



Message from the Headteacher

The interview process for the role of headteacher at any school is, rightly, a rigorous one. It often includes a range of challenging activities involving students. The interview process I went through at Nova last year included two such activities.

The first of these was a tour of the school with a pair of exemplary students. One of these was Abbie, now in Year 10. At the time, Abbie explained to me that she was keen to take on more opportunities to cook at school. She'd taken part in competitions in Year 7, but over the following two years these opportunities had reduced.

Later in the process, I was interviewed by a wonderful panel of student representatives. Amongst them was Julia who told me about her own creative ambitions. In fact, the whole panel were keen to have more opportunities to participate in a wider range of extra-curricular activities.

It's lovely to see that both Julia and Abbie feature in these pages because of their drive and determination, participating in the Teflon Diamond Standard Awards with Lizzie. It also makes us very proud to share with you the news about our students participating in the battlefields trip to Belgium and the Swindon maths league, and we will be following their progress with interest.

The substantial growth of our Super Nova extracurricular offer and the way in which we have broadened the curriculum this academic year mean that, at Nova, more students can now take part in activities which help them to develop a broad range of skills inside and outside of the classroom. If you'd like to find out more about the range of activities on offer as part of Super Nova each half term, then do check the enrichment section of our website and if you want to see just how talented our students are, do try to get tickets to our Night at the Musicals on 14th March.

Nick Wells
Headteacher

WW1 Battlefields Centenary trip

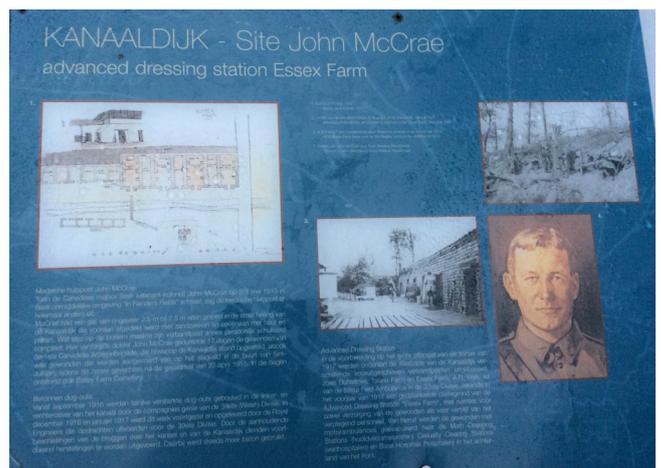


Two year 8 students from Nova Hreod Academy were selected to take part in the WW1 Battlefields Centenary Trip. It was a very moving and poignant trip as we have just remembered 100 years since the end of WW1. Together with Mrs Hobson, Asa and Kenneth attended a number of different sites including the last post ceremony at the Menin Gate memorial where they paid their respects to the thousands of

missing soldiers. Next stop was the Passendale Memorial museum where the students had the chance to explore a recreated dugout and trenches including bomb shelters; visited a number of battlefield cemeteries where we listened to accounts and remembered specific soldiers.

One of the memorable parts of the trip was the day we went to the Somme and were able to see the battlefields site up close; we were not allowed to walk on one of the sites as it still contained many unexploded shells and landmines.

Both Asa and Kenneth agreed that this was an amazing trip and they felt privileged to be chosen out of the whole of year 8 to attend.



Swindon Maths League

We ♥ Maths Well done to Year 8 students Ellie, Abhinav, Aayushi, Finley, Sam, Ruben, Ethan and Jack who represented Nova in the first round of the Swindon Maths League at Kingsdown School.

Both teams worked hard on mathematical problem solving and demonstrated excellent teamwork skills. They are looking forward to competing again in round 2 next term.



Home study—communicating with your child’s teacher

When, as parents or carers, we choose a secondary school for our children, we are looking for the best. Whether this is the best academic education, the best extra-curricular provision or the best pastoral support, we are all looking for the best. At Nova, we want to provide your child with the best because we have high standards and we care for your child’s future.

In the highest-achieving schools in the country, students from Year 7 onwards can expect more than an hour of home study per day and even more once they reach Year 10. We want our Nova students, your children, to make greater progress than these students. Independent home study plays a vital part in helping students retain and recall the facts that enable tough problem solving and practicing vital skills in all subjects.

Having said this, we know that home study time must be balanced with time for family and hobbies. These are all very important for children. A number of you raised this at our Academic Review Day. Although we have very high expectations of home study, we do want your child to work to the times outlined below so that they can develop as balanced human beings.

So, if your child in Year 7, 8 or 9 has been working hard for 30 minutes on a task that should take 30 minutes, but they haven’t quite finished, please do write a note to the teacher in their home study book to say that they spent the allocated time, but that the task wasn’t quite finished. Similarly, if your child in Year 10 or 11 has yet to complete their home study but they have spent more than the time indicated in the table below, please contact their teacher with a note in their home study book.

Year 10	Year 11
English 1½ hours	English 1½ hours
Maths 1½ hours	Maths 1½ hours
Science 1½ hours	Science 1½ hours
Option Subjects 45 minutes	Option Subjects 1 hour

As a reminder, students in years 7, 8 and 9 at Nova are expected to read every day (and write summaries of their reading, checked by English teachers). There’s no doubt that reading good quality texts regularly makes people more intelligent. Furthermore, students receive homework tasks for all subjects that take 30 minutes per week. In art and D&T, students have projects that they can spread over the half term, but the amount of work will come to no more than 30 minutes each week.

Our teachers do their best to set tasks that will take the allotted time, but we are aware that students work at different rates. We want parents and carers to feel assured that students who do not work as quickly will not be penalised. To further help students manage their time, the home study timetable is structured so that students always have a full seven days to fit each piece of home study in. A maximum of three tasks (usually only two or occasionally one) are set per day.

