



## From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you had a lovely half-term holiday; our teachers have returned with their batteries recharged and looking forward to the final push towards GCSE, AS and A level examinations. It is astonishing to think that there are only seven school weeks left until their examinations start. More on that in the next edition of 'Nobel News'.

Back in the first half-term of the academic year we received a curious letter from Simon Newland, Assistant Director of Education at Hertfordshire County Council. Mr. Newland was encouraging Nobel and some other schools in the area to consider seeking to change their status; to move from being a maintained school to becoming a foundation school.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister has said that the government wants all schools to be academies by 2020, therefore, we have to be realistic and make plans to preserve our lovely school; staying as a maintained school really is not an option for us. As a result, the Board of Governors set up a working party of governors and colleagues with the remit to investigate all of the possibilities open to us. Our underlying principle in our research was to preserve our independence and to maintain our autonomy – it was felt our school was making fantastic strides to becoming 'outstanding' and that the decision must preserve our values, vision and reputation. Having considered three options -stay as a maintained school, convert to an academy or become a foundation school - the Board of Governors voted unanimously, in the first

Instance, to pursue changing the school's status from maintained to foundation. In order for this to happen, we do need to engage and consult with our 'stakeholders'. Therefore, there will be a meeting for all interested families on Wednesday 9 March at 5pm in the school library; if you wish to attend, and so that we can adequately cater for expected numbers, please email my PA Mrs. Coakes ([chantal.coakes@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:chantal.coakes@nobel.herts.sch.uk)).

On a very positive note, I can report that our special evening with 'The Nobel 42' proved very worthwhile and beneficial. These students were all in year 11 and had been identified as potential underachievers in the summer. The response from parents and students to this initiative has been fantastic and I'm sure it will lead to some real progress being made with all of them. For most of them, the help was around organisation and building resilience and self-esteem – each of them now has a teacher mentor – including me (lucky Will!) - who will coach and encourage them over the coming weeks. The vast majority of our year 11 Nobelians are on target to match or exceed expectations, so we are looking forward to another outstanding set of results.

Have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards,

Martyn Henson

## Year 12 Public services visit

Year 12 public services students visited Stevenage fire station last week where they were faced with some basic entry tests and had a feel of a day in a life as a firefighter.



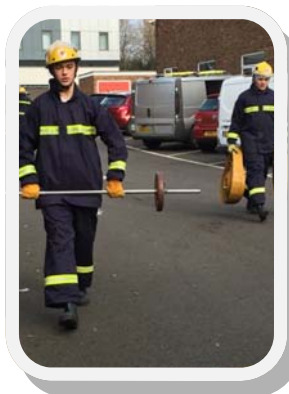
Year 12 public service students



Experiencing the smoke room and rescuing a 70lb dummy



### Completing the initial fitness entrance test



We arrived at Stevenage fire station for 9:30am where we were met by Ritchie Hanmer. We had a talk about the different rank structure within the fire service and Ritchie shared some personal experiences. The students then carried out a fitness test which consisted of: a bleep test; running with the hose; carrying a reel of hose; speed walking with weights and other equipment. The group was then given the experience in the smoke room where they had to enter a very small room, blind folded, and retrieve a 70lb dummy. Even though for health and safety reasons the room was not full of smoke they were still able to have the experience of being in a confined area whilst wearing heavy equipment. They scrambled up on split level floors and dragged the dummy back to the outside. Students were very grateful for the experience and would like to thank all the staff in White Watch for their experience and the new knowledge that they gained.

Mrs Boreham

## Madrid trip

The recent Madrid visit was a huge success. It allowed pupils in Year 10 GCSE Spanish and both years of A level Spanish to practise language that they have learned in the classroom as well as honing their listening and reading skills.

We visited many local sights including having a tour of the city centre, taking in the views of the Plaza de España, Plaza de Sol and many others. We visited the Santiago Bernabéu football stadium and museum, home of Real Madrid, to have a guided tour of their trophy room and sit on the substitute bench! In addition, we visited the Royal Palace, local theme park and El Retiro, a park containing many beautiful monuments and buildings in which we could stroll and take pictures. One evening we even went bowling and let loose our competitive side.

