



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER 2024

#### Tuesday 17th

Christmas Lunch (no need to pre-book)

#### Wednesday 18th

[Christmas Concert](#)

#### Thursday 19th

[Year 11 Parents' Evening](#)

#### Friday 20th

Last day of term—school ends at 12.25pm

### JANUARY 2025

#### Tuesday 7th

First day of term

#### Thursday 9th

[Year 10 Work Experience Evening](#)

#### Wednesday 22nd

[SEN Coffee Morning](#)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



We are now only days away from the end of this first full term of the academic year and the Christmas holidays are just a few days away.

It has been a very busy term with lots of brilliant opportunities for the students here at Nova. We aim to continue this over the next two terms with a number of exciting trips and visits being currently planned by staff for the Easter and Summer terms. We will also be publishing shortly our SuperNova club offer for next term and would encourage as many students as possible to sign up and try out a club next term especially if they have not already done so. Attending our after-school clubs is a great way to develop new skills and gain new experiences.

A significant aim of ours this term has been to increase the number of merits awarded to students and the number of different opportunities to be recognised for this. I am really proud that almost 90,000 merits have been awarded to students this term. This demonstrates just how

committed students are here to doing the right thing and achieving success.

Over the course of the next week we will have our half termly reward events with our top 50 merit scorers getting to go to Laser Tag for the morning. In addition to this over 200 students will also be recognised through our Christmas Cinema experience and Pizza lunch.

In the final week of term we have a number of Christmas celebrations taking place including:

- Christmas lunch for students on Tuesday
- Christmas Concert on Wednesday, tickets available on parentpay
- Christmas Jumper Day on Friday, students may wear a Christmas Jumper in return for a donation via Parentpay to Save the Children

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support this term and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Mr Harding-Mbogo*

*Principal*



House Sports  
Championship  
see pages 12/13

# HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL MERITS

W/E 29TH NOVEMBER



W/E 6TH DECEMBER



# HIGHEST ATTENDING TUTOR GROUP

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:**

W/E 29TH NOVEMBER

7E	8I	9I	10E	11A
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W/E 6TH DECEMBER

7E	8I	9I	10E	11E
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**HIGH STANDARDS = HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS**



# Reverse Advent Calendar

## Give Back This Christmas!

Join us in spreading kindness this festive season by  
donating grocery items to support Swindon Food Collective.

**What to Bring:**



**When: Monday 9th December to Thursday 19th December**

**Where: Tutor, House Representative,**

**Student Services, Mr. Brown/Miss Taylor in FE4**

**Every donation counts!**

**Let's make a difference together. Thank you for your support!**



# SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AT CHRISTMAS

While we are all looking forward to the Christmas break, we understand that there may be some families who may experience an impact on finances during this holiday season.

We work closely with *Swindon Community Fridge*, *Boxes of Hope* and *Swindon Food Collective* and should you be in need of any assistance with referrals for any of these services over the Christmas period, please email

[Safeguarding@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@novahreodacademy.org.uk)

to make a request. We will be monitoring the email and aim to respond within 48 hours. The agencies are shut from 12pm Christmas Eve until 9am on the 27<sup>th</sup> December, but will be running throughout the rest of the time.

The safeguarding team wish you all a safe break and a very happy Christmas.



*Emma Stephen*

*Deputy Safeguarding Lead*

## YOUNGMINDS

### Where to find support over the festive period

We know a lot of services tend to wind down over the festive period, ours included, and this reduced amount of support can feel scary. So, we've put together a **list of everywhere you can find support over the holidays** if you need it. We hope it helps and reassures you that you're not alone.

#### Childline

Open 24/7 for under-19s, call 0800 1111 or chat online.

#### Mind

Their four helplines are open during the daytime Mon-Fri (except 25-26 Dec and 1 Jan).

#### Samaritans

Open 24/7 for all ages, call 116 123

#### Shout

Text SHOUT to 85258 for support over text message, open 24/7 for all ages.

