



## From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all had a really restful break and were able to enjoy time spent with family and friends. You will be pleased to know that the spring term has started really positively and that we are looking to go from strength to strength over the coming weeks and months. From a personal perspective, I always like it when we pass the winter solstice and the days begin to get longer again – my drive up the A1 from London is far more tolerable in daylight!

I always take all the assemblies at the beginning of every term and over the last couple of weeks I've spoken to all year groups about behaviour – a common topic in schools all over the country. However, for once, I was able to deliver a really positive message to our students. Whilst Mr Morley, Assistant Head, goes into more detail about our behaviour expectations elsewhere in Nobel News, I wanted to share the really positive picture that our data shows. In a school of nearly 1500, just under 1000 students haven't received a single behaviour point since September 2015 – we thought this was remarkable. I would also contend that along with thoroughly good teaching, this is the main reason why our students are making such good academic progress. The data also shows that a very small number of students are accumulating a large number of behaviour points – we are working in many different ways to support these students and their families. But, rest

assured, we are very strict and we will not tolerate behaviour that impinges the learning of others – this is a promise I made to all Nobelians last week. Fundamentally, good behaviour leads to good progress.

On the topic of academic progress, I'm delighted to tell you that for the first time in the school's recent history, four of our students have received offers from Oxford or Cambridge colleges. I will refrain from naming them at this stage so as not to put them under any more pressure; however, I can tell you that the offers are as follows: Balliol College, Oxford (history); Hertford College, Oxford (geography); St Hugh's College, Oxford (physics) and Murray Edwards College (formerly New Hall) Cambridge (mathematics). A fantastic achievement by the Nobelians in question and a real feather in the cap for a comprehensive school in Stevenage (special mention to Mrs Bright, who so ably coaches our Oxbridge candidates).

We are proud of all our students whichever 'pathway' they follow; however, getting our students into the country's top academic institutions will inevitably act as an incentive to our younger students. So if you are in year 7, let's set a target that's in double figures for your cohort!

Warm regards,

Martyn Henson

# ***Robin Hood***

C/O Drama Department—Robin Hood Pantomime Cast  
The Nobel School  
Mobbsbury Way  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG2 0HS

Wednesday 16th December 2015

Class 4R  
C/O Mr. Tom Ritson  
Martins Wood Primary School  
Mildmay Road  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 5RT

Dear Cast of the Robin Hood,

Thank you for inviting us to see your school pantomime of Robin Hood. It was really fantastic! We thoroughly enjoyed watching your show! It was very funny, and you really made us laugh with the Who, What and When characters, Nelly and the messy cake scene.

It was clear that you had learnt your words really well, and you didn't stumble at any point. We really liked the songs that you sang and danced too. Our favourite songs were the YMCA and Let's Get Ready to Rumble. We certainly joined in with the singing and dancing.

We thought that your characters were fantastically rehearsed and you produced a stunning performance! We very much hope that you invite us back next Christmas! (P.S What pantomime will you be doing next year?).

Thank you once again for a wonderful morning, you all should be really proud of yourselves!

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

From yours fans, the children of 4R at Martins Wood school.

# **ROBIN HOOD**



# *Robin Hood picture gallery...*



## *Students perform Christmas carols...*

During the last week of the Christmas term a number of Nobel students visited a local care home in Stevenage to perform Christmas carols. This visit provided students with a chance to showcase their performance skills whilst creating outreach opportunities within the local community. Those students who attended form the basis of our junior and senior school choirs rehearsing on a weekly basis. In addition to the choir, the ukulele group also performed, accompanying the choir for a number of songs and joining in with singing. Students enjoyed the experience and residents at the care home joined in with singing and were enthusiastic about the performance. We hope this visit will continue to feature annually within the school calendar and assist people in getting into the festive spirit.

Miss Woodhouse



## *Operation Christmas Child 2015*

There was an excellent response to Nobel's appeal with over 300 boxes donated by our students, staff and parents. We are very grateful to have the opportunity to do something constructive to help less fortunate children in the UK and other parts of the world. It is wonderful to know that when our boxes were opened, each will have brought delight to a child who had never before received such a beautiful gift.

If you participated, thank you! And we look forward to doing it all over again later this year.



## *Calling all former Nobelians: Alumni event, Wednesday 20 January*

We believe that your connection with your school shouldn't have to end when you leave and this year we want to make that belief a reality! We would like to invite all former Nobelians to share their experiences since leaving Nobel with our Year 10 students on Wednesday 20 January, at 1:30pm. Please contact Mr Trotter to let him know if you wish to attend ([stuart.trotter@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:stuart.trotter@nobel.herts.sch.uk)) and report to Reception on arrival.

If you are unable to make it but would otherwise like to get in touch, we're working with the charity Future First to help us to get back in touch with our former students and we'd love to get you involved. See <https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/thenobel> for more information.

