

3rd March 2025

Dear parents and carers

We're delighted to hear that your child will be joining us in September and we look forward to welcoming you both to our school community. As a parent myself, I know that you have made a very important decision in entrusting us with your child's education. We take this responsibility very seriously and will do all we possibly can to help them become an important part of our school community and provide them with everything they need to make a really strong start to their time at Nova.

High Standards

We know that parents select Nova because we are a school with clear values and high standards. Our values of Hard Work, Excellence and Kindness run throughout everything that we do as a school. We seek to reward students regularly for demonstrating these values through awarding Merits. On average we award over 10,000 Merits a week. There are regular reward events and prizes for students based on Merit awards.

High Achievement

It is our aim that we will give every child who attends Nova the best possible chance of success, both during their time at Nova and beyond. We do this by ensuring that:

- Students gain high value qualifications which will open as many doors for them in the future as possible
- Students develop a real understanding of subject disciplines, learning knowledge and ways of thinking that take them beyond everyday understanding enabling them to better participate in our democratic society
- Students get the opportunity to take part in many high quality experiences – trips, visits, clubs and events which allow them to flourish outside the classroom, developing their character.

Education with Character

We firmly believe in the importance of education with character. Our annual survey highlights just how much our students appreciate SuperNova, our extensive extra-curricular offer. They have the opportunity to take part in fantastic events, including the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature, theatre trips and exhibitions such as The Big Bang Fair in Bristol. All year 8 students have the opportunity to experience a residential camping trip and our students also get the opportunity to go on other residential visits, including a ski trip to the French Alps. They also enjoy taking part in a whole host of sports teams and school productions.



Ofsted

At the last Ofsted inspection, the Inspectors recognised that Nova Hreod "continues to be a good school."

The inspection highlights many of our strengths including that:

- We are a “friendly and welcoming school”.
- We provide a “calm and purposeful learning environment” for our children.
- Children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, are able to enjoy a “rich and ambitious curriculum.”
- Pupils “take pride in the work they produce.”
- Staff build up a detailed picture of individual pupils and the support they need. When appropriate, leaders work effectively with external agencies to secure timely help for pupils.
- Our Super Nova enrichment programme which supports children's wider personal development and a "detailed programme of careers advice for pupils of all years."

Catalyst STEM Stream

If your child has an academic aptitude for STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) or computing, they can apply to join the Catalyst STEM Stream at Nova. Students in Catalyst Stream will benefit from an enhanced STEM curriculum and enjoy unique opportunities to develop their interests and reach their ambitions.

There are 30 spaces available on the Catalyst Stream; applicants will need to pass an assessment and attend an informal interview where they will demonstrate their knowledge of a STEM subject of their choice.

To apply for a place in the Catalyst Stream, you will need to accept your child's place at Nova and complete the registration form on the Catalyst website: www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/catalyst-stream.

Transition to Year 7

We understand that moving up from primary to secondary school can be a very daunting time. To help make this transition as smooth as possible we arrange some key events in the run up to the start of September. The dedicated Year 6 transition area of our website will be updated regularly and can be found at: www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/about-nova/admissions/year-6-transition

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| Tuesday 11th March | Open Morning – We will be holding an Open Morning at 9am on Tuesday 11th March . If you would like to come along, please register your interest using the link here . |
| Tuesday 20th March | Catalyst Stream Open Morning – We will be holding a Catalyst Stream specific Open Morning at 9am on Tuesday 20th March . Please register for this event using the link here . |
| May | Year 6 Outreach Work – This takes the form of roadshows at primary schools; offering the opportunity for Year 6 to meet with the key transition staff who will be working with them and with some of our current Students. For primary schools with a small number of Students joining us in September, there will be a roadshow at Nova Hreod Academy |
| June | Coffee afternoons for parents/carers and students - We will be having after school Coffee afternoons from 15:30 – 16:30 on Thursday 19th June 2025, Monday 23rd June 2025 and Monday 30th June 2025. These are informal events for parents/carers and students. You will be able to meet key members of staff, have your questions answered. More information will be shared nearer to the time with regard to booking onto one of these afternoons. |

Thursday 3rd July **Induction Day** – Year 6 will spend a full day in school with us, to help with their transition. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

Thursday 3rd July **Welcome Evening** – Parents and Students are invited to meet key staff and find out more about Nova Hreod Academy. We will write to you again next term, with more information about this.

If your child has any additional learning need or health needs these will also be communicated to us by the Local Authority and by their primary school; we will then use this information to further adapt or amend our transition programme as necessary, so we can offer a bespoke transition where it is required.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you again for choosing Nova Hreod Academy. The whole of the Nova team is very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child to our community, for what I am sure will be a highly rewarding period of their life. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact my PA at u.gawthorn@novahreodacademy.org.uk. I look forward to working with you during the next phase of your child's education.

Yours sincerely

Mr James Harding-Mbogo

Principal