



### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

I'm writing this message to you in the final week of term, having delivered my final assembly of 2021 this morning. In the assembly, I reflected on how, despite the challenges which Covid continues to bring, your children have achieved so much to make us proud of since September. We're very fortunate to have such hard working and kind scholars at Nova. We're very grateful to be able to work with such supportive parents and carers and immensely proud to serve our community in educating and supporting your children.

Within these pages this month, you'll find out more about how the work towards our Reverse Advent Calendar has provided three charities with some much needed support for the vulnerable in our community.

You'll also be able to read about the latest on our House Championship and Friday House Challenges. The doughnut eating competition and inflatable skittles were particular highlights. Mrs Malik, our Head of Orion has written a piece on her house and their achievements so far this year.

It's been a delight to have some of our school trips able to run this term, including those to Cotswold Wildlife Park, Jamie's Farm, Bristol Aquarium, Oxford Natural History Museum and the Ski Dome. We've also had some visitors in to give talks to our scholars, including one from Sue Bardwell (Artist). We know these additional experiences are so important in terms of academic and character education.

This term also saw the return of a former head boy (Tom Jenkins) who came into Nova for work experience in PE. Our teachers and scholars enjoyed working with Tom and wish him all the best for his future – he'd make a great addition to the teaching profession.

There have also been many successes in terms of our scholar's achievements. Our Year 11s have worked very hard towards their recent PPE1 exams and have now received their reports and had parents' evening.

Outside of exams, Gracie and Tasha have been successful in securing a place at the national finals for the Inspiring Culinary Generations cookery competition. We wish them the very best of luck in the final.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Covid cases are rising in our community, so thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is adhering to our plans by wearing a mask in school. We will be carrying out

lateral flow tests on all students prior to their return in January. This testing will take place for all year groups on Thursday 6th January and further information on the timing for this will be sent to you in a separate communication. Students will return to normal lessons on Friday 7th January, as outlined in our school calendar.

We're now looking forward to the Christmas break. It has been lovely this week seeing our scholars enjoy their Christmas dinner and take part in our annual Christmas jumper day. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope that you and your families keep safe.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### DECEMBER 2021

Friday 17th—last day of term

#### JANUARY 2022

Thursday 6th January—COVID Testing for students

Friday 7th January—first day of Spring term

## EPRAISE LEAGUE TABLE

	Total points	Attendance
1st		
2nd		
3rd		
4th		

## EPRAISE TOP STUDENTS DECEMBER



## THE WORLD AROUND US

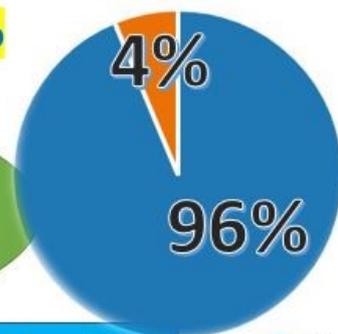
Each week in the World Around Us, tutor groups talk through a new topic based on what is happening in the world and around school. At the end of each discussion, scholars are invited to vote based on their own opinion. Each new week starts with a discussion of the previous week's results.

### Responses from last week:

**Y7:** More work needs to be done around the reasons why bullies *actually* bully people, and the problems they may be going through.

**Should schools do more to combat bullying?**

**Y8:** Sanctions should be really severe for bullying and victims should feel like they're supported even more than they are now.



**Y10:** People who are bullied can be left with mental and physical scars which make them feel unwelcome in school. Therefore, their attendance may drop.

**Have a secure anonymous box for scholars to explain their issues.**

**Y9:** Once a report has been made it is very important to keep the person who made the report updated on any actions taken so they **KNOW** something is actually been done.

There could be a meeting organised by teachers a week after something is reported to check in to see if the bullying has stopped

● Yes  
● No

Dr \* Integrity \* Scholarship \* Contribution

Votes

## FORMER HEAD BOY RETURNS TO NOVA

We were delighted to welcome Tom Jenkins back to Nova this term as part of his university training.

After leaving Nova in 2017, Tom was awarded a scholarship at Bath Rugby Academy where he boarded for two years and studied Level 3 Sport & Psychology. He is now studying at Cardiff Metropolitan University and returned to Nova for work experience in PE as he hopes to become a teacher.

