



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our January newsletter.

It has been fantastic to welcome our scholars back to Nova after the Christmas holiday. Before the break we had a flurry of activity. A group of our scholars won the Battle of the Bands competition held at Swindon Academy— many congratulations to them and our Music department. There was also a Ski Dome trip, a Catalyst Taster Session and a continued set of varied and wide-ranging House Competitions held for scholars of all year groups. It is always an uplifting end to the week watching our Houses compete in the Friday Challenges.

Our Year 7-10 scholars are now starting in-class assessments which will test their ability to recall, understand and apply their learning from the units they have studied. These assessments are called Best in Everyone assessments. Following the BiE assessments, parents and carers will receive a report which will be discussed in more detail at the Achievement Review Day for scholars in Years 7-10 on Wednesday 16th February. Scholars are being encouraged to revise for these assessments and all year groups have had assemblies this week on how to use revision strategies that build long-term memory. Our Year 11 scholars have started a new afternoon study session timetable based on their mock exam data and are now building towards their PPE2 assessments in March.

I hope you enjoy reading through the newsletter and finding out more about life at Nova.

Dan Hudson
Vice Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY 2022

Wednesday 9th—Headteacher Parent Forum

Wednesday 16th —Achievement Review Day

21st-25th —Half term

MARCH 2022

Wednesday 9th—Headteacher Parent Forum

Tuesday 15th—Open Morning

Thursday 31st—Year 11 Parents' Evening

For more information visit

www.novahreodacademy.org.uk









THE BEST IN EVERYONE ASSESSMENTS



Every Child is a special individual, capable of extraordinary things



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:

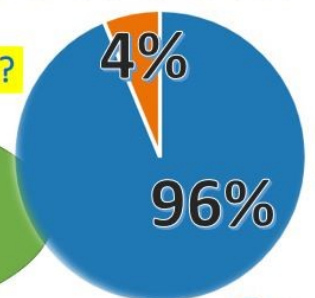
Y10: It should be funded more as prosthetics are very expensive, especially the carbon fibre ones that are upwards of £10,000.
"If it was on the tv more, people would know more about it"

Should disability sport be promoted and funded more?

Y9: Maybe we could combine the Olympics and Paralympics so everyone is viewing the sports together

Y7: this was a split vote but there was no option for "other", with students acknowledging that there have been big improvements in funding and many sports do have disability access.

Y8: It's not fair that just because someone is disabled, they aren't able to participate in the same activities as able bodied people. Everyone has a right to get involved in activities they enjoy, despite their situation. It's been really encouraging to see the growth in promotion of women's football over the last couple of years, it would be great to see this in disabled sport also (although there is still a long way to go!)



● Yes
● No

Dave * Integrity * Scholarship * Contribution

votes

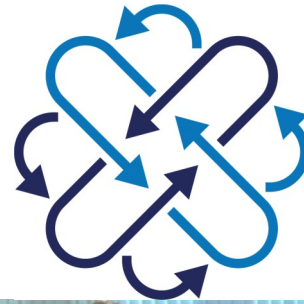
CATALYST STREAM TASTER DAY

Pupils from local primary schools attended our Catalyst taster day on 4th December, where they tested their engineering skills under the guidance of Mr Erlank and Mr Hillary.

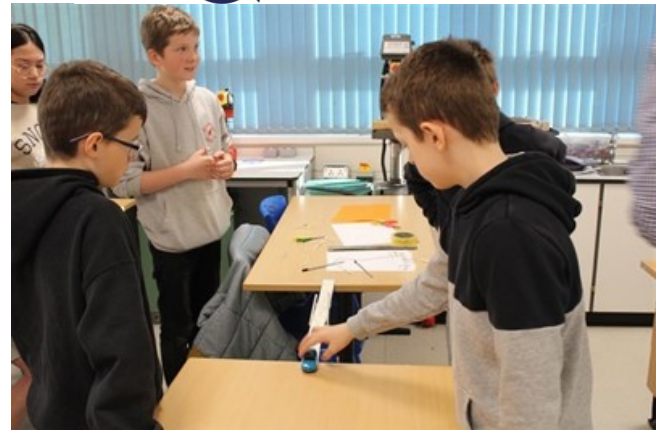
The pupils worked in teams to complete the NASA satellite transport challenge and to design and build a bridge to meet a required specification.

