



## A WELCOME FROM OUR NEW SENIOR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Firstly, let me introduce myself. My name is Dr Radice, and I'm an English specialist with many years of experience working in a wide variety of schools. I joined the school in September 2020 with the remit to make the school's culture even stronger and to build on the achievements of my predecessor, Mr Wilson, who had been working with faculty leaders to strengthen the Nova curriculum.

One of the aspects of my cultural work across the school has been to introduce whole-school poetry. All students are working together on memorising classic poetry. Last term, we learned 'Ozymandias' by Percy Bysshe Shelley. This term, our poem is particularly relevant to the month which contains Remembrance Day: 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. It's been great to see so many students joining in with this whole-school initiative. It has a powerful unifying and uplifting effect in these difficult times.

Another aspect of my work has been to encourage and model excellent manners in classrooms and corridors. This is simple but very powerful. A simple 'good morning' or 'good afternoon' makes the school a more cheerful and civilised place, and brightens everyone's day.

This month we have celebrated the English language with a socially-distanced Swindon Youth Festival of Literature. This is a fantastic initiative which is organised by the librarians of the secondary schools in Swindon and it was heartwarming to see how the students engaged with the virtual workshops and competitions.

I've been impressed with how much work has already been done on making the curriculum at Nova rich and coherent. I'm currently working with faculty leaders on even more effective ways of making this broad range of knowledge 'stick' better through study techniques such as spaced practice and interleaving.



**Dr Anthony Radice**  
*Senior Assistant Principal*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

Friday 11th—SEND virtual coffee morning

Tuesday 15th—Achievement Review Day

18th—Last day of autumn term

### JANUARY

4th & 5th January 2021—Inset Day

Wednesday 6th January 2021 —First Day of Term

FRIDAY 8TH—SEND virtual coffee morning

A full calendar of events and more information can be found at <https://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk>



## ACHIEVEMENT REVIEW DAY

A letter has been sent to all parents to invite them to make an appointment for Achievement Review Day on 15th December.









Meetings with tutors will be held over video call. The appointment system will be open from Monday 30th November

For information and to book please go to our website

[https://  
www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/  
news-and-events/calendar](https://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/news-and-events/calendar)



## EPRAISE LEAGUE TABLE

	Total points	Attendance
1st		
2nd		
3rd		
4th		

## EPRAISE TOP STUDENTS



## CHARITY AND FUNDRAISING

This month, Nova supported **BBC Children in Need** by holding a non-uniform day and inviting students to donate to the charity through parentpay to reduce the amount of cash coming into the school. There will be two further non-uniform days during this academic year and the parentpay item will remain open for donations. The total raised for Children in Need so far is £814.



16th-20th November was **Anti Bullying Week**, and as well as raising awareness through tutor groups, students celebrated **Odd Socks Day** to highlight their support.

We have also supported the charity **Choose Love**, who provide emergency aid and long term solutions for refugees. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the refugee camps, which were delivered to the charity by Ms Preece.

# NOVA HREOD Thank You!

YOU DID SOMETHING

DIFFERENT AND RAISED

**£ 814.00**

FOR

**BBC**  
**Children**  
**in Need**





# ATHLETICS COMPETITION

In the last week before half term, students took part in a virtual athletics competition in their PE lessons, competing in several events over the course of the week. Everyone had lots of fun and the students were fantastic. The winners overall were as follows

## Year 11 Boys

1st David Felix  
2nd Mil Moons  
3rd Flynn Walters

## Year 11 Girls

1st Tiya Dix  
2nd Charlotte Davis  
3rd Alysha Cooper



*I enjoyed the running, which helped me—never give up.*

*Flynn*

## Year 10 Boys

1st Alfie Jefferis  
2nd Harley Morgan  
3rd Finlay Sage

## Year 10 Girls

1st Rhianna Cole  
2nd Hannah Courts  
3rd Bree Alice Waldron



*Even if you have things that may stop you, keep going and strive to be the best.*

*Adam*

## Year 9 Boys

1st Kieran Boyse  
2nd Owen Boyle  
3rd Cameron Marsh

## Year 9 Girls

1st Mary Franklin  
2nd Selin Sali  
3rd Leah Cardy



*I feel very happy to achieve this award. I loved taking part in the competition, and having the privilege to be included in the winners.*

