



Message from the Principal

Whilst the focus of Nova News is quite rightly the many, varied and often fantastic achievements of our wonderful students, I wanted this week to share with parents, carers and the wider community an achievement of some members of the teaching staff of which we are immensely proud.

At the end of last term, we attended the **Swindon Teaching Excellence Awards** where eight members of our teaching staff won a prestigious award in recognition of the quality of their pedagogy. As such we would like to congratulate Ms Thompson, Mr Griffin, Mrs Camm, Mrs Ford, Mr Wilson, Ms Fegan, Ms Sayers and Dr Clapp on their success.

At Nova Hreod, our mantra is *'every classroom, every lesson'* and these named members of staff (and many others) embody our **high expectations** agenda which is lived classroom to classroom across the school on a daily basis.

Nova Hreod Academy is a wonderful place to teach and learn

and with the first two weeks of term successfully completed we are immensely excited about the promise the year ahead holds for us.

Darren Barton
Principal



PE residential trip to Wales

Around 40 students joined the PE staff for a three day residential trip at the **Abernant Lake Hotel** in Wales. Activities such as rock climbing, paddleboarding, fencing and many more kept the staff and students entertained throughout the duration. The students were split into four groups, each with a member of the PE staff as their leader.

On the day of arrival everyone took part in three activities with an instructor. With five further activities on the following day, and three more on the day of departure, each taking roughly 1¼ hours, lots of activity was done overall. Nova staff also got involved in the activities with lots of funny stories. Whilst paddleboarding **Mrs Mason** and **Mrs Ford** both ended up in the lake **multiple** times which amused the students in their group. **Mr Wilkinson** was the quickest to climb the rock climbing wall with a time of around 42 seconds.

Mr Smith's students had quite a shock in the raft building activity. They set up their raft thinking it was safe and stable to use only to find out as soon as they entered the lake and all sat on it, that their building skills weren't as good as they thought

with all of them getting soaked in the lake.

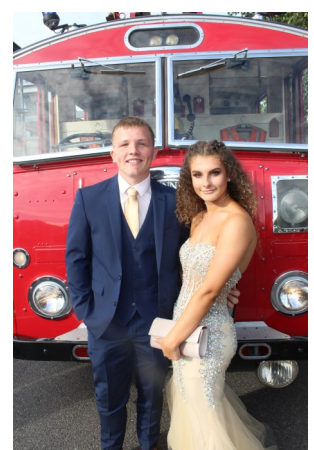
Not only did the students have fun and enjoy the activities, many of them overcame their own fears which was really nice to see. Overall it was a fantastic trip and the students really did Nova proud.

More photographs from the trip are on the school website.



Year 11 Prom

Students in Year 11 enjoyed their Prom at the Hilton Hotel at the end of last term. All the students looked amazing and a great time was had by all. More photographs are on the school website.



Homework in Key Stage 3

From the week of 18th September, we have a very exciting new Homework Policy being launched for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Our new homework policy will be streamlined so that homework will:

- build literacy skills through reading
- build numeracy skills through Hegarty Mathematics (an online Mathematics programme)
- consolidate essential subject knowledge through writing quizzes and self-quizzing

These three simple techniques will be powerful levers to ensure your child achieves the best they possibly can.

To ensure a smooth transition to the new policy, for both you and your child, homework at KS3 has not been set in the first two weeks of term. During these two weeks, your child will receive one lesson in each of their subjects on how to complete homework in that subject and demonstrating to your child the expectations on homework. On 18th September, students will be set their first homework and all homework will follow the timetable below:

Daily	30 minutes Reading 30 minutes Hegarty
Weekly	30 minutes of quiz writing / quizzing in Science 30 minutes of quiz writing / quizzing in Geography 30 minutes of quiz writing / quizzing in History 30 minutes of quiz writing / quizzing in Languages
Fortnightly	30 minutes of quizzing in RE
Termly (Autumn, Spring, Summer)	3-4 hours of Art project 1 hour of quizzing in Music 1 hour of quizzing in Drama

Therefore at Nova Hreod Academy, students in Years 7 to 9 will do around 1½ hours of homework per night Monday to Friday.

Alongside this, there is a webpage dedicated to homework where you will be able to access the information you need to support your child complete their homework. You can find this webpage at <http://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/homework>

End of term fun

While half the school went to **Thorpe Park** (ask Mr Thomas and Mr Griffin how they enjoyed the roller coasters!), the other half enjoyed a carousel of activities back at school, including the **Medical Mavericks** sports enrichment where students were able to race against a “virtual” Usain Bolt. Some students got to have a go on a climbing wall.

On the last day of term we celebrated the achievements of our students at our celebration assemblies, before having a traditional British picnic—with ice cream in the rain.



Hydrogen Car launch at Nova

Nova Hreod students were introduced to one of the country's first hydrogen fuelled cars when a team from **Arval** came into school to talk about the future of hydrogen power. The car leasing firm have teamed up with Nova Hreod and their staff have already been involved in mock interviews, coaching and mentoring, and will be working on other projects with students in the school in the year ahead. Arval staff explained how hydrogen is created and used in the vehicles, before giving students an opportunity to experience augmented reality and find out more about the car and hydrogen fuel cell. Scott Thomas, Assistant Principal, said: "The engagement and enthusiasm of the students today was impressive. It's important for youngsters to learn about the importance of alternative fuels as it will have a huge impact on them in the future."



More photographs are on the school website.

Places are still available for the trip to Barcelona next May and have now been able to open this to students in Years 7-10. A letter is on the website and deposits are due by 28th September. If you have any questions please contact Miss Barrett.



Snappers
Photography
Schools | Public | Private

Students in Years 7 and 9 had their photographs taken last week and were given a card to hand to their parents with information about how to order the photographs.

Please ask your child for their card—if they haven't got it please call us on 01793 528800 for the information you need.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

Tuesday 19th Open Morning

Thursday 28th Year 11 Futures Evening

October

Wednesday 4th Open Morning

Thursday 12th Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

Monday 16th Open Morning

A full calendar of events and more information can be found at www.novahreodacademy.org.uk

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