



## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRINCIPAL

There is evidence that regular attendance at school is linked to success, and we know that it also develops good habits and a sense of commitment. One of my key responsibilities at Nova is to support families that need help to improve their child's attendance. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please come along any morning between 9.40am and 10.35am for a chat with Mrs Penfold to see how we can help you. Don't forget, the best way to report an absence is Epraise messenger—address your message to "attendance."

Being new to Swindon, I hadn't experienced the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature before, and what a treat it was! This unique event is pulled together by a group of school librarians and allows young people to meet authors, illustrators and poets and take part in workshops with them. Every year, there's a headline act at the Wyvern Theatre and this year, some of our Year 7s got to meet the award winning author Jacqueline Wilson. Even our librarian Mrs Shurley was star-struck, and she's met

lots of authors over the years! You can read more about the SYFL in the pages of this newsletter; it really is a unique opportunity for students to meet and learn from inspirational people. We are grateful to the librarians of the 12 Swindon secondary schools for their hard work in organising the event for the past 16 years, they really deserved the Community Award that they received this year.

Another first for me this year was Nova's remembrance service held in the atrium. As a military wife I believe it's important for us all to think about the sacrifices made by others. It was very moving to see how respectfully our scholars observed the two minute silence and readings.

We've had lots of sporting successes this term and our teams have made us very proud with some fantastic performances. Well done everyone!

*Mrs R Fox  
Vice Principal*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### NOVEMBER 2023

Thursday 23rd: [SEN Specific Tours for Year 5/6 parents](#)

Saturday 25th: Swindon Schools' Cross Country Championship

Thursday 30th: Charity non-uniform day

### DECEMBER 2023

Saturday 2nd: [Catalyst STEM Stream Taster](#)

Tuesday 5th: Year 10 Work Experience information evening

Wednesday 6th: Christmas Concert

### DECEMBER 2023

Thursday 7th: Ski trip parents' meeting with Elemental

Wednesday 13th: Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday 14th: Christmas Jumper Day/ Christmas lunch in Stellar Diner

Friday 15th: Last day of term

### JANUARY 2024

Thursday 4th: Scholars return to school

## THIS WEEK'S TOP EPRAISE SCHOLARS



## MRS UNWIN'S REVISION CORNER

At Nova we use many online platforms for home study such as Sparx, Bedrock, Tassomai, Languagenut and Seneca. Many of these platforms are cleverly designed to identify what scholars need to work on and they automatically focus more on that. One challenge of revision is knowing what to revise – these platforms can be great in 2 ways:

1. Just do more on the platform and it will be focusing on your highest priority topics
2. Most of the platforms allow you to review areas of strengths and weakness, which can be used to plan out a revision programme.

If your child ever says they don't know how to revise or what to revise, then an immediate solution to this is suggesting they login to one of their online platforms and do an extra 20-30 minutes. Every small chunk of revision builds towards the larger goal of knowing more and being able to do more.



## HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP FRIDAY CHALLENGE

*Year 7 and 9  
scholars paper  
airplane  
challenge*



## PEGASUS HOUSE UPDATE

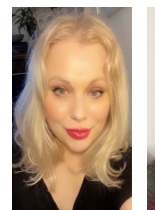
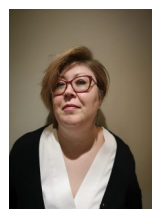
For those of you who don't know me, my name is Mr Harbour and I have been the Head of Pegasus House since the start of this academic year. And what a fantastic start to the school year it has been!

I'll get on to some of our achievements later, but first I wanted to talk about the significance of being in Pegasus. Even though we all recognise it as a House at Nova, the history of Pegasus stretches far beyond the creation of Nova Hreed, Hreed Parkway or even Hreed Burna in 1966! Pegasus was the name given by the ancient Greeks to one of the largest and most visible constellations in the night sky almost 3,000 years ago. Since then, it has symbolised strength, courage, bravery and hard work in mythology. This is something that I proudly see our scholars demonstrate day-in and day-out in school.