If you do have further general feedback for us relating to home study, please contact Mr Wilson (Assistant Principal – Curriculum) via e-mail. p.wilson@novahreodacademy.org.uk



Teflon Diamond Standard Awards National Final

It is a fantastic accolade to reach the finals of the **Teflon Diamond Standard Awards** so it was a particular thrill to learn that three students from Nova Hreed Academy had been selected.

It was an early start for the journey to London. The snow was evident at various stages on the train journey but we arrived in London to a very cold, but fresh sunny morning. It wasn't long before we were safely set down at our destination, laden with equipment and ingredients. The final took place at the **Waitrose Cookery School** in London, one of the top establishments in the country, and the prize was a scholarship at the school. To have three contestants in one final was a minor miracle in itself. The girls had produced very professional entries and their written personal statements added weight to the selection process.

The finalists were issued with their uniforms (made to measure) and lined up for the first photo opportunity of the day. We were very quickly joined by celebrity chef **Lesley Waters**, who was also one of the judges.

The girls settled into their workstations and double checked that everything was in place before certificates were presented. This was good planning which helped alleviate any 'pre-competition' nerves. All contestants then had a quick health and safety briefing before the onset of the much anticipated competition.

It was then 'heads down' for the next 90 minutes. The audience were able to observe the action from behind a large glass partition, although the finalists were all very focused and would not have noticed any observers anyway.



The first dish up was Lizzie's and everyone else followed in reasonably quick succession - and all within the allotted time. It was pleasing to see that all contestants had produced excellent dishes and not allowed nerves to get the better of them. The contestants had to deliver two servings - one went to the table for the photographer and guests - the other went behind closed doors to the judges table.

When the judging was complete, we were treated to a 'live' food demonstration in the theatre: two delicious dishes of grilled pineapple, smoked chicken and salsa; and coconut and cardamom meringues with lime Chantilly cream and fruit salad. Lesley Waters was ably assisted by Nova's Julia and Lizzie.

Then came the big announcement and presentation to the winners. We were very excited and pleased to have Abby and Lizzie declared joint runners up. The event culminated in more photographs and a delicious buffet lunch before starting the return journey. Exhausted but satisfied - it was an excellent, well run event with very generous sponsors. Thanks to all of those involved in the competition. It is certainly an event that we will hope to compete in again next year.

All three girls can be very proud of themselves for the standard of their food and their professionalism during the final.

We certainly are.



Presents...

A Night at the MUSICALS

on Thursday 14 March
at 6.30 pm

Tickets are available for £ 3.00 .
The proceeds will go towards covering the production costs
and fundraising for the Creative ARTS faculty.

Dates for your diary

There are some changes to this term's calendar:

A Night at the Musicals has been moved to Thursday 14th March.

This means that Nova's Got Talent will also be rescheduled.

Year 9 Options Evening is on Thursday 7th March, which means that the Year 7/8 disco is postponed to a later date.

February

18th-22nd Half term

18th-22nd New York trip

March

Thursday 7th Year 9 Options Evening

Tuesday 12th Open Morning

Thursday 14th ***NEW DATE*** A Night at the Musicals show

Thursday 21st Stellar Science and Mystery Maths (Year 5 event)

Thursday 28th Year 11 Parents' Evening

A full calendar of events and more information can be found at

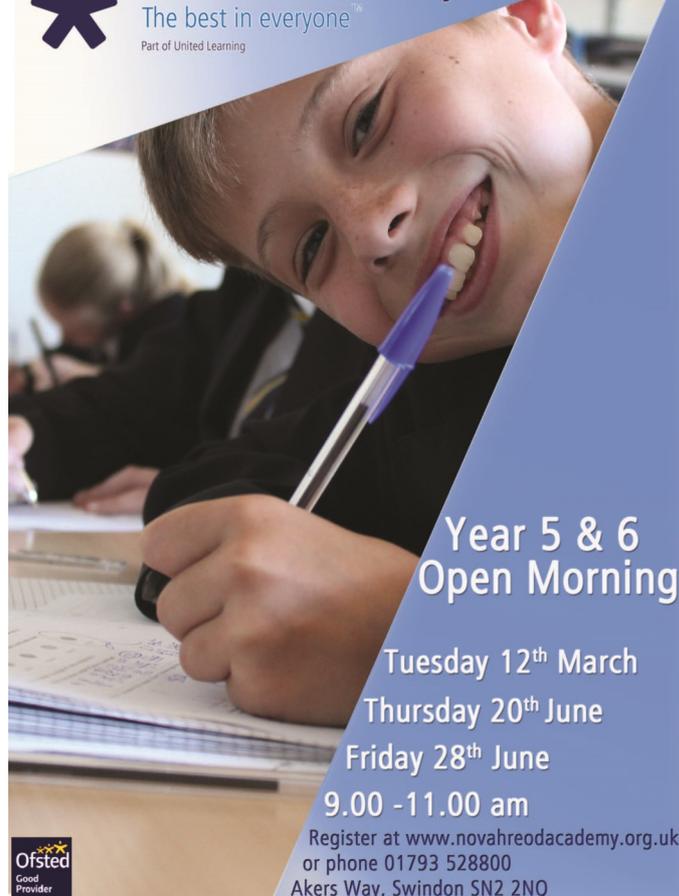
www.novahreodacademy.org.uk



Nova Hreod Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning



Year 5 & 6
Open Morning

Tuesday 12th March

Thursday 20th June

Friday 28th June

9.00 - 11.00 am

Register at www.novahreodacademy.org.uk

or phone 01793 528800

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