## Year 7 news...

I feel I can no longer refer to the Year 7 students as new anymore, as they are now completely settled into life as Nobelians. The autumn term seems to have flown by and we have had lots of success stories within the year group. Many students have represented the school at netball, football, rugby and cross-country, the latter including Lounis Guemache (7E SCN), who has qualified for the county cross-country championships by winning his age group in the Stevenage and North Herts division.

We had our end of term celebration assembly during the last week of term and the following students were presented with certificates and gift vouchers:

100 % Attendance (raffle) – Benjamin Wright  
7C DMV  
0 behaviour points (raffle) – Nasifah Kamali  
7M CTL  
Most Academic House Points (Male) – Saad  
Bin Huda 7M CTL  
Most Academic House Points (Female) –  
Molly Prutton 7T LRN  
Most Community House Points (Male) – Jack  
Barmby 7E DCP  
Most Community House Points (Female) –  
Jessie Bird 7E DCP  
Most House Points (combined total) –  
Maayan Peleg 7M CTL

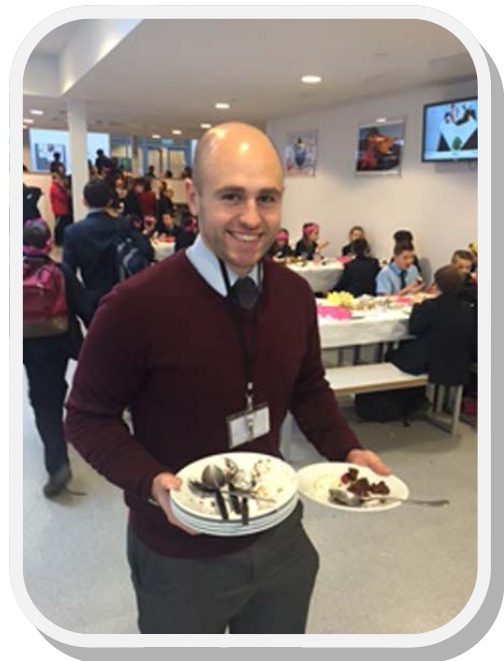
Two statistics which I'm really impressed with are: 57 students have 100 % attendance and 113 students have zero behaviour points, a truly impressive start to secondary school life. Well done!

Looking forward, we have the first academic data drop at the beginning of February and I look forward to seeing some outstanding performance from this excellent cohort of students. Those students who have made the most progress since joining the school will be invited, along with their families, to have a celebration breakfast with Mr Henson and me.

Warm Regards,  
Mr Smith  
Head of Year 7

## Nobelians' Christmas lunch

Our school Christmas lunch was another great success as support staff and teachers alike helped to prepare, cook and serve our students, with great efficiency. Thank you to all the staff and Edwards and Blake for their hard work in providing such an enjoyable festive dinner for the students and to the students themselves for their excellent behaviour throughout.



## ***Positive behaviour within school and the detention system***

Student behaviour at Nobel is very good, with the vast majority of students receiving zero, or a very low number of, behaviour points for minor misdemeanours during the Autumn term.

Last term, 76% of all our students had fewer than 5 behaviour points and 90% had an average of less than 1 point per week.

### **So why do we have detentions?**

In the same way that parents or carers use praise, reward and the removal of privileges to encourage their children to behave in the way that they would wish, schools also use rewards and sanctions. The use of such sanctions helps develop a sense of actions and consequences, self-responsibility and preparation for adult life/work.

The purpose of detentions therefore is to reinforce that certain behaviours or attitudes are not acceptable. In more serious ongoing matters, detentions also serve as a form of warning that failure to correct misbehaviour could lead to removal from the school in order to protect others' education or well-being.

### **What are the common types of detention?**

Detentions are the most common form of sanction used at Nobel, varying from GUMPE/D-reg detentions set by staff for various lower level infringements, and faculty no homework detentions, to school and leadership detentions. Detentions can range from 25 minutes to 2 hours. There is a hierarchy of seriousness which is shown below:

- GUMPE/D-Reg lunchtime detention (25 mins)
- No home work (PLT), B2 or B3 after school detention (half hour or an hour)
- B4 Director of faculty after school detention (1 hour 30 minutes)
- B5+ Senior Leadership team after school detention (2 hours)

If a detention is issued, it is expected that the student will attend and be on time. There are three information boards placed around the school with the lists for each day's detention, either at lunchtime or after school. It is expected that all students check the lists at break each day (when the lists go up) to ensure they do not miss a detention. If a student has been placed in a detention on that school day, their name will be highlighted in red on the register to prompt staff to remind the student. Non-attendance at detention is considered serious, and persistent non-attendance may lead to a student being placed into Reflection for a day, or even a fixed term exclusion for defiance and non-compliance with school expectations.

