



Message from the Headteacher

This half term has begun in a way that exemplifies all four of our core values: drive, integrity, scholarship and contribution.

Our houses have come together over the last week to contribute to an exceptionally moving Remembrance display in the atrium. They worked with integrity and a great sense of drive to produce over 15,000 poppies which were placed on the flower beds, forming a fitting tribute to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War in 1918.

We are grateful to former student Jake Chandler, who planted oak trees in the grounds to mark the occasion. It is important for us to remember that local people have lost their lives in conflict and this will be a lasting memorial at Nova Hreod Academy.

Our teachers have also made a different kind of contribution to the community this week. Staff representing six of our faculties took part in our annual Bake Off Competition. All were driven to win the competition but only English were successful, taking first place with their Alice in Wonderland inspired design. Slices of each cake were sold over break raising £140 for Cancer Research. You can read more about this in the next issue of Nova News.

This week, meanwhile, we have the first of our Year 11 parents' evenings. I look forward to seeing the parents of our Year 11 students as they come to find out about how their children are developing as scholars and how we can all work together to help them secure even better results by the end of the year.

Nick Wells
Headteacher



Memorial installed by former student



Three English Oak saplings have been planted at Nova Hreod Academy to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1. The trees were donated by the Rodbourne Cheney Residents' Action Group, who have been planting trees in schools, churches and community spaces around the area to mark the anniversary. Former Nova student Jake Chandler, who is now a parliamentary assistant and runs the Action Group, came along to plant the trees in the grounds of his old school.

I'm very grateful to Nova Hreod for getting behind the initiative and the school's wider support within the area to mark the Centenary of the Armistice; as a former pupil at Hreod and now a school governor here it makes me very proud. My hope is that these trees will long stand as a testimony to our admiration and respect for all those who fought bravely in WW1."

Mr Chandler

Nova student is British Champion

Year 7 student **Oriol (Pegasus 4)** competed on Sunday 14th October at the British Minors Judo Championships. He travelled to Norfolk for the weekend and after a very tough competition came back with a gold medal.



Congratulations to Oriol, who is now the U46kgs British Champion 2018.

This is a brilliant result for Oriol and for Swindon Judo Club as he is the first junior British champion in the club's history. It is also a massive boost in preparation for his trip to Holland where he will compete at the Adidas International judo tournament.

A stroke of success

Year 8 student **Lewis (Aquila 1)** continues to earn success in swimming, achieving 3 gold medals, 1 silver and 3 bronze in his latest club competition. Lewis took part in 9 races and came away with 8 personal bests.



He also recently took part in long distance events 1500m and 800m, coming 1st in his age group for 1500m and 3rd in the 800m, gaining County times in both.

Lewis now has 11 Wiltshire County qualifying times meaning that he will be able to enter events at the County Swimming Championships in January. He still has another competition in Bournemouth to go before the County qualifying window closes in early December, by which time he'll be working hard towards regional times.

Congratulations Lewis!

Great start for equestrian team

The Nova Hreod Academy team have started to compete in the National Schools' Equestrian Association competitions this term. Congratulations to **Molly (Pegasus 4)** who has been appointed team captain.

Two members of the team competed at the Buryhill Kicking Horse Winter Series showjumping event, and plenty of rosettes came their way! **Issy (Cygnus 1)** pipped Molly to the post to take 1st in the 2-9. Molly bagged a second in the 3ft leaving Issy to settle with 5th.

It's been a fantastic start to the season with Molly currently at the top of the league in two classes.

We're still recruiting more members — please contact the school office for more information.



Would you like to see your child in our newsletter?

Email b.freeman@novahreodacademy.org.uk with their success stories. We will share their achievements in house assemblies and they will earn house points when published in the newsletter.

Is our school democratic?

Do we have democracy within our school? And if we do, then where? Surely, that is something that does not apply to students, is it?

To answer all these questions, firstly we must know what democracy is. Democracy is a way of controlling an organisation or a group by the majority of its members. So, what does this mean? And how does it work? That is fairly simple, this means that the people from an organisation or a group have the power to control what will happen with them and the group or organisation in question. And the way it works is by voting; individuals from the organisations have the right to vote upon different cases presented to them by the main leader, and the individual votes are weighted out equally. So this is a very balanced and fair way of ruling, where everyone has a say upon what will happen.

Is Nova a democratic school, then? Yes, it is. Students have a say in most of the cases on what will happen with their school in the upcoming future. Now, you might wonder how you do that if no one ever asks what would you (individually) like to happen in our school, and that is a reasonable question. However, not long ago every student had an opportunity to apply to become some sort of a leader at Nova and took a vote deciding on who will be the **House Representative** of their House; one example of democracy within our school. By choosing these people you have said: "I like what this person would bring to our school and I support their views", which is exactly what voting in a democratic system is about.



Is the House Rep. the only example of leadership and democracy within our school community? I am very pleased to say that it certainly is not. I, myself am a **Prefect** and a **Senior Council**, both are examples of leadership positions and both were decided by a democratic vote. You might have not been a part of this vote, but the ballot took place all the same; this time it was directed at the teachers who have decided that putting me into these positions would be very efficient and would have a positive effect on our school. Yet, everyone could have applied for the opportunities and the final decisions would be unbiased to ensure that everyone had a courteous chance. There have been more opportunities given out, however, for example the **Tutor Rep** or **Sports Captain**.

Is Nova Hreod Academy being a democratic school a positive thing? Personally, I believe that our democratic system is a great thing to have! Democracy prevents the monopoly of authority, it promotes equality as well as change, and it allows a little chance of revolution. However, just like everything else, democracy has some disadvantages too: it might allow a misuse of funds, it risks a wrong choice of public services, and it can take a long time to make decisions. It is important to note that political systems have their downsides, and that people have different views. However, the best way to compare these views is through an election, and decide what it is that the majority of the public wants; that's why I think that the democratic system is the best system to have.

By Year 11 student Julia (Aquila 5)



Sports Captains appointed

Congratulations to all the students who have been appointed as Sports Captains for their house. The Sports Captains will be fully involved with improving sport within Nova by providing staff with feedback and ideas. They will help out with the after school clubs, fixtures and coaching students in younger years.



Charlotte, Josh,
Amy, KC



Awa, Aston, Charley,
Robbie



Katie, Morgan,
Kyla, Adam



Tiya, Josh, Ashley

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Christmas Songs

Festive Food Drink

Craft Activities for all ages

£3.00 per family

Santa's Grotto & Gifts sales

the best CHRISTMAS time of the year

Thursday 29th November

5.30pm-7pm

Nova Hreod Academy
Akers Way Swindon SN2 2NQ

Kungfu Movember Camp

18 November

Everyone is welcome!
£5 to enter. All of which goes directly to Movember

Lydiard Park
Lydiard Tregoze
Swindon SN5 3PA

Sunday 18th November
9.30-11am

Registration on kungfu-academy.com

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Dates for your diary

November

Thursday 29th Christmas Craft Fair

December

Friday 7th Year 11 Futures Evening

Tuesday 11th Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 19th Community Carol Service

Friday 21st Last day of term

January

7th/8th/9th INSET Days

Thursday 10th First day of term

A full calendar of events and more information can be found at www.novahreodacademy.org.uk

Designed and created especially for you by Reprographics Nova Hreod Academy



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