



News from Nova Hreod Academy

Issue 14 / Spring term 2019

*High Achievement *High Standards



E-PRAISE

HOUSE LEADERS



Xander (Pegasus 6) has retained his position at the top of the leaderboard.



KC (Aquila 6)



Amelia (Orion 3)



Joint first place, Jayden (Cygnus 5) and Liam (Cygnus 6)

LEADERBOARDS

1	Alexander M
2	Tristan G
3	Sophie B
4	Kristan C B
5	Amelia H
6	Samuel H
6	Naphtali M
8	Katie Y
9	Amy B
9	Chantelle H
9	Awa J

	HOUSE POINTS	ATTENDANCE
1st		
2nd		
3rd		
4th		

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Spring has arrived, the Easter holidays are just around the corner, and we are now two thirds of the way through the academic year.

Alongside all of the hard work which goes on in our classrooms each day at Nova, there is much to celebrate and share in terms of our SuperNova extra-curricular programme. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students who have participated in the many academic, sporting and cultural achievements that appear in the pages of this newsletter. I'd also like to thank the staff, parents and guardians who support our students in taking up these opportunities. I know that there is a lot of hard work which goes on behind the scenes.

Sir Francis Bacon once said, "Begin doing what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity. We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand." I hope you enjoy reading through the pages of this newsletter to find out more about the ways in which our Nova students have made us proud by seizing the opportunities which have been given to them.

On behalf of the whole school community I'd like to wish our staff, students, parents/guardians, governors and friends a very happy Easter.

Nick Wells
Headteacher



United Learning Art Competition

We were thrilled to hear that Nova students Tierre and Jasmin had been shortlisted to the final nine of the United Learning International Art Competition. Following a series of judging stages, including a social media vote and selection by artist Ruby Tingle, the winner was "Gemini" from Lincoln Minster School.

We are proud to announce that Tierre's "*Urban Decay*" was one of the runners up and will be displayed at the International High School Arts Festival in Tokyo. Congratulations Tierre, and thank you to everyone who voted for the Nova entries.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS



Debating Competition



This term we held the first Nova Debating Competition. Students had the opportunity to discuss and argue some key issues, helping to develop their critical thinking and public speaking skills.

After debating the topic: *"All forms of animal testing should be made illegal"* in tutor groups, the best team from each tutor was selected to compete in the inter-tutor round. After this head to head round, the top four teams from each house were selected for the house final.

In the house final, a new debate topic was presented: *"How do we reduce the rate of repeat offenders?"*. Each team was assigned a different viewpoint to research and prepare an argument for. These four teams had the opportunity to present their arguments to the whole of their house (around 200 people!), which they all did brilliantly. House staff had the difficult job of selecting one team to represent the whole house in the School Final!

The final arrived and the competition really heated up! Each of the 4 groups presented their solution for reducing the rate of criminal reoffenders, with other teams trying to argue against their viewpoints. Mr Wells and Mr Thomas had the incredibly difficult job of selecting the team who showed the best teamwork, confidence, research and ability to debate! Although every team and every student was exceptional in what is a very difficult and nerve-wracking situation, there could only be one winner. A huge well done to the 2019 champions of debate. The competition was great fun and the debates were outstanding.

1st Place: Pegasus 6 – Xander and Maddie
Joint 2nd Place: Aquila 2 – Daisy, Jermaine, Emily, Brianna and Luke
Joint 2nd Place: Orion 4 – Jenna-May, Charlie, Jamie-Dan, Emily and Gaje
4th Place: Cygnus 6 – Natalie, Jin and Kelsey



Inter-house sports tournaments



Sports Captains organised this term's inter-house competitions. Aquila House won the house netball championship, with Cygnus close behind. The football competition was a very close call, with Orion and Cygnus winning the same number of matches and having the same goal difference, resulting in a rematch that saw Cygnus take the title.



RAISING ASPIRATIONS

Year 10 Mock Interviews



A team from Arval UK came into school to give Year 10 experience of a real interview in preparation for their further education and employment applications.

Students completed an application form in advance and were interviewed by one of Arval's staff. At the end of the day, the interviewers each selected one candidate that they felt had been the strongest from the students they interviewed, and these students were awarded certificates for "getting the job", which were handed out in assembly.



