

News

1 April 2016
Edition 3.13

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Nobel

Excellence in Everything

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

We were absolutely thrilled and delighted to welcome Sir Tim Hunt to our lovely school last week. Miraculously, our Dr. Finn had managed to book a Nobel laureate to address a packed Leslie Rose Auditorium and it proved to be a fantastic talk, complete with a question and answer session, as well as an opportunity for guests to chat and take photographs with this giant of the scientific world.

Sir Tim arrived just in time for a six o'clock start, having endured a puncture as he drove up the A1(M) from London – I have great admiration for anyone who can change a wheel but it was raining, cold and Sir Tim is 73 years old! However, I knew as soon as we were introduced that he would connect with our audience and especially our students who were thoroughly inspired by his talk. Sir Tim guided us through some very complicated molecular biology in order to explain the particular piece of research that won him a Nobel Prize in medicine. His groundbreaking work explained why cells divide, in particular, he discovered what he called 'Cyclin'; a protein in fertilised sea urchin eggs which cyclically aggregates and is depleted during cell division. In short, biologists had known that cells divide (mitosis) since the 17th century, but Sir Tim was able to demonstrate why. Dr. Finn has written a more comprehensive (and more scientifically accurate) account of Sir Tim's lecture elsewhere in this edition.

After his talk Sir Tim answered lots of questions and one of his answers intrigued me. He was asked whether he thought all young people should study science and he didn't think they necessarily should! This reminded

me of a recent headline in 'The Comet' from an article that covered a visit to our school by the award-winning local entrepreneur Robert Stewart who told our year 10 students 'Even if you fail, you can still succeed' - I feel that both speakers were making a similar point. When we are compelled to do something, we may not show the same enthusiasm and love of what we do as when we positively make a choice to 'follow our dreams'. Finding the thing we are good at is a blessing, but for most of us we have to fail first in order to make progress. Both visitors, I think, were talking about the vital character ingredients of resilience, determination and a growth mindset. We have spoken before about 'growth mindsets' and we will continue to do so over the coming months as we develop our new school development plan – I will write more about this in the next edition.

Finally, please be reassured of two things: firstly, that we will continue to follow the National Curriculum at Nobel and all students will study science to GCSE and secondly, that we don't think it's alright for students to fail in examinations. However, we do agree that education is about taking risks (and getting things wrong) and in its purest form learning to love learning: that's the point Sir Tim Hunt and Mr. Stewart were making and something we wholeheartedly agree with.

Have a lovely holiday.

Warm regards

Martyn Henson

Sir Tim Hunt inaugural 'Nobel Thinks!' talk

On the evening of Thursday 24 March, the inaugural *Nobel Thinks!* talk was given by Sir Tim Hunt who received the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine in 2001. Around 150 students, alumni, parents, staff and VIPs were welcomed into the auditorium to hear him talk about "Lessons from a Life in Science (or, How to Win a Nobel Prize)".

Starting with the basics of cellular biology, describing simple concepts which range from KS3 all the way up to A-Level and degree level biology, Sir Tim easily explained his life story. He is famously known for the discovery of a protein which appears to cycle within cells, called Cyclin. This has been found to be a trigger responsible for the duplication of both the cells and their genetic material through mitosis (cellular duplication through splitting). He showed some quite amazing videos of fertilised sea urchin egg cells splitting and copying the information that makes the cell work, through the reproduction of DNA, within the nucleus of the cell.

At the end of the talk both students, staff and parents asked some excellent questions, and in total there was around 45 minutes of additional questioning! Sir Tim was willing to take numerous photographs with students and staff, and spoke to anyone who wanted to at the end of the evening. Sir Tim even left us with a signed copy of his most recent book, which he hopes will inspire students to want to continue STEM subjects into the future.

This was an amazing opportunity for students to meet someone who has reached the pinnacle of their career, and to understand the luck and hard work involved in succeeding in science. He explained how resilience is the most important factor to succeed, and that the majority of time it is luck rather than pure skill which creates these opportunities. This is hopefully a message that our students can take on board in their everyday life, and will help students remember that growth mind sets are important to really

succeed in their future careers.

Overall I would like to thank all parents and students who attended,. Special thanks go to IT support and the music and drama departments for their help in ensuring that everything ran smoothly, and Roshni Dhlokia for her catering for the event—the *Nobel Thinks!* cakes were excellent! Finally, a special thank you to Sir Tim Hunt, for finding the time out of his busy research schedule to talk to our students.

