



9<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Interim Headteacher: Sonja Unwin

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Arrangements for the new academic year

The beginning of a new school year is an excellent opportunity for students to make a fresh and energised return to their learning. As we look ahead to the next academic year, I therefore wanted to write to you with an update on changes to the school day and our school uniform policy, so that we can ensure all students are ready and prepared to make a strong start in September.

### The School Day

As you will be aware, in June this year, we conducted a parent consultation on proposed changes to the school day. In response to all questions asked, parents were in favour of moving forward with the suggested proposals. Having taken on board this parent feedback, alongside further consultation with staff and governors, we have adjusted the school day so that we can maximise learning time and give more focus to the needs of the curriculum.

Set out below is what the school day will look like from September:

Time	Monday - Friday
8:20 – 8:30	Roll Call
8:30 – 9:00	Tutor Time / PSHE / Reading
9:00 – 10:00	Period 1
10:00 – 11:00	Period 2
11:00 – 11:25	Break
11:25 – 12:25	Period 3
12:25 – 13:25	Period 4
13:25 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Period 5
15:00 – 16:00	Period 6 (Tues – Thurs / Year 11 Only)

Lessons will be one hour long and students in Years 7-10 will have five lessons each day.

Year 11 will receive three extra hours of learning each week between Tuesday and Thursday which amounts to 117 hours of additional teaching per year. This is to ensure they are fully prepared and feeling confident for their summer examinations.



Extra-curricular activities will take place after school from 15:00 to 16:00 and we hope as many students as possible will take up the opportunity to benefit from the range of clubs and activities on offer. More details on this extra-curricular offering will be sent out at the beginning of next term.

From the parent survey, we know that some parents were concerned about siblings leaving school at different times and noted it would be helpful for children to travel home together. We will therefore be running a study base between 15:00 and 16:00 each day which all students are welcome to attend.

We also acknowledge that a small group of parents raised questions around the reduction of time allocated to PSHE. To address this, we are going to add in some additional drop-down days which will enable us to focus in depth on specific topics where required.

I hope you feel assured that we have taken on board and reflected parent feedback as best we can. We appreciate that a 16:00 finish is a later end to the school day, however we believe this re-designed school day is in the best interests of our students. It is a model that fits with government guidelines for the expected number of learning hours for students and likewise gives the academy flexibility to provide extra study where needed.

### **Uniform Standards**

I also wanted to share with you some changes to our school uniform policy to bring us in line with standard, national expectations. Ensuring all our students are wearing a smart and appropriate uniform helps to foster a sense of belonging and pride in them for their school. It also encourages students to focus during their lessons so that they can continue to make strong progress in their learning and achieve their goals.

The changes that are being implemented from September are as follows:

- Footwear – students must wear black leather or faux leather shoes. They are not allowed canvas shoes or trainers. Please note this includes more formal trainer styles, such as black Nike Air Force.
- Piercings – students are permitted to wear one simple, plain flat or round stud in plain gold or silver per ear lobe. Following parent and student feedback, transparent flat retainers for a single nose piercing will be permitted.
- Bags – students are expected to bring a bag to school every day. This can either be a handbag or a rucksack but must be large enough to fit an A4 folder.

Our full uniform expectations can be found here:

<https://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/information-for-parents/school-uniform>

By upholding these high standards, we are working to equip our students with knowledge of how to present themselves appropriately so that they can make excellent first impressions during their time in education and as they enter the world of work.

If any family requires additional support, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing Mrs Stephen e.stephen@novahreodacademy.org.uk. We are always happy to work with individual families to support them wherever we can.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the academy and helping us to make sure Nova is a place where our young people are equipped to both enjoy and thrive in their learning.

If you have any questions or queries please contact: [t.segalini@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:t.segalini@novahreodacademy.org.uk)

I wish your child a positive and successful end to this academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Segalini  
**Executive Principal**