

News

10 March 2017

Edition 4.11

From the Headteacher



Nobel

Excellence in Everything

Dear parents and carers,

When I speak to headteacher colleagues, a recurring concern is that the UK's education system seems to change on a weekly basis. That is not to say that some of the changes to the system have not been good; far from it.

For example, the introduction of 'progress 8' is a sensible change, looking as it does, at the progress a student makes at school, rather than judging a school solely on its attainment levels. The attainment model was fundamentally flawed as it always favoured schools with selective intake rather than proper comprehensive schools like ours.

However, some suggested changes really don't seem to have been thoroughly thought through and such initiatives can destabilise schools, put teachers under further pressure and lead to more colleagues leaving the profession. Our staff, teaching and non-teaching, are excellent. They all work extremely hard and are dedicated to increasing the life-chances of Nobelians. However, when they get promoted and move on we find sourcing replacements very tough; there are fewer young graduates who want to join the teaching profession as the role has become increasingly complex; it is almost unrecognisable to the one I joined over 30 years ago.

A major concern is the decline in real terms of funding for schools. In effect, we are being asked to improve standards whilst our budgets are shrinking. This creates undue pressure on colleagues at all levels and can lead to disillusionment among our teachers.

I am not complaining or making any sort of political point, these are facts. In reality, we will continue to preserve the core values of our lovely school. However, when we read that there

will be extra funding for new schools, including grammar schools, it does beg the question 'How do we sustain the good schools we already have'?

On a different more positive note, it is lovely to see 30 or so year 11 students coming into school at 7:15am every morning for supervised revision – fantastic commitment from the students who have been 'not yet' in some subjects. They are determined to turn this around; well done to everyone involved.

Furthermore, progress data for students in Key Stage 3 is also highly encouraging, with the vast majority of students making expected or better than expected progress.

Please be reassured that our lovely school continues to go from strength to strength despite the rather depressing budgetary forecasts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards

Martyn Henson

Students commit to revision

The partnership between learners, parents and the school each year is what underpins student progress and ultimately life chances.

This year things are going well and as Mr Henson described in the newsletter, the school was a hive of activity at half term.

Support strategies this year include 'Form+', where targeted students try to fill gaps in knowledge with staff in the 20 minutes of form time + 20 extra minutes and additional subject intervention sessions that also run on rotation as a two week cycle. The large numbers of students who have been attending these sessions are benefiting from focused input and we do ask parents of any student who doesn't attend sessions to which they are invited to encourage them to do so.

For students who are making good progress, but need the security of knowing that they can do some quiet revision before going home, we have staff supervising an area where students can revise safely until 5pm every day.

Numbers in these sessions are increasing too as students continue on their journey to the exams.

Finally, despite what is often said about teenagers and getting them out of bed in the morning, we have 27 students that arrive in school at 7.15 a.m. each day to revise. This is a group of targeted students who were very honest with themselves and recognised that they had work to do, which they might not apply themselves to at home in the evenings. They spend an hour before school committing to their future results with staff to support them

The effort that students are giving this year points to positive outcomes in the summer. We hope that students feel supported and that parents feel that there is a strategy to support the full range of learners. If any parent feels that there is more we could do for a group or individual, please contact Mr Spence, Mr Morley or Mr Burningham. To students reading this, thank you for your commitment and remember it's never too late to make a positive difference.

Mr Burningham
Deputy Headteacher



7.15 a.m. targeted revision session.

Year 8 news...

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself to those of you I haven't yet met. My name is Mrs Evans and I am currently acting Head of Year 8 in Miss Gant's absence. I have been working at Nobel for over 8 years and my recent role was Director of Humanities. I am thoroughly enjoying this new challenge and have enjoyed working with all the amazing young people in our community.

We have been running several competitions within the year group, which have been very well received. The first is a form competition each half term. The criteria is based on high house points, low behaviour points and good attendance. So far, 8T LRN and 8C RLR are leading the way and have received the first two boxes of chocolates.

The second competition we run weekly is for attendance. The top three forms for highest attendance are announced in assembly on a Tuesday. Here at Nobel we value good attendance as it is so important for the students' development. Evidence shows that students will achieve and make more progress if they are regularly attending and actively engaging in the curriculum on offer. I am so pleased to see that attendance is improving and that the forms are rising to the challenge.