We enjoyed speaking Spanish every day whilst talking to the locals and learning lots of new words. Eating Spanish food, particularly tapas, was a highlight as pupils experienced the “true” Spain whilst in a traditional style restaurant.

In brief, the visit to Madrid was very successful in its goal of allowing the students to practise Spanish and gain more understanding of Spanish culture. May I also thank the 6<sup>th</sup> Form boys for all their help throughout the visit and all 24 students from Year 10 for their exemplary behaviour. Finally, a huge thank you to Miss Taylor and Miss Muñoz for giving up their time to come on the visit.”

Mr G Trew  
MFL Faculty



### ***Dates for the diary:***

**8 March - Yr10 district basketball final, at Nobel**

**8 March - Yr8 Maths Challenge at Barnwell School**

**9 March - Yr 11 reward trip to cinema**

**9 March - FONS meeting**

**10 March—Dance Showcase, 7.00 – 9.00pm**

**16 March - Yr7 Parents evening**

**19 March - Yr 12 Geography visit to Juniper Hall**

## Science Faculty

Humans have always been curious about the world around us. Questions like “where we come from?” and “what our place in the universe?” have stimulated discussion for thousands of years. Albert Einstein, the often misquoted scientist, put forward his theory of relativity 101 years ago. This is something that most of us remember as  $E=mc^2$ , but very few understand what it means, me included! However with the discovery of gravitational waves we might have a better chance. Below Dr Finn writes about what he did with his students to make sense of the discovery.

### ***The Science Discovery of the Decade***

On Thursday 11 February 2016 a momentous event in physics was announced, the discovery of gravitational waves. The use of the LIGO detectors on Earth to observe the collapse of two black holes in a distant galaxy, and through it validate Einstein’s theory of relativity, was too exciting an event to not be covered in the physics classes on the next day. Students came into the classroom excited to ask if I had heard about the news, and whether I could explain it to them.

I took year 7, year 10 and year 13s out into the quad at the back of the school, and using nothing more than some people power, a bed sheet and some large massed spheres was able to explain these exciting findings, and give students an understanding of the complexities

### ***A message for Year 11 students***

Science always poses questions and we look for evidence to prove or disprove a theory. As we move towards the exam season one thing is clear: there is no substitute for hard work. However, how you revise is also important. The evidence is clear about how to revise:

- Avoid distractions. Turn your phone off and don’t listen to music.
- Do not just highlight texts, re-read and summarise.

Instead do the following:

- Create some flashcards, with questions on one side and answers on the other – and keep testing yourself.

of the Theory of Relativity. Amazingly some of the year 7 students were able to predict that the instrument measuring the waves on Earth would in fact increase and decrease in length as the wave passes through, and they have the potential for great things in science!



*An aerial shot showing the Hanford Observatory, Washington – one of the two LIGO interferometers that detected the gravitational wave discovery (Image: Caltech/MIT/LIGO Lab)*

Further reading can be found here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-35552207>

<http://home.cern/about/updates/2016/02/cern-congratulates-discoverers-gravitational-waves>

Dr Finn

- Work through past exam papers – many can be acquired through exam board websites.
- Simply quiz each other (or yourself) on key bits of information.
- Create ‘fill the gap’ exercises for you and a friend to complete.
- Create multiple choice quizzes for friends to complete.

(<https://classteaching.wordpress.com/2015/01/29/supporting-learning-through-effective-revision-techniques/>)

Mr Shibli

## Science week 11 - 18 March

This Year we will be crowning teams of Years 7 to 10 as Science Quiz Masters. Year 7 will also be able to take part in a CSI club and on Thursday 17 March we will be running our "Demo Day" where we will demonstrate more unfamiliar experiments.