For me, this is evident in the fantastic achievements Pegasus scholars have collectively made since September. We are currently the house with the highest **attendance** in school, we have come **first place 5 weeks running** for maths Sparx homework and we have won three **Friday Competitions!** Our list of achievements doesn't end there either! Currently we are **FIRST place** in the school leader board for collective DISC and House Competition points, Pegasus scholars came **first and third** in the Young Musicians of the Year 2023 competition, and we also **won** the Year 9 Illustration competition. A big well done to all of those who took part and put their best foot forward to show Pegasus courage and hard work!



<b>Mr Harbour – French teacher</b>	<b>Head of House</b>
<b>Mr Wykes</b>	<b>House Manager</b>
<b>Miss Griffiths – Science &amp; Deputy SENDCo</b>	<b>Pegasus 1</b>
<b>Miss Stanik – Maths teacher</b>	<b>Pegasus 2</b>
<b>Mrs Camm – Faulty Leader</b>	<b>Pegasus 3</b>
<b>Miss Karikari – Maths teacher</b>	<b>Pegasus 4</b>
<b>Mrs Clare – Maths teacher</b>	<b>Pegasus 5</b>
<b>Ms Millan – DT teacher</b>	<b>Pegasus 6</b>
<b>Ms Derham – Drama teacher</b>	<b>Pegasus 7</b>
<b>Ms Birsanu – English teacher</b>	<b>Pegasus 8</b>
<b>Mr Clarke – Maths teacher (Y11)</b>	<b>Pegasus 9</b>
<b>Mrs Mason – Faculty Leader (Y11)</b>	<b>Pegasus 10</b>
<b>Mr Wilkinson &amp; Ms Fox</b>	<b>Pegasus SLT</b>





# PEGASUS HOUSE UPDATE

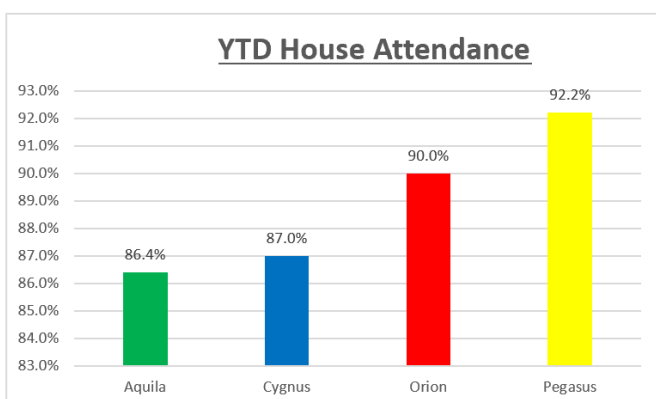
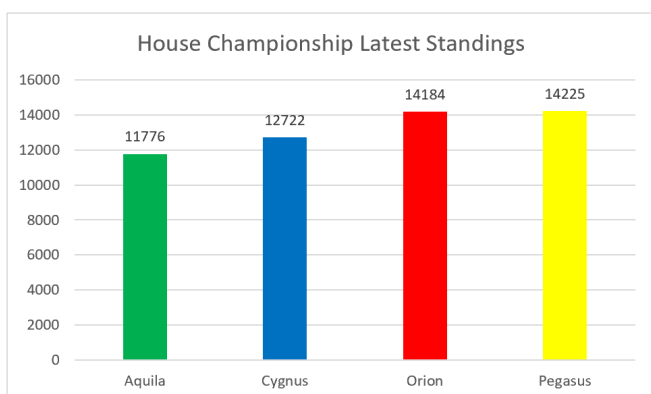
The new term brings new ways we can all try to achieve for Pegasus:

