

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

I hope that you all had a safe and rewarding half-term holiday; staff returned to school well rested and looking forward to working hard with all of our students, particularly in Year 11 and Year 13 as they prepare for important public examinations. However, as you know, we got 'the call' at lunchtime on Monday and were visited on Tuesday and Wednesday by five Ofsted inspectors and an HMI - so much for easing our way into a new half-term!

Obviously, I cannot reveal the findings of the inspection but I can report that the inspection team saw us at our best. Feedback from them was very encouraging, particularly about our students. For both days they were impeccable Nobelians and those who were class ambassadors really impressed the inspectors. May I also take the opportunity to thank all of you who filled in the questionnaire on 'parent view', your wholehearted support for the school is very humbling – thank you! Finally, I should like to pay tribute to my colleagues; it is huge testament to them that last Tuesday and Wednesday were just normal days at school. It will be about 3 or 4 weeks before the report is published. More about that in a future edition of *Nobel News*.

On a different note, I should like to make an appeal for your support on a couple of issues. Firstly, we continue to grapple with issues surrounding the misuse of social media platforms. On one level, it can lead to unkindness and bullying, on another level it can lead to young people being exposed to really horrific things. May I urge you to try your best to monitor your children's use of Snapchat, Facebook,

Twitter and all the other platforms out there; young people may not realise that the law is very strict about these issues. In short, if it's not fit for you as parents to see, then they shouldn't be looking at or passing on photos, images or video that they wouldn't show you. Please stress to them that what goes on line stays with you for ever, you create a digital footprint that can impede future job applications, etc.

Secondly, even though behaviour points and detentions are nearly 50% down on last year, we still have an issue with a small group of students failing to turn up to detentions. This has huge ramifications for our office staff who then have to reorganise detentions. Sometimes parents ring the school to excuse their children from detentions and this also causes a backlog. Please, wherever possible, support the school by encouraging students to attend these detentions. It will really help in the smooth running of a very busy and efficient school office.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the last few days of extreme weather. We will always stay open if at all possible, but I am sure you will understand that as well as making sure our students get home securely, some of our staff do live up to 30 miles away from Stevenage and I have to make sure that they can get home safe and sound.

Have a great weekend.

Warm regards

Martyn Henson

Women in science

Every year our sixth form scientists apply for work experience positions at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). This year four students gained a position, which we are really proud of. Farozha Urrehman and Willow Rowlands have given an account of their experience.

Our week at GSK by Farozha and Willow.

Although we went to different sites we both learnt a lot.

Farozha: I went to Ware, which is a unique site as there is a GMS and R&D site, where I did engineering. Here I learnt a lot about different types of engineering, including chemical, mechanical, automation and electrical. I was able to experience the kind of life I would have if I were to become an engineer. We took part in simulation activities and spoke to professionals in the field. We also had a careers fair and were given advice on our future career.

The tours were very informative and we saw people making drugs as well as all the machines involved to run the company. GSK tries to be as efficient as possible and any excess energy created is given back to the grid. Also, safety was very important at GSK, as making drugs is a very delicate job.

We were told all about the innovation and new ideas that happen at GSK as they have just released a new product that is a triple inhaler - 'Trelogy' - which will reduce plastic consumption and make it easier for the consumer.

Willow: I went to Stevenage R&D site to work in the transgenics section. This involved the care and welfare of the animals used in the testing. Before being able to enter this part of the building you are required to change all of your clothes and put on all of the PPE (personal protection equipment) which included blue overalls, socks, white trainers, a hair net, gloves and a mask. All of this is to prevent being exposed to the animal

I learned how the animals are monitored and kept so they are as safe and comfortable as possible. I saw the equipment used to take the blood, conduct surgeries and post mortems, and to quarantine new animals.

I also saw the equipment they would use if they needed to put down the animals. Also, while at GSK, I had the opportunity to talk to many of the people who work there, as well as students from universities who are spending a year at GSK for more experience. Many of them gave us advice about careers and universities.

Mrs Pearson
Director of Science



KS3 Geography - Biome in a Box!

