



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 2025

Wednesday 12th

Y8 immunisations catch-up

Monday 17th

Colour Run

Wednesday 19th

Spring Concert

Thursday 20th

Catalyst Stream Open Morning

APRIL 2025

Tuesday 1st

Year 11 Parents Evening

Friday 4th

Last day of term—school ends 12.30pm

7th-18th

Easter holiday

Wednesday 23rd

First day of term

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



It has been brilliant to welcome students back to Nova after the half term break, students across the academy have made a superb start back to school settling quickly back into our routines.

Year 11 in particular have come back and made a very strong start to their final mock exams working exceptionally hard throughout this first week of mocks. On this same note we have been seriously impressed by the numbers of Year 11 students over the past few weeks staying to continue working in our optional **Champions Hour** from 4–5pm.

We had a **review & support visit** this week from our trust United Learning which has highlighted lots of areas of good practice across the school and some areas of focus to continue to work on. Feedback from all of the visiting Headteachers was that the students who they spoke with throughout the day were very polite, well mannered and articulate and were an absolute credit to the school.

A big area of focus for us this term is **literacy**, particularly tutor time reading.

As you will know students at Nova spent three tutor time periods a week reading a book together. We do this because we know that there is a strong correlation between language development and students' future success, we believe that spending time reading together with an adult modelling excellent reading is one of the most important things we can do as a school to ensure students are successful. It is for this same reason that we set **Sparx Reader** for homework at Key Stage Three, we want to maximise the opportunities that students have for reading. We really appreciate all the support from parents in ensuring that both **Sparx Maths** and **Sparx Reader** are completed for students on time each week. A reminder that if students need support with this we have **homework support club** running 3–4pm Tuesday to Thursday in the library.

It has been great to hold our third annual **Iftar** this week and welcome members of the community to this event. The event was a great success. As we look towards the end of this term we look forward to celebrating and recognising Easter.

James Harding-Mbogo

Principal



Global Ambassadors host 3rd annual Iftar Evening see page 10

YEAR 10 EXPERIENCE LIVE ONLINE INTERVIEWS

National Interview Month provided us with an opportunity to work with **Your Game Plan** so that 80 Year 10 students could have a 1-2-1 virtual interview for 30 minutes with an industry professional.

These professionals were matched with students following a pre-interview questionnaire that the students filled out, thus giving them a chance to question and be questioned by an interviewer in a field, or associated field, to their current chosen career field. Many employers are currently using online interviews as an initial way to make their shortlists for face to face interviews so this was an invaluable experience for our students to gain experience of what it is like to be interviewed virtually.

Year 10 now have their face to face interviews to look forward to in July with a range of local employers supporting this programme.



WOW! These kids are off the chart! Prepared, engaged, confident and all three I have spoken to have a clear career plan and know what to do in order to get there.

Free Prom Outfits



Looking for the perfect prom outfit? We've got you covered!

Sizes 6 to 26. Contact Mrs Clare

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to find your dream outfit for free!

PLACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING TRIPS

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

Year 10 History Globe Theatre 25th April

Year 8 Residential w/c 23rd June 2025

Year 10 Drama War Horse 4th June

Year 10 Geography fieldwork trip to Bristol 30th June & 1st July

Year 9/10 Noughts & Crosses—Open Theatre 23rd July

LOOK OUT FOR THESE TRIPS COMING SOON

Choir trip to Magic Flute 1st April and 24th June

Year 10 Business trip to Cadbury World 7th July

Year 8 Science trip to Silverstone 17th July

Year 9 Royal International Air Tattoo 18th July

Year 7 Geography River Cole July

To book any trip visit www.parentpay.com

YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL CAMP TRIP
Mendip Activity Centre, Somerset

Mon 23rd June - Wed 25th June 2025
or
Wed 25th June - Fri 27th June 2025

A 3-day, 2-night residential camping experience for our Year 8 students at the Mendip Activity Centre in the spectacular Mendip Hills National Landscape. The year group will be split into two camp parties and attend on one of the date ranges shown above.

Enjoy a range of daytime and evening activities led by qualified instructors. Examples of these activities could include rock climbing, abseiling, caving, target sports, bushcraft, team building, night walks, orienteering, frisbee golf and campfires.

HPV IMMUNISATIONS

The HPV vaccine is offered to all boys and girls in Year 8 (aged 12/13 years) because the evidence is clear that the HPV vaccine helps protect both boys and girls from HPV-related cancers. More than 280 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been given worldwide, including 120 million doses in the US and over 10 million in the UK.