Tom still plays rugby, he has played for England Under-18s and was part of the professional programme at university. He has competed in the BUCS Super Rugby, the highest flight of men's university rugby union. The highlight of his rugby career was playing against Welsh international winger Louis Rees Zammit, a game that resulted in a win for Tom's team.

We wish Tom every success.

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Tom was a fantastic sporting student when at Nova. He was a great ambassador for the school and represented us in many sporting fixtures and continues to play rugby to a good standard.

Tom is currently at University in Cardiff and is looking to do his teacher training to become a PE teacher. Tom came in to do work experience at Nova and he was fantastic and worked well with all students.

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## YEAR 11 PE

Year 11 had their final mock practical exam before their GCSEs in the Summer. They took part in assessments in football, netball and basketball. It was a tiring day but our students were fantastic and made some huge progress.

Well done year 11. We are proud of you all.



# HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP



The House Championship score includes DISC points, Friday competition wins, Attendance League Table (ALT) wins and winning the big 4 competition—Times Table, University Challenge, Countdown and Sports Day.



House challenges take place on Friday lunchtimes for a reward of 250 house points. Recent challenges have involved eating doughnuts and skittles.

Students from each house had to eat a doughnut and the fastest house won. Congratulations to Orion and Jaiden from Aquila House on being the MVP.

Inflatable skittles were played in the sports hall. After 2 rounds the Winners were Orion with 5 points. 2nd was Cygnus with 4 points. Joint 3rd with 3 points were Aquila and Pegasus.

MVP goes to Reece Edwards in Orion for helping move bags to prepare the area and for some very controlled bowling with an enthusiastic celebration!



## ORION HOUSE UPDATE

It has been wonderful having Orion altogether in term 1. Seeing you all last term in roll calls, assemblies and in our FE wing which has Orion bunting!

This term has brought a few different changes, to which all of you have adapted excellently alongside the rest of the houses. I do see many of you around whether it be during duties or lessons and you have said how much you miss having Orion roll call and assemblies in the mornings. I miss this too! Hopefully, we can get some normality soon but until then, keep working hard and persevering for the HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY.

We won one lunchtime competition last term, this term our target is to win at LEAST two lunchtime competitions and as many attendance league table (ALT) on Fridays as possible. Sadly, we lost out to Cygnus for the Times table Championship Cup and the 1000 points but WE WILL WIN the next contest which is UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE in term 4. Well done to Dayo for winning for Orion as part of Y9 and attaining MVP!

Our motto is 'Pride in Perseverance' which means we will keep trying and reclaim our first-place position but to do that we need to do the following as a house:

- Keep attending – all attendance counts towards weekly points and 1st place ALT positions (plus chocolates!)
- Keep earning DISC points, remind your teachers, they may have allocated you one but forgotten to give it. If you don't ask you don't get so check if you have done something worthy of a DISC point with your teacher.
- Keep striving to earn STAR SLIPS and hand them in when you get them to be part of the Friday live draw (which earns a cash voucher) as well as all slips equalling 5 DISC points
- Keep going above and beyond and see if you can get a DISC post card from your teacher. These are also worth 5 points but are returned to you via tutors to keep as a memento.
- Keep volunteering for Friday lunchtime challenges and working hard to WIN these and get 250 points. Well done to Orion for winning the Pudsey competition this term!

Have a wonderful holiday when it comes and keep wearing your Orion ties, badges and pins proudly. I love seeing them displayed on your uniforms.

**Mrs Malik**

**Head of Orion House**



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Gracie P-M and Tasha V-V have been selected as Aspiring Student Chef National finalists for the Inspiring Culinary Generations cookery competition 2020-22.



They have been invited to the National Final which will be held at the **Bournemouth & Poole College, Lansdowne Campus** on **Friday 28th January 2022**. We are super proud to have two national finalists.

The Inspiring Culinary Generations (ICG) Competition is a national competition designed to acknowledge & encourage excellence in the catering industry and in the home. This event reaches out to all young catering students & keen home cooks who have a passion for cooking.