The taster day was an introduction to the Catalyst STEM Stream which starts in September 2022. The Catalyst Stream will provide a more intensive curriculum for talented students who have a strong interest in the STEM subjects and want to study it in more detail and at a faster pace.

For more information about Catalyst please visit: www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/catalyst-stream.



Catalyst
STEM Stream



CYGNUS HOUSE UPDATE



It has been a really successful return to school for all of our Cygnus scholars this academic year. We have seen fantastic contribution in the classroom, around the school, in performances and during House competitions.

As Head of Performing Arts I was particularly proud of our Cygnus representation at Swindon Academy's **Battle of the Bands**. The scholars were outstanding in their performances and the Year 11s produced a stunning performance to win the overall competition. They even beat fantastic 6th form bands from Swindon Academy with their unique and engaging performance. Well done to Samex and Goncalo from Cygnus and Bethany and Naphtali from Aquila.

As a multi-talented House, we succeed across the board and this was evidenced by our victory in the Times Tables challenge where three out of the four winners were Cygnus! Congratulations to Kyran, Finlay and Lucy for collecting 1000 points for Cygnus! Cygnus also won the Morse code challenge, earning 250 points! We may not have won every competition, but we have had full teams for every contest with scholars eager to represent

their House. Our motto is *'Be the Best'* and we have plenty of examples where we have lived up to our high expectations over the past two terms.

Being the best is not just about winning though, it is about being the best individuals that we can be and to contribute positively to the House and the Nova community overall. I am also really proud of the number of Cygnus students volunteering to help with open evenings and concerts and would like to pass on how impressed our visitors have been by our scholars. I have also seen Cygnus students playing as part of Nova sports teams, all working hard to succeed alongside scholars from other houses to achieve a joint team goal. I enjoyed watching them approach these challenges in a positive and sporting way while always giving 100%. Our talents extend to other important areas of life such as doughnut eating where Jaiden was awarded MVP! Moving forward we need to focus now on maintaining this positive momentum. We can do this by focusing on attendance and continuing to achieve praise points to move us up out of 3rd place in the House Championship. There are plenty of exciting competitions on the horizon and I look forward to working with the Cygnus scholars to produce some wonderful results over the next few terms.

Mr Griffiths
Head of Cygnus



ALUMNI UPDATE

Lucas Gleed left Nova in 2018 and went on to complete a BTEC photography course at New College, where he co-founded the Mental Health taskforce and joined the New College Exec. He then went on to do a digital marketing apprenticeship with The Platform Project where he was the inspiration for TPP's youth led digital marketing agency.


Throughout his time working on the #iDare magazine Lucas got the chance to interview some local influential people such as the previous Police and Crime Commissioner, Angus McPherson, local philanthropist James Phipps and the local director of Swindon Samaritans.

Since being furloughed in March of last year, Lucas found himself working more on the mental health work, and the Time to Change Swindon hub which has now re-branded as [Swindon Wellbeing](#).


Alongside doing a Business Administration apprenticeship with a local cleaning company, Lucas has also founded his own social media consultancy supporting Charities/Non Profits and start-ups with Social Media support, website support and training. You can have a look here –

www.gleedmedia.co.uk, www.facebook.com/gleedmediauk

We wish Lucas every success in his career.



“ Success is not just about what you accomplish in your life, it is about what you inspire others to do. ”