We believe that our students work hard to meet our expectations and obviously parents and carers play a vital role in working in partnership with us. We hope you will speak to your sons and daughters about the need to attend a detention if set, and that you will support us in managing behaviour across the school effectively in order to improve student experiences and successes whilst at Nobel.

Nobel's behaviour for learning policy is available online via the school website. If you have any further questions about our expectations or systems then please contact me at school.

We are very proud of our students. The vast majority work in a respectful and responsible manner and are never required to attend a detention.

Many thanks in advance of your support

Mr Morley

Assistant Headteacher

## ***DETENTIONS: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)***

### **Do I get 24 hours notice of any detention which is set at the end of the day?**

No; the legal requirement for this has now gone. However, Nobel would not set a long detention (i.e. over 1 hour) without having passed on notification to parents/carers – either by letter (via the student), email, phone call or text; the notification may be during the school day in preparation for the detention that day after school.

### **How will I know if my child has a detention or other sanction?**

The school may require students to complete detentions up to 1 hour in length at the end of the school day without advance notice. However, we will expect students to let you know that they are going to be late leaving school where this might cause concern.

For detentions longer than 1 hour at the end of the school day, you will usually receive prior notification as outlined above.

You can also see whether your child has a detention by checking on Moodle, Nobel's VLE.

### **Can my child re-schedule a detention?**

When given a detention students are expected to attend unless exceptional circumstances require a change of date. The school will be as flexible as reasonably possible and change detention dates & times if the student's parents write or e-mail in with appropriate justification requesting the change before 11:00am on the day of the detention. This request must be addressed to Suzanne Carter the Behaviour Administration Officer. The decision to re-schedule or not will be made by Mr Morley.

### **Can I refuse a detention set for my child?**

No. The school is legally entitled to set and impose detentions, and does not require parent/carer permission to do so. However, if you feel that there is evidence that the school was not considered in making this decision, then we would encourage you to contact the member of staff, department or year team concerned.

Mr Morley

Assistant Headteacher, KS3 & 4  
Fundamentals & Progress

## ***Friends of Nobel School 100 Club Winners for December***

Number	Name	Prize
65	Jo & Hilary Rodgers	£33
37	Mrs D Bartlett	£26

Well done to everyone Nobel raised

**£187.96**

For Text Santa





Asia Hudson



Jaymie Younger



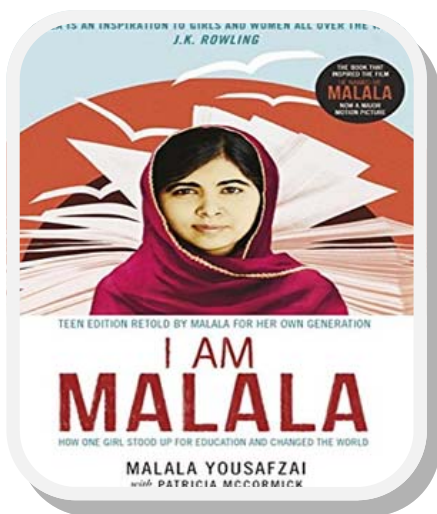
**CONGRATULATIONS To Year 12's Asia, Jaymie and Sanjida for featuring in The Specialist Craft Catalogue**

Sanjida Kamali



## Book corner

Some recent titles added to the library



Autobiography of the Nobel Peace Prize winning teenager who stood up for girls' education and almost lost her life at the hands of the Taliban



Books 1-8 in Bear Grylls's exciting *Mission Survival Series*



The follow up to *Girl on Line* by the popular YouTuber Zoella



## Sustainability Club

During the first term of the school year, the Sustainability Club have been working hard to promote the importance of protecting the environment through different initiatives around the school. Members of the club recently surveyed students and staff about their use of the waste and recycling bins and also questioned students on how often they drop litter. Year 11 students were found to be the most likely to litter so members of the club have been talking to individual students to prevent their littering and encourage correct use of the bins. Other activities have included visiting the school roof to view the solar panels, carrying out an environmental review around the school and completing a RSPB bird watch.

I am pleased to announce winners of our recent competition; which was to create a logo and slogan for the Sustainability Club. Well done to Haiqah Urrehman (Year 7) and Nazifah Hussain (Year 8) who were presented with £20 Cineworld gift cards for their winning entries. Thanks to Cofely for their sponsorship and ongoing support to the Sustainability Club. The winning design and slogan will appear on any posters and communication made around school by the club.



I am also very pleased to announce that this month the Sustainability Club have been awarded the Eco-Schools Bronze Award. This award has been presented in recognition of the dedication of the club to encourage whole school involvement in having a more sustainable environment. It is a fantastic achievement for the club and the club will continue to make progress every Thursday lunchtime in HU10 at 1.15pm. All years are welcome to join.

