



A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



I am delighted to update you in this edition of the school newsletter about the recent changes to the tutor group system that was introduced at the start of this half term. As you will be aware we made the

shift from vertical to horizontal tutor groups to support one of the schools priorities in developing a sense of belonging for all and scholars have adapted extremely well to these changes. The tutor changes serve to supplement the already well-established house system in which the house championship is building to a crescendo as we approach the final big 4 competition, Sports Day, at the end of this academic year. Points can still be won each week in the Friday Competitions as well as for individual DISC rewards for showing Drive, Integrity, Scholarship and Contribution in lessons and around school.

Also on the horizon is Our World Week with year 10 scholars gearing up to spend a week on work experience placements. These scholars have been working hard on CV writing and interview skills in PSHE lessons and tutor to support securing these placements and we look forward to seeing the success of this in the coming months.

Our super nova clubs continue to run this term and as ever are incredibly popular. New activities such as tennis, duolingo and gardening are now part of the weekly timetable so there really is something for everyone. We encourage all of you to sign up and get involved.

Finally, I would like to wish the best of luck to all those at Nova taking public exams over the next few months and hope all the hard work pays off when the results come out in August.

Tom Unwin
Assistant Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 2024

Monday 27th to Friday 31st (inc) - half term holidays

JUNE 2024

Monday 3rd —Students return to school

Thursday 6th—Open Morning

JUNE 2024

Tuesday 18th—Teaching and Learning Afternoon

Wednesday 19th—Summer Concert

Thursday 20th—Y6 Transition Evening

Wednesday 26th —Year 6 Induction Day

For more information visit: www.novahreodacademy.org.uk

THIS WEEK'S TOP EPRAISE SCHOLARS



LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH—URDU

Language of the month: Urdu!

>>Urdu:

- ❖ Urdu is an Indo-Aryan language spoken most commonly in South Asia. It has been around for many centuries and in the modern day is part of Muslim identity and culture.
- ❖ Did you know: Urdu is the official language in Pakistan and is spoken along with English!

>>Origin:

- ❖ Urdu was developed in the 12th century CE from the regional Apabhramsha of northwestern India, serving as a linguistic modus vivendi after the Muslim conquest.
- ❖ The first major poet was Amir Khosrow (1253–1325), who composed dohas (couplets), folk songs, and riddles in the newly formed speech, then called Hindvi. This mixed speech was variously called Hindvi, Zaban-e-Hind, Hindi, Zaban-e-Delhi, Rekhta, Gujar, Dakhani, Zaban-e-Urdu-e-Mualla, Zaban-e-Urdu, or just Urdu, literally 'the language of the camp.'
- ❖ Major Urdu writers continued to refer to it as Hindi or Hindvi until the beginning of the 19th century, although there is evidence that it was called Hindustani in the late 17th century. (Hindustani now refers to a simplified speech form that is the Indian subcontinent's largest lingua franca.)

>>Fun facts!

- ❖ Urdu is one of the most sophisticated languages. A lot of poets use it because of its beauty.
- ❖ Urdu contains up to 40 alphabets.
- ❖ Urdu is spoken by over 100 million people globally.
- ❖ Urdu became the symbol for uniting Muslims.
- ❖ Urdu is influenced and enriched by Persian and Arabic. The word Urdu means 'army' in Turkic languages.

Some basic phrases to strike a conversation >>

How to Say Hello in Urdu	
Good morning. صبح بخیر subha bakhair	How's it going? کھینا چلی رہا ہے؟ Kaisa chal raha hai?
How's your day? تمہارا دن کیسا رہا؟ Tumhara din kaisa raha?	What's up? کھینے میراج ہے؟ Kaise mizaj hain?
Hello! ہیلو! Hello!	It's nice to see you again. اب کو دوبارہ دیکھ کر اچھا لگا Aap ko dobara daikh ker acha laga.
Long time no see. طویل عرصے سے ملاقات نہیں ہوئی Taweel array say mulaqaat nahi hui	Hey! اے! Arey!

UrduPod101.com

اردو سیکھیں!
(Learn Urdu!)

