



**Nova Hreed Academy**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning



# Catalyst STEM Programme

Aspirational learning for more able students



Nova Hreed Academy is launching a new Catalyst STEM programme for Year 7 pupils joining the school in September 2022.

Aimed at more able pupils in Swindon, the Catalyst stream will provide unique opportunities for pupils who have a natural aptitude for learning and a keen interest in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), to study these subjects in much greater depth and at a more accelerated pace.

Drive

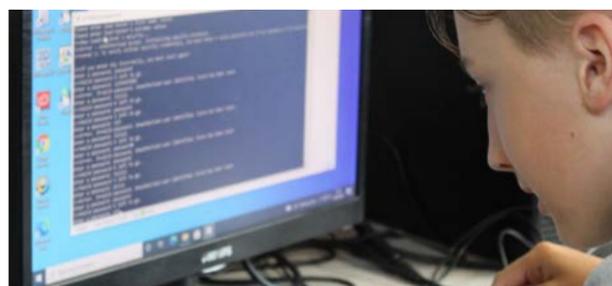
| Integrity

| Scholarship

| Contribution

# What is STEM?

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Students in Catalyst stream will have the advantage of studying separate sciences, engineering and computer science from Year 7. The Catalyst curriculum will focus on the skills required to be at the top of these fields so that Catalyst students will be able to go on to top universities and brilliant careers in these areas.



## Why choose the Catalyst Stream at Nova?

The Catalyst STEM Programme is designed to stretch the most able students in STEM subjects. Applicants must have an academic aptitude for STEM subjects and demonstrate a keen interest in Science, Maths, Engineering or Computing. Any Year 6 pupil who has applied and accepted a place at Nova Hreod for September 2022 will be eligible to register for the Catalyst stream entrance exam.

Students in the Catalyst Stream will benefit from an in-depth, fast paced curriculum and enjoy unique opportunities to explore their interests and conduct research into specific areas relating to STEM. In addition to the requirements of the National Curriculum, Catalyst students will be given advanced teaching in aspects of

the sciences, mathematics, computer science (including software programming and coding) and research skills.

Students will also be expected to take part in a co-curricular programme in order for them to further their skills and opportunities, preparing them for roles in the STEM sector in later life.

We have forged links with universities, organisations, businesses and local employers to support the Catalyst STEM Programme. In their time with us, students will work with universities, receive lectures from academics, attend a range of trips and visits with a focus on science and technology and participate in nationally recognised STEM competitions and challenges.

## How do I find out more?

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

Or email [catalyst@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:catalyst@novahreodacademy.org.uk)



## Catalyst application process



- In order to be considered for the STEM Catalyst Stream, parents first need to apply for a place at Nova Hreod Academy for their child. Applications are made via the annual Swindon schools admissions process with Swindon Borough Council.
- Parents are advised to put Nova Hreod Academy as their first preference school, or as one of their three choices while they find out more (the deadline for applications is 31st October).
- Once a Year 7 place at the school has been offered and accepted, the selection process for the STEM Catalyst Stream commences. When parents have accepted their child's place at Nova Hreod Academy they will receive an invitation for their child to sit the entrance exam. This will take place on Saturday 23rd April 2022.
- Pupils will also be invited to deliver a five minute presentation about a STEM topic of their choice to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and passion. Topics could include renewable energy, coding and artificial intelligence, hydrogen and electric vehicles, the homes of the future, or any other field where the applicant has a keen interest.
- Parents will be informed within two weeks if their child has been successful and has gained a place in the Catalyst Stream.

## Next Steps:

- Register your interest in the Catalyst stream to receive notifications and further information.
- Attend one or more of the open events.
- Book a place for your child to attend the taster sessions.



Scan to find out more and register your interest



We are proud to be working in partnership with:



# Key dates

<b>Thursday 1st July 2021</b>	Catalyst Parents' Information Evening
<b>Saturday 10th July 2021</b>	Taster Session 1
<b>Thursday 16th September 2021</b>	Year 5/6 Open Evening 6-8 pm
<b>Monday 20th September 2021</b>	Catalyst STEM Stream Open Evening 6pm
<b>Saturday 25th September 2021</b>	Catalyst Taster Session 2
<b>Tuesday 5th October 2021</b>	Year 5/6 Open Morning 9-11 am
<b>Tuesday 12th October 2021</b>	Catalyst STEM Stream Year 5 Open Morning 9-11 am
<b>Thursday 14th October 2021</b>	Year 5/6 Open Morning 9-11 am
<b>Sunday 31st October 2021</b>	SBC application deadline for secondary schools
<b>Saturday 4th December 2021</b>	Catalyst Taster Session 3
<b>Tuesday 15th March 2022</b>	Deadline for accepting secondary school offers
<b>Tuesday 15th March 2022</b>	Year 5 Open Morning 9-11am
<b>Saturday 23rd April 2022</b>	Catalyst Assessment Day
<b>Saturday 7th May 2022</b>	Catalyst Interview Day
<b>Monday 23rd May 2022</b>	Students notified if their application to Catalyst has been successful



Register your interest at  
[www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/catalyst-stream](http://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk/catalyst-stream)  
to receive notifications and reminders

