

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a really good start to the year at Nobel. I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas holiday and, on everyone's behalf, I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.

The end of term is always busy and I think everyone, students and staff, were ready for the Christmas holidays. I should just like to refer back to a couple of lovely Nobel traditions that happened in the last two days of term. On the Tuesday, we invited ex-colleagues back for a cup of tea and a mince pie at school. It was fantastic to see so many retired colleagues looking so well. It was particularly nice to have a chat with Mr Rob Whatmough, who was head of the school back in the early 2000s - we both agreed what a privilege it is to lead such a fantastic school! And then, on the last day of term, we had our nativity/carol service for all students at St Hugh's and St John's Church - a really festive occasion, with students from a multitude of cultural backgrounds coming together to sing and wish each other a safe and responsible holiday - two special traditions that are definitely worth preserving.

Academically, the New Year has also been very encouraging. Firstly, in the sixth form our students have received many offers, including a good number from Oxbridge and Russell group universities, as well as higher level apprenticeships and job offers. We are very proud of our sixth form, expertly led by Ms Cox and her team. Nobelians always leave us with a definite pathway and plenty of ambition.

Secondly, we were very pleased with the way Year 11 conducted themselves during their mock examinations and the subsequent 'results day' we will be working doubly hard this year to make sure that Mr Swendell's year group get the best ever GCSE results - fingers crossed!

Finally, you may have heard that I've had a bit of an accident. I was out riding my bicycle with a couple of friends on the Saturday before school started and hit some ice and fell off! I broke my left arm, right hand and got quite a bang on the head to boot. I'm OK but I do look more gruesome than normal and have had a few days working from home. I can't drive which is an enormous inconvenience as I commute from London every day. Everyone at school has been brilliant in my absence, more evidence that a school or any organisation is more about the team than any individual. All things being equal, I will be back full-time from Monday. The overriding moral of the story is make sure you are wearing a helmet, it will save your life!

A much shorter edition of Nobel News this time, hopefully back to normal for the next edition.

Thank you as always for your amazing support,

Kind regards

Martyn Henson