Khiyah Rehman in Year 8 has written some information on why she is a member of the Sustainability Club.

Hi my name is Khiyah and I am a proud member of Sustainability Club. In our club we discuss environmental issues around the school and how we can improve them. Last term we were working towards achieving the Bronze Eco-Schools Award. To achieve this we have been working on a project to reduce the amount of litter around the school and make students more aware of the environment they live in. We have also talked about things we have noticed out of school and environmentally friendly things we can add to the school to make it more sustainable. Our most recent competition was to design a suitable logo for our club as well as come up with a catchy slogan for it. In order to begin to carry out our litter project we needed to make a survey and most of the students said it wasn't very clear which bin to put their litter into. So this is also something we aim to change.

Mrs Swaile  
Geography Department

## *Nobel Christmas Party*

The Nobel School opened on Tuesday 22 December to offer Christmas themed games and activities to selected students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10.



Students making 'mini chocolate puddings' with Mrs Francis



Decorating Christmas shaped biscuits



Our 'helpful' Sixth Formers, George, Jaden and James

We would like to thank Mrs Penney, Miss Baxter, Mrs Francis, Mrs Field, Mrs Hoffman-James, Mrs Pitman, Mr Gunduz and Mrs Marshall for organising the party and supervising the activities.



## **TERM DATES 2016-2017**

### **Autumn Term 2016**

Thursday 1 September to Wednesday 21 December

Autumn Half Term: Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October

Christmas Break: Thursday 22 December to Wednesday 4 January

### **Spring Term 2017**

Thursday 5 January to Friday 31 March

Spring Half Term: Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February

Easter Break: Monday 3 April to Monday 17 April

### **Summer Term 2017**

Tuesday 18 April to Monday 24 July

Summer Half Term: Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June

May Bank Holiday: Monday 1 May

## **INSET DAYS AND ADDITIONAL SPECIAL DATES**

INSET day	1 September 2016
School begins (staggered start)	2 September 2016
Whole school begins timetabled lessons	5 September 2016
INSET day	5 October 2016
INSET day	5 January 2017 (devolved)
INSET day	6 January 2017
INSET day	21 July 2017 (devolved)
Occasional day	24 July 2017

### ***Forthcoming events:***

20 January - Friends of Nobel School meeting

21 January - school closed to students (CPD day)

27 January - year 11 parents' evening

**NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF AND  
COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP**

Next meeting will be held in the Library 6.30pm

Tuesday 23 February

**THE BOOK TO READ IS:**

*Author of **Life After Life***

**KATE  
ATKINSON**  
**A GOD IN RUINS**

'Dazzling'  
*Daily Telegraph*

'Breathtaking'  
*Observer*

'Magnificent'  
*Independent on Sunday*

'Heartbreaking'  
*Daily Express*



**COSTA**  
Novel Award 2015  
Winner

Contact: Rosalind Essakhi: 01438 222600 or email:

[library@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:library@nobel.herts.sch.uk)

Read all or part of the book and come and discuss it in a  
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# **Coaching for Parents**

## **Group Coaching Course**

**Happy Parents, Happy Families**

A group coaching evening workshop course for parents of children of any ages, from tots to teens. This isn't a traditional parenting course and doesn't assume the need for 'fixing' anything, it's about getting the best experience for you and your family.

Together we will work on: Relationships within the family, making time for ourselves, managing stress, coping with challenges, having fun as a family, resources for setting and maintaining boundaries, acceptance of ourselves and others, and letting go.

Work together with other parents in a safe space for sharing and support. Limited spaces available.

**Venue:** The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage,  
Hertfordshire SG2 0HS

**Dates:** Tuesday evenings from 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016  
6.30pm – 8.30pm

**Course Fee:** £40.00 for the full 6 week course

Email me [ruth@ruthrandallcoaching.com](mailto:ruth@ruthrandallcoaching.com) or call 07889557182 for more information or to reserve your place.

[www.ruthrandallcoaching.com](http://www.ruthrandallcoaching.com)

**Do you feel held back by a lack of  
self-confidence?**

**Join me for a**

# **Confidence Workshop**

**Group Coaching Course**

What would it mean to you to be able to overcome your lack of confidence? How would your life and relationships be different if you were able to build your confidence and self esteem?

This 6 week evening course can help you to take the first steps to confidence through coaching, at your own pace, facilitated by a personal development coach and NLP practitioner to help you overcome barriers and behaviours which don't benefit you, and focus on the future more confidently. The results can be transformational.

Work together with others who wish to build their confidence in a safe space for sharing and support. Limited spaces available.

**Venue:** The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage,  
Hertfordshire SG2 0HS

**Dates:** Wednesday evenings from 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
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