Tracey Fuller
@ScarrTracey
Another fab day @NovaHreodUL with a great team from @Arval_UK doing mock interviews. Very impressed as always by your pupils #SDG4

"He was very mature in his answers, had very clear goals and a solid Plan B."

"He was a joy to interview, he came across so well that I would offer him an apprenticeship on the basis of this one interview alone."

"This candidate made excellent eye contact."

"The applicant had clearly thought about what her strengths are, and focused on them to choose a career."

"She has the attributes to achieve what she wants and shows a fantastic determination and desire to do so. Brilliant."

"The candidate was very composed and articulate."

Swindon College Apprenticeship Taster

A group of Year 10 students went to Swindon College for an apprenticeship taster day, where they learnt how apprenticeships work and found out about some of the opportunities available. During the morning they were given some useful information about apprenticeships and courses and are using the information they gained to consider their future opportunities. Lucky Sam won the apprenticeship quiz and received a £20 Love to Shop voucher.

Be Prepared Day at Swindon Academy

Year 11 were invited to Swindon Academy where they took part in an event to help them reflect on their career aspirations and prepare for their exams. During the morning, they took part in a programme which aims to train their brains on how to cope under exam day pressure. They were introduced to the science of what happens in the brain during exams and given real-time techniques on how to be in total control in an exam simulation workshop.

Students were able to try out some level 3 subjects in a selection of taster sessions that they had chosen in advance. They took part in a careers session and were encouraged to think about their university aspirations, using software to help them identify courses which suit their abilities, skills and aspirations.



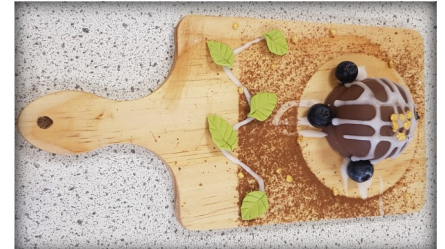
NOVA COOKS

Tunnocks Teacake challenge

Year 10 food technology students were set the challenge to research and create a chef inspired plate using a Tunnocks Teacake, designed to practice plating and presentation skills in preparation for Year 11. Mrs Moore decided to give it a competitive edge by introducing a prize for the best creations.

It was so difficult to select only the top three as they were fantastic, but 1st place was awarded to Phoebe, who created a truly restaurant quality dish. Robbie took 2nd place for creativity and dedication to the task, creating a wristwatch, and 3rd place went to Ryan for his sophisticated design. Commendation awards went to Antwan for using high skills and making his own honey comb, and to Charlie who used previously learnt skills to make his own meringue.

The winners each received a personalised apron which they are looking forward to wearing in future practicals.



Nova Chefs in National Final

Congratulations to Lizzie, Julia and Abby who reached the final of the Teflon Diamond Standard Awards. The finalists were selected for their professional entries and strong personal statements. On the day of the final, they had 90 minutes to create their dishes which were judged by a team of professional chefs including celebrity chef Lesley Waters. We were very excited and pleased to have Abby and Lizzie declared joint runners up.

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.

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



STEM

National Education Pack Launched at Nova

Year 10 GCSE triple science students were treated to a hands-on lesson about fuel cell technology and hydrogen power, when a team of experts launched a new set of teaching resources at Nova, developed by Arval in partnership with The Hydrogen Hub.

The students were able to try out hydrogen fuel cell powered vehicles, and get their hands on a fuel cell as part of their chemistry lesson, prior to the resource being made available nationally for science teachers to use in the classroom.

Having the opportunity to see first-hand how the technology can be used for cars in a real world application was a real bonus for the students.



Science trips

Dr Clapp and twelve Year 10 students went to the University of Reading for a STEM day. They worked in groups on a rotation of scientific activities. As well as completing some scientific challenges, they were introduced to meteorology in a session where they learnt how weather patterns are predicted. Scientists from Proctor and Gamble showed them how to make moisturiser and sunscreens, and in the afternoon there was a Big Bang science event involving explosions and dry ice.

