



WELCOME TO A NEW TERM

The students have made a brilliant and positive start returning to school this week. This is especially true of our new Year 7 students who I want to provide a warm welcome to. They have had a fantastic first full week and we have been hugely impressed with the way they have adapted to secondary school life.

Lots of work has gone on over the summer to make the school site ready for the arrival of the students including many of the student toilets being updated and replaced as well as flooring being replaced in several corridors and new benches installed in the playgrounds. We are really pleased with this work and it has ensured that the site has been in a great state for our students return.

At the start of this term we have launched our new system of Merits and rewards and I am pleased that after only one week over 2000 Merits have been awarded to students. As part of this, we are actively encouraging students to come and share what they have been learning about with members of staff at break time and

we will award any student that does this an additional merit.

We have had a number of very successful parent launchpad events this week where we have been able to share our plans for the year ahead. Thank you very much to all families who gave up time to attend these events. We have also had our school photographs this week, students arrived to school looking exceptionally smart and the photographers worked very hard throughout the day to ensure all 1000 students had their photo taken.

Finally, as you will have seen from the letter sent last week we are moving away from using Epraise for communication with parents and will instead be using email. The details of all email addresses which you may need as a parent can be found on the Contact Nova section of the website.

James Harding-Mbogo
Principal



**Meet the
new prefects and
school captains**
see page 7

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER 2024

Saturday 21st

Catalyst Taster Session

Thursday 26th

Catalyst STEM Stream Open Evening

OCTOBER 2024

Tuesday 1st and Thursday 10th

Open Mornings

Thursday 17th







Year 7 Parents Evening

Friday 18th

Last day of term

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL MERITS

W/E 13 SEPTEMBER

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	
					



50 of the top merit achievers this week were invited to a celebration lunch where they were treated to a Papa John's pizza as a special reward.



HIGHEST ATTENDING TUTOR GROUP

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

W/E 13 SEPTEMBER

7I

8A

9E

10D

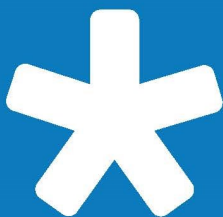
11H

HIGH STANDARDS = HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS

ATTEND TO
A+ CHIEVE

EVERY DAY
AT SCHOOL
REALLY MATTERS

95% - 100% ATTENDANCE MAKES HALF A GRADE DIFFERENCE AT GCSE



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CATALYST STREAM



I'd like to welcome everybody back for the new academic year and am excited to be taking on the role of Catalyst STEM Stream Coordinator. I'm looking forward to working with our KS3 Catalyst scholars during Science and Engineering lessons, allowing scholars to explore their STEM interests. We now have three Catalyst groups and throughout the year we will showcase some of the exciting work our scholars are undertaking, we will have numerous external speakers attend Nova Hreod Academy to give seminars, sharing their passion for STEM and career journeys, as well as supporting our academic STEM provision with extra-curricular activities and trips.

For prospective parents and scholars wishing to learn more, we are hosting an open evening exclusively for the Catalyst Stream on Thursday 26th September between 5:00pm and 6:00pm, as well as an open morning on Tuesday 15th October between 9:00 am and 10:00 am.

Also Year 6 pupils can register to attend a taster

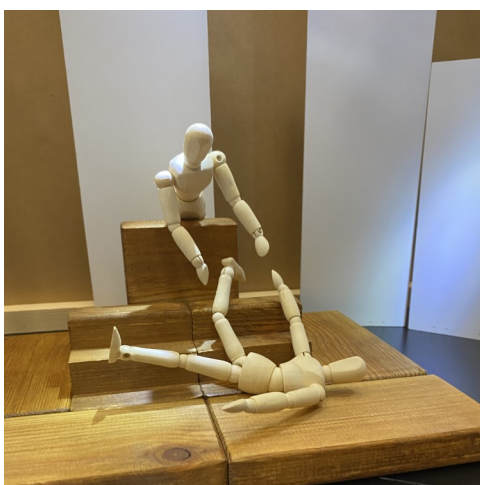
session on Saturday 21st September between 9:45 am and 12:15 pm, where they can take part in some interesting and challenging maths and coding sessions.

