



Message from the Headteacher

Welcome Back

I hope that you've all had a wonderful summer break, spending time with family and friends and enjoying, for this year at least, the summer sun.

It's a new beginning for many of us here at Nova, myself included as I officially join the school as the Headteacher. Over the last fortnight, we've welcomed our new Year 7s and welcomed back our Year 11s during our very first ever **Launchpad** week. It was brilliant to see the Year 7s begin to settle into secondary school with our support. Year 11 have also made a big transition into the most important year of their education so far. It was impressive to see how both these year groups have already started to rise to the challenges they're faced with. Years 8-10 have now joined us too so the 2018-19 academic year is now in full flow.

I would also like to welcome a number of other new staff to Nova. **Mrs Lloyd** and **Miss Thompson** have been appointed as new teachers in the maths team, while **Mr Tsalikis** has returned in a full time role. **Mr Ball** is a new DT teacher and we welcome back **Mrs Moore** (previously Miss Siddon) in Food & Textiles. In Humanities, **Mr Foster** joins us as head of geography and **Ms Thomas** is a new geography teacher. With the expansion of the SPARTs faculty we welcome **Mr Oliver** (Music & Drama), **Miss Preece** (Art & Photography), **Miss Haynes** and **Mr Stevens** (PE), and **Mr Miller** has joined the

languages faculty. Following the retirement of Mrs Wickens at the end of last term (we wish her all the very best), we welcome **Mrs Rookes** as House Manager for Pegasus house and **Mrs Brooks** to the APSC team.

GCSE results

You may have seen in the local media that last academic year saw another rise in Nova's GCSE results. **69%** of students achieved a 4 or above in English and mathematics and 52% of students achieved at least a 5 in both subjects – this is now the government's 'basics' measure. I would like to congratulate all of the Nova students celebrating their GCSE results. These continue to consolidate the school's strong progress in recent years. I'd also like to thank our staff for their encouragement, support and enthusiasm towards ensuring all students meet their potential.

This will, of course continue into the 2018-19 academic year as we further embed our values of **Drive, Integrity, Scholarship** and **Contribution**.

I hope you enjoy reading about the events that have occurred already this year at Nova and finding out more about some of the changes we have put in place over the summer.

Nick Wells
Headteacher



Launchpad



The new year started with **Launchpad week** for Year 7 and Year 11 and to celebrate the theme we were treated to an inspirational talk from British astronaut **Ryan MacDonald** who told us all about his application to be one of the first people to colonise Mars.

Students were enthralled by what Ryan had to tell them about his personal journey and his journey into space. They were also very puzzled by the fact that it was going to be a one way mission. Ryan, a Physics graduate at Oxford University, has always had a strong interest in astrophysics and joined the exoplanet research group at the University of Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy. In 2013, the Dutch

organisation Mars One opened a worldwide astronaut selection programme, for which Ryan has been shortlisted to the final 100. Ryan told us the fascinating story of his journey which could potentially see him jetting off on a mission to Mars. Students were captivated by the story of his journey and his dedication to achieving his dreams. Ryan told us that he is one of just 4 people in the UK who could be selected. In September next year he will spend two weeks isolated in a simulation Mars habitat to decide whether he qualifies to become one of the 24 candidates selected to be an astronaut on the mission. It's a truly inspirational story of a young man's perseverance to achieve his ambitions.

We were very grateful to Ryan for coming into school to tell us about his own **Launchpad** moment.



Communication with parents

At Nova Hreod Academy we use a range of tools to help parents and students.

The School Gateway to communicate messages to parents via email and text, and by using the SchoolGateway app or website. Our newsletters are sent by email as well as being uploaded to the school website. All school reports are sent home via the School Gateway.

All students and parents now have an **Epraise** account to help keep track of reward points and home study. Epraise users can see details of home study and their child's timetables. Instructions about how to use epraise have been emailed to parents and added to the "parent letters" page of the school website.

To allow you to receive up to date messages and information from the school, please ensure that your email address is registered with the school.

Nova Hreod Academy is a "cashless" school which uses **ParentPay** to manage payments for school meals, trips and other payment items. All parents have been issued with a user name and activation code to use ParentPay.

Anyone who needs support in using any of these systems can contact the admin office admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk.

In case of emergencies, it is essential that we hold accurate contact details for all parents—please let us know if you move house or change your contact details.

Parents, welcome to:

Schoolgateway

Keeping you informed of what's going on at school.

Download the app Android and iPhone

or visit the website: www.schoolgateway.com

Activate your account today!

epraise.co.uk



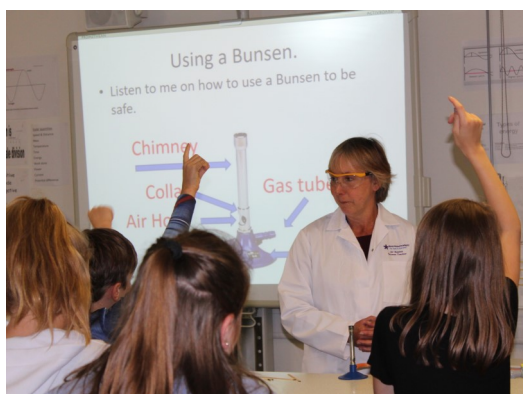
Open Evening

On Thursday 13th September we had the opportunity to show off our wonderful school to prospective students and their parents as we opened the doors for our annual Open Evening. It was a pleasure to see the joy on the children's faces as they arrived, and even better was the delight that they showed after experiencing a real Nova lesson in science, catering, arts, PE or one of the other subjects that they had to choose from.

The evening started with parents coming through our doors greeted by staff and volunteers, being encouraged to sample some of the fantastic canapés that had been prepared by hospitality and catering students. While the students were in lessons, their parents were treated to a performance from our music students and the choir, displaying some of the sheer talent that Nova has to offer, before a presentation from the Headteacher and members of the senior leadership team.

We were exceptionally proud of the manner in which our prefects and student volunteers supported the Year 5 & 6 pupils and their parents, and were their usual outstanding respectful selves when working with our community.

Year 6 pupils are encouraged to return on **Tuesday 25th September** for our **Pupil Experience Evening**, which is another opportunity for them to take part in lessons from 6pm-8pm. There are also more **Open Mornings** before the deadline date which are on **Tuesday 18th September**, **Wednesday 3rd October** and **Monday 15th October**. Open Mornings run from 9am-11am and include a tour of the school and a Q&A session with the Headteacher.





OPEN MORNINGS

Tuesday 18th September,
Wednesday 3rd October ,
Monday 15th October
9am-11am (please register)

YEAR 6 PUPIL EXPERIENCE EVENING

Tuesday 25th September
6pm-8pm

Football coaching for girls



We have been offered a fantastic opportunity for girls to take part in the Premier League girls football development programme with Swindon Town Football in the Community which starts on Monday 17th September 3.15-4.15pm and will be on right up to Christmas.

Please follow the link below to sign on. You don't need to do anything else. It is completely free and a fantastic opportunity for students. All abilities welcome. Closing date is Monday 17th September.

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/stfitc/stfitc-nova-hreod-premier-league-girls.html>

Mrs Mason
Head of PE

Dates for your diary

September

Tuesday 18th Year 6 Open Morning (please register)

Tuesday 25th Year 6 Pupil Experience Evening

October

Wednesday 3rd Year 6 Open Morning (please register)

Monday 15th Year 6 Open Morning (please register)

Thursday 18th Year 7 production—
Charlie & the Chocolate Factory

Wednesday 24th INSET Day

25th October—5th November Half term

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

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