

Principal's Start of Term Letter - 30th August

Dear families,

I hope that you have all had a very restful holiday. We are looking forward to welcoming all students back this coming week for what I am confident will be a brilliant year ahead. I am writing to you this week with a reminder of the key points from my end of term letters.

Results

We were exceptionally pleased with our Year 11 results this summer. Our Year 11 students worked extremely hard last year and these results are an absolute testament to their hard work and determination as well as that of their teachers and families.

Nova has seen some of the biggest improvements of any school in Swindon this summer:

- Nova students achieved the highest proportion of grades at 7+ in the school's history, 26% of grades were a 7 or above.
- There was a 12% improvement in English and Maths results at Grade 5 or above.
- 53% of students achieved a 5 or above in English/Maths - the highest in the school's history.
- 43% of students achieved the Ebacc - highest in the school's history.

Start of term arrangements reminder

Please find below a reminder of the start dates for each year group. We look forward to welcoming students back. A reminder that we would ask that all students have arrived at the school entrance by 8.15am so that students are comfortably on time for school.

Wednesday 3rd September – Year 7 only, arrival at normal time.

Thursday 4th September – Year 7 and 11 only, arrival at normal time.

Friday 5th September – All students in school, arrival at normal time.

Uniform Reminder

Please find below a reminder of the clarifications sent out in my letter to parents on the 14th July 2025, more detail on these items can be found in the parent information handbook.



Skirts

Skirts must be grey, traditional formal pleated school style. Must be on or below knee length and pleated. Please note the criteria for the skirt to be pleated, please only purchase skirts which are pleated.

Trousers

Trousers must be grey in a traditional full length, formal style. Trousers must be of the correct size to be worn correctly and sit at the waist. Low worn trousers are not permitted.

Jumpers

Jumpers are optional, they can be purchased from any supplier but must be navy-blue in colour and must be V neck. Round neck jumpers are not allowed.

Shoes

Shoes must be black. They should be plain, leather or leather look, substantial, hardwearing and of a formal style. Shoes must be polishable. Shoes should be buckle, lace up or slip on but must not be velcro.

- Canvas shoes or trainers are not allowed. Please note this includes more formal trainer styles, such as black Nike Air Force.
- No high heels, boots, trainers, skate shoes, canvas, suede, fur or Velcro fastenings are allowed.
- Nike Air Force, Crocs, sliders, flip-flops, slippers, open toe or open back footwear are not allowed under any circumstances.

Equipment Updates

It is very important that students have the correct equipment with them every day at school, doing this means that learning is not disrupted by students not having the right items of equipment.

Please find below the full equipment list:

- **30cm ruler**
- Black Pen x 2
- **Clear Plastic 30cm pencil case**
- Eraser
- **Glue Stick**
- Green Pen x 2
- Pencil x 2
- Protractor
- Scientific calculator
- A4 size white board*
- White board pen x 2
- Knowledge Organiser (Year 7 only)*
- Self-Quizzing book (Year 7 only)*

- **Reusable Water Bottle**

*Whiteboards, Knowledge Organisers and Self-Quizzing books are provided by the school, but a charge will apply for replacements if lost.

Please note that there are four changes for this coming academic year:

- 30cm clear plastic pencil case – we have asked that all students have a clear plastic 30cm pencil case as shown above.
- 30cm ruler – please can all students have a 30cm ruler this is important for use in Maths and Science
- Glue Stick – we would ask that all students have a glue stick to support with ensuring that they can keep their books tidy (these will be available in the school equipment shop at a significantly discounted rate).
- Finally we would ask that all students have a reusable water bottle that they bring to school daily. This can be in a style of students choosing but should be at least 300ml in capacity.

Staffing Changes reminder

From September Eleanor Edens will be the SENCO at Nova Hreod, Eleanor has been Deputy SENCO for the past few years and so knows the students and the school very well.

To contact the SEND team please still use the current email address:

senco@novahreodacademy.org.uk

From September Krisha Hendra, Senior Vice Principal will be the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Nova Hreod, Krisha will continue to lead on culture and behaviour and knows our students and the school very well.

To contact the Safeguarding team please still use the current email address:

Safeguarding@novahreodacademy.org.uk

Year Managers for next year are as follows:

Year 7 - Vanessa Simpkins yearmanager7@novahreodacademy.org.uk

Year 8 - Naomi Butler yearmanager8@novahreodacademy.org.uk

Year 9 - Sophie Workman yearmanager9@novahreodacademy.org.uk

Year 10 - Georgia Saunders yearmanager10@novahreodacademy.org.uk

Year 11 - Cara Arnold yearmanager11@novahreodacademy.org.uk

Parent Handbook

Please find linked on our website the parent handbook for 2025 – 2026: [Information Guide v2.pdf](#)

Term Dates

Please find a reminder of term dates for 2025-2026 linked here: [Term Dates](#)

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. We look forward to welcoming your children back to school this week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J Harding-Mbogo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Harding-Mbogo
Principal