Dr Finn



Sir Tim Hunt explaining where the next steps in human cellular research will lead, who knows where the road goes over the brow of the hill.



Left to Right, Bobby Banks, Michelle Wan, Mr Shibli, Mr Henson, Sir Tim Hunt, Dr Finn



Sir Tim talking to our students about his career and the future of science research.

Sir Tim Hunt inaugural 'Nobel Thinks!' talk ...



(Left to Right) Nazar Butovych and Sir Tim Hunt talking about Sir Tim's Nobel Prize.

Call for future speakers

The inaugural *Nobel Thinks!* talk has been a great success and so we are looking for additional speakers for future events. If you know of anyone who has an interesting job, or an interesting life experience and who would not mind talking to around 100 people in our auditorium for a *Nobel Thinks!* talk then please contact me (james.finn@nobel.herts.sch.uk) to discuss this further.

Nobel SST news...

University challenge final

As was mentioned in the last edition, the Nobel University Challenge final will be between forms 13C JMT and 12C JPO on April 20, during the PSHCEE period. This will be a very tough match between two talented teams. We hope it will also be a very enjoyable competition to watch, with plenty of obscure questions to challenge the audience.

Sport relief fun run

On March 22, the Sixth Form contributed to the school's "Run to Africa" challenge for Sport Relief. All of the Sixth Formers walked, ran or did a mixture of both, around the field, doing as many laps as they could to raise money for the charity. Some even dressed up for occasion, with a gorilla rallying morale among the runners.



Written by Michael Tsang

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

Year 8 Celebrates

On 16 March, 17 year 8 students, who are making outstanding progress in their studies, were invited to celebrate their success by taking breakfast with the headteacher. Parents, guardians and younger brothers and sisters were also invited to celebrate with us. Not only are these students working hard in their lessons, they are also rewarded for excellent behaviour, attendance and attitude to learning.



Harvey Barlow
Phoebe Bennett
Alex Boxer
Erin Campbell
Tegan Corney
Maddison Dexter
George Ewbank
Evita Fernandes
Loren Gregory

Lauren Mait
Kiana Moradian
Jovan Navjee
Alexandra Newman
Matthew Oliver
James Paget
Thomas Rowe
Sam Scanlon

Fundraising update

We' have just received final confirmation of the total raised by Nobel for Children in Need – a whopping £1,305.95! The money you have raised will help disadvantaged children in all parts of the UK – helping them to live safe, happy lives and reach their full potential.



Year 10 District Cup Winners

Congratulations to the year 10 boys who beat John Henry Newman 4 – 3 in what was a thriller of a final. Goals scored by Ross Gladman, Nick Murray, Harrison Barringer and a late free kick from just outside the box by captain Leon Taylor saw the boys lift the District Shield for the second year in a row. It was an incredibly hard fought final and thanks to JHN for hosting.



Dates for the diary:

18 April - Students return to school

18 - 22 April - Yr 10 Geography Fieldtrip, Slapton Ley FSC, Devon

19 April - BTEC Level 3 in Public Services visit to Houses of Parliament, London

19 April - Yr9 Revision evening

23 - 24 April - Yr10 DofE award camping trip

26 April - Yr 10 Geography Fieldtrip, Epping Forest Field study centre

MFL faculty news...

Our MFL Faculty offers not only French, German and Spanish but also Mandarin. Currently, two groups of Year 8 pupils have been chosen to study Mandarin whilst studying French at the same time. In Year 10 we have a small but highly motivated group studying the language for GCSE. Finally, we also have an optional Year 9 group studying Chinese after school for one hour a week.

This group has a small number of hard working and dedicated pupils who give up their time after school on a Thursday in order to study Mandarin. We are currently studying the topic of “School”, learning about school subjects, opinions and telling the time in Mandarin. The pupils enjoy their lessons because they get to work in small groups, use the mini-whiteboards to practise their Chinese characters and read Chinese – which is hard but very satisfying!

This group will continue studying the language after school next year and will be awarded an extra GCSE for their efforts in Year 11. We will also visit Chinatown in the summer term of this year and use the opportunity to taste authentic Chinese Food and practise some of the language that we’ve been learning in class.

Having established links with schools in China also means that these pupils will receive “pen pals” with pupils in China who want to practise English and help them with their Chinese.

