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# Nobel

Excellence in Everything

## From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

The Nobel School open evening is a really special occasion; it is much more than a simple recruitment fare where the school looks to get as many 'first-choices' as it can. For us it is the time of the year when the school shows itself off and celebrates all its successes. In many ways our good reputation is dependent upon prospective parents leaving our school having had an inspirational experience, even if their youngsters don't end up with a place at Nobel. Good reputations are hard won and really easily lost so we must never be complacent about our image and reputation. Therefore, I was thrilled with how our lovely school presented itself last Tuesday 22 October; the whole place sparkled and the feedback from our visitors was overwhelmingly positive. I should like to take this opportunity to thank our student guides and ambassadors – over 400 students helped us on open evening! Much gratitude to all the staff – teaching and non-teaching – who championed Nobel fantastically well; it really was a wonderful evening.

On a different note, you may have read in The Comet (we were mentioned three times in the last week's edition) that my PA, Kate Perry has retired. She has been a real stalwart at the school since 1998 having supported no less than eight different headteachers and seen much change in that time. We shall miss her cheerful, efficient and caring presence at Nobel and on behalf of all of us I wish her good luck and much happiness in a well-earned retirement.



However, I am able to report that we have appointed Mrs Chantal Coakes as an excellent replacement for Kate. As well as functioning as my PA, Chantal also has responsibility for our communication (particularly Nobel News, Facebook and Twitter) as well as staff recruitment. She is a great addition to the superb administration team that we have at Nobel and I look forward to working with her for many years to come. Incidentally, if you wish to raise any issues with me or indeed draw our attention to things that need to be communicated to the outside world then you can contact Chantal directly at



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

Finally, if you use social media I urge you to 'follow' us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/nobelschooluk>), 'friend' us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/nobelschooluk](http://www.facebook.com/nobelschooluk)) and download the Nobel School smartphone app that now exists – the app is the best way of letting us know about student absence and we use social media to celebrate and communicate news.

Have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards,

Martyn Henson

## Year 13 Biology Field Trip to Kimmeridge Bay

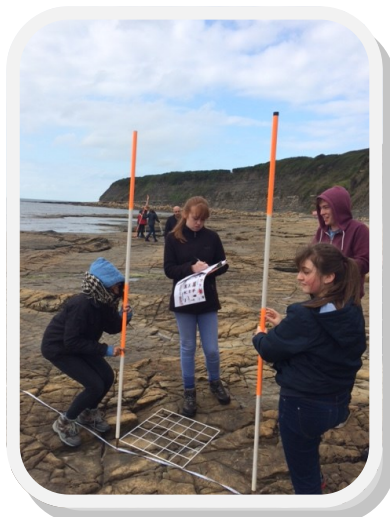
On Tuesday 8 September, the A2 Biologists set off in the Nobel Minibus destined for the Dorset Coast. 9 students, Mrs Field, Mr Shibli and Miss Christie were armed with a range of weird and wonderful equipment – ranging poles, refractometers, quadrats and clinometers to name but a few.

After a long drive, we arrived in one piece, at the beautiful Lulworth Cove where Mr Shibli insisted on completing the mammoth task of trekking up (and then down) an enormous hill to see the beautiful and mystical Durdle Door. After a short time spent admiring the incredible views, and catching our breath, we went back down the hill and into Lulworth where most of us enjoyed a delicious ice cream.

After our evening meal at the youth hostel, Mr Shibli set about prepping the students for the task ahead – carrying out a beach profile to show the inclination of the rocky shore from the shoreline towards to the cliff, as well as carrying out a transect to investigate the distribution of species. The distribution of species can be used to identify the various zones of the beach.

After two days on the beach, and with only a couple of students not remembering their sun cream, we worked incredibly hard and achieved some fantastic results, which now need to be analysed and written up into a report.

Many thanks to Mr Shibli for organising the trip and to Mrs Field for her expert minibus handling.