Finally, the last competition we held was called 'My Life.' Students were asked to create an A3 poster based on their life. It needed to include a selection of creative pieces, for example, quotes from poems, paragraphs from books, art work, photographs and song lyrics. We had some wonderful entries and I would like to thank the students for sharing their thoughts and feelings with me. I feel like I know them all so much better now. The winner was Lily Smith and a copy of her work is below. The runner up was Clara Juanillo and her work is also shown below. Well done girls, a fantastic win for your form and house!

To end my news, I would like to thank the form tutors and all their hard work and the constant support from Mrs Smith (Student Support Officer.) They have made my transition into this new role really easy and have been very welcoming. I would also like to thank all the parents, so far I have built some fantastic relationships and had lots of positive communication with home. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming months.

Mrs Evans
Head of Year 8



Clara Juanillo



Lily Smith

Andorra Ski Trip 2017

On Friday 10 February 77 students and 9 members of staff set off for a week skiing in Andorra. After a long journey we finally arrived in a very snowy Andorra.

After a goodnight's sleep the students were ready to embark on their first day skiing. Although the sun was out in force, the winds were very high and students battled through the first two days of their ski lessons.

By the afternoon of day 2 the blizzard had settled in and students still showed resilience and continued to progress with their skiing.

I am very impressed with how students conducted themselves throughout the trip, however even more so with the determination they showed within their ski lessons. Every single student progressed exceptionally on the trip and were off exploring a variety of runs around the resort.

The instructors from the ski school commented on how much of a pleasure it was to teach our students and they were upset that the week flew by!

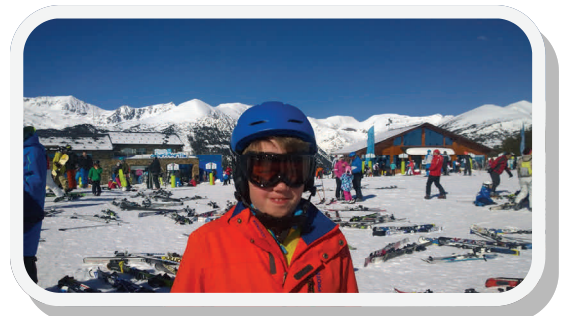
After the long days skiing on the slopes, the evenings were split up into a variety of activities. Students enjoyed a shopping trip to Andorra city centre where they got to indulge in tax free shopping. There was also a quiz night, bingo night as well as evenings where they were just able to chill out.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all students who attended they trip and for their conduct throughout. Staff from Activ4, DJ Coaches and the ski school all commented on our students' behaviour, attitude and all round pleasantness throughout the trip.

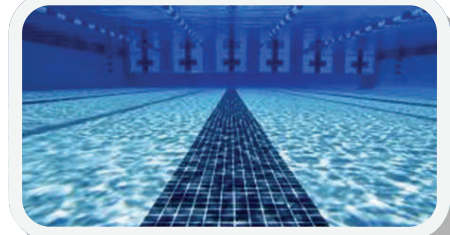
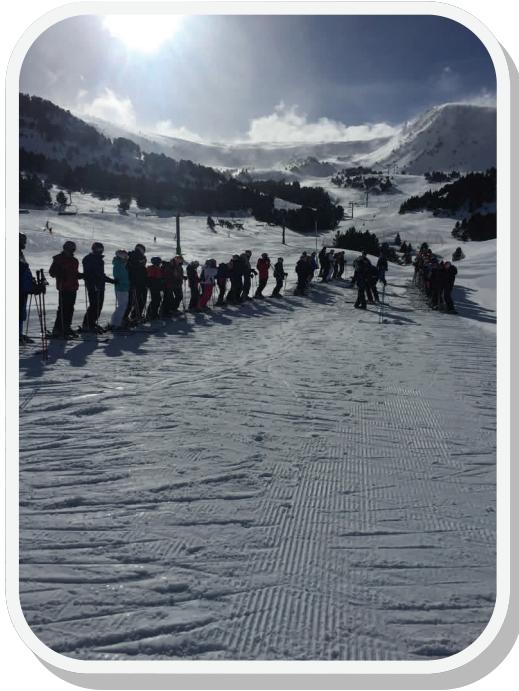
Also a huge thank you to all staff that helped support me with the build up to the trip as well as those who attended. A special thank you to Mrs Horton, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Casimir for all their help with the administration of paperwork; Mrs Lambert in finance.