## Well done Ethan

Ethan has had an exceptional busy half term. He went to the Czech Open, then to an England training camp in Middlesbrough for a week and then straight to Bristol to play in the National Cup - he had some good wins as shown below beating the number 12 seed in the event :

### Cadet Boys' Team

#### Group C

##### England 3 Slovenia B 0

Ethan Walsh bt Marcel Segula 3-1 (9-11, 11-4, 11-4, 11-3)

James Smith bt Luka Breznik 3-0 (11-4, 13-11, 11-9)

Walsh & Smith bt Segula/Breznik 3-2 (11-8, 11-5, 4-11, 5-11, 11-9)

##### England 2 Hungary B 3

Walsh bt Oliver Both 3-1 (4-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-8)

Smith bt Norbert Terek 3-1 (9-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-7)

Both & Terek bt Walsh & Smith 3-1 (11-3, 8-11, 11-2, 11-8)

Both bt Smith 3-1 (11-4, 3-11, 11-9, 13-11)

Terek bt Walsh 3-0 (11-9, 11-9, 11-6)

### Cadet Boys' Consolation Singles

#### Round of 32

Walsh bt Jan Zandeki (POL) w/o

#### Round of 16

Walsh bt Akos Benko (SRB) 3-0 (11-6, 11-9, 13-11)

#### Quarter-finals

Walsh bt Furkan Uslu (TUR) 3-0 (11-3, 11-8, 14-12)

#### Semi-finals

Oliver Both (HUN) bt Walsh 3-2 (9-11, 10-12, 11-6, 13-11, 11-8)

## Year 11 news...

Year 11 have just a few school weeks left until their official exams begin in mid-May. Staff and students are working tirelessly to ensure the year group reaches their full potential and there are many interventions we are putting in place:

- 1-2-1 Resilience mentoring with a select group of students to begin next week.
- Learning lunches will also begin next week in English and Maths.
- Targeted support in English and Maths during form times with subject teachers.
- A fortnightly after school study support programme for all subjects to enable all students to get some additional support. Students are all aware of where they are supposed to be and when.

A huge congratulations to any student who was invited to attend the free cinema trip next Wednesday 9 March. These students are being rewarded for having an overall residual of 0, thus meaning they are already meeting their target grades in all subjects. I am incredibly proud.

Please support your sons or daughters in reaching their full potential by helping them to create a revision timetable at home. Revision is most effective when started early and completed little and often.

With thanks,

Miss Gant  
Head of year

## Friends of Nobel School 100 Club Winners for February

Number	Name	Prize
24	Harry Gibbs	£33
58	Zoe Day	£26

### ***Lollipop delivery***

Since Valentine's Day was on the horizon and with the previous popularity of the Candy Cane delivery service, we decided to do a Valentine's version, selling love heart lollipops with a custom message attached to it. It was a great idea and the students of the school agreed, as we sold all our stock, raising £20 to go towards the Sixth Form prom!

### ***Prize draw***

Throughout the week before half term and during the week after half term, prize draw tickets were sold to students in the sixth form and to the teachers for a chance to win a £20 voucher, or two £10 vouchers. Over a hundred tickets were sold, raising £64 which will also go towards the sixth form prom. Winning the first prize of £20 was Jess Thomas, winning one £10 prize was Joseph Barnes and the final winner of the last prize was Mr Martin. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket.

### ***University challenge***

It has come round to that time of the year when the Year 12 and 13 university challenge teams prepare themselves for the preliminary round for a chance to represent their year in the final. On Wednesday it was the Year 12s, who were competing against each other. After the initial 15 questions three teams were all tied on 11 points, so a sudden death round was needed with one form coming out victorious. In a fortnight, the Year 13s will have their preliminary round for the final place in the final

### ***Bedfordshire University guest speaker***

Over the past few weeks in PSHCEE, Liam Scott from Beds University has talked to Year 13 students about what's next after we have received all our offers from universities, and about applying for student finance. He spoke about choosing a firm and insurance choice, going through adjustment or UCAS extra and the process of applying for student loans. We want to thank Liam for taking the time to come and inform us about our next steps in our university application

