

News

26 May 2017
Edition 4.15

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

There is an inextricable link between attendance at school and academic progress. Recent research suggests that less than 90% attendance in early years can put children back by one school year in mathematics. As a school community, we pride ourselves on our fantastic attendance figures which remain around 95% each year. This is achieved through the hard work of the attendance team at the school and, of course, our parents who diligently send their children into school each day.

We always aim for 100% attendance; however, we are realistic enough to recognise that students also experience illness meaning they cannot come to school on occasion. Our school target for every student therefore remains at 95% or above and we regularly publish this in the newsletter.

Moreover, parents may be aware of recent court action that sought to change the rules regarding holidays and unauthorised absence. By way of clarification as regards the school's position, we make the following points:

- The interim position that followed the recent court case has now been superseded by a Supreme Court ruling.
- The Supreme Court considered the definition of what was meant in law by the phrase "fails to attend regularly" and concluded unanimously that the word "regularly" means "in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school." This decision emphasises the importance of parents ensuring their child attends school on each and every day the school

is open (unless the absence is authorised)

- As a consequence, Nobel's definition of regular would be in accordance with the 95% (or above) attendance figure that we target each year.

As we approach the last half term of the year, I hope that parents support us in maintaining this approach to attendance, even on the days when it is a struggle sending their children in and avoiding holidays during term time.

On a separate issue, I had the great pleasure of speaking to our lovely year 13s at their leaving assembly on Monday – they really are a special group of young people. I urged them to show gratitude to their teachers over the next few days, we have a great staff at Nobel; their dedication and professionalism never ceases to amaze and please me. On your behalf, year 13 – hats off to the teachers and support staff, who despite all the external difficulties facing us, continue to do a fantastic job. That's what makes our lovely school such a special place.

Have a great half term and keep safe.

Warm regards

Martyn Henson



Parent Forum meet the new caterers, Caterlink.

Joined by a selection of staff from the school, the Parent Forum members were treated to an evening of food tasting and a chance to air their views on how the students' new food service should develop.

Caterlink take over the new food contract for the school in June and they were keen to understand what parents and students wanted as we move forward. There were the inevitable discussions about queuing and variety on offer and the company made suggestions about new grab and go offers with mobile tills and much faster access for everyone. They also detailed a new approach that will see an external food pod offering hot and cold food outside which will extend service points and make queuing inside easier.



I particularly liked the 'Nando's' type offer that Caterlink call 'Quirky Bird'! It is really popular in other schools and I think our students will love it.

Some of the parents emailed in responses to this successful event the event, a selection of

which can be found below. Watch this space, there will be further opportunities for parents in September!!



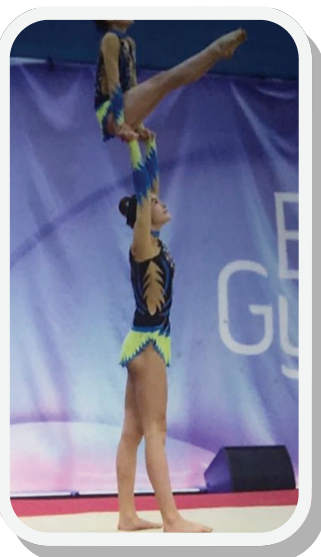
"The food I tasted was delicious. The piri piri chicken with rice & sour cream was excellent – just the right spice level. Banoffee pie went down very well as a small dessert. My son enjoyed the egg and ham mini wrap."

"Hi thanks for organising tonight. I'm quite well fed!! Feedback... reassuring to know that the ingredients are ethically sourced, that they cook so much on site, it was tasty, innovative and modern. I loved the idea of an outside cart and think that their grab and go section with half portions really taps into how children eat at school. "

For further information regarding the company, go to, <http://www.caterlinkltd.co.uk>

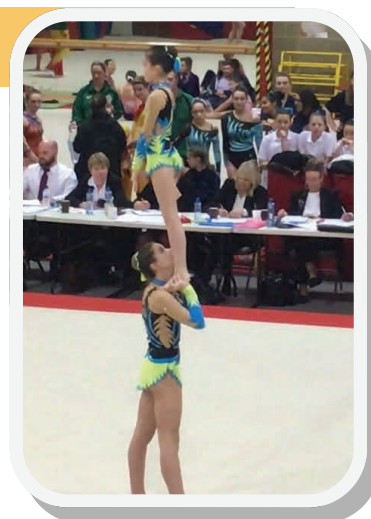
Mr Burningham

Deputy headteacher



Congratulations to...