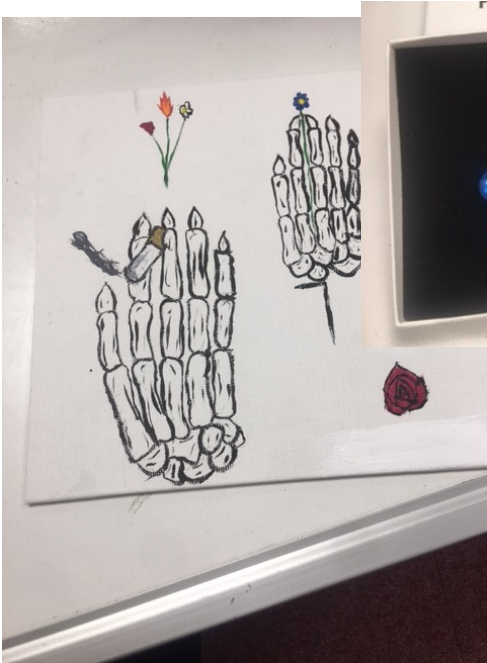
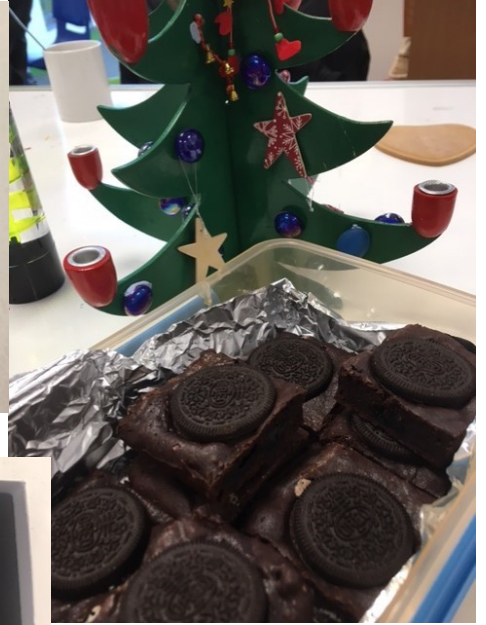


We are always looking for ex-students who can help with:

- *Careers advice
- *Mentoring
- *Work experience
- *Community links
- *Volunteering
- *Apprenticeships

ELSA CRAFTS

The Christmas festivities were alive in the ELSA classroom with the making of cushions, artwork, earrings and crackers in time for Christmas presents. The scholars all chose an item to give as a gift to a loved one. Lots of lovely presents were made for the big day and a special thanks to Isabel for her bringing her amazing homemade brownies to help us celebrate!

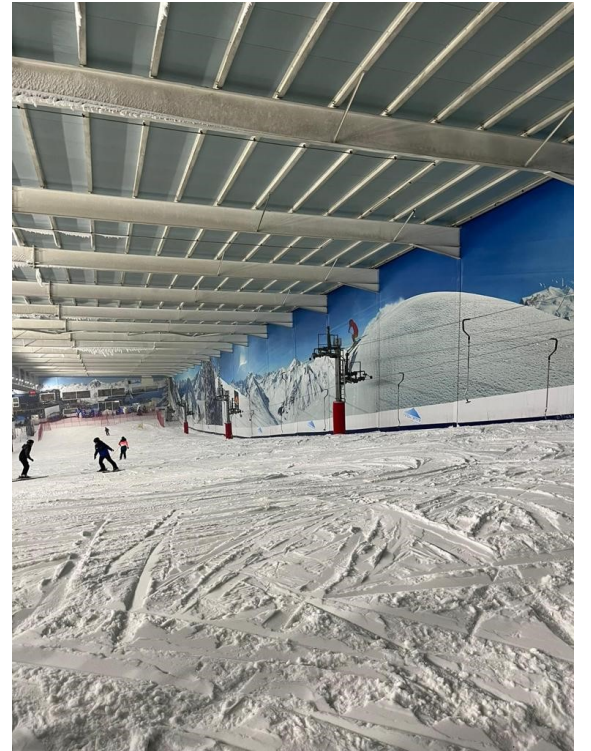


SKI DOME TRIP

As part of their preparation for the Ski Trip to the French Alps, scholars had arranged a visit to the Ski Dome at Milton Keynes to learn the basics and experience some of the techniques that they would need in the Alps. Unfortunately the French trip couldn't go ahead due to COVID-19, but they were still able to go to the Ski Dome.