- Being top for attendance doesn't mean we should rest on our laurels as Orion and the other houses are hot on our tails. We all know how much Mrs Malik wants to overtake us! So, we need to keep on turning up to school, on time and make sure we're in as many lessons as possible! If your attendance is an average of 90%, that means you're likely to miss 10% of school this year, or 4 weeks if you add it all up. That's a month of missed learning and missed opportunities to wow your teachers for those DISC points!
- Learning is the greatest tool we all have to improve our future outcomes. As we all learned from Mrs Unwin's revision corner, homework plays a fundamental part in this. It's fantastic to see our strength in Sparx, now let's continue this in Tassomai, Bedrock, LanguageNut, etc to keep on soaring high and achieving great.
- In and around school, Pegasus scholars clearly take pride in their uniform. To be even better, let's have a refresh on what Nova's

uniform is. Black polishable shoes, black socks, shirts tucked in and blazers and ties worn.

- Embracing the Integrity and Contribution aspect of our DISC values. Being kind, respectful and honest are just the basics of having integrity. Not only does contribution apply to school but to the wider community too. We should practice being upstanders in our daily lives.
- Underneath I've added some images of our current rankings and how I collate House points and attendance data for the school. The amazing figures we have here are not down to the tutors, teachers or myself, they are the result of constant hard work by Pegasus scholars. Let's continue this through term 2 and for the rest of the academic year!
- Finally I wanted to wish the Year 11s good luck with their mocks. Many have started already, but through hard work, going to bed at a reasonable time and finding as much balance during this busy time as possible will be key in achieving big.

*Mr Harbour*  
**Head of Pegasus House**



15-Sep-23	Cotton Ball-z	Y7	0	250	0	0
22-Sep-23	ALT week 3		0	0	100	100
22-Sep-23	Sparx Top Tutor		0	0	0	50
22-Sep-23	Sports Comp		0	0	0	0
22-Sep-23	Balloon Tower	Y9/10/11	0	250	0	0
22-Sep-23	Balloon Tower	Y8	0	0	0	250
29-Sep-23	ALT week 4		0	0	100	100
29-Sep-23	Sparx Top Tutor		0	0	0	50
29-Sep-23	Sports Comp		0	0	0	0
29-Sep-23	After Eights	Y9/10/11	250	0	0	0
29-Sep-23	After Eights	Y7	0	0	250	0
06-Oct-23	ALT week 5		0	0	0	100
06-Oct-23	Sparx Top Tutor		50	0	0	50
06-Oct-23	Sports Comp		0	0	0	0
06-Oct-23	Pin Star on Nova	Y9/10/11	0	0	250	0
06-Oct-23	Pin Star on Nova	Y8	250	0	0	0
13-Oct-23	ALT week 6		0	0	0	100
13-Oct-23	Sparx Top Tutor		0	0	0	50
13-Oct-23	Sports Comp		0	500	0	0
13-Oct-23	Musical Chairs	Y9/10/11	0	0	250	0
13-Oct-23	Musical Statues	Y7	0	0	0	250
13-Oct-23	Quiz		0	0	250	0
Date	Competition	Year (Fri comp)	Aquila	Cygnus	Orion	Pegasus
03-Nov-23	ALT week 1		0	0	0	100
03-Nov-23	Sparx Top Tutor		0	0	0	50
03-Nov-23	Sports Comp		0	0	0	0
03-Nov-23	Wellie Wanging		0	250	0	0
			0	0	0	0
11-Nov-23	ALT week 2		0	0	0	100
11-Nov-23	Sparx Top Tutor		0	0	0	50
11-Nov-23	Sports Comp		0	0	0	0
11-Nov-23	Paper airplanes		0	0	0	250

## WE ARE PROUD OF:

Congratulations to Jesse, who is a member of the Swindon Harriers under-13s team who have become the club's first ever national champions after claiming victory in the English Road Relay Championship.

The group of youngsters have had a very strong season, winning the Midland Counties Road Relay Championships event at Birmingham's Sutton Park, and now have taken home the national title.