Maizie Spicer of year 8 who is now ranked 4th in Great Britain after she competed in the region national finals of acrobatic gymnastics in Stoke on Trent.



Nobel SST news

With the A2 exams upon us, this will be the final time we write to you. As Head Boy and Head Girl we are immensely proud of the achievements of our Senior Student Team. The SST has effectuated a successful resurrection of the Sixth Form cabaret, Christmas party and ice skating trip - which were widely enjoyed by many sixth formers. We have raised hundreds of pounds for local charities, such as Herts Young Homeless and purchased various essentials for the common room, including swanky new speakers, which play peaceful and melodic classical music, enjoyed by both the staff in the office and the students. Of course, none of our achievements this year would have been possible without the dedication of each and every team member, so we would like to thank all of them for their contributions, notably:

Phiz and Juliette, for their organisation of charity events

Ellie, as our chief administrator and designer of power points and certificates

Martha, for her vision to solve uncertainties in meetings

Georgia, for her enthusiasm in communicating information to the sixth form

Abbie, for handling prom preparations

Amy, our star photographer and display putter-upper

LJ, for planning sports competitions

Alfie's management of the University Challenge

Jaymie's attention to detail

Rita's catering prowess

Alex, for arranging the leavers' assembly and cabaret

and Jaden and Haroon, for designing the leavers' video.

Of course, there is so much more that we could mention, but I think we may get moaned at if we filled the whole newsletter with our thank yous!

A message from James (Head Boy):

Before I became Head Boy other students spoke of the floccinaucinihilipilification of the role of Head Boy, but I believed that it was an important part of the school. I have realised over the past year that this is the truth, as well as discovering the enjoyment that the role brings. I am extremely proud of the collective successes of the team and also my personal accomplishment of using the longest word published in the history of this newsletter (probably).

A message from Emma (Head Girl):

Well, it's been an absolute pleasure having the opportunity to hold the title of Head Girl this past year. I, for one, have had a fantastic year, and I hope you have too! For all the mums and dads who still think of us as teeny primary school children or small, blazer-drowned year sevens, I apologise for now making you feel old! But it really feels, even to us, like the last 7 years have happened in the blink of an eye, and suddenly the next step is upon us. To all my fellow year thirteens: I wish you the absolute best of luck for your exams, and I hope everything goes to plan with your next steps whether that be university or work.

Logic puzzle

What is the fewest number of American coins you need to have the exact change for every situation, in one cent increments, between one cent and one dollar?

Solution page 8

Governors' News

I don't normally write a piece for the school newsletter at this point in the term but I felt I should let you as stakeholders know that I have advised the Board of Governors that I have decided to step down from the Board at the end of this term.

I have been a governor at Nobel since September 2002 and chair for the last 6 years. Prior to that I served almost a full term at Martins Wood so I think I can say I have devoted a significant amount of time to education whilst at the same time working and having a home life.

During my time at Nobel I have worked with several Heads and had the task of recruiting some of them including Mr Henson. I have supported the school throughout its journey from 'Satisfactory' through being labelled as 'Coasting' to the 'Good' school it is today. I hope in the not to distant future an Ofsted inspection will rate the school 'Outstanding'

which would be justly deserved and a testament to Mr Henson's leadership, the dedication of the staff and commitment from our students.

I am proud that I leave the school having been awarded Outstanding Governor of the Year in Hertfordshire in 2016 and that gives something for the new chair to aspire to.

Of course the job is not finished, it never will be, so there is never a good time to leave however now is the right time for me and it allows for a new approach to the challenging world we live in.

I would like to thank staff, students and parents for their support and I will continue to think of myself as a Nobelian after I leave and I will watch the school's progress with interest.

Richard Aggus

Chair of Governors

Walsh national champion for the fourth year!!

Ethan Walsh is once again National Champion of the Cadet Singles for 2016/17

Ethan fought through some sticky moments early in the competition to win the title. The Nobel student player, beat Amirul Hussain in the final 4-1 (8-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-4, 14-12).