Well done to 9MRWT Geography, who recently completed their **Biome in a Box** PLT challenge. There were some wonderful examples of rainforest, savanna, desert, tundra, deciduous forest, marine, etc. Choosing the best was a tricky decision but the winners are as follows:

1st prize - Elle Colbourne

2nd prize - Cealen Betts

3rd prize - Alex Challis

Well done!

Mr Pellett



Car parking and pick-up by parents

In order to improve the healthy lifestyles, highlighted as a development area by parents in the annual survey, we encourage you to let your children walk or ride bikes to school. Where this is not possible, please could we ask that parents pass right down into the main car park, beyond the barriers, rather than block the drop off only island. Often staff have meetings to attend elsewhere in the town, or are returning from meetings to supervise clubs and they cannot get into the premises.

On a similar matter, we have been asked by local residents and the police to remind parents that they should not be parking or turning onto

private driveways or blocking the bus layby preventing pick up or drop off. This seems to be a particular issue in Dryden Crescent and Hudson Road.

Please help us ensure that our reputation in the community shows respect to our immediate neighbours and that we maintain student safety.

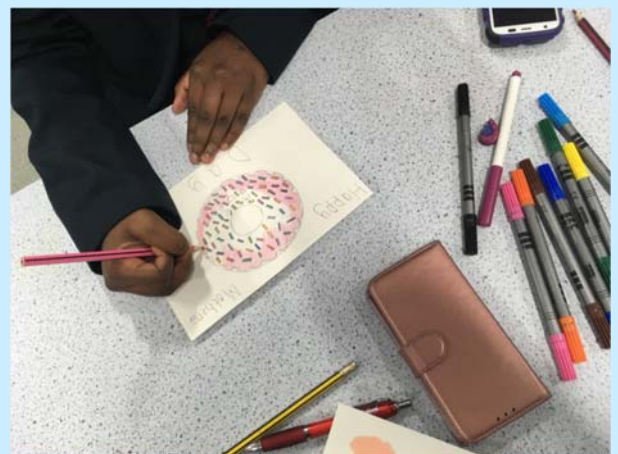
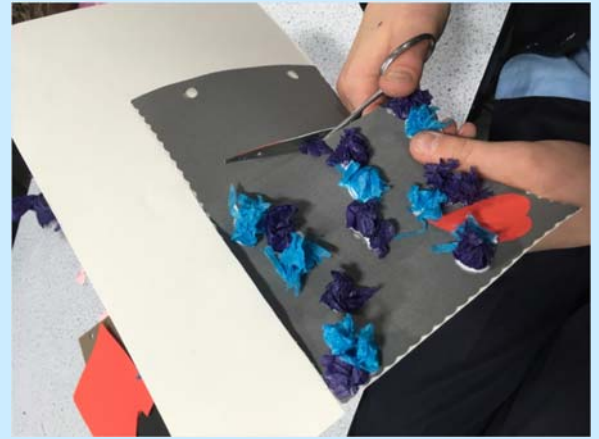
Thank you for your support.

Mr Burningham
Deputy Headteacher

Monday after school art club

Many thanks to the Year 12 students who have been assisting with Monday Art Club, creating some lovely Mothers' Day Cards.

If you would like to participate, please speak to Miss Mansfield.



Logic puzzle

Help Jeff

Jeff likes racing his little sports car, but he knows that safety should always be kept in mind, so he practises regularly.

On one particular day, Jeff goes out to the practice track and does two laps at an average of 100 km/h, two laps at an

average of 102 km/h, two laps at an average of 140km/h and two laps at an average of 150 km/h.

Now Jeff would like to know what his average speed was during that practice session. Can you help him?

Solution page 7

9-18 March British Science Week 2018

Sudoku puzzle

Daily No. 4411 Easy

17	11	13		11		6		20
			9		15			
	8		16	29	17			20
18						15		
	16	13						17
			22		8			
	14					5		20
		8		13		14	8	
	17		5					

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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 page 7

Year 7 breakfast

On Friday 23 February, we held a celebration breakfast for our students in year 7.

These students were invited for making excellent progress within the first data drop and showing improvements across all areas during the first term and a half. I am extremely proud of how all the year 7 students have settled in and of the recent data drop results. We have 240 proud Nobelians who face all the challenges secondary school has to offer bravely and with a smile on their face.