# YEAR 6 CATALYST TASTER



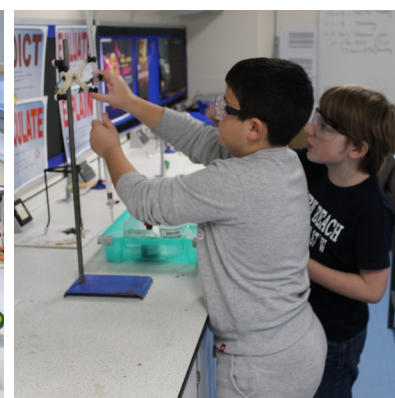
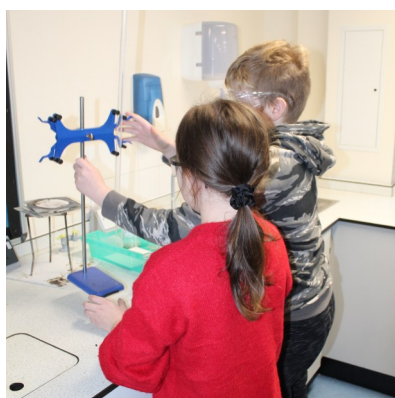
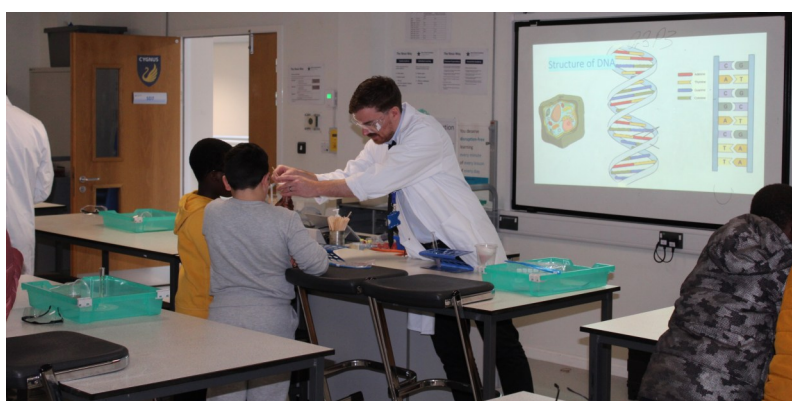
Storm Darragh didn't stop our keen STEM Stream applicants coming to the Catalyst taster session on Saturday.

These budding scientists and mathematicians came along to learn how acids and bases react. Following a demonstration from Dr Spreadbury, the avid students had a go at mixing the chemicals themselves to produce a reaction.

In Mr Power's session, they went on to learn about how DNA works and how it tells cells how to grow and work.

All the students were enthusiastic about the subjects and fully enjoyed their morning at Nova.

*Dr Spreadbury  
Catalyst STEM Stream Coordinator*





# Year 6

# CATALYST STREAM TASTER SESSION

ENGINEERING

The third in a series of challenging taster sessions for pupils considering the Catalyst STEM Stream for September 2025.



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**SATURDAY  
25 JANUARY  
2025**

9.45am - 12.15pm



[Register here](#)

## CATALYST STEM STREAM

Catalyst is Nova's specialist provision for ambitious KS3 scholars who have a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**

[www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/catalyst-stream](http://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/catalyst-stream)



# CATALYST STREAM NEWS



Despite there only being one week left until the Christmas holidays, we've all been impressed by the dedication shown by our Catalyst scholars! **Year 7** have been working on their biomimetic designs of vehicles, and we're looking forward to testing them out in the final week of term!

Outside of the classroom there's also been a lot to celebrate. Our **Year 7 and 8** Catalyst scholars are reaching the end of their fizzy drink project for the CREST Awards and have created some delicious drinks and some interesting designs for packaging. Ms Ochanda and Mr Chataika have been impressed with their efforts and perseverance after school during terms 1 and 2.

We've also hosted our first after school STEM seminar of the year on Thursday 12th December! Bethan Davies, a chemist from the **National Chemical Emergency Centre**, delivered an inspiring talk about careers using Chemistry and an insight into adapting to challenges life throws at you, increasing one's resilience. It was interesting, engaging and enjoyed by all!

*Dr Spreadbury  
Catalyst STEM Stream Coordinator*



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

As we come to the end of 2024, it is time to look forward to 2025 and continue to build on the Student Leadership we have at Nova.