Being able to communicate in Chinese is seen as a valuable and highly desirable qualification right now. It is one that the current Government is making many efforts to promote and support. The Nobel School already offers this fantastic subject, allowing our students to take advantage of the opportunities that it will open up in later life. Good luck to all our pupils currently studying it,
加油！”

Mr G Trew
Acting head MFL
and the MFL Faculty



Well done to the language learners for March and April

- Yr 7 Lewis Matthews 7T JBT for German
- Yr 8 Kianna Moradian 8E AHY for Mandarin
- Yr 9 Jack Petley 9T MFN for German
- Yr 10 Paige Hossack 10T AMR for French
- Yr 11 Harry Sanders 11C GTW for German
- Yr 12/13 Harry Bean 13M AMS for Spanish
- Yr 12/13 Samantha Archer 13C JMC for French

Friends of Nobel School 100 Club Winners for March

Number	Name	Prize
54	Mr Hussain	£33
13	Katy West	£26

@ *Careersnobel*

The Nobel School Apprenticeship Opportunities Breakfast 18 March

Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week, a group of Year 13 Btec Business students worked with Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce to host an event where local businesses came to The Nobel School to network and listen to guest speakers.

Guest speakers for the day were:

Neil Cain—Operations Director at John O’Conner Ground Maintenance and recent winner of the City & Guilds Apprentice Champion of the Year at the National Apprenticeship Awards.

Nicci Smith and Hannah Butterworth-GlaxoSmithKline

Michael McGrath-The Muscle Help Foundation

Lewis Stanley-The Nobel School

The Btec Business students planned the event from start to finish, arranging meetings with the Chamber of Commerce to make sure the event was well planned and was a success. The students gained really positive feedback from all those who attended and represented the school in a very professional way.



Stevenage Football Club Player visit 10 March

Stevenage Football Club sent Jerome Okimo in to speak to a group of Year 8 students. The students had taken part in an 8 week programme called Aspire. The aim of the programme is to raise the self-esteem and aspirations of students at the school. They have taken part in classroom and practical based activities which allow the students to focus on developing their positive attributes and using them in a positive way in their studies. The students looked at developing their leadership, communication skills, a “can-do” attitude and never giving up. These messages were reinforced by Jerome who has worked hard to follow his dream of becoming a professional footballer and having to work his way back from a long term injury.



Year 9 news...

Wow! Is it really the end of another term already? I guess I can quite believe this as there is so much to share with you when I reflect on the events of the last term.

As I am sure you will know we have a very athletic year group. It was an absolute pleasure to watch the Year 9 boy's rugby team storm its way to our first district rugby championship for some years. We also made it to the semi-final of the county cup but sadly after drawing the game in a thrilling encounter (an epic comeback) we were ruled the losing side on a technicality.

Our boys and girls hauled in 8 golds and a silver medal in the North Herts County swimming competition with special mention to Tobi Laguda, helping himself to three of those golds.

Another fabulous event was the 'Stevenage Mock Trials' the team of students from Year 9 are given a court case and then must act in an official capacity as prosecution and defence. This all takes place in a magistrate's court with judge and full jury, it was superb! Our school was the only one to receive both a guilty and not guilty verdict as is required. We did not win the day as the students are marked as a team but it is quite the accomplishment.

We also celebrated another 'Nobel Celebrates Success' Breakfast on Wednesday 30 March.

It was excellent to see students and parents sharing in the recognition and hard work that goes into making these strides forward in progress. They deserve all the plaudits for making an outstanding effort to further their own learning—congratulations to you all.

We also have a football star in the making as John Freeman has gone away with the MK Dons for a training camp to further his ambitions and Ethan Walsh, our resident table tennis super star, ventures far and wide to compete for England. After reaching the semi-finals in the recent Italian open, Ethan narrowly lost out on reaching the final. Keep up the hard work Ethan!

It is my understanding that the options process is continuing to move along nicely under Mrs Cox's guidance. If you have any enquiries regarding the options process or wish to discuss any concerns, please contact Miss Cox who is the Assistant Head-teacher in charge of the process (becky.cox@nobel.herts.sch.uk)

If you need any questions answered please continue to send them to me via email at carl.swendell@nobel.herts.sch.uk. Have a wonderful and restful break.

Warmest regards

Carl Swendell

Head of Year 9

Logic puzzle

Diophantus was a Greek mathematician who lived in the third century. He was one of the first mathematicians to use algebraic symbols.

Most of what is known about Diophantus's life comes from an algebraic riddle from around the early sixth century. The riddle states:

Diophantus's youth lasted one sixth of his life. He grew a beard after one twelfth more. After one seventh more of his life, he married. 5 years later, he and his wife had a son. The son lived exactly one half as long as his father, and Diophantus died four years after his son.

