



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Despite the cold and the wet, January has been a busy and purposeful month so far at Nova! Scholars in Years 7-10 have been completing BIE assessments in their academic subjects in recent weeks. BIE stands for 'best in everyone', which is the United Learning moto. In these assessments there is a chance for scholars to

show their teachers everything they have learned since September and for teachers to be able to work out which ideas and topics that scholars may need some extra help with. It is part of the 'training' we do here at Nova to prepare scholars to eventually take their GCSEs. Learning how to revise and how to approach exam style questions early in secondary school will help scholars in the future. To prepare for the assessments scholars have been completing their home study tasks. Most home study involves quizzing, whether it be an online platform like Sparx or Tassomai or quizzes done on paper using knowledge organisers. Parents and carers can help by checking that scholars are completing their home study and by talking to their scholar about what they have been learning. I'd also encourage everyone to explore the school website. There is lots of information about what the scholars are learning on the curriculum page [Nova Hreod Academy > Curriculum](#) and you may be able to create your own quizzes at home!

As well as developing knowledge in their different subject areas, we have been encouraging scholars to take part in the clubs offered at Nova. There are many reasons why scholars should take part in extra-curricular clubs and these include:

- Studies show clubs can help you improve your grades.
- The chance to make new friends.
- The opportunity to develop 'soft skills' like teamwork, communication skills, problem solving skills and leadership skills. These will help scholars when they eventually enter the workplace.
- Simply to have fun and demonstrate our DISC values.

It has been great to see so many scholars taking part in clubs, we've seen lots of enthusiasm for our new sports clubs. Exercise keeps your body healthy; it's good for physical and mental health. Trampolining, boxing and tag archery are examples of new clubs that have been running. There is still time to try a new club and parents and carers can help by encouraging their young person to sign up for at least one club on Epraise. If you have problems signing up, turn up to the club anyway and we can help.

One final reminder from me, is to encourage parents and carers to check whether their young person is eligible to apply for free school meals. If eligible, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We'll use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at school. To check eligibility and find more details about how to apply please go to our website [Nova Hreod Academy > About Nova > Pupil Premium](#) or contact me via Epraise. Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and congratulations to all the featured scholars. A wonderful showcase of the great things happening at Nova!

*Faye Green*

*Assistant Principal- KS3 Raising Standards and PP Champion*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### JANUARY 2024

**Wednesday 31st**

6pm Paris trip parent meeting

### FEBRUARY 2024

**Wednesday 7th**

Teaching and Learning Afternoon (school ends at 13:20)

**Monday 12th to Friday 16th**

Half Term Holidays

**Thursday 22nd**

Y7-10 Achievement Review Day

**Tuesday 27th**

Year 9 Options Evening

## THIS WEEK'S TOP EPRAISE SCHOLARS



## HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP FRIDAY CHALLENGE

*Pegasus won the first ever Welly Wanging competition back in 2021. This term Daniel Year 11 has ensured they keep hold of the Golden Welly.*

*Look how proud Mr Harbour looks!*





*Congratulations to Cygnus who won the ring toss in the Friday house challenge.*



ATTEND TO  
**A+** CHIEVE

EVERY DAY  
AT SCHOOL  
REALLY MATTERS

95% - 100% ATTENDANCE MAKES HALF A GRADE DIFFERENCE AT GCSE



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# ORION HOUSE UPDATE



Hello Orions!

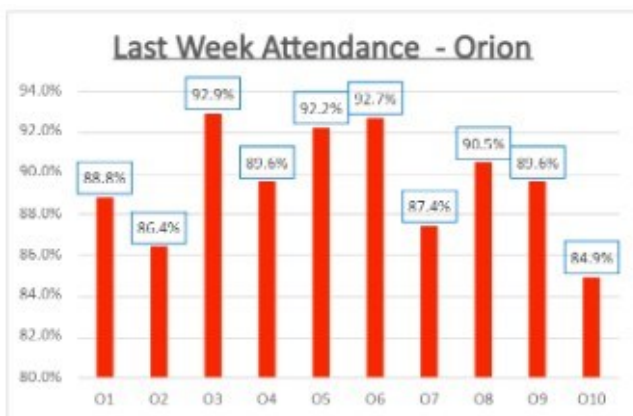
Well, it's been a great start to the term for us as we hold our ground with the most DISC points. Keep attending, earning DISC points and Star

slips. Thanks to our Tutor reps and House reps our weekly Star slip amnesty is working well!

We have won 50 House Championship points for Sparx thanks to Orion 10, great to see our Y11s smash it there for us and get their home study done with additional XP boost and Target. This is their second time winning, fantastic!

Let's see how many times Orion tutor groups can win this as Pegasus have a winning streak since September and earned their house 550 points (11x50).

I know we give it all we can for the House competitions and as they say "You win some, you lose some" but ultimately it is the effort of picking ourselves back up and having Pride in Perseverance that will build us up for the future. This term I hope you focus on attending school as much as possible each day, so that our House attendance picks up and that you can be eligible for future attendance reward trips and experiences.



