEM subjects can offer.



I really enjoyed it because I got to meet new people. I would recommend this trip because it teaches you important skills.

Fran, Year 9

My favourite activity was the peanut butter jelly time with Tom about communication. It was fun and showed us how difficult it is to give instructions to someone about how to make a sandwich if they don't know what bread is.

Chloe, Year 9



ALUMNI UPDATE

Back in 2016, Year 11 Adam Foot hit the headlines when he designed a lifesaving app for allergy sufferers. He has since become a hugely successful app designer working for a company in Hungerford and has just developed a keyboard for the Apple Watch.

If you are a former student with a success story to share, we'd love to hear it.



Year 5/6 Open Mornings

Tuesday 17th March

Tuesday 16th June

Thursday 25th June

9.00 to 11.00 am

Please register at
www.novahreodacademy.org.uk
or  01793 528800

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Tuesday 4th Science Lecture Bath Forum

Tuesday 4th GCSE Trip Worcester Cathedral

Thursday 13th February—Achievement Review day

Friday 14th February—Y10 /11 Old Operating Theatre
Trip

A full calendar of events and more information can be found at
<https://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk>



Swindon Holiday Courses

This February half-term, Monday to Thursday
All levels for children & young people aged 5 to 15



- Learn to ride - 2 lessons - FREE
- Bikeability Level 1 - 1 lesson - £10
- Bikeability Level 2 - 2 lessons - FREE
- Bikeability Level 3 - 1 lesson - FREE

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www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/swindon-holiday-courses

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