Finally a huge thank you to Mr Camp, Mr Spence, Mr Howells, Mr Lovelock, Mr Malam, Mr Gunduz, Miss Chalkright and Mrs Jones for all their help throughout the trip.

Miss Palombo



Swimming Gala 2017



On Thursday 9 February Nobel entered the annual District Swimming Gala held at Hitchin

Pool. Students competed in a variety of different stroke events as well as team relays and as always Nobel did not disappoint!

A huge well done to the following students
Jamie Brown, Molly Woodard, Eloise Sewell, Jessie Bird, Olivia Matfield, Paris Driver, Thomas Long, Ben Chapman, Tobi Laguda, Benaiah Mutinda, Ryan Pocock and Nicholas Hollas.



All students swam amazingly and the results are as follows:

Junior Boys 50m Back stroke – James Chapman 2nd

Inter Girls 50m Back stroke – Paris Driver 6th

Inter Boys 50m Back stroke – Ryan Pocock 2nd

Junior Girls Medley Relay – 4th

Inter Boys Medley Relay – 2nd

Senior Boys 50m Breast stroke – Nicholas Hollas 3rd

Junior Girls 50m Breast stroke – Eloise Sewell 4th

Inter Boys 50m Breast stroke – Thomas Long 2nd

Junior Girls Freestyle Relay – 6th

Inter Boys 25m Fly – Benaiah Mutinda 1st

Junior Girls 25m Fly – Olivia Matfield 3rd

Junior Boys 25m Fly – Jamie Brown 2nd

Junior Girls 50m Freestyle – Jessie Bird 4th

Inter Boys 50m Freestyle – Tobi Laguda 1st

Also a huge thank you to Mr Bird who volunteered to be the timekeeper for Nobel, as well as Miss Chalkright, Mr Wilsher and Miss Hilton for all their help on the evening.

Well done again to all students involved.

Miss Palombo

Reptillian success



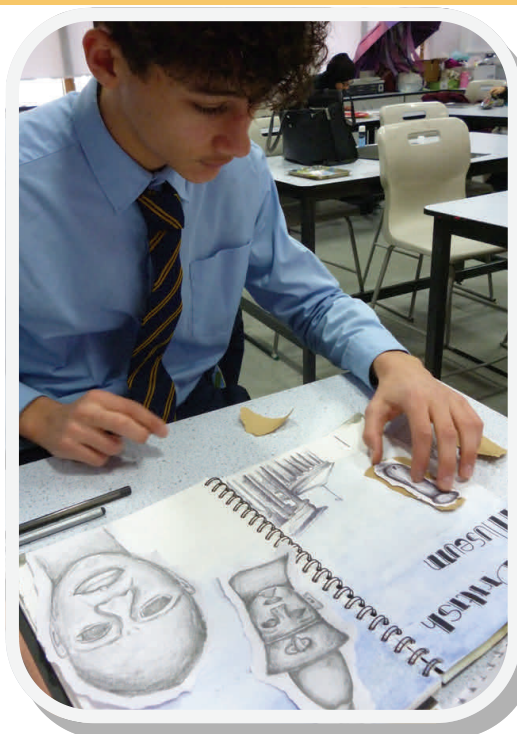
Shelley pictured with her winning bag.

Fantastic news was received in the Art Department recently. Shelley Lloyd's piece of GCSE Art Textiles titled 'Reptillian' has been chosen to go on the front cover of the Heart Educational catalogue.

'Inspired by the enchanting shapes and vibrant colours of reptiles, this clutch bag embodies methods of felting, layering, embroidery and machine stitching. A delicate application of dissolvable fabric accentuates the piece, adding to the textural layering whilst incorporating colours from elsewhere on the bag. Metallic threads run throughout the bag, creating an eye catching design for a daring woman. It took me around 15 hours to make and it was a piece of coursework for my GCSE. I received an A* for this piece of artwork, and being on the cover of Heart Educational Supplies further adds to my excitement.'

Shelley Lloyd

GCSE art visit a great success!



