

20th November 2018

Nova Hreod Academy
Akers Way, Swindon
Wiltshire SN2 2NQ
01793 528800
admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk
www.novahreodacademy.org.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

Parents Evening and Achievement Review Day

From this academic year, we are changing the way in which we organise parents' evenings to give parents and carers more fruitful and timely opportunities to come into school to meet and review their child's progress. Under the previous system, Year 7 parents did not come into school to review their child's achievement until June, Year 8 parents were waiting until May and Year 10 parents waited until March.

There are a number of reasons that we are making this change. The main one is that subject parents' evenings are not the optimum way to communicate with parents about their child's progress during Key Stage 3. In this phase of a child's education:

- Each student has at least 12 teachers, and it is difficult for parents to get appointments with all the teachers.
- Many teachers have multiple classes in a year group and can teach over 100 students. It is impossible for them to see every parent.
- The number of appointments needed, far outstrips the length of time available, so it is difficult to keep to appointment times. Parents can end up spending a lot of time queuing to see a teacher for just a few minutes.
- There is no opportunity to meet the tutor and review the students' engagement in school life.

In Key Stage 4, Subject Parents Evening work much better.

- At Key Stage 4, students only have seven teachers, so it is easier to schedule and manage appointments.
- At Key Stage 4, most teachers only have one GCSE class in a year group, so it is easier to see all the parents of the students they teach.

Achievement Review Days Years 7-10

As a result of these issues, we are moving to a new system known as Achievement Review Days (ARD) for students in Years 7-10. All students in Years 7-9 will have two Achievement Review Days, and Year 10 will have one Achievement Review Day and one Subject Parents' Evening (SPE). Year 11 will have two Subject Parents Evenings.

The first Achievement Review Day will take place on Monday 14th January 2019. On this day, students in Years 7-10 will come into school with their family to attend a meeting with their House Tutor. Prior to this, parents will have received their child's report.

** Drive * Integrity * Scholarship * Contribution*





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On arrival on ARD, parents and carers will have a family learning review conversation with their child using a booklet we have structured to take you through their report and other information we have about your child. The parent and child will then go on to a meeting with the tutor, when the report will be reviewed. The tutor, student and parents/carers will review the report to look at subjects where the student has done well. There will also be a discussion about participation in the Super Nova programme, and a review of the Student Charter certificate. Developing students' character during their time at school is very important to us here at Nova. Any issues regarding poor behaviour, attitudes, attendance or punctuality to lessons can be reviewed.

The tutor will take note of any particular concerns raised by the parents/carers, and these will be passed on to the relevant member of SLT to ensure that there is a swift response from Nova.

Once the tutor meeting is complete, parents will be asked to complete a survey and other paperwork. In the Atrium, there will be displays and representatives from agencies in the local area that work with and support parents and students.

On the ARD, parents will be in school with their child for about one hour. Appointments start at 10.00am and go on until 7.00pm. We hope that a number of parents will be able to take up the offer of an appointment during school hours. Prior to the ARD, parents will be provided with a letter to show to employers to request a short period of absence during the day. We have found in the past that most employers are more than happy to grant such a request if notice is given.

During the ARD in January, Year 11 will be off-site taking part in a day of careers guidance and futures planning.

The second ARD takes place on 18th July following the SPR 2 exams. This ARD will be for students in Years 7-9.

Subject Parents Evenings

There will be two Subject Parents Evenings for Year 11. The first is taking place on Wednesday 14th November 2018, and the second on Monday 25th March 2019. During the SPE, parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's GCSE subject teachers to review their attitude and progress.

There will be one Subject Parents Evening for Year 10 – this will take place on Thursday 11th July after SPR2 exams.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact us in the usual manner.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Nick Wells
Headteacher