It is a real privilege and pleasure to oversee Student Leadership, seeing their positive impact on peers. We have had such high standards promoted and demonstrated by our Student Leaders across all the leadership groups.

With a growing school and such a large Y9 cohort, 20 House Reps have been appointed to join the current Y10 Wellbeing Ambassador team and Y11 Prefects.

Mr Harding-Mbogo will be meeting regularly with the Student Council. The first of these meetings will be on Friday 10th January, where they will discuss the current rewards, what they've liked so far and what they think can be done to improve the reward systems we have at Nova Hreod.

Congratulations to everyone appointed as Student Leaders in 2024, student voice at our school really matters and this is a great way to contribute to wider school activities. We now have a strong cohort of student leaders including Global Ambassadors, Sparx Ambassadors, Student Librarians, Sports Captains and Music Ambassadors.

*Mrs Malik*

*Student Leadership Coordinator*

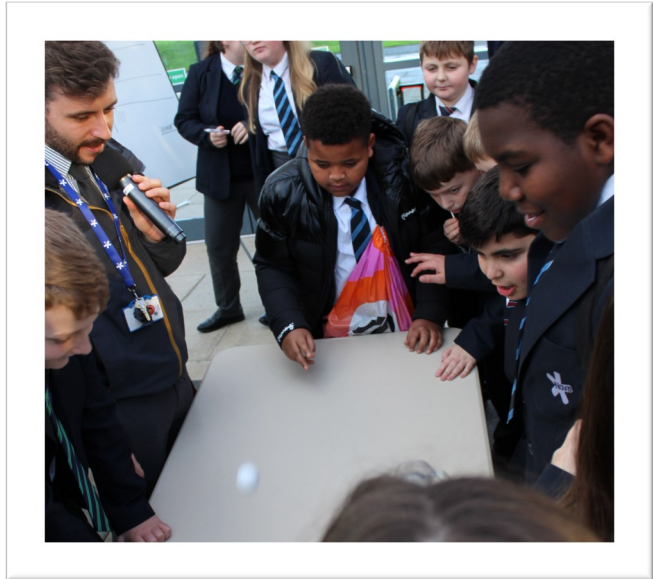
# MEET YOUR HOUSE REPS





# FRIDAY CHALLENGE

A narrow victory for Cygnus House last week in a very exciting game of Water Pong.



## RAF CAREERS VISIT

Sgt Dingle from the RAF careers engagement team came in to speak to year 8 about opportunities in the RAF. From apprenticeships to graduate entry, students learnt about the recruitment journey, basic training and officer, aircrew selection and roles available including engineering, aircrew, cyberspace, intelligence, logistics, legal and medical services.



Sgt Dingle outlined the pay and benefits including pension, lifelong learning, subsidised food and accommodation, sports facilities and adventurous training. This was a highly interactive session and Sgt Dingle was impressed with the behaviour, attentiveness, questions and answers from our year 8 students.

*Mrs Gawthorn*  
Careers Coordinator

# OTTERS AND DINOSAURS AT THE MUSEUM

The Science department trip to the Oxford Museum of Natural History gave Year 9 scholars the opportunity to engage in educational talks by professors from Oxford University, learning how life on Earth has changed over millions of years. After hearing these inspirational research lectures, scholars explored the museum's huge collection of fossils, skeletal recreations and geological wonders. Scholars showed exceptional understanding of many of the exhibits and were successful at completing a scholastic treasure hunt while discovering the museum.

The first lecture by Claire Marr gave a fantastic insight into conservation work and biodiversity investigations being conducted in the Amazon rainforest. We learnt a lot about apex predators, including jaguars,



ocelots and giant otters! Later, palaeontologist, Stephanie Lechki explained how palaeontologists reveal and explore the secret world of dinosaurs with traditional and advanced scientific methods.

The students were a credit to the school.