If you're up for a challenge in language learning or need a good gese's to put on your CV, Urdu would be a good choice...

Written by >> Areej Shad, Year 9

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP FRIDAY CHALLENGE

On Friday lunchtimes, scholars compete in a fun challenge to earn points for their house which go towards the house championship totals.

In the most recent challenges, Aquila won 250 house points in the penalty challenge, and Cygnus won the 'chuck the rope' challenge.



HOUSE UPDATE

Welcome to the Aquila house update. Since the start of the summer term Aquila students have successfully transitioned into their new year group tutor groups, and are adjusting to their new tutors and hopefully have the opportunity to make new friends from all four houses.

Although, we will not be together as a house everyday it will make house assemblies and competitions that much more special and a reason to celebrate.

As we enter into the final part of the school year it is pleasing to see the amount of star slips and disc points awarded to Aquila students for their hard work and effort. Keep it up as this will put you in an excellent place for our upcoming BIEs in term 6.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all Aquila students starting their GCSE exams good luck.

On a brighter note, it was great to see all the students from Aquila and the other houses take part in the Nova colour run. The students looked like they had a fantastic time covering each other in a multitude of colours!

Finally I would like to congratulate Milla P on being selected for the Great Britain Under 16s Women's Ice Hockey squad in the Netherlands last week. Not only was she selected as one of two alternative captains, but she was awarded with the "hardest working hat" award and also scored her first GB goal! Everybody in Aquila and Nova are very proud to have a GB sportsperson among them!

Mr Silvester
Head of Aquila



YEAR 11 EXAM MESSAGES

GCSE exams begin on Monday 6th May. Year 11 have had an assembly taking them through the exams process. They have also received paper copies of their exam timetables from their tutors and they will also receive a digital copy via email. Any year 11s who missed the assembly can watch a recording which Miss Sayers sent out via epraise.

Throughout the exam period, Year 11 will remain in school and, when they don't have exams, they will be in their timetabled lessons. This is to ensure that year 11 stay in positive routines, have a guaranteed quiet environment in which to revise, and can get as much time in front of expert teachers as possible. As Year 11 complete exams in their subjects, they will still attend these lessons on their timetables or they will have boosters for subjects of upcoming exams. In lessons where Year 11s have completed all of their exams, they will spend the time completing independent revision under the supervision of their teachers.

All of Year 11 need to be available until **Wednesday 26th June**, though school is likely to finish for year 11 before this date. Further details about year 11's last day will be communicated at the end of term 5.

EXAM EQUIPMENT

For their exams, Year 11 will need:

- A pencil
- At least one black pen (ideally two)
- A ruler (ideally 30cm)
- A rubber without any marks or writing on it
- A pencil sharpener
- A protractor
- A compass
- A scientific calculator without a case and with no writing or doodling on it
- A completely clear pencil case with no writing or decoration on it

Students can also take a water bottle into the exam with them; this must be completely clear and cannot have any writing or decoration on it.

We are also offering 'exam ready pencil cases' for purchase at cost on ParentPay. These pencil cases contain everything on the list above except for a compass and a scientific calculator. If you order a pencil case, Miss Sayers will deliver it to students during tutor time.

There are several items which students are not allowed on their person during exams.

- They must not wear their blazer
- They should not have any electronic items on their person, even if they are turned off. This includes mobile phones, smartwatches, and headphones.
- Year 11 must also ensure that they don't accidentally bring any notes or paper with writing on them into their exams and that they do not have any notes or writing on their hands or anywhere else on their person.



EXAM TIMINGS

When year 11 have a morning exam, they will be able to have a free breakfast in the diner and, after roll call, they will go into a booster session with their head of subject or their subject teacher.

These sessions are designed to give year 11 the final support and guidance they need in order to be as successful as possible. After the booster, Year 11 will have time to put all non-necessary equipment and their blazers in their lockers before lining up in exam lines in the gym.