*Ben Smith and Gemma Vadolia (our Biology Student Ambassadors) had this to say about our trip:*

*“Last Tuesday, the A2 biology class took the minibus to the quaint little village of Lulworth, on the Dorset coast. On arrival we hiked up to Durdle Door to admire the beauty of the natural landscape and the calm serenities of the waters. On hearing the news that we could not get the bus back to the Youth Hostel, Mr Shibli was met with much displeasure; however this was short lived when we reached the ice cream shop that waited below. Skimming stones across the cove was an activity that the boys indulged in, all attempting to match the skill of Mr Shibli. We visited the visitors’ centre that showed us the rich history of the area going all the way back to the Stone Age! Kimmeridge Bay was where we journeyed to carry out important investigations that we will use when writing up our coursework.*

*Some thermally challenged individuals struggled with the mild temperatures on the first day. We started by using ranging poles to measure the profile of the rocky shore, whilst using quadrats in a very long transect to identify the indicator species. Many of us got wet shoes at this point; this proved a problem over the next few days for those who only brought one pair! Some of us (Miss Christie) took to flying across the rocky shore gracefully! After our busy morning at the bay we ventured out on a string of tours for some well-deserved enrichments, including visiting the grave of Lawrence of Arabia, as well as indulging in a traditional cream tea, joined by some unwanted \*buzzing\* guests.*

*Light hearted evenings followed hours of hard work, where we dabbled in games of Jenga and cards. Competitive behaviours were displayed by Miss Christie and Mr Shibli in the efforts to avoid forfeits. Overall this trip was a unique experience and allowed us to bond as a group, whilst furthering our thirst for biology! “*

## Kimmeridge Bay photo gallery



## Year 7 News

I'd like to take this opportunity to formally welcome our new Year 7 students and their families as Nobelians.

We are now 3 full weeks into the new school year and as I write this, preparations for the Wymondley Wood "getting to know you" camp are almost complete; both the students and I are extremely excited by this.

Our new students have settled into their new school incredibly well and are now starting to find their feet and their way around our enormous building. They have already begun to contribute to school life, with Year 7 students running our break-time stationery shop and acting as guides for the recent Prospective Parents' Open Evening. We have also had excellent attendance at our extra curricular clubs, with over 50 boys turning up for football training (full details of the clubs on offer can be obtained via your child's form tutor).

We have two events coming up before half term for Year 7. Next week is Form Tutor Evening, where parents are invited to meet their son or daughter's new form tutor. This is an important event on the school calendar and is particularly important for Year 7 as it gives the form tutors the first real opportunity to build a key relationship with the families of their form, which will hopefully last for the next five years. Then on Monday 12 October, we have our first Year 7 Parents in Science Evening. Organised by Miss Christie and her team of Sixth Formers, this is a great opportunity for parents to come in and sample a real secondary school science lesson with their children.

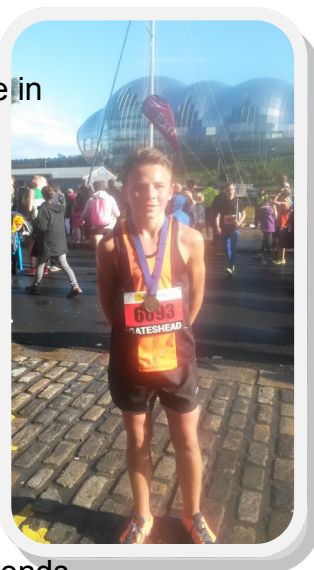
I will be present at both of these events and very much looking forward to meeting with as many of you as possible.

Warmest regards,

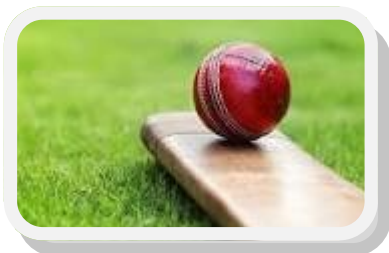
Mr Smith (Head of Year 7)

## Congratulations and well done to...

Adam Mason in year 10, who finished in 16<sup>th</sup> place in the Junior Great North Run in a time of 14.15 for 4 kilometres. He raised money for Addenbrookes along with several members of his family and close friends.



Tom Cowan and Adam Mason for being awarded a Hertfordshire Outstanding Service to Cricket Award. Both students were winners of the Young Leader of the Year Award. They were presented with their award at Essex County Cricket Ground on Tuesday 1 September. They will now represent Hertfordshire at the national OSCA awards on 12 October at Lords. Both students thoroughly deserved to win this due to them giving up their own time to inspire other younger cricketers. We are very proud of their achievements



Link below for a photo:  
<http://www.hertscricket.org/news/hertfordshire-and-essex-natwest-oscas-2015-11585/>

Alisha Levy, who finished in fourth place in the Under 17s javelin at the Sainsbury's 2015 School Games. With a total of twelve sports and around 1600 competitors, the event was a fantastic celebration of youth sport and Alisha had a great time.