Jesse's mum told us : *"Jesse took over for the final leg and he blasted away from the field. To win the national title by such a distance was mind-blowing."*

Year 8 Jesse and his team went on to come sixth out of 63 teams at the National Cross country race in Mansfield. Fantastic team effort in some rough weather and course conditions.



As part of the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature, scholars entered a poetry competition.

Year 8 Logan and Year 10 Eleanor won the Nova heat and went forward to the inter-school final, which was judged by poet Ash Dickinson. Logan came first in his age group and Eleanor came third in her age group.

Their poems impressed the judge and they will be awarded with their prize at a celebration event at The Pattern Church.

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### Logan's winning poem

In tumultuous times, when storm clouds roll,  
When chaos strikes and takes its toll,  
Seek refuge, my friend, in a sanctuary true,  
Where peace resides, and troubles eschew.

A midst the hustle, the clamour, and strife,  
There lies a haven, an escape from life,  
A refuge where solace gracefully gleams,  
A sanctuary harbouring sweet, tranquil dreams.

Take refuge in nature's bountiful arms,  
Where towering trees sway with soothing charms,  
Their whispers, a symphony of solace and grace,  
Bringing peace to your hearts weary space.

Or seek shelter in the embrace of a friend,  
Whose gentil soul it will mend and tend,  
Their words a balm that eases pain,  
Turning darkness to light, sunshine through the rain.

In the pages of books, a refuge resides,  
Where words dance, and imagination glides,  
Take refuge in tales that transport and inspire,  
Allow their wisdom to lift your spirit higher.

In music melodies, find solace and embrace,  
Let harmonies guide you to a secret place,  
Like a soothing river, it's currents sublime,  
Allow music's refuge to heal and unwind.

Take refuge within your own beating heart,  
Where strength and courage will never depart,  
Find solace in moments of self-reflection,  
Discover the power of your own connection.

To find refuge, my friend, is not to flee,  
But a moment of respite, a chance to be free,  
In these havens, we recharge and renew,  
So we may face life's trials with strength anew.

So, seek refuge, my friend when storms, draw near,  
In places where solace and peace appear,  
For in these sanctuaries, we find our way,  
And energy stronger, ready to face each new day.

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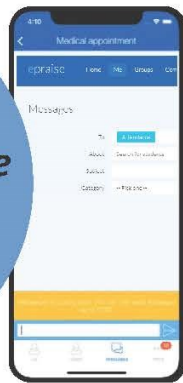


**epraise.co.uk**  
The award winning school rewards system

The fastest and best way to communicate with us.

**Download the App**

*I need to report my child's absence or medical appointment.*



*I need to speak with Pastoral / House Managers team and the telephone is busy. What can I do?*



**USE EPRAISE MESSENGER**

*I have a query about free school meals or Parentpay.*



*I need to contact my son's teacher but I work during school hours.*



**USE EPRAISE FOR**

**NEWS**

**EVENTS**

**CLUBS**

**DISC POINTS**

**SHOP**

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

Should you have any problem logging into EPRAISE please email: [admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk) for advice.



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## SWINDON FESTIVAL OF YOUTH LITERATURE

We started the week at the Wyvern Theatre with a group of year 7 and 8 scholars to see Jacqueline Wilson. Jacqueline spoke about her life and writing career and answered questions at the end. Valentina in year 7 asked *"What inspired you to write your first book at such a young age and did you ever dream you would have such a successful career?"*



On Tuesday, poet Ash Dickinson carried out a poetry workshop with the whole of year 7.

Ash has visited Nova every year for the Festival and said "Nova Hreod, Year 7 scholars were very receptive and wrote some fantastic poetry in a short time".





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Ele Fountain, author of contemporary youth fiction including “Wild”, “Fake” and “Melt” held an assembly and two workshops with our year 7 scholars.

Ele signed copies of her books for our scholars and answered students questions at breaktime and lunchtime.

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Steve Cole, author of the Young Bond series and other young fiction, talked and performed to years 5 and 6 scholars from Greenmeadow Primary and Moredon Primary Schools.