*Bree-Alice*

## Year 8 Girls

1st Belle Bridger  
2nd Julia Moraz  
3rd Leah Matthews

## Year 8 Boys

1st Tyreece Brown  
2nd Liam Wood  
3rd Daniel Awotwi



*It was different this year as it was virtual but it was a good experience and it was a good way to start the year.*

*Hannah*

## Year 7 Boys

1st Alex Greenwood  
2nd Scott Waldron Jones  
3rd Jayden Smith

## Year 7 Girls

1st Etta Crowley  
2nd Charlotte Hayman  
3rd Freya Dix





# SWINDON VIRTUAL YOUTH FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

## 9th – 13th November 2020



www.swindonyfl.co.uk  @swindonYFL  Swindon Youth Festival of Literature

The 13th Swindon Youth Festival of Literature which celebrates creativity, writing and reading, is a project co-ordinated by the librarians of the secondary schools across Swindon. For the first time, due to COVID19 restrictions, the Festival had to take place virtually, and our authors and poets were seen on the big screen in the classroom rather than in person.

**Alexander Gordon Smith** was our school author this year and he told some very entertaining stories of his childhood and younger years which inspired him to start writing his horror books.

During the week we also had talks by the performance poet and SYFL regular, **Ash Dickinson** who got the students to create their own rhymes and verses.

The headline event, which normally takes place at the Wyvern Theatre, was the author **Sally Gardner**, author of *'Maggot Moon'* and *'The Silver Blade'* who talked about being dyslexic and read a short extract from her book *"Invisible in a Bright Light."*

Students from Haydon Wick Primary School also got to be involved in the Festival. Normally they would have attended a workshop here at Nova but instead this year they watched a recording at their school by the author **Phil Earle**. Phil read the first chapter from his new book *"Pickles, the Dog that Saved the World (Cup)"* which is being released in March 2021.





In advance of the Festival, Creative Writing, Poetry and Illustration Competitions were run. We had lots of entries across all the competitions with our winning entries then being submitted against the other Swindon Secondary Schools.

## Poetry Competition

Students were invited to write a poem on the subject of Freedom. There were two categories: Year 7-8 and Year 9-11. Congratulations to Austin, winner of the Year 7-8 category and Luke, who won the Year 9-11 category. Both students reached the SYFL final.



### Freedom

Freedom is essential for life and prosperity

Restlessness for the abolition of tyranny

End the suffering of those with no voice

Equality is important and you have no choice

Don't forget it or there will be consequences

Only those who do, trap others in invisible fences

**Make freedom our normal. DO IT NOW.**



### Freedom

To be running in the fields,  
To be chatting with your friends,  
To be eating with your family,  
That is to be free.

To be sleeping in your bed,  
With your favourite teddy beside,  
To wake up to a sunny day,  
No rain, no clouds in the sky,  
That is to be free.

