



17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

## September Re-Opening Plans for Year 7 Students

As we come towards the end of the academic year, I'm writing to you to explain our plans for reopening in September, following the government's most recent guidance. I know that you will be keen to hear about this as with your child starting at their new secondary school this year.

The very good news is that Nova will be fully reopening from September. This means that every year group will be able to attend, every day. This is vital for our students' education and wellbeing and is something that we know will be welcomed across our Nova community. In line with the government guidance, whilst providing an excellent education, we will ensure everyone in school follows excellent hygiene practices and that we are careful about the number of different people that students come into contact with at Nova.

The start to the school year will be different in September. This is so that we can give a good induction experience for our new Year 7 pupils in particular. For Year 7, there will be no change to the information Mr Thomas sent you on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Year 7 will start on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September with the other year groups joining them as follows.

Year group	Start date
Year 7	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
Year 11	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 10	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 9	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 8	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September

Alongside this, the government's guidance will mean a number of important changes to how Nova runs next term. In particular:

- All areas of the school will receive more frequent cleaning and there will be hand sanitiser available throughout the school. We will be encouraging students to wash their hands regularly and promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach for any sneezes or coughs;
- Students will be able to travel to and from school as normal but we would request that they travel with students in their year group bubble and practice social distancing. If they are travelling on public transport, they will be required to wear a mask;
- All students will be expected to **arrive at school between 8.15am and 8.20am** and go straight to their roll call location. There will be a different entrance for each year group. Students will be directed to these by the staff who will be on duty on their first day in September. We will have a higher number of staff out on duty on your child's first few mornings at Nova to welcome them to the school and direct them where to go. (Please note: parents will need to

\* Drive \* Integrity \* Scholarship \* Contribution



plan the journey to school with their child/ren. We expect students to arrive at the correct times. Parents will not be able to drop off their child before the start times listed. We will provide further guidance about where students can be dropped off towards the end of the summer);

- When students are in school, they will remain within their year group bubble throughout the day. We will be avoiding any non-essential mixing of year groups and there will be a strict one-way system in place as well as an expectation of walking on the left-hand side of the corridor;
- Year groups will be separated within the school wherever possible. At Key Stage 3, each year group has been allocated a wing of the school, and they will spend the majority of their time in one classroom on that wing. We are planning so that pupils will be able to make use of specialist teaching spaces where possible – in particular for Key Stage 4 options subjects. Use of communal areas will be strictly controlled;

Year group	Entrance	Roll Call	Classroom bases
Year 7	@Hreod room	Stellar Diner	FE Wing
Year 8	Main student entrance	FD Wing	FD Wing
Year 9	GC Wing – PE entrance	Sports Hall	SC and SD Wings
Year 10	Amphitheatre entrance	GB Wing	SB, FC, GB, FB,
Year 11	MUGA entrance	Atrium	

- As you've heard from Mr Thomas, for now students will have roll call, tutor time and lessons in their year groups, we will keep the house system strong through running competitions, DISC Point totals and the House Championship. However, at an appropriate and safe point in the year, we'll return to vertical tutor groups in Years 7-10. They have become an integral part of the Nova culture over the past two years;
- We will have a staggered break and lunchtime with each year group having their own allocated time. In September, students will be given lanyards which they will wear with cards indicating when their break and lunchtime will be each day.
- Sport and Physical Education will take place following the appropriate government guidance. On the day(s) which they have PE sessions, students should arrive at school dressed smartly in their PE kit. Nova students wear their PE kit with pride. Please check Page 40 of the [Parent Information Guide](#) to remind yourself of our PE kit expectations.
- Pupils should bring their own items of equipment to school as sharing of items will not be allowed. Please check Page 41 of the [Parent Information Guide](#) to remind yourself of our equipment expectations.
- Extra-curricular clubs and activities will operate within year groups wherever possible. A programme of these will be made available over the summer and in the first week back after the holidays;
- Our usual breakfast and lunch groups will operate for some of our vulnerable students. As a result of the staggered lunchtime, it will be possible for these to take place in their year groups;
- Other interventions for pupils with special needs will also run, following government guidance.

We know that all students will require some degree of catch up after the disruption of the past few months. As a Year 7 parent, you will want the strongest possible start for your child too. It is therefore essential that every student attends every day from the beginning of term so that we can quickly return to normal curriculum content. Attendance will be required at school and will be monitored as it has been in the past. Unauthorised absence will be treated as such and followed up accordingly.

During the summer, we will publish further information on the measures we have put in place to keep our school community safe.

Finally, we know that some students may feel apprehensive about returning to school after the period of school closure. We know that our partner primary schools have worked hard to do what they can for their pupils at the end of Year 6. For some of our Year 7 students, their emotions may be heightened by not having the ending they expected to their primary school experience. It is important that our Nova students understand that this is a natural reaction and doesn't make them different to other people. We know that students thrive best when they have routine, consistency and stability around them. We will therefore be doing everything we can to ensure that, wherever possible, school life is as close to what they would have been expecting as possible. We will, of course, be taking particular steps to ensure that our pastoral support for each student allows

for this and provides time and space for any worries or concerns to be addressed so that each student is able to enjoy being back at school.

With this in mind, over the summer we will be updating the Parent Information Guide and sending you the updated version. I would encourage you and your children to use our [transitions page](#) on the Nova website where you can find a wealth of information. We also have our [Be Awesome Be Nova](#) page of activities and presentations which you could watch with your child to help them with the kinds of feelings they might have and exciting challenges they will take on over the first few weeks of term. Lastly, it would be useful for you to watch the Changes assemblies on the online [assemblies page](#) of the Nova website. These will give you further information about what to expect at Nova during the coming academic year.

If you have any questions regarding Nova's reopening in September, please contact us using the following email address: [closure@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:closure@novahreodacademy.org.uk)

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the past few months. Everyone at Nova is looking forward to welcoming your child to the school. We know that there is a great deal to do and that the year ahead may still be subject to some interruptions. However, we are entirely focused on making sure that in every lesson, every day, every student continues to learn and thrive, developing their drive, integrity, scholarship and contribution.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Wells', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Nick Wells  
Headteacher