*Written by Dylan Butterfield*

<b>The Senior Student Team 2015-16</b>			
<b><u>CORE</u></b>		<b><u>EVENTS</u></b>	
Head Girl: Ellie Ward	Head Boy: Bobby Banks	Phoebe Kettle-Linsell	Harry Bean
D. Head Girl: Hannah Hardie	D. Head Boy: Joseph Barnes	Katy Knight	Olufunlola Oluwole
HATL: Lauren Hayllar		Bret Facey	
<b><u>COMMUNITIES</u></b>		<b><u>PROJECT MANAGEMENT &amp; ORGANISATION</u></b>	
Sam Archer	Ryan Shaw-Hawkins	Dylan Butterfield	Michael Tsang
Bethany Hobbs	Ben Gray	Ben Smith	
Gemma Vadolia	Harpreet Pannu		
<b>SeniorStudentTeam@nobel.herts.sch.uk</b>			

## Library news...

### *Author Alan Gibbons Visits Nobel*



**Alan Gibbons talking to students in the Auditorium**



**Alan working with students during a workshop**

On Tuesday 23 February award winning author Alan Gibbons visited Nobel to talk to year 7 students. Alan presented a talk to the whole year group and entertained us with stories of his life and his inspiration for writing. Students were eager to ask Alan questions and take part in one of three writing workshops. Over 100 students took part in the workshops and produced some amazing gothic horror stories.

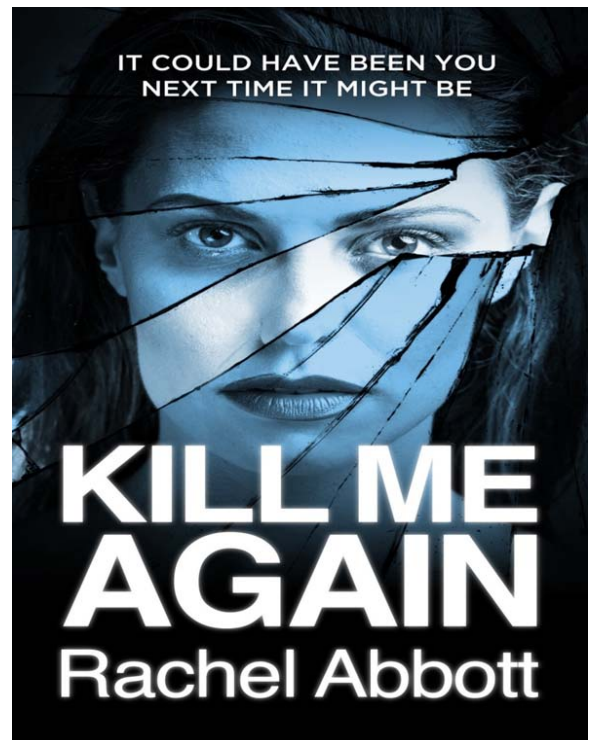
We have over thirty of Alan's books available to borrow from the library. The books cover a variety of genres, including, contemporary issues, football and horror.

Mrs Essakhi, Librarian

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

Next meeting will be held in  
the Library 6.30pm  
Tuesday 29 March

**THE BOOK TO READ IS:**



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 friendly informal  
group**

## Step into the NHS Competition 2016

In January 2016 we entered a competition called Step into the NHS. In the competition we had to research a particular career in the NHS and create a job description and a job advertisement (poster, animation, etc). We enjoyed it and it helped us understand more about the NHS as we are interested in achieving a career in the NHS.

For our job advertisement we created an animation which showed in detail what biomedical scientists do. This is a career that interested both of us and the competition helped us

understand more about it. Each of us received certificates of participation and if we win for our region we will receive £50 amazon vouchers and will go through to represent our region. If we then win this we will receive a tablet each and titles as national winners.



By Molly Cave 9T BGZ and Roshni Dholakia 9E SWE

The Friends of Nobel School run a successful 100 Club as part of their fundraising events for the school. Each parent who joins the 100 Club pays £2 per month, and half the money raised each month goes towards our funds for the school whilst the remaining money is divided into two prizes, 60% for the first prize and 40% for the second prize. New members are always welcome, as this is an easy way to raise much needed money for the school, and a way for parents to contribute whilst having a chance to win some money themselves. Payments can be made by annual cheque or by monthly standing order. If you would like more information on joining the 100 Club, please email [friends@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:friends@nobel.herts.sch.uk).