How many years did Diophantus live?

Solution on page 10

North Herts Schools Book Award 2016

On Wednesday March 16 I set off with an eager group of students to join other schools from across North Herts at Hitchin Girls School for our annual book award morning. On arrival we joined our groups to discuss the shortlists. After animated and in-depth debates over the merits of each title we then voted for our favourite title. This was followed by some well-earned refreshments and a chance to mingle. While the votes were counted we settled down to an inspirational talk by last year's winner of the younger category, Nikki Sheehan. Nikki talked about her writing and urged the students to write stories themselves in order to develop the next generation of authors. Her top tip for becoming a writer was to read, read, read! Students then had an opportunity to buy a copy of Nikki's book which she signed.



What the students said about the event:

"It was great. We had all read the books and discussed them. It is good if you really enjoy reading and want to meet awesome authors!"
Kiana

"This day is going to be one of the days that you look back on when you are older and smile".
Erin

The shortlists:

Older reader's category:

The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson (winner)

Bombmaker by Claire McFall

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

Younger reader's category:

Smart by Kim Slater

Curses and Smoke by Vicky Alvear Shecter

The Bubble Wrap Boy by Phil Earle

All books are available to borrow from the school library.

Mrs Essakhi

Librarian

Puzzle

Daily No. 3676

Easy

7	20			15	11			15
	21				13			
	11	18		11		18	15	
20								12
	8		10	27	18		15	
23						7		
16				18	28			
10						18		

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Instructions

- Place 1 - 9 once in each row
- Place 1 - 9 once in each column
- Place 1 - 9 once in each 3x3 box
- Complete the 'sum cages' such that the total of the numbers in each cage is the number stated at the start of that cage
- You are not allowed to repeat any numbers within any sum cage

Solution on page 10

Year 8 boys district football final

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys football team who after qualifying for the district cup final beat JHN 4-1 at St Christopher's School. After playing slightly up hill first half we came in 1-0 after a strong battling performance. Although having created some chances to draw level the key moment of the first half came just before half time when Bradley Shaw made an outstanding save to keep the score at 1-0.

In the second half, and playing slightly down hill, the boys really showed their quality and were soon 2-1 up with goals from Maz-
eed Ugungbo and Tom Rowe. Freddie O'Brien added a long range third after excellent pressure and closing down by the whole team and the icing on the cake was the fourth scored by Ryan Perkins.



It was no more than the boys deserve for their time at Nobel.

They were very unlucky to get pipped last year 2-1 in the final, in which they were the better team, and were also unlucky this year to go out of the county cup in the quarter finals this year.

Congratulations to the whole squad as this was reward for the whole season and this should give them a very positive platform to build on for next year.

Marley Rowlands Mazeed Ogungbo
Freddie O'Brien Harry Clark
Elliott Brown Reuben Croucher
Bradley Shaw Sam Brookes
Ryan Perkins Freddie Turner
Tom Rowe
Ben Conran
Alex Boxer
George Heaps
Adam Burtenshaw - Cummins

Mr Willsher



County Indoor rowing championships

On Tuesday 22 March, Nobel sent two teams to represent the Stevenage area in the school county indoor rowing championships. The under 14 boys, (from left to right) Semba Bwalya, Gideon Oketunji, Tobi Laguda and Dominic Buckland won the final by 20 seconds which equates to a 100 metre lead in a 2000m relay race which is an excellent feat.

The under 16s also finished a commendable second losing out to the winners by 20 seconds. The under sixteens squad was (from right to left) George Stevenson, Jordan Fox, Cosmo Tomlin, and Matthew Monaghan.

George stepped into the team at last minute to replace Luke Hamilton who had injured his knee earlier in the month.

Well done to both teams

PE department.



Governor's News

Over the last two terms the Board of Governors have been discussing the options for the status of the school - as hopefully you will be aware from articles in the last few Newsletters.

We have held informal discussions with staff and parents this term and, as a result, governors voted to proceed with the formal process of converting the school from Community school to Foundation school. I would like to thank everyone who participated.

The formal consultation period lasts 4 weeks, commencing from the publication of the Public Notice in The Comet this week. The school website will contain the details and will include a Frequently Asked Question section. If you are unable to access the website please contact the school reception and we will make a printed copy of the information available to you.

If you have any questions on the process, or the reasons for the conversion, then please either email me via chair@nobel.herts.sch.uk or write to me care of the school.