## LATIN SUCCESS

Five students sat Level 1 Latin in June having attended all, or the majority of, lessons before and after school hours. All received A\*-grade with three students receiving 100%. A magnificent and deserved achievement for Bobby Banks, Matthew Banks, Clare Holtham, Michael Tsang and Matthew Wan. Macte Virtute! They will complete GCSE equivalent in June 2016.

At the end of the summer term The Nobel School held a vote to find The Nobel Student of the year. Candidates were nominated by teachers and peers to the Heads of House who then picked a winner per house. The winners went through to a final where the whole school then voted for who they thought deserved to be The Nobel Student of the year. It was a close call between the four students involved but the overall winner was Roshni Dholakia in 9E SWE. Roshni's name has been etched on to the winners' board and will now go down in Nobel history.

Mr Camp

Head of Eliot



## ***Congratulations and well done to...***

In the summer term Nobel entered a selection of art and textiles work from KS4 and KS5 into the Specialist Crafts catalogue competition.

**We had one winner - Courtney Grieve** (now in Y12) with her amazing textile sculpture, a hand felted, embellished "Waffle" shoe.



All of the entries feature in the online catalogue gallery and appear on page 10.

Here is the link <http://www.specialistcraftsgallery.com/>

3 of Year 8 Nobelians and Stevenage Borough Blacksox Football Team members, Adam Burtenshaw-Cummins, Freddie O'Brien and Bradley Shaw have started off the new football season with yet another football tournament win, making it the third win out of five this year.



## ***Forthcoming events:***

7 October - Form Tutor Evening 2:00pm - 7:30pm

14 October - Yr10 Parents' information evening

14 October - Friends of Nobel meeting

16 October - Yr7 disco

## ***Logic puzzle***

Some people believe that January 1, 2000 is the first day of the 21st century. Other people believe that the honour belongs to January 1, 2001. But everyone should agree that January 1, 2002 is the first "sum-day" of the new century- when you write out that date in standard notation, it becomes 01/01/02, and  $1+1=2$ . More generally, a sum-day is a date in which the day and month add up to the year. With that in mind:

A) What is the last sum-day of the 21st century?

B) How many sum-days are there in the 21st century?

Solution on page 8

# *The Nobel approach to learning outside of lessons*

Mrs Rose, deputy head writes:

First of all, we don't call it home study anymore! The title home study or homework implies that these activities should take place at home. Whilst some tasks will be completed at home with students working on their own, others will require collaboration or the use of equipment that is most readily available in school. Instead we call these tasks **PLTs** – they are either pre-lesson or post-lesson tasks.

Pre-lesson tasks are activities set by a class teacher which are aimed at preparing students for the next stage in their learning. These tasks may be research or reading based and involve discovering new information which will be used in future lessons.

Post-lesson tasks build on the knowledge and skills students have been developing in lessons in order to foster a greater depth of understanding. These can be seen as an extension of the learning that has taken place in the lesson.

Students are welcome to remain in the school building to complete PLTs. They can work in the Library until 4.30pm or in any of the open classroom and open ICT spaces around the school until 5pm. Many students report that they prefer to stay and complete tasks here rather than attempting to complete them at home; this is particularly the case where students are asked to work in a group to complete PLTs.

We want to empower our students to seek solutions to problems and have the confidence to examine issues in an independent way. The key skills for developing independent learning are:

- Information retrieval
- Planning
- Analysis
- Time management

PLTs can help:

- Consolidate learning from lessons
- Provide opportunities for practice – learning by doing
- Encourage self-discipline by meeting targets
- Develop the skills of enquiry, research and investigation

## *How you can help your child with PLTs and possible questions you might ask*

You and your son / daughter could dip into this bank of reflective questions to enable reflection on learning at home:

A menu of reflective questions

Paul Bytheway

What did you learn today?

What skills did you use in this lesson?

What did you find difficult and why?