Registration for all the sessions above can be found at [Nova Hreod Academy > Catalyst Stream > Information and Events](#)

*Dr Spreadbury
Catalyst STEM Stream Coordinator*



NEWS FROM THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT



After a restful break, the year 11 GCSE drama students are back and raring to go. They are currently producing immersive performances based on Maurice Sendak's, *Where the Wild Things Are*, that they will

perform to year 7 classes before the end of this term.

Year 10 are getting to know their new GCSE groups and have been taking part in workshops looking at script work, devising and improvisation.

Year 7 students have thrown themselves into their drama learning and are exploring how to create character in performance.

Year 8 are looking at the origin of comedy and mask work and year 9 have been looking at one of the GCSE practitioners, Bertold Brecht.

We also have our year 11 trip to see *Operation Mincemeat* in London on October 15th. "If we're down, we're together. If we're up, we're up as one!"

FRIDAY CHALLENGE

We're thrilled to announce the return of our highly anticipated Friday lunchtime competitions! Every Friday, students will have the chance to compete in a series of fun and exciting challenges, earning crucial points for their House in the race for the House Championship. This year's competitions will once again be run by myself, Mr. Harbour, alongside Mr. Silvester. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their talents, have fun, and contribute to their House's success.

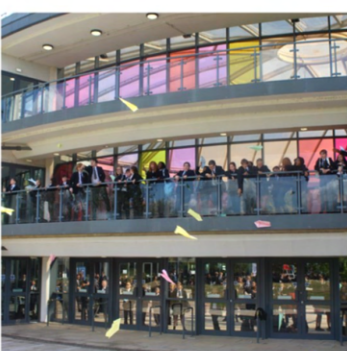
Our four Houses – Aquila, Cygnus, Orion, and Pegasus – named after famous constellations, will compete head-to-head in a variety of activities. This academic year, we have an exciting lineup of challenges planned, including penalty shootouts, apple bobbing, bowling, and even wellie wanging!

There's something for everyone, and we're sure it's going to be an amazing year of competition.

Last week, we held our introductory event for Year 7 students, and today we kicked off the first official competition with a paper aeroplane throwing contest. Congratulations to Orion House for taking the first win of the year! With more thrilling competitions ahead, it's still anyone's game, and all the staff are excited to see which House will come out on top.

Make sure to cheer on your House and get involved in the fun. Let's make this year's House Championship one to remember!

Mr Harbour - Head of Pegasus & Year 7



News from the Library

ILLUSTRATION COMPETITION



Illustrate the following passage from the powerful book *Tsunami Girl* by Julian Sedgwick and Chie Kutsuwada



PASSAGE TO BE ILLUSTRATED

Once upon a time, *mukashi*, there was a boy, an under-water boy who could ride the waves on bare feet and loved to sing and whose song controlled the waters of the world. He came from out of the sea but loved the land and the people who lived on it, and had a huge heart and eyes that could see clearly. Who calmed the catfish, and rescued sailors in distress and dealt with any trouble that came along: vengeful ghosts, naughty *kappa* monsters and *kitsune* fox spirits, volcanoes. Tsunamis maybe.

Submit Your Entry: Your work must be original and can be any medium and size

Earn House Points: Every entry will be awarded house points

School Judging: Each school will select their top entries in each category

Inter-School Judging: Winners from each school will compete against entries from other Swindon schools.

Author and Illustrator Steve Antony will be the judge and choose the overall winners!

Categories: Years 7-8 and Years 9-11.

Prizes: 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10. WH Smith Vouchers

MULTI-SCHOOL - EVENT

Closing Date: Tuesday 15th October 2024

Entries: All entries to be handed in to Mrs Shurley in the Library

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLOT

Tsunami Girl is a compelling coming-of-age tale about 15-year-old Yuki Hara Jones, who is swept up in the devastating Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 2011. The story follows Yuki as she navigates the challenges of self-discovery and finding her place in the world, all while enduring the aftermath of a massive triple disaster. This narrative is uniquely told through a blend of prose and manga.

All winning entries will be exhibited in the Swindon Central Library

PRIZES SPONSORED BY
WHSmith

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

What do you see when you look at this picture?



WRITE A SHORT STORY OF NO MORE THAN 500 WORDS BASED ON THIS IMAGE!

Categories: Years 7-8 and Years 9-11.