The Board of Governors will consider any questions raised during the formal consultation period when it meets after the period closes, and will then hold a formal vote on whether to proceed to conversion. The Local Authority supports the change and is funding the legal cost. We have assurances that it should be possible for the conversion to be achieved by the start of the next academic year.

You will have seen the statement from the government after the budget that all schools must have a plan in place by 2020 to convert to an Academy. For this to become law however it requires a change to the Education Act and a vote in Parliament and that is unlikely to happen before our conversion to Foundation status should we decide to proceed.

Governors have been clear throughout this process that Nobel is best served by deciding its own future rather than having a decision imposed. In respect of any future changes to the status of the school I believe governors will take the same pragmatic approach.

Richard Aggus

Chair of Governors

Daily No. 3676

Easy

7	20		15	11		15		
1	9	3	8	6	2	5	4	7
	21				13			
2	5	8	7	9	4	3	1	6
	11	18		11		18	15	
4	7	6	1	3	5	8	9	2
20								12
8	4	7	2	5	1	9	6	3
	8		10	27	18		15	
3	2	5	6	8	9	1	7	4
9	6	1	3	4	7	2	8	5
23						7		
6	8	9	5	7	3	4	2	1
16				18	28			
7	3	2	4	1	8	6	5	9
10						18		
5	1	4	9	2	6	7	3	8

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Logic puzzle answer

The riddle, the "facts" of which may or may not be true, results in the following equation:

$$x/6 + x/12 + x/7 + 5 + x/2 + 4 = x$$

where x is Diophantus's age at the time of his death.

Therefore, Diophantus lived exactly 84 years.



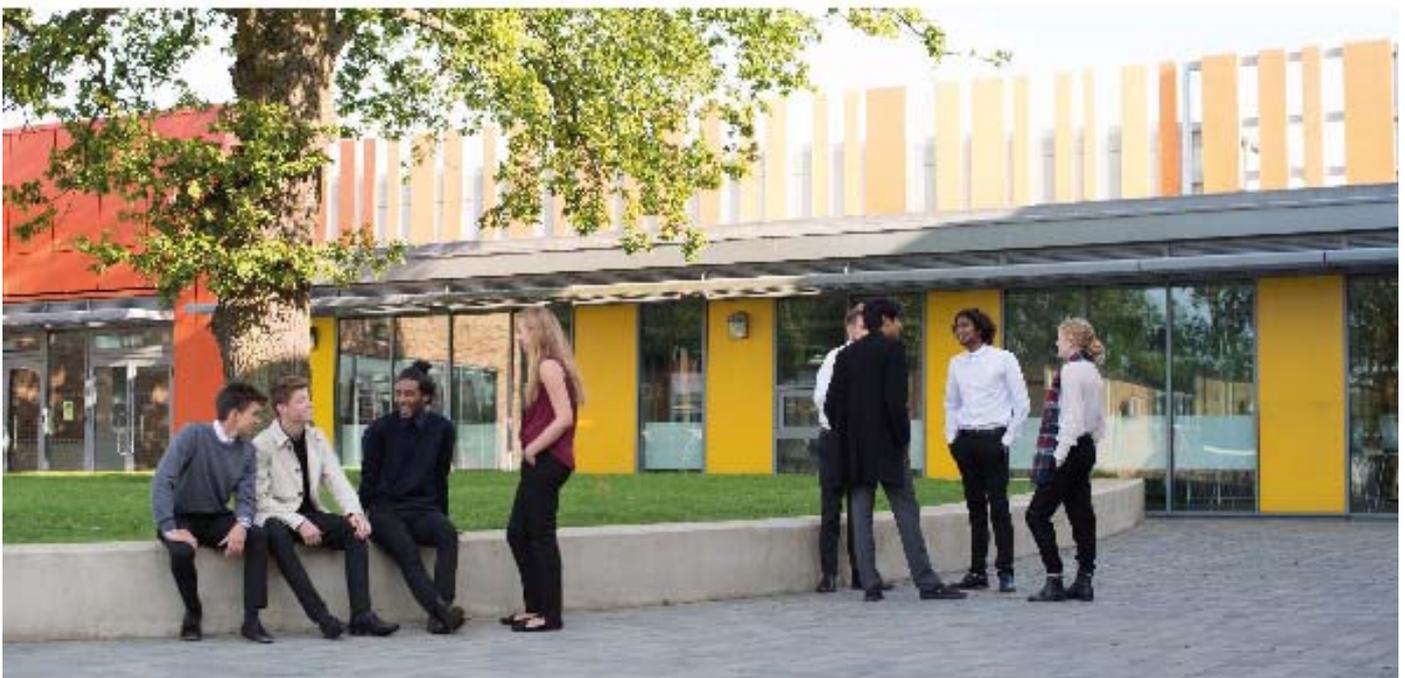
Sixth Form Induction

4 & 5 July

- Compulsory for all students who would like to join the sixth form in September
- An opportunity for you to find out more about sixth form life
- Experience taster sessions for the subjects you are interested in studying in September