The HPV vaccine used in the NHS vaccination schedule is Gardasil 9 and protects against 9 of the types of HPV which can cause cancer and genital warts for most people with just one dose.

Full details of the vaccination product used, including full contents can be accessed at: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7330/smpc#gref>

To consent for your child to receive the vaccination, please click on this link: <https://www.bswschoolagedimms.co.uk/Forms/HPV>

School Code: **WT140515**

If you do not want your child to receive the vaccine, please can you complete the form to decline.

If you have already completed a consent form you do not have to do this again.



KS3 ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, we proudly welcomed two former students back to school to share their experiences of apprenticeships with our Key Stage 3 students. Jay-Jay and Deri now work for TE Connectivity, and kindly came along to support the KS3 Accelerator Programme, shedding light on the real-world skills, challenges, and growth opportunities an apprenticeship offers. Their journey is a testament to how hands-on experience can shape careers and open doors to incredible possibilities and we are very grateful to them and TE Connectivity for coming along.



SYFL ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

Christie and Lexi, the two winners from our in-school Illustration competition, attended a workshop at the Central Library with the winners from some of the 11 Swindon secondary schools who are part of the **Swindon Youth Festival of Literature**.

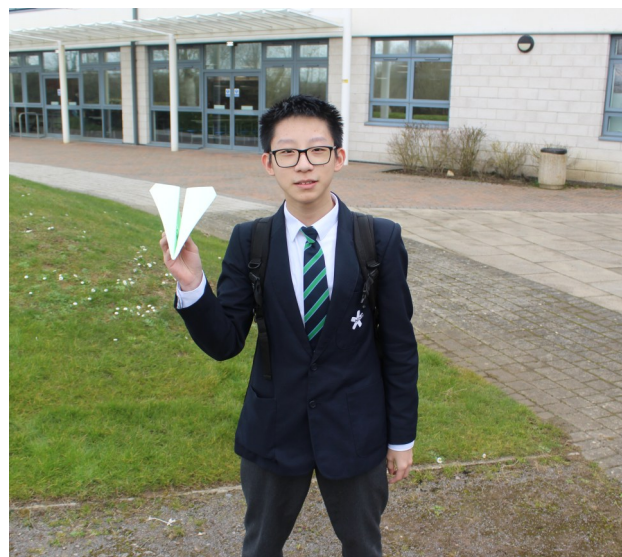
The workshop was run by illustrator **Steve Antony**. The students were encouraged to create a character for a book and Steve helped them think about the details and how to make the character come to life.

Lexi and Christie found the workshop to be very enjoyable and inspiring.



FRIDAY CHALLENGE

Lots of keen students took part in this week's Friday Challenge where they had to create a plane that would travel the furthest when thrown. Everyone had four turns to go onto the first floor balcony as Mr Harbour judged from below, and the winning student's plane won three of the four attempts!



This week's winner!



YEAR 11 TRIP TO BATH UNIVERSITY

Our recent visit to Bath University provided our students with an immersive experience that fostered a comprehensive understanding of university life.

The tour of the campus allowed students to explore the state-of-the-art facilities, including the library, lecture halls, and sports centre. The modern and well-equipped nature of the campus instilled a sense of comfort and organisation among the

students.

A presentation explained the benefits of university education, talking about career prospects, personal development, and financial assistance, enabling students to envision the potential of higher learning.

Many students found this information particularly valuable, as they start to consider their post-secondary future.

[MORE PHOTOS](#)



A MILESTONE FOR YEAR 7

As we reach the halfway point of the academic year, it's a great time to reflect on the journey our Year 7 students have taken so far. This milestone marks not only their progress in the classroom but also their growth in confidence, resilience and character.

A highlight of the term has been the completion of our BiE 1 assessments. These assessments have given students the chance to showcase their hard work and dedication, and I have been incredibly proud of the effort and determination they have demonstrated.

Beyond academics, our Year 7s continue to make a positive impact on the school environment, enthusiastically competing in our Friday competitions and taking part in the many SuperNova clubs after school. Their

involvement in these activities reflects their commitment to teamwork, creativity, and personal development.

Looking ahead, the remainder of the year promises fresh challenges and exciting opportunities. Whether through academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, or acts of kindness within our school and local community, I encourage every student to continue striving for personal growth. Success cannot only be measured with grades; it's about building character, showing resilience, and making a difference to others around us.

I am confident that Year 7 will continue to impress us all, and I look forward to celebrating their future successes. Keep up the fantastic work!