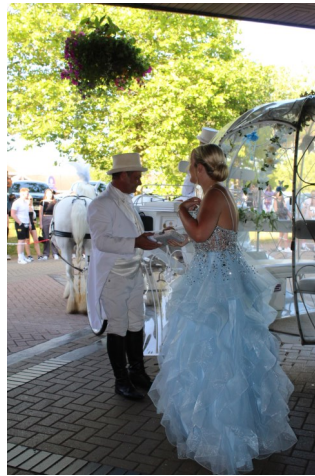
Morning exams will begin at 09:30. Year 11 should be in from the beginning of the school day. However, in the event of lateness, they must attend by 09:30. Otherwise there is a risk that they won't be able to take the exam.

Afternoon exams begin at 13:30. The routine is roughly the same as for morning exams, except that Year 11 won't receive breakfast beforehand. When Year 11 have an afternoon exam, they are expected in school at the normal time for the beginning of the school day.

THE SUMMER BALL

This year our Summer Ball will be held on 5th July at the Village Hotel in Swindon. Guests can begin arriving from 18:00 and will be let into the ballroom from 19:00. The meal will begin at roughly 19:15. Please feel free to come along to see your child and their friends arrive to the hotel and to get some photos! Once guests enter the hotel, they can go to a garden area in which they can have mocktails before entering the ballroom. This space is reserved for guests only.

If your child would like to attend the Summer Ball, tickets are available for purchase on ParentPay. If your child has ordered any discount vouchers via Epraise, the value of these vouchers will be refunded to you during term 5. **The final deadline to purchase tickets is Friday 21st June.**



VIP EXPERIENCE

19 Year 11s will also receive special VIP passes to highlight their excellent attitude in a particular subject or their improvements and contributions around the school as a whole. DISC VIPs will have access to a VIP area during the Summer Ball, and will be able to order a range of house-themed non-alcoholic mocktails from their own personal bartender (Miss Sayers!).

VIP passes will be awarded during Nova Fest on 27th June. If your child receives a VIP pass, they will still need to have purchased a ticket in order to attend the Summer Ball.



NOVA FEST AND THE YEAR 11 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY

As part of our celebrations for Year 11 at the end of this year, we are hosting 'Nova Fest' on Thursday 27th June. This is a free, informal celebration for Year 11 which will be combined with their leavers' assembly. All of Year 11 are invited to school for the afternoon and, in addition to speeches and awards during the leavers' assembly, there will be a barbeque and a range of activities available, such as inflatables and a photo booth.

The plan for the day is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 11:50 – 12:00 | Year 11 will arrive on site. Boxes will be available to donate uniform, textbooks and revision guides. All pupils who donate items will receive raffle tickets for a prize draw during the leavers' assembly |
| 12:00—12:50 | Leavers' Assembly |
| 12:50—13:25 | Time to collect hoodies and yearbooks and to sign shirts and yearbooks |
| 13:25—13:50 | Barbeque in the amphitheatre |
| 13:50—14:30 | 'Nova Fest' on the field behind the MUGA |
| 14:35 | Y11 will leave site |

Year 11 do not need to wear uniform to attend Nova Fest. However, we recommend that they wear sports clothing or their PE kit so that they can participate in all of the activities. Year 11s can bring a shirt with them to be signed, but they have to carry it with them separately.

If you are the parent or carer of a Year 11 and you would like them to attend, please fill in the Epraise form sent out by Miss Sayers by Friday 24th May.

TRIP TO BLETCHLEY PARK

On Wednesday 1st May, a group of Year 7 and Year 10 students went to Bletchley Park and had a day filled with exploring an iconic and integral landmark that was used for deciphering secrets and coding messages. The visit was a combined maths and computing trip.

Bletchley Park codebreakers are estimated to have shortened the war by up to two years through their intelligence work and our students were able to explore the iconic site and learn about the work that was done there.

A coding and ciphers workshop was delivered by a lady whose parents were from Cambridge University and Oxford University, and had been recruited to work at Bletchley during the war. They met at Bletchley Park and got married. Her father's best man at the wedding was John Cairncross himself (huge gasp from Mrs Malik when we heard this)! She was wonderful and even showed us a real enigma machine (worth over £500,000) which we were allowed to press at the end of the workshop.