Nobel
Sixth Form



*The Friends of Nobel School
invite you to put on your cowboy boots for a fabulous*

BARN DANCE

and BBQ supper

Saturday 21st May 2016

7.30 - 11pm, The Nobel School

Tickets £10 per person -

includes first drink from the bar and the following supper:

90g premium smoked Bockwurst sausage and glazed hot dog roll

100% Aberdeen Angus burger (8oz) and Brioche bun + mature cheddar slice

Half corn on the cob, coleslaw, green salad, sauces

Vegetarian alternatives available

Adults only

Licensed Bar

Raffle

✕

Please return to Mrs Lynn Way, The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage SG2 0HS

I require _____ ticket(s) and enclose £ _____ cash/cheque (cheques payable to Nobel School PA)

If you require any vegetarian meals, please indicate the number here: _____

Name: _____ Child's name/form (if applicable): _____

If you do not have a child at Nobel, please provide postal address and tickets will be posted to you:

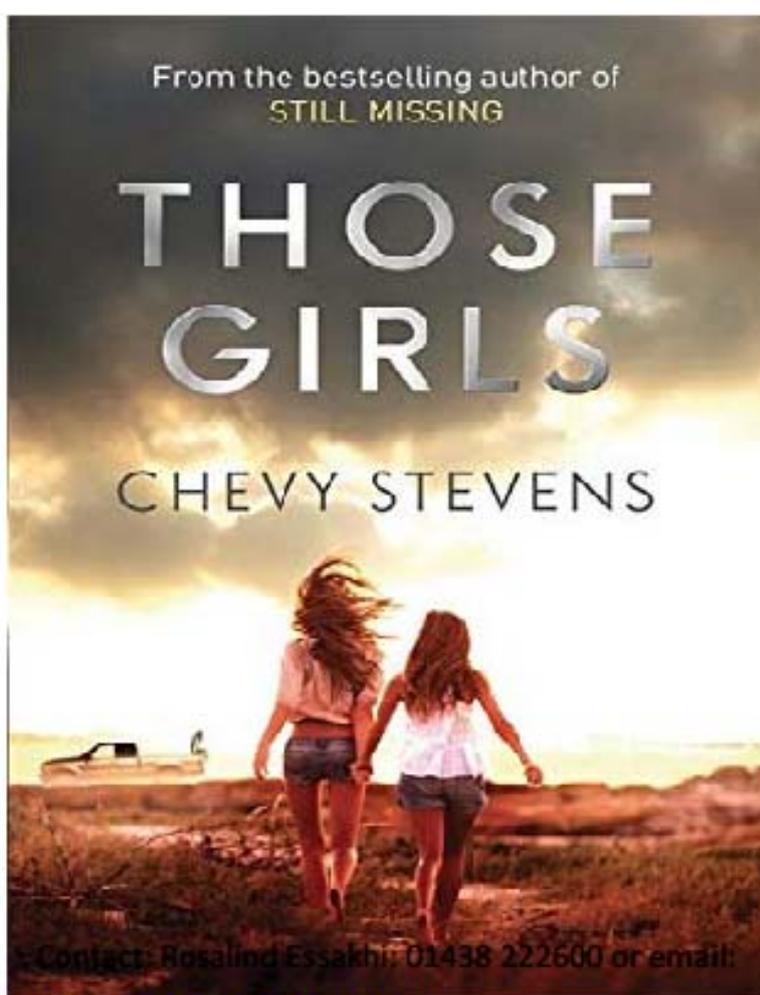
If you have any questions please email friends@nobel.herts.sch.uk

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

Next meeting will be held in the Library 6.30pm

Tuesday 26 April

THE BOOK TO READ IS:



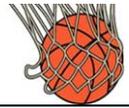
library@nobel.herts.sch.uk

Read all or part of the book and come and discuss it in a
friendly informal group





EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE



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