



BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN EVERYONE

This term is one that, I suspect, we will look back on and wonder, 'How did we do that?!' The switch to mobile teaching; the new, daily routine of packing up our trollies complete with wipes, sanitiser and resources for the day ahead; the additional duties of our Hub team managing 'year bubble' breaktimes and lunches; adapting to teaching in multiple rooms, and navigating technology!

It is a term that has brought its own 'COVID' challenges, challenges that our whole staff body has risen to. We have worked together to keep our students safe and learning, with unrelenting focus on delivering a quality education. We have become increasingly expert at new ways of 'checking for understanding' through student use of mini-whiteboards followed by 'show me' in class. We have identified gaps in students' learning and planned 'reteach' lessons to close these gaps, using ongoing formative assessment to ensure students have understood what we have taught.

As we look ahead to the Spring term, we hope that teachers and students find they are able to rest and enjoy long-awaited time with their families over the festive period, returning refreshed and ready to achieve their best.



Mrs Melanie Anderson
Assistant Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY 2021

Friday 8th—SEND Parents Coffee
Morning

Thursday 14th—Year 11 Parents Evening

**A full calendar of events and more
information can be found at**

<https://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk>

Our Virtual Sixth Form Information Event is Now Live!



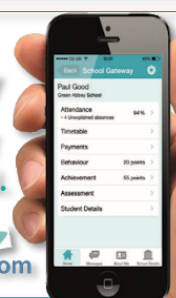
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EPRAISE LEAGUE TABLE

	Total points	Attendance
1st		
2nd		
3rd		
4th		

EPRAISE TOP STUDENTS-DEC



CHRISTMAS

5 Rings Competition



In last month's newsletter, we incorrectly reported one of the athletics results. Our apologies to Flynn and Adam, who were awarded 2nd and 3rd place in the Year 11 boys' category.



GETTING CRAFTY AT CHRISTMAS

In the Elsa sessions some Nova scholars have been learning new skills. From using new tools, cutting leather and styling some jewellery for some very nice Christmas gifts to give to the ones we love!

The group has been learning to get over hurdles, problem solving and developing patience, following instructions and coming up with their own designs. I think you will all agree they've certainly added some sparkle to Christmas.



Emily and Jemma have created these original Christmas trees with Mrs Raymen.



NOVA STUDENTS IN SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT

Nova Hreod Academy was one of two schools nationally who helped develop and test a mobile game for young people, aimed at reducing anxiety and improving social distancing skills during the COVID-19.

Year 10 students **Jin** and **Aditya**, and Year 8 **Daniel**, explained how they were involved in the development of the game. Five Nova students had volunteered to share their knowledge and attitudes around the current pandemic, which was analysed carefully to identify the key themes for the game. After being introduced to the game during a zoom consultation, they discussed the effects it could have on young people, and the developer asked for their opinion on a number of different aspects. Aditya explained that he was keen to be involved due to his interest in computer game design - the first version that was sent to them for testing only had nine levels, but this has increased as COVID-19 research has developed and new medicines are added. Daniel explained that he enjoyed being involved in the project and found it very interesting as he intends to follow a career in medicine.

All the students have downloaded the game and are enjoying watching it develop, knowing that their involvement made it possible.