As a vital part of the students' GCSE exam preparation, year 11 art students recently visited the British Museum. The drawings completed on the visit provide evidence to cover their four assessment objectives. This has to take place in this preparatory period prior to the exam in April.

Everybody had a really productive day adding valuable substantiation to their exam work.

The year 11's behaviour was a credit to the school.



Dates for the diary:

10 March - FONS quiz night

14 March - Yr 9 County dance festival

15 March - Yr 12 parents' evening

16 March - Yr 7 and 8 music - African drumming workshop at Greenside school

16 March - Parents in Science Evening: Years 7-9

GSK employer engagement

Since September, 8 Y12 ICT CTech students have been working with GSK as part of our employer engagement initiative. This is a mandatory requirement for students following the course and as such allows the students to gain a clear understanding of how IT is used within a corporate structure.

Initial planning for this started in June of last year, with meetings taking place to look at delivery models and aspects of the curriculum that GSK could help provide assistance and real world experiences. This planning has enabled our students to benefit from the resources that GSK has to offer as well as adding value to the students' learning experience.

The Y12 students visit the GSK campus once every ½ term with each visit lasting between 2-4 hours depending on the nature of the topic being delivered or the personnel involved in the delivery.

So far this academic year, students have had learning experiences looking at:

- Employer expectations regarding its workforce
- Employee attributes
- How data is collected in a corporate environment

- Data analysis
- Producing and presenting information
- Different communication methods
- Robotics and control
- Data v information
- Hardware and software used within a corporate environment
- Data security

With GSK helping deliver these topics, it has given our students the 'real world' experience of how IT is used outside of a school setting. These topics (taken from the specification) have also allowed students to engage positively with the subject material. In addition, the change in the learning environment has enabled students to become more confident in their approach to learning and asking questions – students follow 'GSK rules' – first names only, which gives students a slightly more informal way of interacting with adults.

The employer engagement initiative has been extremely positive and something that the students have enjoyed since September. Further visits are planned this year looking at other aspects of the specification, but GSK have been vital in adding context and experience into the students learning.

Mr Hamilton

Director of learning

Operating Department Practitioners 2017

My day in the operating theatre at Lister Hospital



As part of my Cambridge Technical Diploma in Health and Social Care we recently had the opportunity to meet some operating department trainees from the University of Bedfordshire and the manager of this department from Lister Hospital. About 10 students from Nobel were then given the opportunity to attend a work experience day actually working within the operating department at Lister Hospital.

On Wednesday 15 February I went to The Lister Hospital to spend a day of work experience with the Operating Department Practitioners. This included communicating with different types of patients, going into the anaesthetic room with them, to put them under general anaesthetic. I then accompanied them into surgery and watched the surgery that the patient was undergoing, I supported the anaesthetist by watching and reporting on blood pressure and heart rate (under supervision). I had the opportunity to watch both a man and a women's hernia being removed. I did not find the experience scary, just incredibly interesting. After the surgery ended I accompanied each of the patients into the recovery ward and once they had come round I then followed them down to either the day care centre or to the ward that they would be staying in overnight.

I really enjoyed my time at the hospital as it gave me an insight in to the different types of careers that are open to me. I thought I had my heart and mind set on doing a social work degree but now that I have completed a couple days of work experience with the operating department I am now considering studying for and completing a degree which may allow me to become an Operating Department Practitioner.



Jessica Christie-Taylor

Parents in science evening

Parents in Science Evening: Years 7-9

As part of our Science Programme, I am delighted to invite you along with your son/daughter to a Parents in Science Evening at Nobel on Thursday 16 March. The event will take place in our double science lab the Fisher Freeman Laboratory . The programme will be as follows:

6pm – Welcome and background to Year 7-9

6.15 - 7.15pm Practical with your family

7.15-7.30pm Questions

7.30pm –Depart

If you have any questions about the day then please contact me at school, otherwise, the related letters of invitation are now available for your son or daughter to collect from me.

Miss Pearson

Second in Science (Lead Practitioner)

World Book Day at Nobel

Nobel celebrated the twentieth World Book Day with students decorating their form room doors in the theme of a book. The admin staff and senior leadership team also joined in with some very innovative doors. Well done to 8E DCP who won with *The Gruffalo* and 8M RWT who were highly commended with their *Mr Men* theme. Judging was particularly difficult this year as everyone had worked hard and come up with lovely ideas.