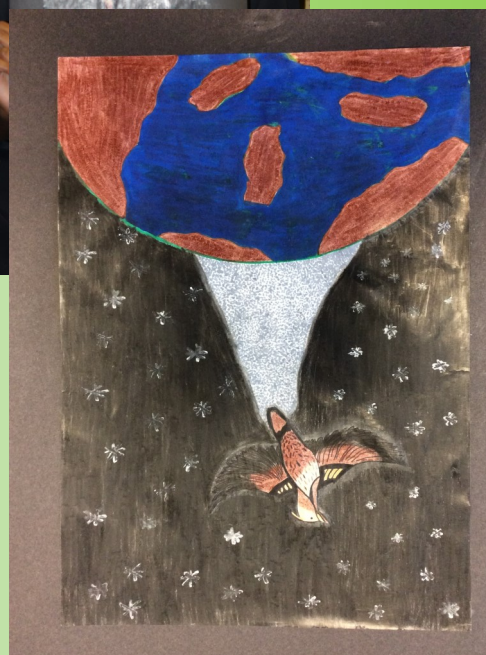
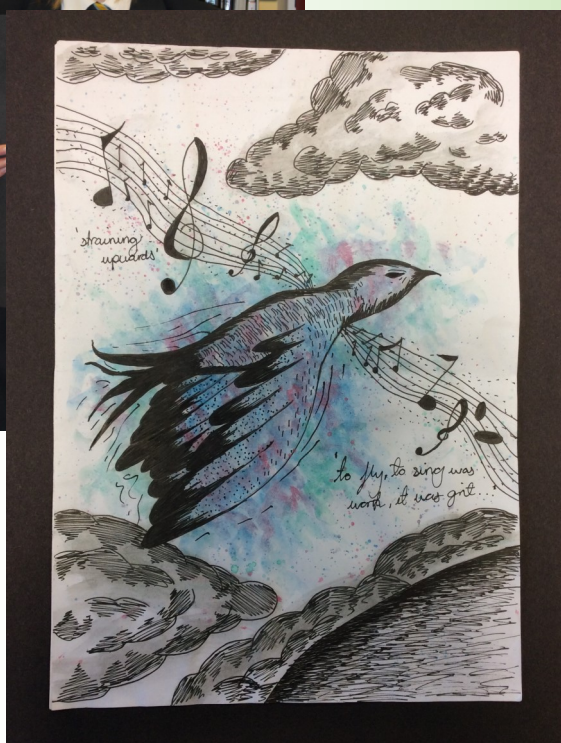
To have that feeling of warmth,  
Not too hot, not too cold,  
To have the world as your playground,  
Take it, use it to its fullest,  
And be free.

Look up to the sky and say, "Thank you"  
As some are not as lucky as you,  
Some have no homes, or fresh water to drink,  
Some have to work, and barely get paid,  
Some aren't as free, as you and me.

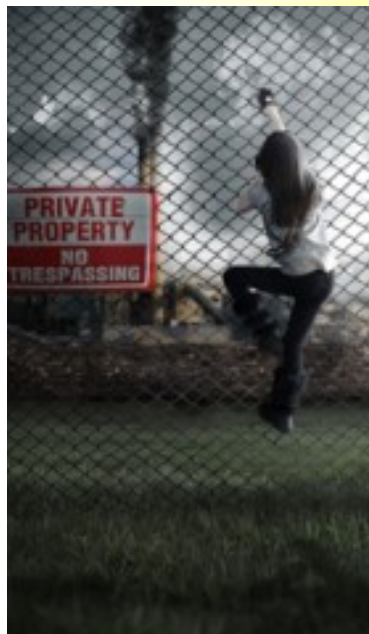
So, help us, donate and give,  
And let the children who suffer,  
Be as lucky as you and I,  
Let them have freedom.

## Illustration Competition

Students were asked to design an illustration based on an extract from the 2020 Carnegie Medal winning book *"The Lark"*, by the Anthony McGowan. The author generously donated copies of his book to the school libraries. Congratulations to Samaira (Year 7) and Isabel (Year 9) who were selected for the final. Isabel came 2nd in the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature Illustration Competition final! Her entry was up against 12 other schools in Swindon and she won a £20 book voucher as her prize. Well done to all who took part.