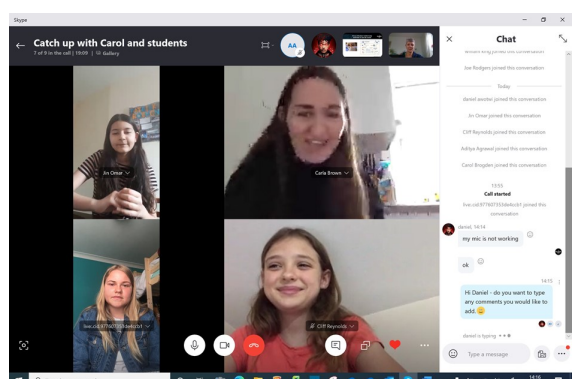
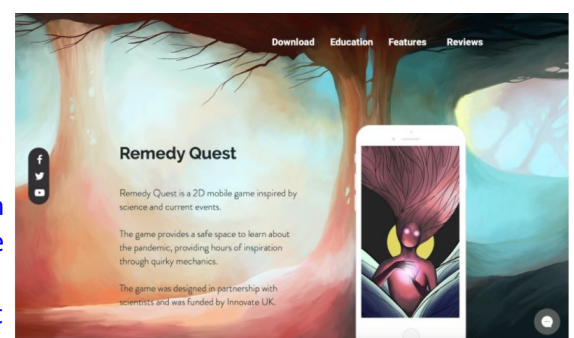
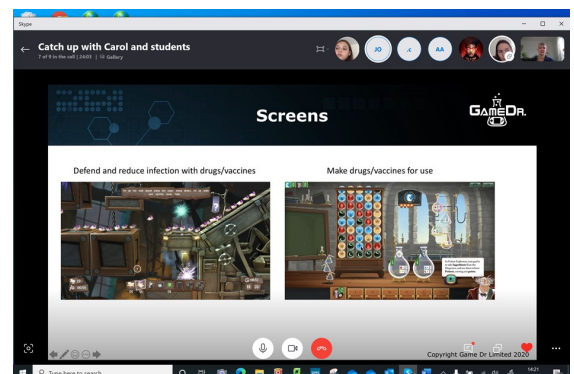
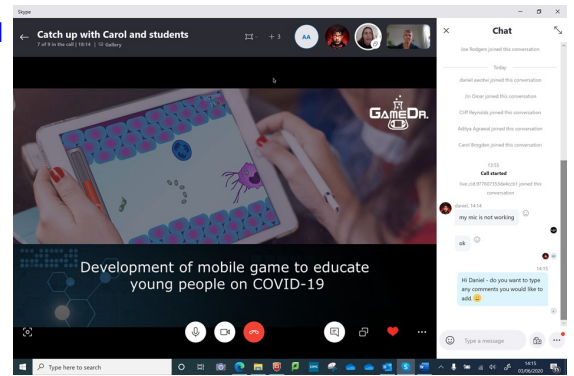
Remedy Quest gives users a view on what scientists have been doing and how quickly the virus can spread. The game can be downloaded on the app store – search for Remedy Quest.

Nova Science teacher Ms Brogden, said:

“Remedy Quest is an effective tool for educating students on Covid-19 infection and treatment without them even realising that they are learning how infectious disease causes harm, how our body responds and how we can fight the infection. The graphics are beautiful and the game is really engaging, encouraging players to think and strategise.

The potential impact goes far beyond students developing a better understanding of the biology and immune response in the face of an infectious disease; it does not take much imagination to hypothesise that with greater understanding of the effect of Covid-19 once it enters our body and the ways in which we combat the infection that young people will have a better understanding and deeper appreciation of strategies designed to prevent passing on the infection and be less fearful of treatments and vaccinations and could even help promote uptake of vaccinations by relatives.

From the point of view of students being involved in the development of the game then this has been a fantastic opportunity for students to see first-hand the process of game development and how science, art, media and digital literacy all combine in a creative and exciting way – the process has been a fantastic advert for the promotion of STEM in schools.”



CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



CROSS COUNTRY

Every November, Nova Hreod Academy hosts the annual Swindon Schools Cross Country competition. Due to COVID19, this year's competition had to look a little different.

Students in all the Swindon secondary schools are organising their own cross country routes and competing within their own schools. All students in Swindon will be competing on (where possible) flat, grass terrain so that the competition is as fair as possible. Students in Year 7 have completed a 2000m route, Years 8 & 9 ran 3000m and Years 10 & 11 have taken on the challenge of a 4000m run. The overall results will be announced as soon as all the schools have completed their runs.

As well as the inter-school virtual competition, we have also collated the results for Nova. The students were taken off site for their competition and their engagement and behaviour was exemplary.



Year 8 Girls **Winners Aquila**

1. Julia Moroz 18.03 A
2. Matilda Kimber 18.21 A
3. Leah Matthews 18.33 C
4. Milla Pironi 19.54 A
5. Sienna Lewis 20.04 P
6. Saphiya Balogun 21.19 A

Year 8 Boys **Winners Orion**

1. Liam Wood 13.52 O
2. Frederick Kimber 14.26 A
3. Dayo Sonoiki 15.09 O
4. Ashton Lochrie 15.30 O
5. Luke Cooper 15.37 C
6. Connor Warren 16.10 A

Year 9 Boys **Winners Cygnus**

1. Kieran Boyse 13.22 P
2. Thomas Gough 14.05 C
3. Kai Gordon 14.14 A
4. Oliver Abbott Watts 14.42 C
5. Alfie Small 14.53 C
6. Harrison Davis 15.15 A