[MORE PHOTOS](#)

## PLACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING TRIPS

Year 9 Bath University 26th March

Year 8 Residential w/c 23th June 2025

Year 10 Science Live! 11th February

Year 11 Business Studies trip to Cadbury World 6th January

Year 8 Abu Bakr Mosque in Reading Visit 4th February

Year 9/10 French trip to Paris July 2025

## LOOK OUT FOR THESE TRIPS COMING SOON

Year 10 trip to USCF 6th February

Year 10 Bath University 25th February

Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip to Swanage 24th & 25th March

Year 9 STEM workshop Bath University 25th March

Year 7 Gloucester Cathedral 2nd April

Year 10 History Globe Theatre 25th April

Year 9 History Imperial War Museum 9th May

CLICK ON THE IMAGE BELOW TO SEE  
LAST YEAR'S TRIPS



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To book any trip visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

# SPORTS NEWS

## YEAR 7 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Year 7 girls football tournament! The girls played amazing and have improved so much from their first tournament.

The pool this was a tough one, but the girls fought well against some very good teams!

Kingsdown 1-1 DRAW

RWBA - 1-0 LOSS

LPA 3-0 LOSS

Commonweal - 0-0 DRAW

MVP - Darcy T for some amazing saves in goal!



## U16s NETBALL

The U16s Netball team played against Warneford on Wednesday. They played excellently against a very strong opposition side.

MVP—Serwaa



## Y8 BASKETBALL

Year 8 boys won their basketball vs RWBA on Thursday 29-9.

MVP Ben S—scored at least 18 of the 29 points.

## U14 FOOTBALL

LPA 1 - 0 Nova  
Commonweal 1- 0  
Nova  
Abbey Park 0 - 0  
Nova

The girls played excellent against a very good pool of teams!

Last U14's tournament of the year!

Results did not reflect their performance, the girls played very well.

RWBA 1—0 Nova

LPA 1—0 Nova

MVP—Honor M



MVP - Edith W for excellent defending throughout.



# KS3 HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP



This term's House Sports Competition was Dodgeball, with students participating to win points for their house. KS3 gave us some thrilling games, congratulations to Cygnus House, winners of the KS3 tournament.



# KS4 HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP



On Thursday, it was the turn of KS4 to win points for their House. Despite a smaller turnout, it was a very competitive tournament involving some excellent games. Congratulations to Team Orion for the win.





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Nova Hreod Academy  
Performing Arts Faculty presents

# Creative Christmas Extravaganza 2024

Featuring performances from our  
talented scholars in the Performing Arts Faculty!

**Wednesday December 18th**

Join us in the diner from 6pm  
for festive refreshments  
Show starts in the theatre at 6.30pm

Tickets £1.50 each on Parentpay  
(includes mince pie and hot drink)



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**Save the Children**

# **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

**FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER**

JOIN MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE UK  
AND RAISE MONEY FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN.  
AND THE BEST BIT? BY HAVING FUN,  
YOU'RE CREATING LASTING CHANGE FOR  
CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD.



**DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ON PARENTPAY IN AID OF SAVE THE CHILDREN.**



# YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE EVENING

**THURSDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2025**

**6PM TO 7PM**



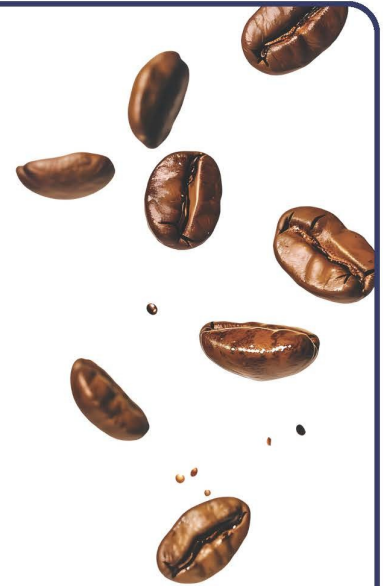
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# SEN PARENTS' COFFEE MORNING



WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2025  
9.30AM - 11.00AM

The topic of this coffee morning will focus on inclusion by design, we will discuss changes on policies at Nova and how we are inclusive in our practice. There will be an opportunity to listen and ask questions as well as meet other parents of pupils with diversities.



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# YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING



**4.30PM  
7.00PM**



**THURSDAY  
19 December 2024**

**BOOK NOW**

**[HTTPS://NOVAHREOD.SCHOOLCLOUD.CO.UK/](https://NOVAHREOD.SCHOOLCLOUD.CO.UK/)**



**[www.novahreodacademy.org.uk](http://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk)**



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