## Open mic night...

On Friday 26 February at an Open Mic night, Hafsah Begum in 7EDCP read one of his short stories. The evening was to raise money for the street kids in Dhaka with no family. Hafsah managed to raise around £1250. Below is a taste of what Hafsah can do.

Dear Mum,  
Today has a good day. I got some money for myself from work for the first time in a month! It would be great if I could save enough to get my own house.

I had to steal lunch again today. Ate with the cows, they didn't seem to mind me. I took a bit of the rice from the crops near the mansion on the big hill. The rich people all have really nice houses. They look so big and spacious, I bet you get to live in an even bigger house!

I still don't have enough to buy or grow my own crops, that's why I got a job. I work for the man who used to be friends with Dad. He's really nice and lets me call him uncle. He gives me good jobs to do around the village. They're quite easy, I think he's holding his punches though. I guess he doesn't want me to end up like Dad.

I've heard some of their talks. Uncle calls him a coward and says that I'll never have a chance in the real world as long as I'm with him. I guess that's kind of true. Actually it is.100%.

He spent all the money you left on cigarettes and fancy clothes. It's quite a waste, really. There was plenty to feed as much as 20 people for years. But no. He spent it all on himself and didn't think about anyone else.

I'm not trying to be mean, but it's really hard not to. One day, we can be together without Dad constantly on our backs, and not a single rant from Uncle.

I wish you were back. That's why I'm gonna work real hard and join you in Jannah someday.

////////////////////////////////////  
Thank you for taking a look at short story, I hope that you liked reading this. I'll try to send more of my stories over the coming months.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Event for Sports Relief

### Sports Run

During the week of Sports Relief the school are going to attempt to run to Africa.

3000km

During F Block you will run or walk around the field as many times as you can.

### FANCY DRESS

Sponsorship forms in form bags



## Key Stages 3 – 4 Sport Relief

### Sports Run

During the week of Sports Relief the school are going to attempt to run to Africa.

3000km

In P.E lessons you will run or walk around the field at least once

Donations that week will be collected



## The Spelling Bee is back!!!



Would you like to get your hands on a Kindle Fire ?

Spelling Bee is back  
And is bigger than ever!



Students will compete in the following rounds:  
Round 1 The Form Round to be completed by 21 March  
Round 2 the House round 23 March  
Live Final in the Auditorium 24 March

All finalists will receive a £10 Amazon voucher.

The Heads of House



...invite you to their Fun Quiz Night

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March

6.30 for 7.00pm start  
(Finish approx. 9.30pm)

Bring your friends and family for a fun evening  
whilst helping to support Nobel School  
(questions suitable for ages 11+)

Tickets available via the school  
\*\* £3 per person in advance \*\*  
(£4 on the door)

Teams of 3-6 people or just come along and join up with others.

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles!

- Raffle -  
(donations gratefully received)

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**Team: Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order ..... tickets for the Quiz Night  
£3 per person in advance.

I enclose £ ..... cash/cheque  
(payable to Nobel School PA)

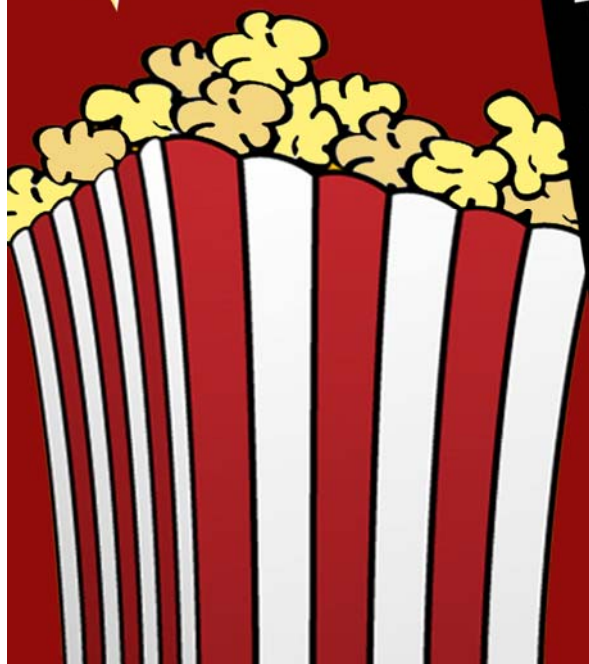
Student's Name ..... Form .....