Steve shared some of his other talents by playing the piano and ukulele and also carried out a book signing.



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We finished the week by taking a group of scholars to Ridgeway school to attend a book quiz with other schools in the area.

We came 5th out of 12 schools. The six students enjoyed the quiz and gave some great answers.





## THIS WEEK'S SPORTS NEWS

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*Congratulations to the Year 8 boys who won the Swindon rugby final.*

*Mr Cook/Mr Stevens*

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*The Year 7 girls football team came first in the first year 7 tournament of the year.*

*Game 1: GWA 0-0 DRAW Game 2: Abbey Park 2-0 WIN (Honor, Olivia)*

*Game 3: Warneford 2-0 WIN (Honor, Olivia) Game 4: Swindon 1-0 WIN (Honor)*

*All the girls played exceptionally well. Defence had a clean sheet, and a special shoutout to Honor M (3 goals) and Olivia R (2 goals) who played amazing.*

*MVP: Honor*

*MVP: Honor*


*Miss Parsons*

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# #ONSOCIALMEDIA

An update on some of the stories we've shared on social media in the last fortnight.

 **Nova Hreod Academy**  
5 days ago


Nova Hreod House Captains read poems which were followed by a 2 minutes silence to reflect and remember #remembranceDay2023 #LestWeForget



  
**Nova Hreod Academy** @novahreodacademy  
Nov 7

Thank you to the Chaplaincy Team who have come in to do #remembrance assembly this week plus the additional stained glass project in the atrium this week too. We really appreciate your time and efforts at our school.  
#educationwithcharacter #bestineveryone #novahreodacademy #poppy #poppyappeal

Read less



 **Nova Cooks** @NovaCooks · 9 Nov

Y11 practicing 'pre exam' complex skills today #whisking #aeration #piping #caramellising #honeycomb #dehydrating #meringues



 **Nova Hreod PE** @NovaHreodPE  
7 days ago

Yes boys! Year 8s have won 🏆 the Swindon Rugby final! So proud! Mr Cook & Mr Stevens 🌟  
#NovaPE #Rugby



## COMPETITIONS

### NOVA SPIRIT COMPETITION

Have a way with words? Leave your legacy by creating the Nova School Chant!

Think you can make the new Spirit Chant for your school?

We want an uplifting and motivational chant when playing in Sports Fixtures, Competitions at the end of term and on Sports Day.

All entries to be Epraise messaged via the FormsLink – Contribution DISC points will be given!

Judging by Prefects will take place w/c 13/12/23 Prizes include goodies from Epraise shop!

**Tips:**

Keep it short and sweet. The easier to say the better.

Use your rhyming, alliteration and other techniques for a good flow.

Take inspiration from current sport chants.

**We look forward to your entries!**



<https://forms.office.com/e/pJRpERLLsv>

### HOUSE SPIRIT COMPETITION

Have a way with words? Think you can make the new Spirit Chant for your House?

All Houses deserve an uplifting and motivational chant when playing in Sports Competitions at the end of term and on Sports Day.

All entries to be Epraise messaged via the FormsLink – Contribution DISC points will be given!

Judging by House reps will take place w/c 13/12/23

Prizes include goodies from Epraise shop!

**Tips:**

Keep it short and sweet. The easier to say the better.

Use your rhyming, alliteration and other techniques for a good flow.

Take inspiration from current sport chants.

**We look forward to your entries!**



<https://forms.office.com/e/pJRpERLLsv>

### LEADERSHIP LOGOS COMP

Have an eye for logos and branding?

Think you can make the new logos for the different leadership groups?

All Leadership groups will have logos designed by you made pro by Mr Stow

All entries to be handed into tutor reps who will hand to Head of House Team

Judging by Mr Stow will take place w/c 13/12/23

Contribution DISC points will be given!

Prizes include goodies from Epraise shop!