Lunchtime in the library was busy with our first ever cake sale. Students were also able to pick up a free World Book Day book and watch the latest book trailers. New books were available to borrow and those who completed our word search were awarded house points.

The book themed cake sale raised £26.56 for our Kadoma link school. Thank you to everyone who brought in their yummy cakes and to everyone who bought them.

Mrs Essakhi



Sudoku

Daily No. 4041

Easy

16			12		22			12
19	18			6				14
		18			13			
	11	16				12		
		31					10	
11			14	12				15
12	18			16			15	
		15			14			
	17					16		

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 12

Language learners of the half term



Language 语言 Linguaggio Язык
 Γλώσσα Język ភាសា لسان
 भाषा ភាសា ភាសា ភាសា
 Language 语言 ភាសា ភាសា
 भाषा ភាសា ភាសា ភាសា
 Linguagem Wika ភាសា ភាសា
 Sprache 语言 ភាសា ភាសា
 Bahasa 언어

January / February

Year 7: Victor Ramirez-Rioja 7T HBT for French

Year 8: Benjamin Wright 8 C DMV for German

Year 9: Sydney Igbinosa 9M RME for Mandarin

Year 10: Lexi Clark 10 E SCI for French

Year 11: Tom Doshier 11E EPO for Spanish

Year 12 /13: Mia Cabral 12 MMN for Spanish
 Matthew Banks 12 JMT for French



Week beginning 20 March

I is for... **ideology**

noun

1. the set of ideas and beliefs of a group or political party

“Equality of opportunity is an **ideology** that wishes to eliminate discrimination.”



Week beginning 13 March

H is for... **hierarchy**

noun

1. a group that controls an organization and is divided into different levels
 2. a system in which people or things are placed in a series of levels with different importance or status

“He was at the bottom of the corporate **hierarchy**.”

“a rigid **hierarchy** of social classes”

Friends of Nobel School 100 Club Winners for February

Number	Name	Prize
9	N Pedder	£36
11	K West	£28

Logic puzzle

Assuming you have enough coins of 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 cents, how many ways are there to make change for a dollar?

Solution page 12

Muddy Mayhem!

Teachers and sixth form students from Nobel School have signed up to the Garden House Hospice event, Muddy Mayhem on March 18.

Please would you sponsor the team in raising money for this local charity? You can use the 'Just Giving' page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Nobelschool> or pass the money to any of the teachers taking part.

The Garden House Hospice provides free specialist palliative care for patients, families and carers facing life limiting illnesses from across North Hertfordshire including Stevenage, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin, Baldock and Royston and surrounding villages.

Two square fatties - Mr Brown, Mr Mesher, Mr Moore, Mr Thompson
Mud Pi's - Ms Clarke, Mr Minkov, Mr Price, Mr Tayler
Titans - Miss Chalkright, Mrs Jones, Mr O'Neill, Mr Spence
Die Hards - Mr Gunduz, Mr Lovelock, Mr Stickland, Mr Walsh



Student team – 'The Designers' - Miss Montvilaite, Mr Barlow, Miss Papworth, Miss Okoturo, Miss Clark, Mr Fisk, Miss Darling



NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Next meeting will be held in the Library 6.30pm

Tuesday 28 March 2017

THE BOOK TO READ IS:



Contact: Rosalind Essakhi: 01438 222600 or email:

library@nobel.herts.sch.uk

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

Solutions

Daily No. 4041

Easy

16	6	7	3	12	2	4	22	5	8	9	12	1
19	8	9	4	6	1	3	2	14	7	5		
	2	5	1	8	9	7	3	4	6			
	9	2	8	3	5	6	4	1	7			
	5	4	6	1	7	8	9	3	2			
11	3	1	7	9	2	4	6	5	8			
12	4	6	9	5	8	1	7	2	3			
	1	3	2	7	6	9	5	8	4			
	7	8	5	4	3	2	1	6	9			

Logic puzzle answer

There are 292 ways.

Required as soon as possible

Lettings Duty Officer – Bank Staff

Variable hours contract

Salary: H1.2 (£7.89 per hour) rising to £15 per hour for some specific duties

We are looking for a Duty Officer for our Lettings Department who would be prepared to cover weekend and evening shifts on a regular and rota basis. There will also be overtime available to cover staff absence.