Last Week House Attendance Data (Find Data on Arbor)

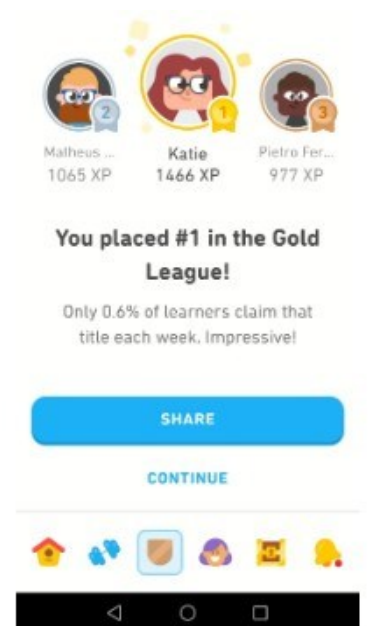
Aquila	Cygnus	Orion	Pegasus
90.1%	93.0%	93.5%	95.6%



The plaques on the wall outside the theatre have Orion on a winning streak and as much as I would love another Orion win, I would also love to see the impact of Orion rubbing off on the other houses. For many years, we have been the House they want to beat. We've led the way in healthy, non-toxic rivalry and won many trophies over the years.

This year I also want you to focus on enjoying all that Nova has to offer, from the Supernova Enrichment, to school fixtures and matches, to the Matilda Production, etc. Start a hobby outside of school to help you unwind and relax, working on taking care of your mental health and wellbeing. Learn a language (or maybe 2 or more) and share your successes with me so that I can share it with our school community in the next newsletter.

I know one of our students Katie R. has come top of Gold League on Duolingo for French and over the winter break, I too started Duolingo and am nearing my 40 day streak! It's been wonderful brushing up on my Arabic skills and learning Portuguese as well as Japanese.

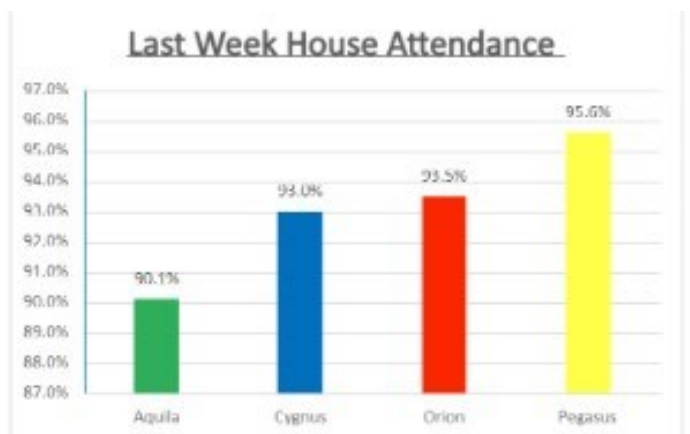
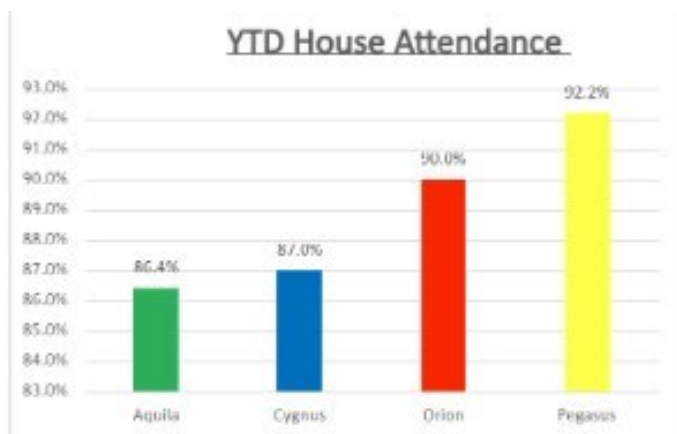
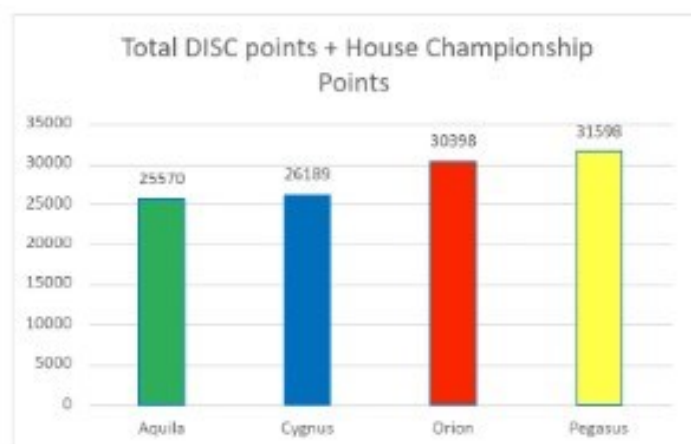


I know we have avid swimmers, powerful rugby players and football enthusiasts in our house too. I cannot wait to share more 'Proud of You' moments throughout the year in upcoming newsletters.

