



2nd March 2026

Dear parents and carers,

We're delighted to hear that your child will be joining us in September as a member of the "Class of 2031" and we look forward to welcoming your family 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.

School Mission

It is our aim that every child who attends Nova is given 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 develop their character through both the teaching of character traits and virtues and through taking part in many high-quality opportunities outside the classroom which enable their wider personal development.

School Values

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 want students at Nova to achieve their very best; in order to do this we commit to students experiencing 'disruption free learning' every minute of every day. We have a clear behaviour management system and a set of whole school routines used across the school which supports students to meet our high expectations. We expect to work in partnership with families and have a regularly updated parent handbook which we would ask all families to read. We also use the Arbor Parent App to regularly communicate with home.

We look to celebrate the achievement of individual students, their tutor groups and their houses at all times. We recognise both the small and the big achievements and as part of this we run multiple weekly, half termly and annual rewards for students. From attendance countdowns to Fun Friday competitions, to our Hero Token prize draw to Gold, Silver and Bronze half termly awards, we seek to recognise and celebrate every student.

Education with Character

An important part of our students having the best chance of success is providing students with the wider extra-curricular opportunities that we believe enable the development of character. There are so many opportunities at Nova to do this, we run over 25 lunchtime and after school clubs ranging from sports clubs to Minecraft club



catering for every possible interest. Students at Nova enthusiastically take part in these clubs and as a result develop new lifelong passions and hobbies.

Students at Nova also have the opportunity to take part in fantastic trips and in-school events, including the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature, theatre trips and exhibitions such as The Big Bang Fair in Bristol. A favourite trip for students is our year 8 residential where all students have the opportunity to experience a residential camping trip. In addition to this we run a wide variety of other residential trips including a ski trip to the French Alps.

The Arts have an important place in our school and as such we hold regular concerts throughout the year and have an annual school production. These regular performances are often a springboard for students to develop their talents further and to go on to perform outside of school.

Ofsted

Ofsted recognise that we are "a good school", our last Ofsted inspection highlighted 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: <https://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/admissions/catalyst-stream-admissions>.

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: <https://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/admissions/year-6-to-7-transition>

Monday 9th March **Open Morning** – We will be holding an Open Morning at 9.15am on **Monday 9th March**. If you would like to come along, please register your interest using the [Open Events](#) link on the school website.

- Thursday 19th March** **Catalyst Stream Open Morning** – We will be holding a Catalyst Stream specific Open Morning at 9.15am on **Thursday 19th March**. Please register for this event using the [Open Events](#) link on the school website.
- May/June** **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 Monday 22nd June and Monday 29th June. These are informal events for parents/carers and students. You will be able to meet key members of staff and have your questions answered. More information will be shared nearer to the time with regard to booking onto one of these afternoons.
- Thursday 2nd 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 2nd July** **Welcome Evening 6.00pm – 7.00pm** – 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.

Enhanced Transition

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. We will contact families on an individual basis regarding this.

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 us at novatransition@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