In the semi-finals, Walsh had beaten his doubles partner, Joe Cope, 4-2 (11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 11-13, 11-7, 11-8), while Hussain needed one set fewer to see off Jamie Liu (11-13, 11-5, 11-5, 12-10, 11-6).

Back in the quarter-finals, Walsh had to fight hard to shake off Naphong Boonyaprapa 4-3 (12-10, 12-10, 6-11, 5-11, 11-5, 16-18, 11-8)

Walsh said: "It's probably my biggest event of the year. At points I wasn't playing my best but I had to keep fighting and push through. In the final my hard work paid off and I started playing better and was more relaxed. I am proud to be National Champion 4 times as I know not many players have achieved this" Ethan's record is up there with the best and is starting to make history.

It didn't end there as Ethan and his partner went on to get to the final of the Cadet boys doubles losing out to Sam Chesterman and Amirul Hussain but picking up another medal (silver) in the Nationals was another great achievement.

This was all played at Medway over the weekend with the Cadets being played on the

Saturday and Juniors on the Sunday.

Junior Boys Doubles

Ethan knew Sunday was going to be a tough day as he was to come up against Tom Jarvis and partner Luke Savill very early on (Tom is the number 1 under 18 in England and also picked to represent England in the Olympic Games) - Ethan and James Smith were doubles partners and have represented England playing together in the team and doubles abroad on many occasions and play great together but looking at the draw were not confident having Tom Jarvis and Luke Savill number 1 seeds in the quarters.

It was a good start for Walsh and Smith having started by beating yesterday's Cadet champions Amirul Hussain & Sam Chesterman in the first round. Smith & Walsh then had the number 1 seeds Jarvis/Savill in the quarter finals. What a performance they put in - recovered from going 2-1 down to Jarvis & Savill, playing with real authority in games four and five as they completed a 3-2 (14-12, 9-11, 5-11, 11-4, 11-6) triumph. James went on to say "For me and Ethan, beating Tom Jarvis and Luke Savill is probably one of the best results of our careers. We just tried to stop them from playing and take any chances they gave us." A big crowd was around the table to watch their win and there was a big roar from players and crowd when they won. Not over yet though.

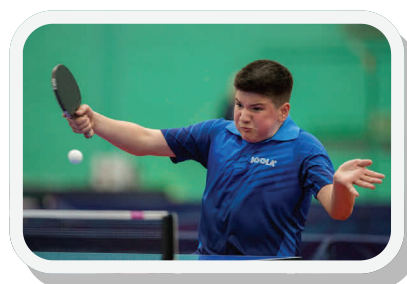
They then went on to defeat Samuel Kwan & Josh Harland in the semi-finals, in four sets.

Walsh and Smith did not expect to get to the final of this event and came across Matt Leete/ Josh Bennet in the final (both doubles pairs represent England in their respective age group) - it was a great final with lots of rallies but Walsh and Smith ended up losing 3-1 and taking silver in this event.

Walsh went on to say "it's been a great National Championships for me winning

1 gold and 2 silvers. I have the Spanish Open next week so I will go to that with confidence"

Ethan has a busy few months ahead playing Internationally - good luck !!



Sudoku

Daily No. 4068 Easy

22			8		15	11		20
11		6						
		20	14		27		11	
						18		15
9		24	12					
			21		12	13		
17							21	
16		7	24		6			
				7		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 page 11

Army Apprenticeship Week



As part of the Nobel School's careers programme Corporal Simon Wright and a team of soldiers from the British Armed Forces came into Nobel as part of Army Careers and Apprenticeship Week. Personnel from the Royal Logistic Corps, Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers spoke to students from Year 11 and 12. The aim was to inform students and give them a greater understanding of the British Army apprenticeships through a powerful interactive presentation. Students were then given the chance to question the soldiers and get involved in activities and demonstrations. The idea of The Army Apprenticeship Week is to attract, enthuse, excite and at the same time educate the students on trades and qualifications within the British Army. Students learnt of the vast choice of apprenticeships the Army have to offer which include roles in HR, Finance, Catering and Music. Each apprenticeship fits in with military training and is closely related to a soldier's Army role.

New Head Boy and Head Girl

Hello, we would like to introduce ourselves as the new Head Boy, Jordan Dutt, and Head Girl, Laura Clark. We are thrilled to have been appointed and we are looking forward to representing the students of Nobel in school and at public events.