We were also led on a very informative tour by a retired gentleman volunteer who had us wearing props and his real Cambridge University scarf as part of the tour. The heavy fire helmet was given to the eldest in the groups first (aka the teachers) then passed round for all to try on.

[Visit the school website to see more photos.](#)



TRIP TO BLETCHLEY PARK

There was so much to see and do that although we had 3 slots to explore the grounds, mansion, huts and exhibits, we honestly could've seen much, much more. The D-Day video was incredible and from the historic artefacts, coding, holograms, props we could wear to the beautiful grounds, we had an amazing time.

All the students showed high levels of integrity and contribution, behaving incredibly well as the site staff plus the coach driver Andrew commented on how well behaved they were.

High praise for Finley who led the way in ensuring all students picked up litter around their seats before leaving the coach.

It takes a huge amount of time and resources organising and carrying out such trips which enhance the learning of our pupils. This wouldn't have been possible without Mrs Taylor (trip admin) who runs things so smoothly for all the trips, plus everyone else in admin, finance and catering too. I cannot thank Mrs King, Mrs Shurley, Miss Stanik, Mrs Forrest and Ms Clare enough for coming along to supervise and support our students as it ended up being a very long journey.

Mrs Malik



#ONSOCIALMEDIA

An update on some of the stories we've shared on social media in the last fortnight.



novahreodacademy ...

novahreodacademy 4d
Year 9 rounders this afternoon - Lost 17 1/2 to 10 against Bradon Forest, but the score did not reflect how the girls played! Some excellent batting and fielding on display throughout. Player MVP - Betina P. Miss Parsons MVP - Maddison C. for excellent bowling. #rounders #educationwithcharacter #bestineveryone #novahreodacademy

No comments yet.
Start the conversation.

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)

69 likes
4 days ago

Add a comment...

Nova Cooks @NovaCooks · 22h ...
Could you smell the aroma wafting up from FB wing today? Y10 were busy stir frying and grilling 'Chicken & Chorizo Nacho Bake today #stirfry #grill #chicken #chorizo #tomato #paprika #jalapeño



1 31

Nova Cooks @NovaCooks · 9 May ...
Y10 have been whisking, sieving, folding and using a Bain-Marie, all in super quick time to get the #Caramel #Brownies in the oven and baked. 🍪



1 3 74

Getting to touch an original enigma machine @bletchleypark today, watching the D Day video, immersive exhibits, fully guided tours with props, coding workshops, and much more. What a trip! @NovaHreodUL



1 137

FROM PAGE TO STAGE

This term, Year 9 have been exploring ways to move a script from the page to the stage. They've been looking at acting and performance techniques, lights, set and costumes. They had to explain how their costume choices expressed part of their character or story and loved having the chance to rummage through the costume cupboard.



Mrs C Derham

Head of Drama and Assistant Faculty Leader of Performing Arts



COLOUR RUN

In a burst of colour and camaraderie, Nova students participated in their first-ever colour run. The event, inspired by the vibrant Hindu festival of Holi, brought together students from all walks of life to celebrate unity, joy, and tradition.

Unlike many other school events, participation in Nova's colour run was not open to all students. Invitations were extended based on conduct and positive contributions to the school community. This unique approach ensured that the event was a reward for good behaviour and encouraged students to maintain a positive atmosphere during the event.

The colour run was the brainchild of two enthusiastic students, Hriti and Kaviyal. These friends share a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and wanted to create an event that would bring the entire school community together. Drawing inspiration from Holi, a festival celebrated in India and other parts of the world, they decided to organize a colour-filled

extravaganza.