## Creative Writing Competition



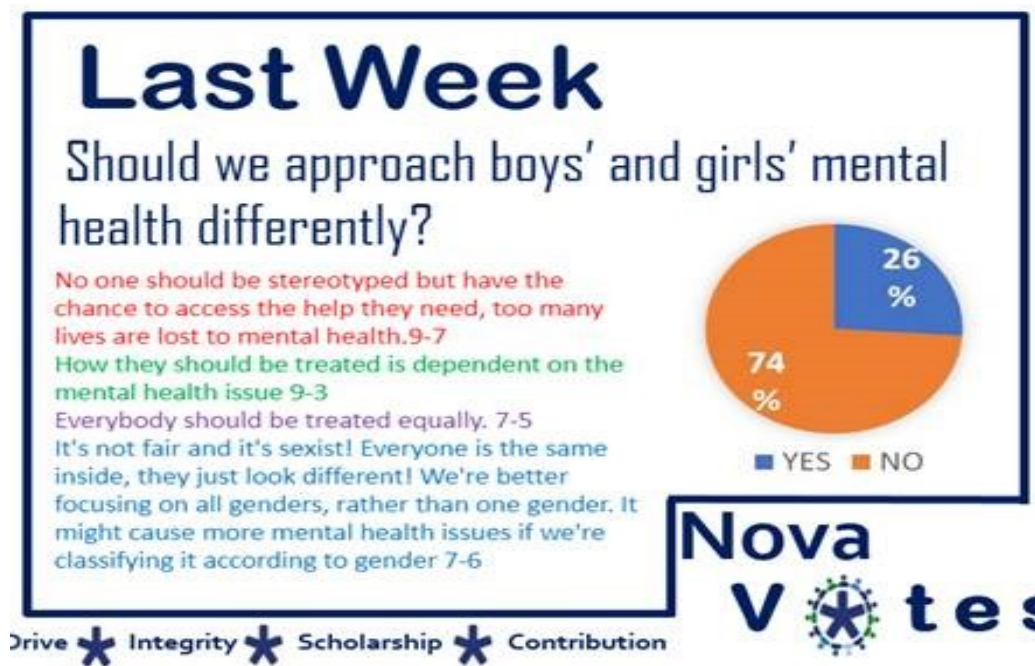
Students were asked to write up to 500 words based on "What do you see when you look at this picture?" Two students were selected to go forward to the SYFL final: Violet (Year 7) Madelin (Year 9)



## THE WORLD AROUND US

We are continuing to discuss, in tutor groups, new topics which are linked to the school theme for the week. The programme is designed to not only engage students in key debates happening outside of school, but to encourage students to have opinions on these important issues and to make their voices heard. The sessions are designed to enable our Nova scholars to critically challenge the world around them.

This week Nova voted whether we should approach boy's and girls' mental health differently. We looked at gender specific issues along with the more general idea of mental health as a whole. Nova voted by a large majority that we shouldn't differentiate by gender and many comments argued that the most important thing was good quality mental health care that was easily available.



Parents, welcome to:

## Schoolgateway

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

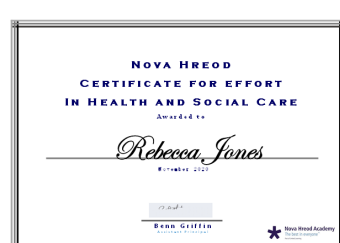
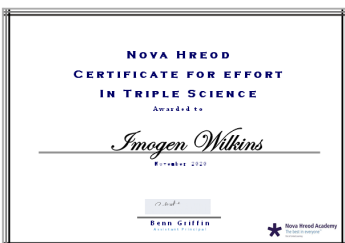
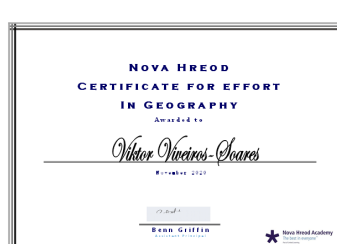
Download the app. Android and iPhone  
or visit: [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com)

▶ **Activate your account today!**

To make sure you do not miss any important updates please make sure you enable **NOTIFICATIONS ON** the app.

# VIRTUAL DISC YEAR 11 PRESENTATION EVENING

The achievements of the Class of 2020 were celebrated this month as we welcomed them back (virtually) for DISC Presentation Evening.

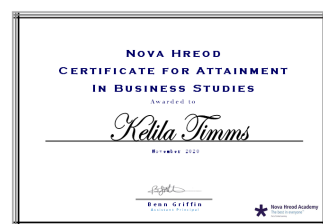
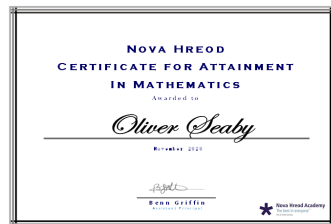
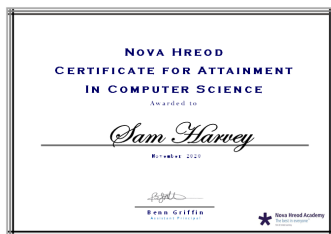


The first set of awards were presented to students who had been nominated by their teachers for achievement and effort in individual subjects.