Almost a hundred Year 7 and 8 students went to the Big Bang Fair at Birmingham NEC. They were able to try out scientific activities, see some mind-boggling shows and meet engineers and scientists from some of the UK's biggest companies and find out about the opportunities available in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.



TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES

A Big Adventure in the Big Apple!

In the week of half term, over 30 students and four lucky members of staff had the amazing opportunity to go to New York on a Creative Arts Culture trip!

There isn't a better place to be immersed in all of the Creative Arts specialisms, with Ice Hockey, visits to Guggenheim and MoMA Galleries and a Broadway theatre show!

Students had time to explore some of the famous sights and landmarks, from the Statue of Liberty, to Times Square! We even had a visit to the top of the Empire State building to look out over the amazing sprawl of the urban landscape of New York!

On our final day, we tied messages and well wishes to a tree in Central Park, to show how thankful we were for the opportunity! It was a great chance to see the impressive skyline of New York against the backdrop of Central Park in the snow!



WW1 Battlefields Tour

Together with Mrs Hobson, Year 8 students Asa and Kenneth were selected to take part in a WW1 Battlefields Centenary trip. They attended a number of different sites: the last post ceremony at the Menin Gate memorial where they paid their respects to the thousands of missing soldiers; Passendale Memorial museum where the students had the chance to explore a recreated dugout, trenches and bomb shelters; and visited battlefield cemeteries.

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

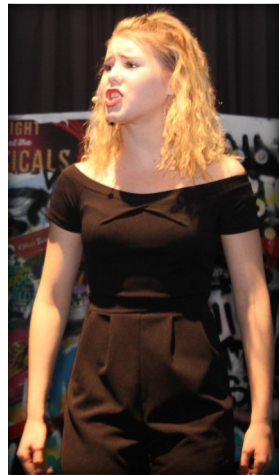


"One of the memorable parts of the trip was the day we went to the Somme and were able to see the battlefields site up close; we were not allowed to walk on one of the sites as it still contained many unexploded shells and landmines."

London Art Trip

We recently visited London to see the video games exhibition at The Victoria and Albert Museum and to browse around the collections at the TATE Modern. Students had a great time, taking in the sights of South Bank, while Big Ben and the London Eye provided excellent photography opportunities.







SPORTS

The Year 8 Netball team qualified for the Wiltshire County Finals. There were 10 teams in the tournament. The Nova team were fantastic in their pool, finishing in second place with two wins, one draw and one loss. They drew Highworth School in the semi finals who were winners of their pool. The girls performed well but unfortunately lost.

Finally, the battle for 3rd and 4th place ended in a 4-0 win, with Nova ending up in 3rd place overall. The girls worked hard and demonstrated a great attitude throughout the day. The team was led by Matilde (Aquila 3), who showed lots of the attributes of a great leader. The team finished in the top two teams in the whole of Swindon.



Students who have been regularly attending the Swindon Town Football training, got the opportunity to go to the County Ground for a football education day. This was a morning of events with girls from other schools in the area. They had presentations on pathways into refereeing, coaching and playing. They also had a training session with a highly qualified Swindon coach.

The girls really enjoyed it and found it beneficial and to top it off they also got a tour of the stadium and changing rooms.

The Year 7s and 10s have done well and are now into the Quarter Finals of the Swindon Schools Cup. Year 10s went to penalties and they won 4-2! Very well done to both teams and we hope to see you in the Finals.



Mrs Haynes arranged a friendly competition for the girls netball teams and their PE teachers to have a netball match against each other after school. It was a fantastic game with PE trainee Miss Holt umpiring. Mrs Mason said: "all the players were fantastic and it was a great competition. Lots of students and staff played out of position too which made it fun." We are going to try and make this a termly activity with everybody welcome, staff and students.