I am already looking forward to sending out the invitations to the next celebration breakfast.

Keep up the good work!

Mrs Jones

Zeeshan Ahmed
Lilly Bowley
Megan Dhlwayo
Isla Edwards

Raffaella Baines
Akosua Bugyei-Kyei
Vinay Dholakia
Sunny Evans



Daisy Fennelow
Lucy Hampson
Sophie Hooper
David Kasilag
Roni Klaij

Gabriel Palluotto
Anabelle Row
Christopher Suleman Kosoko
Bobby Williamson

Emma Girdwood
Neve Haskins
Rebecca Kapler
Hazel Kelsoe
Amelia Ledger
Emmi Parkhurst
Sachi Shah
Lauren Yates
Sally Yu

Poet Ash Dickinson works with Year 7 students

Year 7 students began their study of poetry in English with the opportunity of working with the performance poet Ash Dickinson. Ash shared his own poetry with different groups of students throughout the day and encouraged and promoted poetry writing as a chance to reflect upon aspects of life. There was a positive atmosphere throughout the day as students also collaborated with each other in writing their own poetry. The following are a sample of the brilliant poems written by some of our Year 7 students.

Miss Steele
English teacher

Spain is a wonderful place,
Almost as nice as my nan's face.
I made an amazing friend -
Unfortunately the dream had to end.
The food had an amazing taste as
Spain is a wonderful place.

I see the twig dance in the moonlight,
I taste the cold air push against my mouth,
I touch the brown rigid bark,
I smell the dirt and mud upon each other,
I hear blowing wind,
I feel like terror hitting dynamite.

By Erica Buckwell

I see the sun setting on the grassy plains
As I taste moisture from the rain.
I touch the wet feel of the grass
As I hear the sweet sound of silence.
I feel like I'm truly alive!

By Josh Booyse

I remember this place;
It was the night's light
As it shone on my face
And gave me delight.

By Ellie Brown

Dates for the Diary

7 March	Business apprenticeship event for Year 12 students
13 March	Year 10 'How to help your child in GCSE English' evening
14 March	Year 12 Parents' Evening
15 March	KS5 Parents in science event
23 March	Last day of term - students dismissed from 12:35pm

Sudoku solution

Daily No. 4411 Easy

17	11	13		11		6		20
3	7	8	4	2	9	5	1	6
5	4	1	6	3	8	7	9	2
9	6	2	7	1	5	8	3	4
18						15		
8	9	6	3	5	4	2	7	1
1	5	4	2	9	7	6	8	3
2	3	7	8	6	1	4	5	9
6	2	5	9	8	3	1	4	7
4	1	3	5	7	6	9	2	8
7	8	9	1	4	2	3	6	5

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Friends of Nobel School (FONS) update

A combination of the recent Ofsted visit and the 'Beast from the East' led to two FONS events being postponed this month. The annual quiz will now take place on Friday 20 April and, due to the forecast bad weather (at the time of writing), this evening's disco has been rescheduled for Friday 27 April. Another date for your diaries – the third annual Nobel Barn Dance will take place on Saturday 19 May, and is a fantastic evening, with up to 100 guests enjoying the dancing, a hot supper and a cash bar.

Money raised by FONS from events such as the discos, quiz and Barn Dance is used to provide equipment and opportunities that cannot always be met from limited school funds. In the past we have funded a boat for outdoor education students and new tents for use at Wymondley Woods. This academic year, we have asked departments to let us know what they would find useful and, to date, have funded or agreed to fund almost £2,000 of projects and equipment for the English, ESS, Science, RE, Food Tech, History and Geography departments as well as the Sixth Form. Purchases have included text books, iPads, visualisers, resource packs, and even an impeller, to measure river velocity. More details (and hopefully photos!) in a future newsletter.

We are always looking for new Committee members, so if you would like to help us raise money for the school, please come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 24 April at 7pm in the Library. Thank you for your support.

Logic puzzle solution

Help Jeff

The answer is 119 and NOT 123.

How? Well, you have probably made the fatal assumption that time is not important here in Jeff's world and yet you should know that time is important everywhere.

FONS 100 Club winners for ...

February

Number	Name	Prize
41	T Sandy	£35
4	E Twomey	£25