(Please return envelope/payment to Mrs Lynn Way in the school Admin Office)

2016 ★ THE ★ 2016  
NOBEL SCHOOL  
FILM FESTIVAL



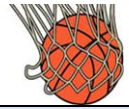
DATE THURSDAY 31ST MARCH 2016  
TIME 7PM  
DRESS CODE HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR  
LOCATION NOBEL AUDITORIUM  
TICKETS £2.50 each



All money raised will go  
towards the Friends of  
Nobel School ★



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE



	<b>BEFORE SCHOOL</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>		<b>FITNESS- ALL YEARS</b>  <b>TABLE TENNIS</b>  <b>BADMINTON</b>	<b>BOYS FOOTBALL</b>  <b>NETBALL</b>  <b>FITNESS</b>  <b>NETBALL FIXTURES</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>		<b>FITNESS-ALL YEARS</b>  <b>VOLLEYBALL</b>  <b>RUGBY SKILLS</b>	<b>GIRLS FUTSAL</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>FITNESS-ALL YEARS</b>  <b>BOCCIA</b>  <b>NETBALL SKILLS</b> (SPORTS HALL)  <b>TABLE TENNIS</b>	<b>CRICKET</b>  <b>STAFF MEETING</b>  <b>NETBALL FIXTURES</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>		<b>FITNESS-ALL YEARS</b>  <b>BADMINTON</b>  <b>TABLE TENNIS</b>	<b>BOYS FUTSAL</b>  <b>RUGBY</b>  <b>NETBALL FIXTURES</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>INDOOR CRICKET</b>	<b>FITNESS-ALL YEARS</b>  <b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>STAFF SPORTS</b>  <b>CRICKET</b>

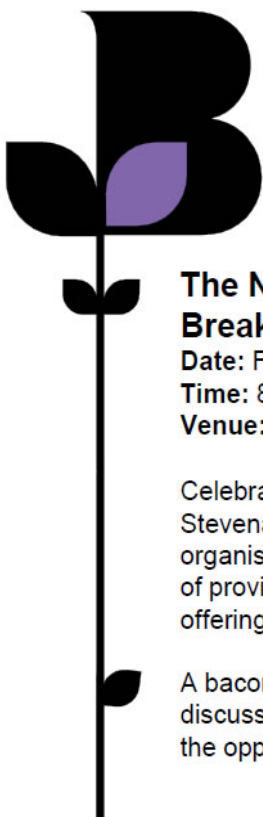


Performances from across the school and clubs celebrated in an evening of dance.

Thursday 10 March 7:00-9:00pm

Leslie Rose Auditorium

Tickets £2 payments taken on the night.



## Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce



### The Nobel School Apprenticeship Opportunities Breakfast

Date: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Time: 8am-10am

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

Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week the Chamber is working with The Nobel School, Stevenage, to offer an **Apprenticeship Opportunities Breakfast**. Join local businesses and organisations at this innovative event which will bring together employers and students with the aim of providing helpful tips and advice for students by identifying likely struggles and challenges and offering solutions for those making employment decisions.

A bacon bap type breakfast will be provided at this **FREE event** which will take the form of a discussion and debate on the topic; there will also be time for networking with local businesses and the opportunity to meet the school's students who are currently making important career decisions.

Connect Collaborate Grow

*If you would like to register for this event or would like further information  
Please email [bookings@hertschamber.com](mailto:bookings@hertschamber.com) or call 01707 398400 or visit [www.hertschamber.com](http://www.hertschamber.com)*