Prizes: Book Vouchers
1st: £20
2nd: £15
3rd: £10

PRIZES SPONSORED BY



MULTI-SCHOOL - EVENT

Submit Your Entry: Your work must be original and no more than 500 words

Earn House Points: Every entry will be awarded housepoints

School Judging: Each school will select their top entries in each category

Inter-School Judging: Winners from each school will compete against entries from other Swindon schools. Award winning author Ali Sparkes will be the judge and choose the overall winners!

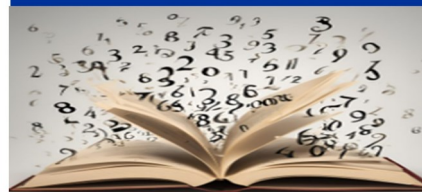
The best story will be awarded the Writing Ambassador's trophy for your school!

Hand your entries to Mrs Shurley in the library. Mr Thompson in FDS or send by epraise message to Mrs Shurley

CLOSING DATE: TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2024

POETRY COMPETITION

PEN A POEM BASED ON THE THEME OF COUNTING



Submit Your Entry: Your work must be original and can be any style of poem

Earn House Points: Every entry will be awarded housepoints

School Judging: Each school will select their top entries in each category

Inter-School Judging: Winners from each school will compete against entries from other Swindon schools. Poet Ash Dickinson will be the judge and choose the overall winners!

- Haiku - Limerick - Ballad -
- Narrative - Free Verse -
- Imagery - Sonnet - Acrostic

MULTI-SCHOOL - EVENT

Categories: Years 7-8 and Years 9-11.

Prizes: 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10. Book Vouchers

Prizes sponsored by

BERT'S BOOKS

Closing Date: Tuesday 15th October 2024
Hand entries into the Library or epraise message Mrs Shurley

Mrs Malik's invitation to Parliament

Mrs Malik has recently been appointed Regional Lead of BAMEd, leading on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in the South West and nationally. As part of her role and her work with South Asian Heritage Month, she was invited to attend an event at Parliament at the end of last term.

[READ MORE](#)

Paris 2025

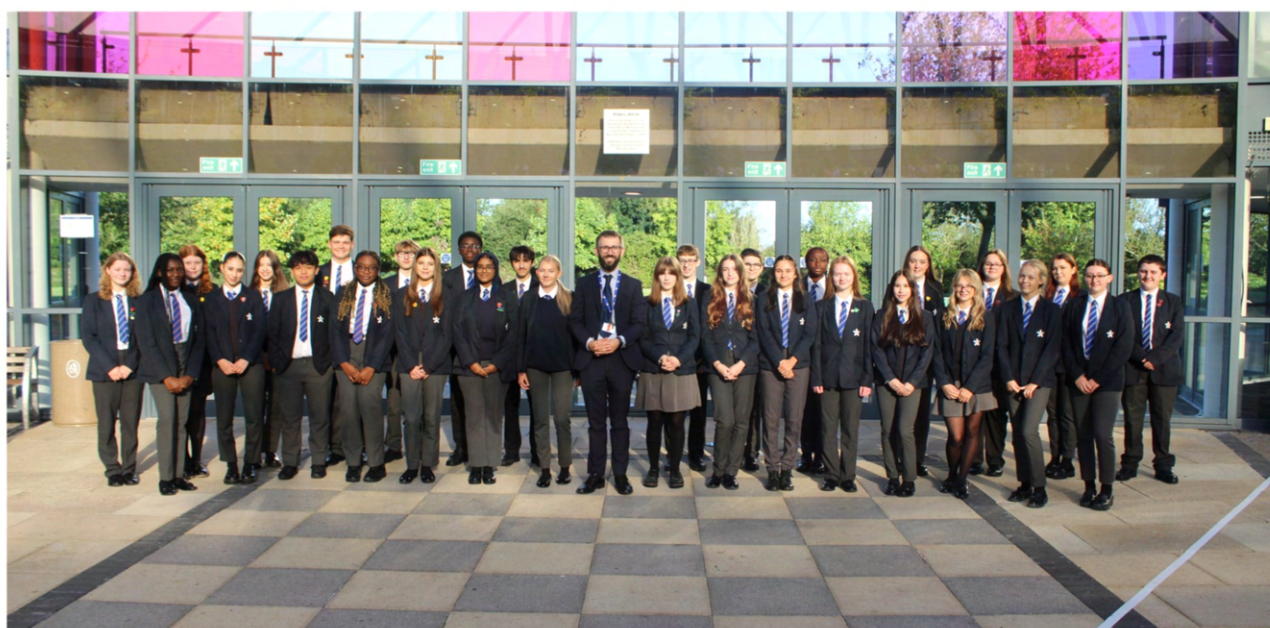
Spaces are still available on the Year 10 trip to Paris on 11th to 14th July 2025.

