



# Nova Hreod Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Nova Hreod Academy

Akers Way, Swindon

Wiltshire SN2 2NQ

01793 528800

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

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

Principal: James Harding-Mbogo

## Weekly Principal's Letter – 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Dear families,

I am writing to you with a brief end of term update with a few items relevant for the new year:

### First day back

A reminder that Monday the 6th of January is a teacher training day, and the school will be closed to students. We look forward to welcoming all students back on Tuesday the 7th of January.

### Key Stage Three Homework

I am aware that this term there have been a number of challenges with Key Stage Three homework. This has been due to several issues with the consistency of setting and marking of this homework across the multiple electronic platforms used by the school. Based on parent and student feedback we have made the decision to temporarily pause issuing detentions for Seneca (Humanities), Language Nut (French), Tassomai (Science) and Bedrock (English) homework. **To be clear this means that from January the only subjects/platforms we will be setting homework detentions for at Key Stage Three are Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader (English).** We will then gradually phase back in homework detentions for the other platforms over time. Please find below a few key details regarding this change:

- Homework will be set weekly at Key Stage Three in English, Maths, Science, Humanities and French. All homework will continue to be set according to the schedule shown here: [Home Study](#)
- In January homework detentions at Key Stage Three will only be set for non-completion of Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader.
- In Science, Humanities and French teachers will still set homework and check it weekly but will focus on rewarding completion and will not set detentions.
- Homework will be set in the first week back of term (week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> January), and the first homework hand-in will be due the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> January.
- Homework detentions will be phased back in for other platforms over time once we have resolved the issues around setting and checking of homework on these platforms. When detentions are phased back in parents will be notified in advance.
- There are **no changes** to homework or homework detentions at **Key Stage Four**.
- If you have any questions regarding this please email [admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk) and we will be happy to provide further clarification at the beginning of next term.

\* Drive \* Integrity \* Scholarship \* Contribution



## **2025 – 2026 Term Dates**

The 2025 – 2026 term dates have now been published for Nova Hreod and can be found on the school website linked here: [NHA Term Dates 2025-2026.pdf](#)

## **Uniform Reminder – Nails and Piercings**

A reminder of our uniform policy can be found on our website linked here:

[Nova Hreod Academy > Information for Parents > School Uniform](#)

There have been no changes to the policy since the start of the school year. However, as we enter the holiday period, I would like to give a reminder of the following points in our policy which can sometimes be areas of contention with students following a holiday:

- No nail varnish, gel, acrylic or artificial nails may be worn by students at Nova
- Students at Nova may wear one pair of small plain gold or silver stud earrings only
- Nose piercings are not permitted; however, students may wear transparent flat retainers for a single nose piercing.
- Students are not allowed to wear plasters to cover up piercings which do not meet the guidance above.

## **Uniform Reminder – Ties**

I am aware that at the end of term there were several students who for various reasons had lost or broken their ties. Please can I ask that if your child has lost or broken their tie that a replacement is purchased via Parent Pay over the holiday ready to be collected at the start of term.

## **Equipment Reminder**

I have included in here a reminder of equipment required to be bought to school by students at Nova each day, when packing school bags for the return to school in January please can I ask that you check your child has the following:

- Pencil case (ideally made of clear plastic)
- Pen (black or blue)
- Pencil
- 30cm ruler
- Green Pen
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Protractor
- Scientific calculator
- A4 size white board
- White board pen

**School start time**

I would ask that when we come back in January parents ensure their children get to school by 8.15am, this is when the first bell rings for students to move to morning roll call. Students are marked as late if they arrive after 8.20am. To avoid students being late we would ask that where possible all students are on site by 8.15am.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Harding-Mbogo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

James Harding-Mbogo  
**Principal**