Established in 2012, the Awards quickly assumed a prominent position, attracting the attention of a prestigious group of sponsors and partners. This interest has grown year on

year and the competition has become an annual calendar event.

For students, this is certainly one of the best opportunities to gain insight into the industry and, depending upon their age, potentially a life changing opportunity to receive a three-year Specialised Chefs Scholarship, training to become a fully qualified chef. The scholarship is divided into two categories; work based training with a chef member of the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts at one of the finest hotels or restaurants in the UK and full time block release tuition at Bournemouth & Poole College.

To have two National finalists from one school is an amazing achievement and we wish Gracie and Tasha all the best of luck.



# CHRISTMAS COMES TO FOOD TECHNOLOGY



In Mrs Camm's class, Year 9 scholars are studying the Origins of Christmas Food in food technology and have created some amazing Christmas cakes and chocolate logs.



## STUDENT LIBRARY AMBASSADOR

The Student Librarian Ambassador Award is given to a Student Librarian each year to reward them for all their efforts. We'd normally celebrate this at the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature Celebration Event which is held at an external venue with the other Swindon Secondary Schools.

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions this year that event could not take place, so we held a celebration in the Library with year 10 and year 11 Student Librarians to award our winner.

Machu in year 11 has been chosen to receive the award for all his hard work. He is a very proactive member of the Student Librarian team who is always keen to help in the Library and help others. Machu attends weekly sessions where you will find him busy tidying the shelves and keeping the Library neat and tidy. He is a real asset to the Library. We hope he will enjoy his reward and we look forward to continuing to work with him in the Library. Well done Machu.



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Being the Library Ambassador of Nova Hreod is a huge and amazing responsibility, being there for others and assisting them by all means possible and keeping things in order, making sure respect is given out and received.

Machu,  
Student Library  
Ambassador 2021/22

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## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



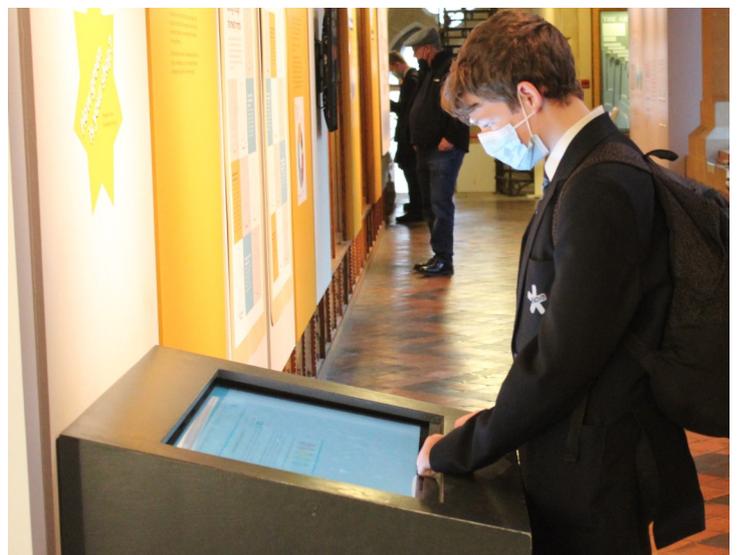
What an interesting and varied array of Christmas Jumpers around the school for Christmas jumper day!

Christmas lunch was served in our Stellar Diner.

# MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Science department trip was to the Museum of Natural History, which comprised of a morning of engaging, inspiring and educational talks and activities for year 9 students with the opportunity to tour the anthropologic Pitt Rivers Museum next door in the afternoon.

It was remarkable to witness the expertise of some of our scholars about rocks, animals, weapons and other interesting items exposed in both Museums.





## JAMIE'S FARM



A group of scholars spent a few days on a farm last week learning about life on a farm, tending to sheep, chickens and horses, walking and cooking.

Mrs Stephen published a diary during their stay, which can be seen at <https://sway.office.com/aNcZXgRtprgs6pXD?ref=email>



## YEAR 10 SCIENCE

In Science lessons, scholars are studying different elements in the periodic table and how they form mixtures and compounds. As part of that, scholars have been looking at how to separate them too. In this practical lesson, scholars looked at how to separate rock salt and form salt crystals using the techniques they had been looking at.