The trip is open to Year 10 students taking French and can be booked on [parentpay](#). A payment plan is available.



MEET THE PREFECTS

After a rigorous application, interview and probation process we now have 29 Y11 prefects. The process to become a Prefect is intense as the interview is preceded by a staff survey for all students who have applied. This is where staff across the school can endorse or even highlight reasons why a student should be considered for this leadership role. The probation form lasts the entire summer term, and is checked weekly to ensure a high standard of behaviour both in and out of the classroom is being emulated by prospective student leaders.



MEET THE HEAD STUDENTS

We are proud to introduce this year's School Captains, Dami and Layth, together with the Vice Captains Isobel and Emmly.

Following the prefect selections, a further presentation to a staff panel determined our Head Students Damilola and Layth as well as our Deputy Head Students Isobel and Emmly. These four students are our School captains.



WELCOME YEAR 7

On the first day of term our new Year 7 students had the whole school to themselves before being joined by Year 11 on the next day, and then the rest of the school by the end of the week. We were impressed at how confidently Year 7 approached their new surroundings and how quickly they've settled in over the past few weeks.



Attention - all parents

If your child is born between **1st September 2020 – 31st August 2021** they are due to start **Reception in September 2025**.

If your child is currently in **Year 6** – you need to apply for a **Secondary School place for September 2025**.

School Admissions Drop in sessions

"I'm going
to big
School"

Tuesday 1st October
Town Centre Library
10am-2pm

Wednesday 11th December
North Swindon Library
10:30am-1:30pm

Wednesday 8th January
Town Centre Library
10am-2pm

"I will
make lots of
friends at
school"



OPEN MORNINGS

Tuesday 1st October
9am-11am

Thursday 10th October
9am-11am

CATALYST STEM STREAM EVENTS

Thursday 26th September
5pm-6pm

Tuesday 15th October
9am-10am

The Catalyst Stem Stream is Nova's specialist provision for ambitious scholars who have a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.