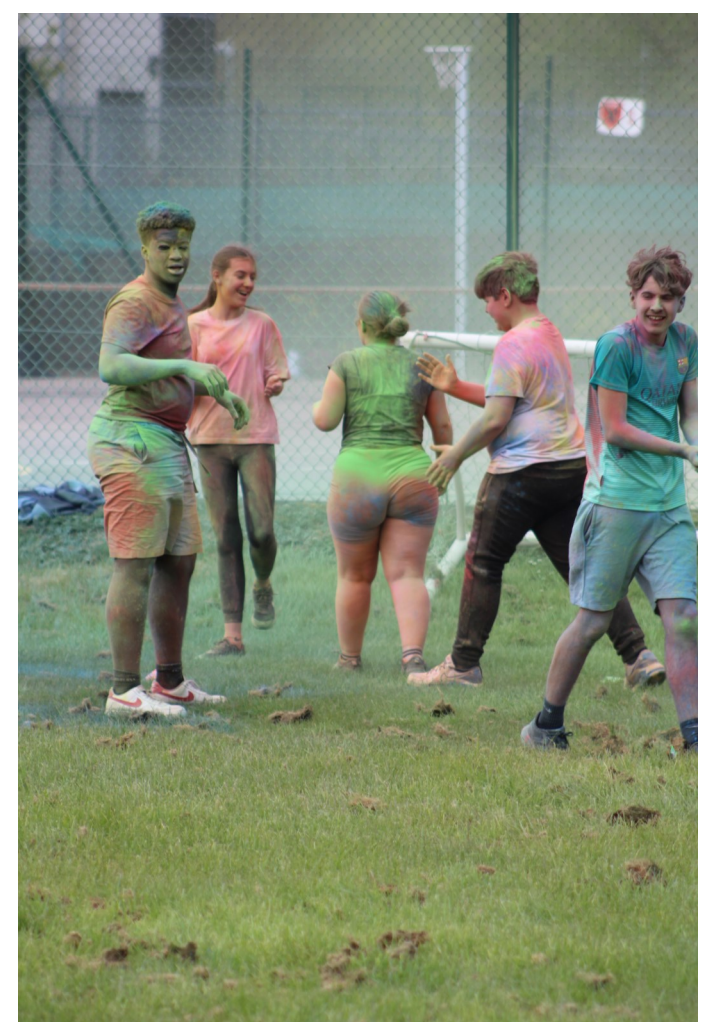
After school on Monday, the school playing field transformed into a riot of colour as clouds of coloured powder erupted as students playfully threw handfuls at each other.

Holi, also known as the Festival of Colours, is traditionally celebrated in spring. It marks the victory of good over evil and the arrival of warmer days. Participants throw coloured powders and water at each other, symbolising the triumph of love and unity. By incorporating this tradition into Nova's colour run, Hriti and Kaviyal ensured that cultural heritage was honoured.

Mrs Malik, who enthusiastically organised the event, praised the students' initiative. "The colour run exemplifies the spirit of Nova. It's about celebrating diversity, fostering positive behaviour, and creating lasting memories. I'm so proud of our students for embracing this colourful tradition."

[Visit the school website to see more photos.](#)





SUPERNOVA ENRICHMENT



Trampolining is one of the new activities as part of the SuperNova Enrichment clubs. It is held on a Friday after School.

Supernova clubs give scholars the opportunity to try something new. You can sign up using Epraise Activities.



MATHS NEWS

Nova students have surpassed 1.5 Million correctly answered Sparx questions! We are still the top school in Swindon, frequently in the top 10 for UL (Y11s more than whole school) and in the top 10% of all of Sparx schools.

Nova Hreod Academy

1,521,895
questions answered correctly in
Sparx Maths so far this year

Sparx Maths sparxmaths.com

Nova Hreod Academy

Students in your school have completed
17,688 hours
of personalised learning
on Sparx Maths this year!

Sparx Maths sparxmaths.com

The trip to Bletchley Park was just one of the rewards for students working hard at their studies, and the requirement for students having Sparx done regularly was part of the eligibility requirements. 7C had won class of the week multiple times over the last few months since September which is why they and our Y10 further maths groups were given first chance to book before the rest of Y7 and Y10.

The maths, computing and business department offer an array of trips alongside regular Tuesday lunchtime and afterschool Sparx support, Wednesday iMedia intervention and a 2-tiered support vs detention process for 75%+ completion vs <75%.