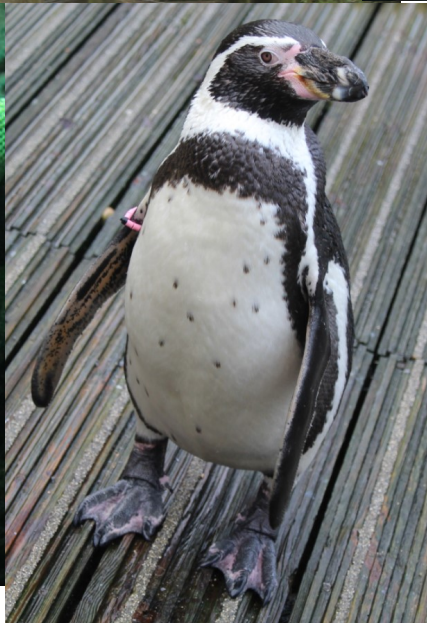
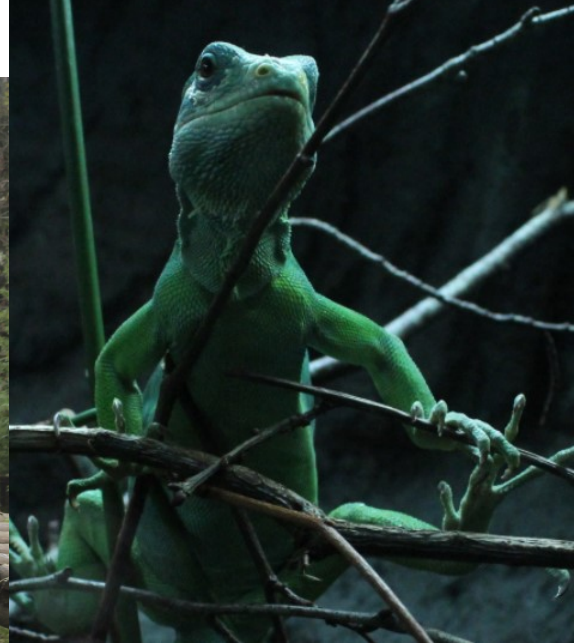
For some of the students, it was their first time on skis, while some were more experienced. It was fantastic to see the students grow in confidence by the end of the session.





ART & PHOTOGRAPHY TRIPS

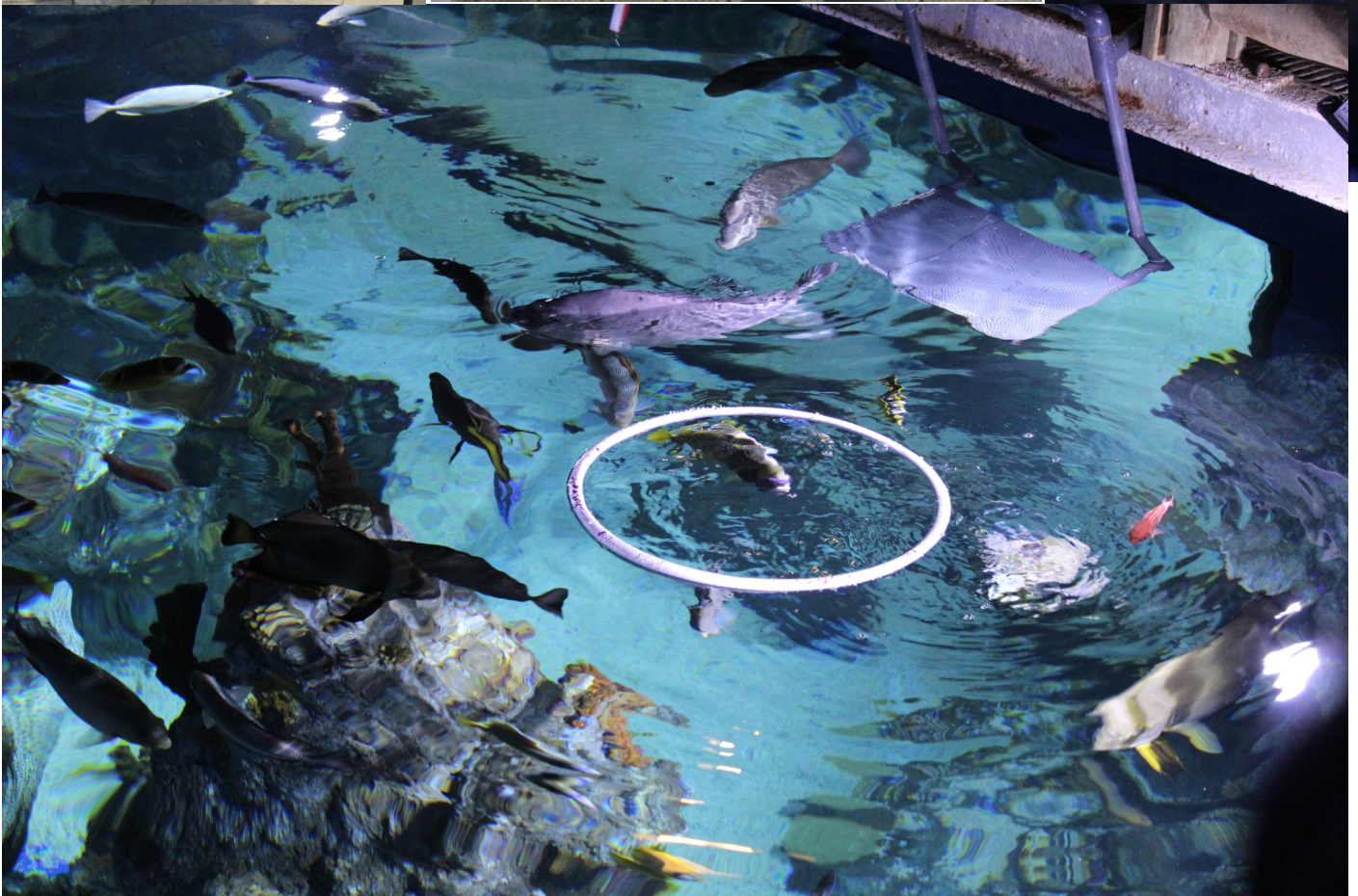
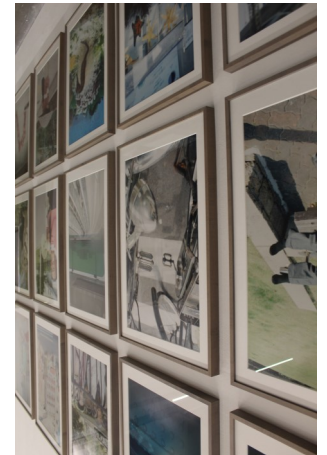
Year 10 Photography students went to the Cotswold Wildlife Park to improve their photography skills and take lots of pictures of animals for their *Transforming Portraits* project. They saw penguins being fed, baby meerkats exploring, and heard a lion roar which was very exciting.