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REGISTER HERE



Catalyst
STEM Stream

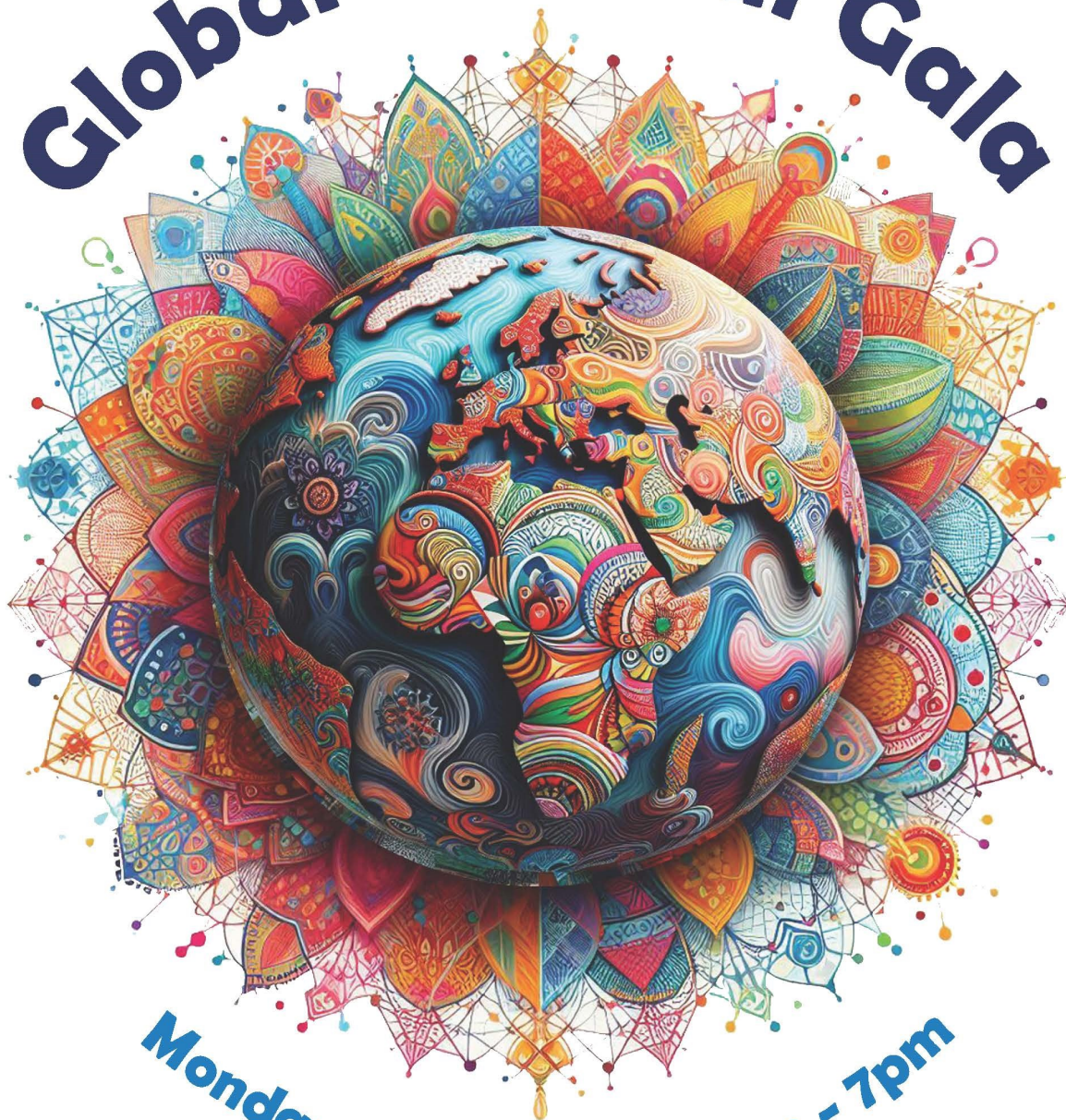


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Global Cultural Gala



Monday 7th October 5pm - 7pm

Hosted by Global Ambassadors and student leaders

**Please email if you would like a stall or to contribute to our first ever Gala:
studentleadership@novahreodacademy.org.uk**

MENU

A healthy school meal is important for children and young people to keep healthy and improve their performance

FOOD

Main Meal Deal 2.45

Jacket & 1 Filling 2.20

Soup & Roll 1.90

Pizza Slice 1.20

Hot Pasta Pot 2.20

SANDWICHES 1.85

BAGUETTES 2.10

WRAPS 2.10

Main Meal Only 2.20

Muffins/traybakes 0.90

Freshly Baked Cookies 0.80

Delight Mousse Pots 0.90

Jelly Pots 0.90

Fresh Fruit 0.50

Cut Fruit Pots 0.65

Yoghurt Pots 0.60

Doughnuts 0.90

Hot Dessert 0.90

DRINKS

Drinks

Radnor Fizz 1.20

Radnor Still 1.20

Radnor Splash 1.20

Capri Sun 1.10

Milk Carton 1.00

Flavoured Milk 1.15

Juice Carton 0.70

Mineral Water 0.70

BREAK MENU

A healthy school meal is important for children and young people to keep healthy and improve their performance

Daily Selection of :

Grilled Sausage Bap	£1.40
Grilled Bacon Bap	£1.40
Hash Brown	£0.80
Warm Cheese Bagel	£0.90
Sausage Roll	£1.20
Croissants	£0.85
Fresh Fruit	£0.50
Belgian Waffle	£1.30
Cheese on Toast	£0.80

DRINKS

A healthy school meal is important for children and young people to keep healthy and improve their performance

Drinks

Radnor Fizz	1.20
Radnor Still	1.20
Radnor Splash	1.20
Capri Sun	1.10
Milk Carton	1.00
Flavoured Milk	1.15
Juice Carton	0.70
Mineral Water	0.70



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Futures Evening

8th October 2024

6pm - 8pm

Confirmed attendees



For further information, please contact Mrs Gawthorn
careers@novahreodacademy.org.uk

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