Now that BiEs are done, it is time to reflect on how to improve your DISC values for the last half of the year. What can you do to get Report scores of 4 instead of 3s? There will be important discussions you will be having with your Tutor in Achievement Review Day next month.

Next week, our Head Students and Head Student Ambassadors will be meeting with Mr Wells and taking forward issues flagged in last terms Student Voice. Stay tuned for updates.

**Mrs Malik**  
**Head of House – Orion,**





## THIS WEEK'S SPORTS NEWS

*Congratulations to our Year 7 football team who were placed 3rd in the u12s Swindon schools football final out of 15 schools.*



*Year 7 dodgeball champions!  
They didn't lose a game!*



## TOWER OF LONDON VISIT

70 Year 8 students visited the Tower of London this month to support their study of the Reformation & Elizabethan England which they are currently studying, and also the Norman Conquest and William the Conqueror's use of castles which they studied in Year 7.

The visit included a talk about some of the political and religious prisoners who have been held in the Tower and they also learnt about the crime of penny-shaving (shaving silver from the edges of coins).



*It was an interesting trip. I enjoyed seeing the torture chamber. The best part was the games area where we were able to re-enact battles using arrows and swords.*

Fletcher, Year 8



## POETRY LIVE!



*Year 11 students attended a Literature study day called 'Poetry Live!' at The Forum in Bath. The trip featured some of the poets whose poems feature in the AQA 'Power and Conflict' anthology that students will be assessed on for their final exams.*

*Scholars had an opportunity to ask the poets questions about their poems as well as hear them perform their poetry aloud. There was a session with an AQA chief examiner on how to write about poetry; which was hugely beneficial for the Year 11 students in preparation for their GCSE English Literature exams.*

*The poets pictured are Carol-Ann Duffy and John Agard, both of whom are studied as part of the GCSE curriculum.*





# #ONSOCIALMEDIA



**Nova Hreod Academy** @novahreodacademy  
Jan 15

Wishing our Y7s the best of luck for the tournament tomorrow 🍀🏆 Go on and smash it! They've placed 4th out of 15 schools so are now off to a final tournament to battle it out against other finalists. We can't wait to hear all about it! #educationwithcharacter #bestineveryone #novahreodacademy

Read less



Boost unavailable

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



**Nova Cooks** @NovaCooks · 13 Jan

Class of '23 #chicken #cordonbleu #dauphinoise #icecream #cheesecake



2

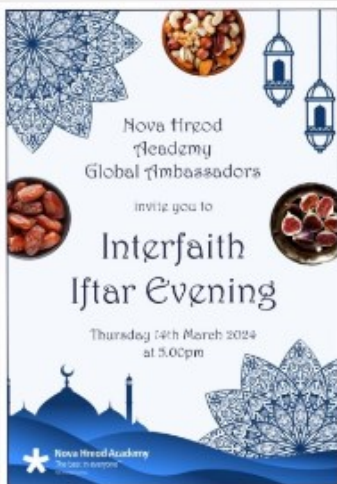
45



**Nova Hreod Academy** @novahreodacademy  
15 hours ago

Save the date! #iftar #educationwithcharacter #bestineveryone #novahreodacademy We couldn't have done this last year without the generosity of local...

Read more



**Nova Hreod PE** @NovaHreodPE · 22 Jan

Ski trip 2024 #NovaPE



13

387





## LATEST NEWS FROM DRAMA

Auditions for the whole school show *Matilda*, took place this week. We've had over 50 scholars sign up to support so far. Scholars have shown interest in acting, lighting, costume and publicity.

Year 7 and 8 drama clubs started this term. Scholars have been taking part in drama games, improvisations and performances, helping to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of the subject. If anyone else would like to join in on a Wednesday after school, sign up via Epraise.

Year 11 drama scholars are rehearsing for their GCSE Component 2 examination on February 27<sup>th</sup>. An examiner from Eduqas will come in and watch their performances live. This year we have extracts from *Bouncers and Shakers*, with scholars being assessed on acting, lighting, set design, costume and sound.

*Ms Derham*  
Drama Teacher





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We have received reports from local residents of children in Nova Hreod uniform riding bicycles without lights.

We would like to ask all parents to please check that their child's bike has working lights.

**BE SEEN  
BE SAFE**



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## OPEN MORNINGS 2024

Open Morning is the perfect opportunity for Year 5 pupils and their parents to visit Nova Hreod Academy during a school day

Join us for a short presentation, meet staff and current scholars and have a tour of the building.

**Tuesday 12th March 2024**

**9am - 11am**

**Thursday 6th June 2024**

**9am - 11am**



To register  
Scan the QR code

**Catalyst STEM Stream Open Morning**



**Tuesday 19th March 2024**

**9am - 10am**

*The Catalyst STEM Stream is Nova's specialist provision for ambitious scholars who have a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.*

[www.novahreodacademy.org.uk](http://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk)



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**Ofsted**

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Provider