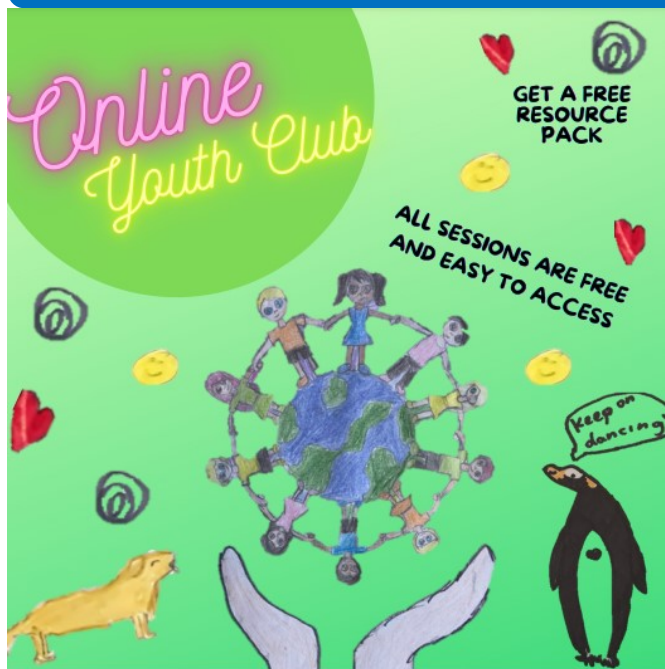
ART & PHOTOGRAPHY TRIPS

Year 10 Art students took a trip to Bristol Aquarium to aid their research for their *Under the Sea Project*, looking at coral, fish and all things that live in the sea. They watched a live feeding of manta rays, sharks and pufferfish. The students took lots of pictures, as well as completing live drawings and reference studies during their time there.

Afterwards the students went to the Arnolfini exhibition to look at the Steven Gill Retrospective. This enabled students to experience an art show in a gallery, and they were lucky enough to have a guided tour of the show which gave insight into the meaning of the work, as well as the creative processes that the artist used.



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
Barnardo's



**Achievement Review
Day
16th February 2022**



Nova Hreod Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning



Open Mornings

Tuesday 15th March 2022
Tuesday 14th June 2022
Thursday 23rd June 2022
9-11am

Catalyst STEM Stream

Open Morning

Thursday 23rd June 2022
11am-12pm

register online at www.novahreodacademy.org.uk

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