When have you had to think like this before?

What have you learned that is similar?

What connections have you made?

How did you get involved in the lesson?

What should you do to further your thinking?

What breakthroughs have you made?

What do you want to know more about?

How are you going to remember this learning?

What is the key aspect you will remember from this lesson?

What does this lesson remind you of?

What did you learn that you didn't know before?

What have you learned that could be useful elsewhere?

How will you apply what you have learned?

All the above questions involve you as parents acting as a sound board in promoting quality learning; they allow choice and flexibility; they can be used in all subjects and with all age groups. They focus on quality rather than quantity.

PLTs will be the major topic of discussion at the Parent Forum meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October. All parents are warmly invited to join us on this evening to work with us on refining our approach and ensuring that PLTs are a worthwhile and beneficial activity for our students.

## Ethan Walsh

Over the summer, Ethan was selected by Table Tennis England to train in China for three weeks at a summer school. Ethan is currently the U13 national champion and ranked No.1 in the country at both U14 and U15 level - our warmest congratulations to Ethan. Here follows an interview conducted by Ethan's table tennis club based in Harlow, Batts. Ethan was interviewed by Graham Frankel who runs the club:

*What was your timetable each day?*

Most days we played for six hours starting at 8.30am and finishing at 5.30pm with a 3 hour break in the middle of the day. On some days we were taken on trips, including one to see some ancient monuments and another when we visited Shanghai.

In the mornings we spent most of the time practising, and in the afternoons we would be multiballing (each other) and playing matches.

*Did you not get multiball from the coaches?*

A little, but they tended to do this with the Chinese students.

*Were there other nationalities involved or just English and Chinese?*

Yes, I met players from Germany, Canada, Slovakia, Slovenia, Barbados, Peru and USA!

*Did you notice differences in coaching methods in China?*

There were quite a few differences. In some ways the coaching was more simple – the coach would set a straightforward exercise which we would work on in pairs. They didn't use so many complicated sequences of strokes in their routines. Another difference was that they didn't spend so much time demonstrating. This meant that during the training period we had quite a lot more table time.

*Did you learn any Chinese?*

I learned a few words!

*What was the food like?*

Some of it was like the food we have in Chinese restaurants over here, but other things were plainer. It was good, really.

*Did you notice any improvements in your play?*

Yes. I think I have improved the power in my forehand, both speed and spin. Also I think I am moving around the table more quickly.

*Did you notice any other differences in how the Chinese attitude to table tennis differed from how it is treated in England?*

Definitely. Over there they treat the sport much more seriously. They are more determined and more intense in their training.

*Has the experience made you adjust your own ambitions?*

If anything it has made me even more determined to do well and reach the top. I definitely want to play for England.



## Year 7 Parents in Science Evening

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the annual Year 7 Parents in Science Evening.

This is an evening that is designed to get our new Year 7 students working together with their parents, showcasing their newly acquired science skills, to carry out a scientific investigation.

It is a lovely opportunity for your child to show you what they have learnt, as well as allowing your child to interact with students they may not normally get the chance to meet. It is also a chance for students to meet our Sixth Form Science Ambassadors, and to work with the Science Teachers in a less formal setting.

This evening will take place on Monday 19 October 2015 from 5:30 – 7:00pm.

If you, and your child, would like to attend this evening, please email me ([megan.christie@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:megan.christie@nobel.herts.sch.uk)) by the 5 October 2015.

We look forward to seeing you for an exciting evening of the best science has to offer.

Miss Christie

### Uniform reminder:

Dear parents,

Just a reminder about uniform as we enter the winter period. We are still requiring school shoes not boots to be worn in school and we have maintained the no hoodie policy of previous years. Hoodies are not coats and are not allowed in school worn over or under blazers.

We are proud of our school uniform, which is worn by all students in years 7 to 11. We expect students to wear proper shoes, not trainers, canvas, sport shoes or boots ie Kickers.

Daily No. 3355

Easy

15		5		7	14		37	
9		7			31			
20	3		14					8
	11		35					
	11				14	3		
16		21				10	10	
	29			9	4	5		
			12			13	16	
				16				

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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

### Logic puzzle solution:

A) The last sum-day of the 21st century is December 31, 2043, because  $12+31=43$ , and both the month and day are as big as possible.