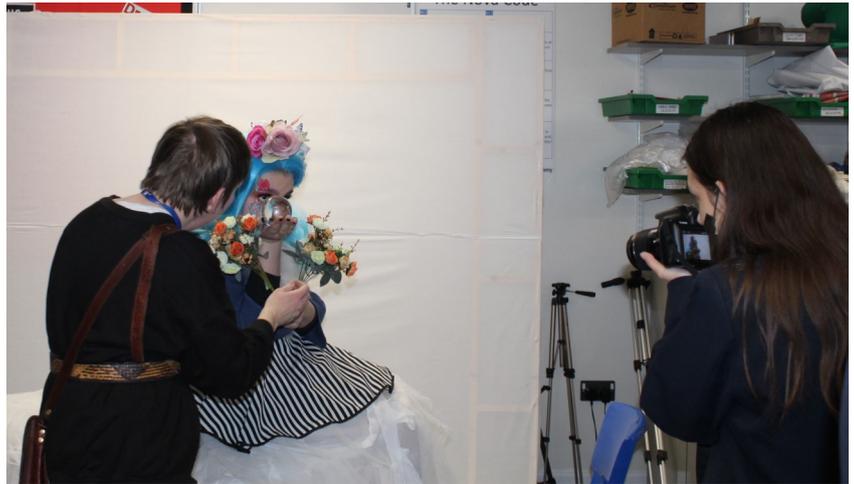


*Sulphate crystals  
as seen down the  
microscope*

## ARTIST VISIT



We had an amazing workshop with the artist Sue Bardwell who got students involved in a photographic session on the theme of "Alice in Wonderland." The model was very professional and made the students feel relaxed and creative. The artist shared some photographic tips inspiring the Year 11 Photography GCSE students and teachers.



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# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR 2021

We can't thank you enough for your support with this year's Reverse Advent Calendar. Donations have been flooding in over the past few weeks. The collection, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, has become a Nova tradition and perfectly displays the DISC Value of Contribution.

We're overwhelmed with the quality and quantity of the donations received this year. This has been the biggest ever collection and really shines a light on the generosity of our community. Our Aquila House Reps, Tutor Reps and the School Captains have worked hard to organise the donations ready for collection by the Salvation Army and Alternative Angels.

Major Sharon Robinson from **The Salvation Army** explained that the donations will be used to create food parcels for the people on low incomes in our local community, which are distributed through the Swindon Citadel in Old Town.

**Alternative Angels** provide hot meals and support for vulnerable and homeless people in Swindon, at the Wyvern Car Park in the town centre. They will be using their donations to provide meals and make up Christmas shoe boxes containing vital items such as warm clothing and toiletries, and gifts such as selection boxes and sweet treats.

It took three cars to take all the donations away and it made us quite emotional.

Thank you all for your support.

*Mrs Bekir and Miss Dominy*

*Aquila House*



"It's amazing how much has been donated and everyone has been so generous".

*Zack, Aquila House Rep*

"I'm amazed by the generosity and the size of the collection this year.

Even in these difficult times people are still trying to help the needy and it's so nice to see".

*Jin, School Captain*



# JUSTHELPING

Registered charity number 1149068

## LET US COLLECT AND RECYCLE YOUR REAL CHRISTMAS TREE in aid of

# Prospect

Hospice

Registered Charity No. 280093

and other local charities\*

### We would welcome a donation for the collection of your tree.

We will collect between the 8th – 9th January 2022 from:

**SN1, SN2, SN3, SN4, SN5, SN6 6, SN6 7, SN25 1, SN25 2,  
SN25 3, SN25 4.**

Registration closes 12 noon 4th January 2022



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**



To arrange a collection please book in at:  
**[www.charityxmastreecollection.com](http://www.charityxmastreecollection.com)**

\*After costs, at least 90% of the monies raised will go to the Hospice and up to 10% is donated to other local charities.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



JOIN THE FUN BY BOOKING ON THROUGH EVENTBRITE

Search 'Online Youth Club' if you need support  
please email: Outreachprojectme@barnardos.org.uk



**NHS**  
Bath and North East Somerset,  
Swindon and Wiltshire  
Clinical Commissioning Group



Believe in  
children  
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