Special awards were presented to students who had demonstrated the Nova values of Drive, Integrity, Scholarship and Contribution.







## Attendance Award—Sam Harvey and Louise Rose

2 students with **100% attendance** over their 5 years at Nova.

This is an incredible Achievement.



### DRIVE AWARD

Samuel Entwistle

### INTEGRITY AWARD

Rebecca Jones

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Sam Harvey

Ellis Acathan

Ruby Fleetwood

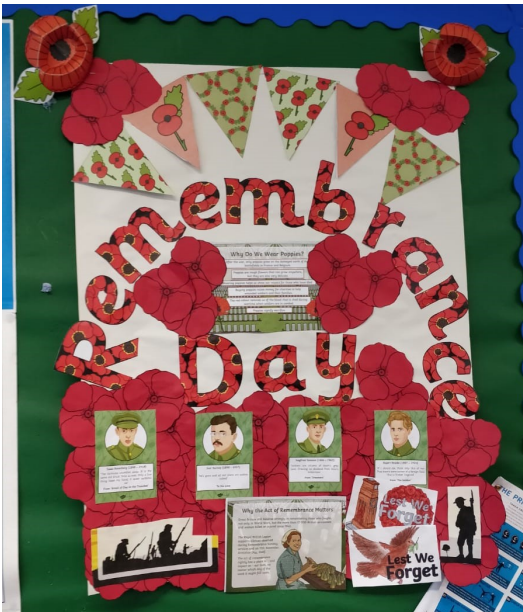
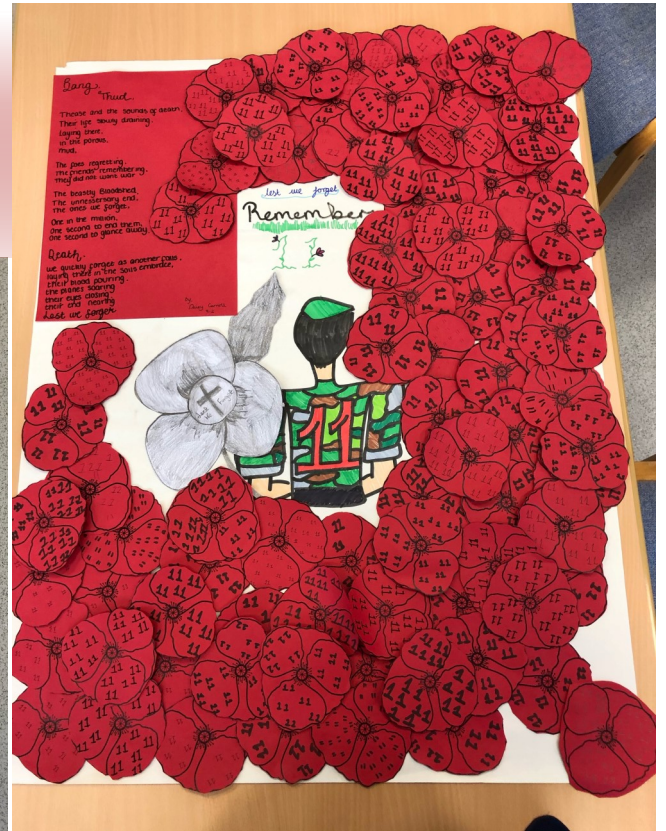
### CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Liam Blackburn



# REMEMBRANCE DAY

The whole school stood together, apart, to pay their respects on Remembrance Day. During the week, students had worked together in their groups to learn about the reasons for Remembrance Day and created posters for a house competition.





## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Each month, students are invited to send in a photograph to reflect the time of the year.

The winning entry each month will receive a £10 Amazon voucher and all the winning photographs will be made into a calendar.

Send your entry to Mr Askew in Technology.



Millie Farthing—September



Bethany Sanders—October

## Our Virtual Sixth Form Information Event is Now Live!



**United College Sixth Form**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of Swindon Academy & United Learning

Click here to view or go to:  
<https://www.swindon-academy.org/unitedcollege6f/>

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