Mr Harbour—Head of Year 7

INTERFAITH IFTAR EVENING



On Wednesday 5th March we hosted our 3rd annual Interfaith Iftar, where everyone in the Nova community was invited to take part in the traditional breaking of the fast during Ramadan.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and families who contributed food, drink (including hot spiced karak chai), sweet treats and dates.

The Global Ambassadors and other students who helped were impeccable and helped ensure the numerous tasks were carried out in the evening to host almost 200 guests. We also had many familiar faces (ex-students) from the past who are now in Y12/13, it was wonderful to see them come back to say hello.



Thank you so much to the staff, guests and ex-student Liam Spencer for helping with collecting food/drink items from local businesses. Without them, 90% of the items donated wouldn't have made it to the theatre on the evening.

The wonderful Ramadan balloon decoration piece was the focal point of photos with our Deputy Mayor, Cllr Fay Howard, who was in attendance with her husband.

After introduction and welcomes, everyone shared the traditional breaking of the fast, and guests were able to pray and observe Maghrib prayers in the adjoining Drama studio.

Special thank you to Mr Brown for speaking and doing the call to prayer (Adhaan) and to Tahmid for leading prayers. And for a beautiful supplication, thank you to Dr Muhammad Rashid Siddique.

This gathering was a real triumph, showing that no matter what walk of life we come from, we can all come together to communally build bridges across our community. It is experiences like these which enrich our lives, I hope to see more of you come along next time.

Mrs Malik





SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to the following businesses and families for your generous contributions, apologies if anyone has been missed as we had extra donations on the night.

Caprinos Pizza, Biplob, Arabian Nights, Beenies, Maryam's Kitchen, ZuDuzo Kitchen, Mummy's Kitchen, Khyber, Lalbagh, Curry Cottage, Dilkush, Kaspa, Mr Kebab, Tandoori nights, Bindhi's Fatima, Esme C, Guvercin family, Sodexo, Emilia, Qurat ul Ann, Nyanti, Khaleq family, Shalaby family, Khulood, Rabia Nasir, Baraa G, Shad family, Mahmood family, Ghaffar family.

And last but not least, Liam, Ms Clare & Mr Griffiths for collecting items after school from across Swindon. Thank you Mr Harding-Mbogo, Mrs Hendra and Mr Delap for being so helpful throughout the night and to wonderful Admin team for helping with the lead up to the event.

YEAR 9 HISTORY WORKSHOP

During half term Ms Gilbertson, a researcher from Royal Holloway University, led another of her fantastic PhD workshops for a group of our year 9 pupils.

During the session, year 9 examined the outbreak of World War Two, evacuation, and the war's aftermath through the lens of different children at the time, all of whom told their stories via fascinating recordings.

Year 9 behaved excellently throughout the day. They completed an impressive six hours of History and gave thoughtful, well-supported, and insightful responses. Ms Gilbertson was blown away by the quality of the work produced; she has already requested to come back to deliver her session again and to deliver a further session about how World War Two led to the creation of the concept of the 'teenager'.

At the end of the day, all the year pupils who attended received a wax-sealed certificate to commemorate their achievement. It appears that it wasn't just the sandwiches which went down well; after the event, one pupil stated, *"The day was wonderful. I would attend it again."*

[MORE PHOTOS](#)



PARENT EVENTS

Our first Nova Offer event last Thursday was a huge success. The presentation was supported brilliantly by one of our Year 9 parents, who gave an insight into her child's success at Nova through a collaborative approach involving teachers, wider school support, parents, and other agencies. The main message was that parents expect high standards, which aligns with our approach. We are grateful to her for bravely sharing her experiences with our guests on the evening.

Our guests were able to meet agencies including BEU Swindon, Hearing Support, Uturn, the EHCP Coordinator from the Local Authority, SIAS, Swindon SEND Families Voice, and the Early Intervention Youth and Community Locality Team. These agencies were kept busy with parents and staff during the evening, engaging in conversations, and building knowledge and relationships.

Initial feedback was very positive and we will be offering another Nova Offer event in Term 6.



On Tuesday morning, we welcomed families from Years 5 and 6 who are considering applying to Nova Hreod Academy for their children, or joining us in September. The Open Morning included a tour of the building to see lessons in action, and a candid Q&A session with some Year 9 and 10 students. The students that took part were very impressive and many of the guests commented that they were the most valuable part of the Open Morning.

Thank you to Abby, Harry, Layla, Leah and Savannah for being such great ambassadors for the school.

Nova Hreod Academy

SPRING CONCERT

WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH AT 6.30PM



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