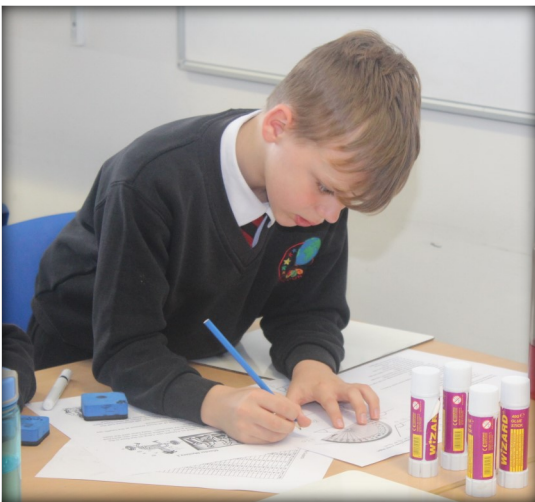
Year 5 and 6 from Moredon Primary School came along to watch the dress rehearsal of A Night At The Musicals.

The Moredon staff and students were thrilled with the quality of the performances as they watched some of their favourite musicals come to life on the Nova stage.

Stellar Science and Mystery Maths

Year 5 pupils from Greenmeadow Primary, Rodbourne Cheney Primary and Moredon Primary schools joined us for a STEM based day which was packed full with activities and scientific surprises.

Students took part in a series of lessons and activities designed to help them explore and investigate. They acted as detectives to solve a crime in our Mystery Maths workshop, explored scientific matters and had an introduction to computer coding, where they learnt about e-safety and the importance of strong passwords before being challenged to hack into the school computers! A highlight of the day was the spectacular science show in the Nova Hreod Theatre where Dr Clapp shared her explosive scientific talents. All the visiting pupils were assigned to one of Nova's four houses for the day and were expertly looked after by our own house representatives, who did an outstanding job.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Four Year 8 students competed against 20 other schools from Wiltshire, Somerset and Oxfordshire at a UKMT maths challenge at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy. Some of the teams in the challenge were mixed Year 8/9 teams whereas Nova's team of four Year 8s worked together extremely well to finish in 10th place. Their behaviour and attitude was also well noted from other teachers throughout the entire day. Well done Ellie, Aayushi, Finley and Ruben, you have done us proud!



Rewards Assembly

A special rewards assembly took place in the theatre with a surprise concert from American singer Keelie Walker as part of her UK tour. As well as performing some of her hits, Keelie answered questions about her life, ambitions and her career path before posing for photographs with our students.



Year 11 students travelled to Bath Forum where they were able to hear from some of the poets that they are studying in their GCSE. They particularly enjoyed the performance from award winning poet John Agard, and also got to hear from Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and a variety of others. The day also included a talk from an AQA examiner who gave them helpful hints and tips about how to answer exams questions; they were also able to ask questions of the poets.



On world book day at break and lunchtime staff performed some of their favourite poetry in the atrium. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 received book vouchers (we still have spares in the library for anyone that missed theirs!) The Year 7 readathon was launched with students raising sponsorship for readforgood.org with the funds helping to provide books and storytellers for children in hospital. Students were encouraged to write book reviews for a display in the library to help others choose from the new selection of books in the LRC, and younger students were encouraged to visit the LRC and make their own bookmarks.





Nova Hreed Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning



Year 5 & 6 Open Morning

Thursday 20th June
Friday 28th June

9.00- 11.00 am

Register at www.novahreedacademy.org.uk
or phone 01793 528800

Akers Way, Swindon SN2 2NQ



April

Wednesday 3rd Last day of spring term

Tuesday 23rd First day of summer term

May

Friday 3rd Year 11 Leavers' photo

Thursday 9th Year 8 girls' immunisations

Monday 27th—Friday 31st Half Term

June

Thursday 13th Year 6 parents' welcome evening

Thursday 20th Year 5 Open Morning

Wednesday 26th Leavers' Assembly

Thursday 27th Summer Arts Showcase

Friday 28th Year 5 Open Morning

July

Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd Year 6 Induction Days

Friday 5th Year 11 Prom

Tuesday 9th Sports Day

Friday 12th INSET Day

Thursday 18th Achievement Review Day (Y7-9)

Year 10 Careers Day

Monday 22nd Year 7/8 Reward Trips

Tuesday 23rd Year 9/10 Reward Trips

Thursday 25th Last day of summer term

More information at

www.novahreedacademy.org.uk

APRIL 2019						
Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat	Su
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30					

MAY 2019						
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JUNE 2019						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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JULY 2019						
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