School behaviour standards and Sparx will remain part of the requirements to ensure eligibility for the faculty's trips which are listed below but not limited to these:

Y11 PGL revision weekend (maths plus maths for science) - **booking now open** for Y10 (Sparx, lesson engagement and DISC behaviour will be required to remain eligible).

Y10 Harry Potter studios (maths and iMedia) - **fully booked with a waiting list** (Sparx, lesson engagement, coursework completion and DISC behaviour will be required to remain eligible).

Y9 Bath University (maths and wider STEM) - booking will open next academic year.

Y8 Legoland (Robotics and wider STEM) **booking will open to current Y7s before summer holidays.**

Y7 Bletchley Park (maths and computing) **booking will open next winter term** for new Y7s starting in September.

KS4 Cadbury World (Business)

Y7-11 Sparx Reward trips (we've had bowling, retro gaming and VR gaming in the past).

FUNDRAISING IDEA COMES TO LIFE

You may remember in a recent newsletter about our fantastic Year 10 Business scholars who won the opportunity to have their entrepreneurial idea brought to life by Christ Church, to raise funds. Phoebe, Marley and Ryan came up with the idea of a charity dog run. Last month they had a meeting with Gel Studios to come up with the promotional campaign for this. This was a fascinating meeting where the students could start to see their idea come to life. We are very proud of the final outcome for the adverts. Look out for this event on social media, and please put the date in your diary and come along to support this event. Saturday 15th June, 10.30-3pm at Christ Church in Old Town.

Tickets are available here - <https://cccswindon.co.uk/events/21/details>

For more information please visit our website—[Nova Hreod Academy > News and Events > Latest News](#)



CHARITY DOG FUN RUN!

Sat 15th June
10:30am - 3:00pm
Christ Church, Old Town

A family fun day (for dogs and their humans!)

Competitive Race	The Fun Run
11:00am start 5km distance	11:15am start 2km distance

Tickets To Join The Race:
Adults: £6 | Children: £4
Family (Upto 5): £15

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW:
bit.ly/dog-fun-run

Family entertainment, refreshments and dog show after the race!

Raising funds for the Community Centre
@ Christ Church's 10th Anniversary
In partnership with the Young Entrepreneurs From Nova Hreod Academy

Christ Church Swindon | nova hreod | gel studios



KIDS HOLIDAY CAMP



Where: The Deanery CE Academy

When: 28th, 29th, 30th May

Time: 9am - 3pm

Age: 5 - 15

Price: £18 / day (Book all 3 days for £45)



**28TH MAY
FOOTBALL
FOCUS**

**29TH MAY
MULTI-SPORTS**

**30TH MAY
CRICKET
FOCUS**



Activities

Arts & Craft
Archery
Self-Defence
Online Safety
Mindset Sessions

Invasion Games
Gym (over 12's)
Build a business
Multi-Sports
Plus loads more!



TO BOOK: 07713564588 / info@headstartskillz.com



Nova Hreod Academy

The best in everyone™

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CULTURE DAY

TUESDAY 21ST MAY

FULL UNIFORM MUST BE WORN IF NOT WEARING CULTURAL CLOTHING



NOVA NIBBLES AT BREAK TIME, FLAGS CAN BE BROUGHT IN, SPORTS SHIRTS OF LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TEAMS CAN BE WORN

NO DONATION REQUIRED TO JOIN IN BUT FULL UNIFORM MUST BE WORN IF NOT WEARING CULTURAL CLOTHING

ATRIUM PHOTO SHOOT FOR BREAK & LUNCH TIME

OTHER ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED TOO BY STUDENT LEADERS

EPRAISE OR SPEAK TO MRS MALIK IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS/IDEAS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



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OPEN MORNINGS 2024

Open Morning is the perfect opportunity to visit Nova Hreod Academy during a school day

Join us for a short presentation, meet staff and current scholars and have a tour of the building.

Year 5 Open Morning

Thursday 6th June 2024

9am - 11am



Catalyst STEM Stream Open Morning



Thursday 27th June 2024

9am - 10am

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

www.novahreodacademy.org.uk

To register
Scan the QR code



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Ofsted
Good
Provider