You should be a talented administrator with some ICT skills, a passion for sport/fitness and ideally a Level 3 Fitness or coaching qualification. Applicants with a Level 2 qualification that aspire to gain their Level 3 may apply - a contribution towards their Level 3 qualification may be considered for the right applicant. Once qualified to Level 3, the successful candidate will be expected to undertake inductions or group training with existing customers at a higher rate of pay. Otherwise, the Duty Assistant will:

- Act as a front line representative of the lettings function ensuring all users enjoy their experience of using the school facilities.
- Set up and clear way equipment after each event / booking.
- Ensure facilities and equipment are being utilised correctly and dealing with any misuse or damage caused by hirers.
- Run customer inductions.
- Ensure the health and safety of all users whilst on site.
- Build excellent relationships with individual users and clubs, coping sensitively with the difficulties which arise.
- Display good communication skills.
- Demonstrable experience in a sports / leisure role.
- Flexibility to hours worked.

Carry out any other duties related to the lettings function.

Nobel School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all of its students, staff and visitors. The successful candidate will have to meet the requirements of the person specification in order to be offered the post and will be subject to recruitment checks, including an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or religion.

You can get further information from our website but we strongly advise you contact us to arrange an informal visit – you won't regret it! To arrange a pre-visit, or for additional information, please contact Debbie Clark (Lettings Manager) on 01438 735002.

The closing date for applications is Monday 17 April 2017. **Prospective candidates are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible as the school reserves the right to close the advert should we feel able to appoint an appropriate candidate.** If you wish to apply, please complete an application form (available on our website). All applications should be sent electronically to HR@nobel.herts.sch.uk

Please note that we do not accept CVs in place of application forms.

Interview date(s) to be arranged.



...invite you to their Fun Quiz Night

Friday, 10th March 2017

6.30 for 7.00pm start
(Finish approx. 10pm)

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

Tables bookable 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)

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)

The importance of being active

How do we promote this in PE @ Nobel?



FACT 1: ACHIEVEMENT

Pupils improve in all subjects



FACT 2: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Pupils are more confident & positive



FACT 3: SOCIAL SKILLS

Pupils have more developed social skills



FACT 4: HEALTH & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Pupils have a better outlook on life



FACT 5: LEADERSHIP

Pupils will be able to make informed decisions



You are always encouraged to try your best, within practices and games. If you do this you will achieve.



You are always encouraged to try your best; you are offered personal learning targets as well as tasks to suit your ability.



You are given the opportunity to work with students of the same ability in PE lessons and are encouraged to attend extra-curricular clubs to meet new friends and other people interested in the same sports as you.



Sport develops your health and fitness; you have a variety of PE lessons and opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity. Physical activity releases positive endorphins which relieves stress and makes you happier and harder working for your other lessons. Students who regularly take part in physical activity achieve more!



You are given the opportunity to lead warm-ups and activities within your lessons. This develops your knowledge and understanding as well as your confidence. You will also be offered leadership courses within PE lessons, especially in key stage 4.

SPRING TERM SPORT EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIME 1:10 – 1:40	FITNESS – ALL YEARS BADMINTON TABLE TENNIS	FITNESS – ALL YEARS BOYS FUTSAL BOCCIA	FITNESS – ALL YEARS BADMINTON TABLE TENNIS OCR YR 10 – SHS CLASS ONLY	FITNESS – ALL YEARS BADMINTON TABLE TENNIS OCR YR 10 – SHS CLASS ONLY	FITNESS – ALL YEARS BASKETBALL
AFTER SCHOOL 3:30-4:30	BOYS FOOTBALL NETBALL X-COUNTRY BEGINNERS RUNNING FITNESS	GIRLS FOOTBALL GIRLS ACTIVE CLUB – INVITE ONLY	GIRLS CRICKET WELL-BEING - INVITE ONLY STAFF MEETING NETBALL FIXTURES	RUGBY – GIRLS & BOYS GCSE PRACTICAL – YR 11 INVITE ONLY	BASKETBALL GIRLS ONLY FITNESS STAFF SPORTS

*PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE PE AREAS UNTIL CLUBS START AND THERE IS A MEMBER OF STAFF PRESENT, THANK YOU.