Winning designs will get to work with Mr Stow in their visions coming to life

**We look forward to your entries!**





## REMEMBRANCE DAY

*House Captains read poetry in atrium as everyone observed a 2 minutes silence to reflect and remember.*

*Thank you to our cadet scholars who proudly represented their units during the ceremony.*





## SUPERNOVA ENRICHMENT

*The choir meets every Wednesday after school and are practicing their harmonies in preparation for the Christmas Concert. The class is run by Mrs Griffiths and here they are singing "Halo" by Beyonce.*



*Why not join the Christmas Craft Club with Mrs King?*

*They meet on a Thursday after school and are making Christmas decorations.*





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Nova Hreod Academy Performing Arts Faculty presents

# Creative Christmas Extravaganza 2023

Wednesday December 6th

6.30pm - 8.30pm



Nova Hreod Theatre

Festive attire actively encouraged!



Featuring both Music and Drama performances from our talented scholars in the Performing Arts Faculty!

£1.50 per person (includes mince pie and hot drink)  
Upgrade to a festive meal deal and include a Bratwurst Bap - £3.50





Nova Hreod Academy

# Attendance Drop-In Sessions

Every day from  
9.40 to 10.35

Parents/Carers can come into school and discuss their child's attendance with Ms Penfold



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## SEN SPECIFIC TOURS FOR YEAR 5/6 PARENTS

**Thursday 23rd November**

9.30am - 11.30am

The SEN specific tours will give you a chance to:

- meet the SENCO
- find out about the SEN provision at Nova
- enjoy a tour of the facilities



**REGISTER HERE**



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## Vocational Training

Are you under 25 and planning to study a vocational course at school, sixth form or college – or about to start an apprenticeship?

You may be eligible for a grant of up to £1,000 towards the cost of travel, resources equipment, field trips and other expenses.

Find out more or apply now at [wiltshirecf.org.uk](http://wiltshirecf.org.uk)



## Winter Holiday Fun Workshops



Park South Community Centre,  
Cranmore Avenue, Swindon, SN3 2ER

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- GAMES • SINGING • DANCE & MOVEMENT
- DRAMA • ARTS AND CRAFTS

Sessions are free for eligible HAF recipients, £20.00 per session for Non-HAF recipients  
Sessions are £20 for children who do not receive free school meals

To enrol, please go to [www.revolutionpa.co.uk/holiday-fun-swindon](http://www.revolutionpa.co.uk/holiday-fun-swindon). For any questions, email us at [office@revolutionpa.co.uk](mailto:office@revolutionpa.co.uk) or call us on 01793 792983 or text us on 07799691328







# Christmas Lunch Menu

Thursday 14th December

Roast Turkey & Pork Sausage  
or

Roast Quorn Fillet & Quorn Sausage

Served with

Sage & Onion Stuffing & Gravy

Roast Potatoes, Garden Peas & carrots

Festive panini turkey, stuffing, sausage

Christmas cookie / cakes etc

**£3.00**

Other food items will be available



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



# Nova Hreod's 2023 Reverse Advent Calendar



Collections will take place during the month of **December between 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**



Nova Hreod is proud to be working alongside the Swindon Food Collective this Christmas, collecting items which will be distributed to those in need over the festive period. Your contribution will be gratefully received. Thank you

### Items we are looking to collect are:

- ✓ washing up liquid
- ✓ laundry pods
- ✓ male/female deodorants
- ✓ Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- ✓ regular sized jars of honey, jam, Nutella/chocolate spread and marmalade
- ✓ Cereals
- ✓ Coffee and tea
- ✓ Biscuits
- ✓ tinned Christmas puddings/other tinned desserts
- ✓ tinned fruit, tinned tomatoes/vegetables, tinned potatoes
- ✓ 1 L Bottles of Squash
- ✓ Long life milk/milk alternatives
- ✓ Baby food jars

## PARENT SURVEY 2023

Have you completed our parent survey?

It only takes 10 minutes and really helps us make decisions for the future



The Survey is open until

**1st December**

Look out for the link on Epraise

You could win a



£25 Amazon voucher



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