

26th January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the halfway point of the academic year, it feels both exciting and, understandably, a little daunting. Time is now moving quickly for our Year 11 students and there is plenty left to enjoy, but this is also the point at which consistency and commitment will be valuable.

Yearbooks and hoodies

Firstly, and very excitingly, Year 11 yearbooks and hoodies are now available to purchase. These are a great way for students to mark and celebrate their final year with us, and we hope as many students as possible choose to take part. To purchase either of these mementos, you will need to click the link and type or copy in the unique ID. Once you have done this, you will have the opportunity to select the style and hoodie students would like. I will also be sending out a Microsoft form for students to include a short message in their yearbook if they wish.

Link: <https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/>

Unique ID: 26261YR11

The final date on which you can purchase a hoodie is 1st April and for yearbooks this will be 5th May.

Prom

Prom is a wonderful way to say farewell to our year 11 students and, for that reason, we fully intend every student to go.

More details about cost will be circulated soon, but we expect tickets to be around £35 and you will be able to purchase tickets on parent pay.

We are also launching a reward based around prom whereby 13 students will be eligible for a free ticket to prom based on excellent attendance and the number of merits they have achieved.

If we have any concerns about your child not being able to attend prom, you will be contacted directly to discuss this.

PPE2

Our second round of mock exams will be running from 2nd March until 17th March.

To ensure that students have a consistent approach to the summer series, PPE2 will mirror this as closely as possible. This will mean that students will have a slightly adjusted day to usual which I have outlined below. All students have an optional breakfast from 7.45am which they can attend where we will serve bacon rolls, hash

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browns, pancakes and vegetarian options. Arriving from 7.45am will also give students the chance to put any belongings away in their locker that they don't need for their exam. The main change is that students will need to arrive on site slightly earlier than usual, at 8am, for roll call to ensure that they can attend their warm-up sessions before their exams. Students will also have booster sessions from 3-4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday unless they are in an exam. Most students will finish their exams before 4pm but in some instances students will run slightly over this.

Morning adjustments

- 7.45am – optional early arrival and breakfast
- 8am – roll call begins (students must arrive by this time)
- 8.10am – warm up sessions prior to their exam

We treat these PPE exams the same as the summer exams. Therefore, we expect all students in school and that no exams are missed during this period. Remember, in the summer, students get one chance to complete an exam and there are no catch-up slots. Therefore, we need students to do everything possible to come to school and to sit their exam. Like in a normal school day, we expect no medical appointments to be booked during school time during the PPE period.

We will do everything we can to support students to get them through their exam, so please do contact our attendance team if you have any concerns. If there is a planned absence and you need to discuss this with someone in school, please do contact us to let us know in advance, this can be by email at n.attendance@novahreodacademy.org.uk or via calls to 01793 549102.

If students are not in school or not on time for the PPE or any exam period, please expect us to call.

Champion's Hour

From next week, we will have several Champion's Hour sessions running from 4–5pm which will be compulsory for students who are selected to attend on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. The sessions are vital at this point in the year to support your child to make accelerated progress before the next mock examination in just four school weeks' time.

If your child has been selected, this session will show on their Arbor timetable so you can easily check this. These sessions will focus on closing gaps, strengthening exam technique and will enable students to revise with a subject expert and build their confidence. Students can continue to attend independent study on a Wednesday and Thursday or attend any of the subject specific sessions if they wish to do so.

Attendance is expected to these sessions and missed sessions will be followed up in the same way that we would follow up a truant lesson during the main school day. Your support in reinforcing the importance of this commitment at home is vital. Every student who attends their session will also receive 5 merits.

During the PPEs, subject specific Champion's Hour will be paused but open study will remain available from 4-5pm on a Monday-Thursday if students need a quiet space to revise.

Easter school

Students will have the opportunity to attend Easter school over the holidays. As I outlined to students in an assembly on Wednesday, it is sometimes really difficult to keep yourself accountable, especially so close to the end of a long year. After the Easter holidays, we will only be a matter of weeks away from the first set of exams. To help support students with their revision, over the Easter holidays, teachers will be coming in to offer sessions in their respective subjects. Some students may be specifically invited to these sessions, but more details will be circulated nearer the time about this and a timetable with a link to sign up will be available.

There is still time to make a significant difference. I have recently been using the tag line 'Believe in yourself to the point of delusion' with Year 11. They are an incredible year group and if they continue to believe in themselves, they will have a set of GCSEs that they are very proud of. Year 11 is about growth, resilience and achievement, and we are proud of how many of our students are responding to the challenge. By working together — school, students and families — we can ensure that this year is not only memorable, but successful.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Casha Nijhawan

Assistant Principal - Raising Standards Lead