B) This one is much easier than you might think. The correct answer is 365, because every day in a standard (non-leap) year is part of a sum-day for some year. For example, November 26 is a sum-day for the year 2037, because  $11+26=37$ . The only date for which this principle doesn't work is the leap day, February 29. That's because  $2+29=31$ , but 2031 is not a leap year.



## Information

### *Friends of Nobel School 100 Club Winners for August / September*

Number	Name	Prize
55	Tony Cater	£30
62	Mrs Shortland	£24

Number	Name	Prize
86	Miss V Thomas	£30
85	Zoe Coulson	£24

### **COMMUNICATING WITH SCHOOL from September 2015**

To improve communication with school, please feel free to contact your son/daughter's student support officer. Any subject based enquiries, about detentions, homework or attainment, please contact their subject teachers via email. Asking for the head of year or form tutor in the first instance can slow responses down, so if urgent please contact the student support officer. The student support officer is best suited to deal with other issues in school and, if need be, forward concerns to the appropriate member of staff. This will enable parents to be dealt with more quickly and efficiently. Student support officers will get back to you as soon as possible.

Year 7 - Mrs Penney

Year 8 - Miss Fox

Year 9 - Miss Thorp

Year 10 - Mr O'Neill

Year 11 - Mrs Smith



**Need help with your future career plans? Not sure what to do?**

The Nobel School in partnership with Youth Connexions will provide you with access to impartial careers advice and guidance so you can look at all the options available and make the right choice for you.

If you would like to speak to someone please let your form tutor know; they will arrange a 1:1 meeting with one of the Youth Connexions Advisers who are in school on Tuesdays (Hazel Brown) and Thursdays (Lesley Ayres). Each meeting will last about 40 minutes and will take place in The Careers Office in the Library.

If you just have a quick question then you can pop in during Tuesday or Thursday lunchtimes to see them in the library area.

More information on Youth Connexions can be found on our website [www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org](http://www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org)

Mr Trotter

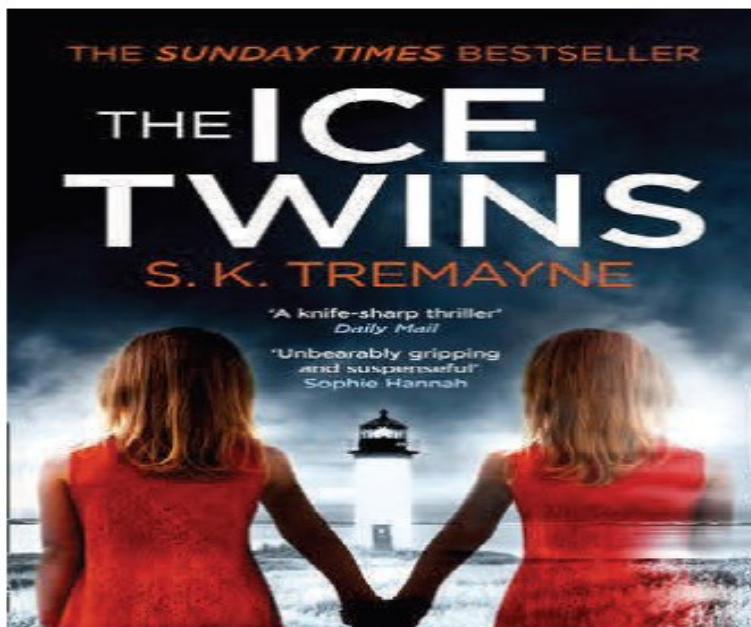
Head of Employment Engagement

Twitter: @careersnobel

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

Next meeting will be held in the Library 6.30pm  
Wednesday October 21

**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



Daily No. 3355

Easy

15 7	8	5 4	1	7 3	14 9	5	37 6	2
9 6	3	7 5	2	4	31 7	9	1	8
20 9	3 1	2	14 8	6	5	7	4	8 3
8	11 4	7	35 6	1	2	3	9	5
3	11 5	6	7	9	4	14 8	3 2	1
16 2	9	21 1	3	5	8	6	10 7	10 4
5	29 2	8	9	9 7	4 1	5 4	3	6
4	6	9	12 5	2	3	1	13 8	16 7
1	7	3	4	16 8	6	2	5	9