Year 7 Boys **Winners Orion**

1. Alex Greenwood C
2. Oliver Russell A
3. Litton Mitchell O
4. Jake Brown O
5. Jack Phillips P
6. Cole Thompson P

Year 7 Girls **Winners Cygnus**

1. Szantal Tapalaj A
2. Grace Bull C
3. Tegan Harris C
4. Bella Alfonso P
5. Freya Dix C
6. Mia Clark A

Year 10 Girls **Winners Cygnus**

Hannah Courts – 24.30 - Orion
Brianna Dix – 27.23 - Cygnus
Ebony Linstead – 28.17 - Cygnus
Saranna Kitchen – 28.31 – Aquila
Nadine Burrows – 30.32 - Pegasus
Shanaida Fernandes – 31.41 - Orion

Year 11 Girls **Winners Orion**

Tiya Dix – 26.32 - Cygnus
Danielle Little – 27.25 - Aquila
Emily McGrogan – 29.05 - Orion
Jenna-May Cox – 29.50 - Orion
Emily Chapman – 30.07 - Pegasus
Abby Cantelow – 30.07 - Cygnus

Year 10 Boys **Winners Pegasus**

Alfie Jefferis – 18.30 - Pegasus
Kenneth Tangunan – 19.19 - Cygnus
Finley Sage – 19.45 - Aquila
Dylan Dash – 21.25 - Pegasus
Harry Phillips – 22.10 - Orion
James Styles – 22.25 - Cygnus

Year 11 Boys **Winners Cygnus**

Ryan Spencer – 18.37 - Cygnus
Morgan Cole – 20.17 - Orion
George Bull – 20.24 - Cygnus
Lee Rouse – 22.12 - Orion
Naglis Salcius – 26.13 - Cygnus
David Felix – 27.40 – Cygnus

Year 9 Girls **Winners Orion**

Selin Sali 18.30 C ygnus
Tilly Kinge 19.32 Orion
Emily Dorey 20.12 Aquila
Ellis Dyke 20.15 Orion
Jessica Mann 20.36 Pegasus
Risha Tavernier 20.57 Cygnus

CHARITY

Thank you to everyone who donated to Alternative Angels. The items were collected on Wednesday, 16th December 2020. Alternative Angels is a small team of volunteers who support the homeless, rough sleepers and those suffering from food poverty.



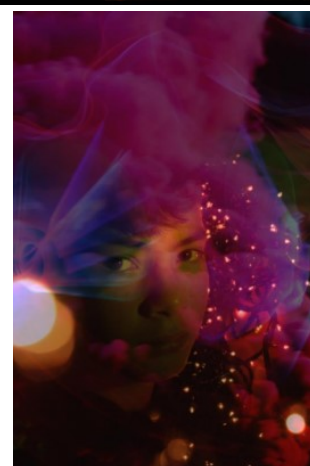
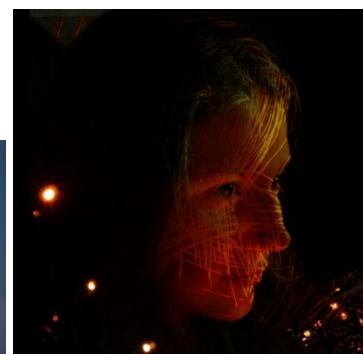
Students at Nova have been collecting non-perishable food and items to support the work of Alternative Angels, a local charity that provides food and support for homeless people in Swindon. The donations will provide much needed hot food during the Christmas period.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations to Isobel Wright (Year 7), winner of November's photography competition.



Photography Mock Exam 9 th December 2020 Theme: Transforming Portraits



HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

Brother and sister team Ayla and Euan have received the very first Headteacher's Awards in recognition of their fundraising and charity work, linking to the school value of contribution.

At the start of this term, Euan hosted a 12 hour gaming marathon. Over 20 people joined in and made donations, raising £105 which was donated to Julia's House Children's Hospice.

In November, Euan and Ayla took part in the Big Sleepout, an annual fundraiser organised by homeless charity Threshold, in which volunteers and participants spend a night under the stars to experience the hardships of a homeless person. Ayla said "we've taken part for 3 years now, it's hard sleeping out in the cold but we intend to keep doing it every year to raise money to support homeless people in Swindon."

Euan said: "there are usually hundreds of people taking part but this year it had to be done virtually, with everyone sleeping outdoors in their own back gardens. This is the third year we've been involved; last year the event raised £18,000 for the charity.

Their fundraising page is still open and they are aiming to double their record from last year <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/EuanAylavie4threshold>



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