Firstly, a little bit about ourselves.

Jordan – I am studying English Literature, Biology and Theatre Studies, all of which I enjoy

doing and hold an active role in each subject as well as in extra-curricular activities, I hope to study English Literature at university, followed by a PGCE with the aim of becoming a primary school teacher.

Laura – My A level subjects are, Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology and Product Design. I also work closely with the Performing Arts department and have been in many productions within the school. I hope to go to university and complete a form of primary education training then I aim to become a teacher, similar to Jordan.

We look forward to working as part of the SST (Senior Student Team) in the school, and we are excited to soon be introducing some new roles into SST that the school has never seen before. We aim to contribute to both the sixth form and the school as it continues to be a happy and successful working community going from strength to strength. Coming into the new academic year, we will be looking to introduce some new schemes and programmes to benefit the students of Nobel, things such as; mentoring systems for younger students, groups to bring students together and an overall greater relationship between the sixth form and younger years within the school.

We would like to finish off by congratulating the previous Head Boy and Head Girl for the work that they have done for the school, and wish them the best of luck in their exams and future. We would also like to thank the school for giving us this opportunity. We will do everything we can to make a success of the role and model the Nobellian values which make this such a great school.

Jordan Dutt and Laura Clark
Head Boy and Head Girl

P.S. We would like to invite you to watch the schools next performance of 'Oliver!' which we are both participating in, on the 12 and 13 July.

Join us for the journey ...



The Nobel School GCSE ART EXHIBITION Thursday 8th June 4 – 6pm
(in the Art Department)

Duke of Edinburgh News – Training/Practice Weekend

Over the last two weekends (6-7 May and 13-14 May) 30 Year 10 students completed their training and practice weekends as part of their expedition section.

The training weekend was at Church Farm and students were given the opportunity to learn the essential skills needed to complete the expedition section. This includes orienteering, camp skills, first aid and group work. The students threw themselves into the weekend and picked up many key skills required for the rest of their DofE award.

The practice weekend was at Henlow Bridge Lakes, but the students had to successfully navigate their way to the campsite before setting up the tents they had been carrying over the 6 hours of journeying. For the entire weekend the students had to be fully self-sufficient. Over the whole weekend, students covered 30km, even more for some groups who occasionally strayed from their route.

All of the students were fantastic, showing great maturity and independence. They were a credit to themselves and

the school. I was particularly impressed with the resilience many of the groups showed throughout the weekend.

Thank you to all the participants, the staff that volunteered and the supportive parents.



Mr Malam
DofE Coordinator

English faculty news...

My first term and a half as Head of the English and Media Faculty has been an exciting one. As a faculty, we have been



working hard to

support the Year 11s in the run-up to the new English literature and English language GCSEs. On Monday, we held a pre-exam breakfast up in the English open area before the first literature exam. Students were able to chat to their English teachers and/or revise quietly whilst enjoying a brioche and some juice. It was lovely to see the Year 11s working so purposefully and calmly until just moments before their exam and it felt good to be able to support them in this. We wish them every success in all of their exams and look forward to seeing them for breakfast revision on the remaining English exam mornings.

Year 10 students, meanwhile, are getting ready for *their* end of year exams in June. We recently held an information evening for parents on how to support their children and help them revise. This was very well-attended and I want to say a huge thank you to so many families for taking part and for the positive feedback you gave us! We hope to run another session in Year 11 to develop a strong support network for the students as they work towards their GCSEs and academic success.

Finally, Key Stages 3 and 5, we haven't forgotten you! We are in the process of introducing a real range of extra-curricular opportunities, from a new Photoshop club to book clubs (for all key stages) to a debating club. Please have a look at our extra-curricular timetable and encourage your child to get involved. Students gain many important skills and build their confidence when they do.

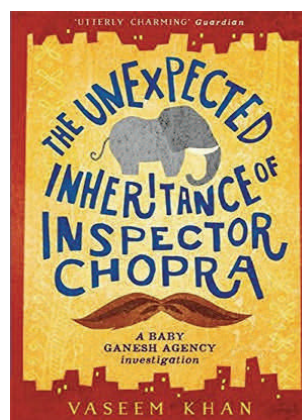
And on that note, congratulations to all the students who got through to the regional final of the Mock Trial competition in Basildon; Mrs Magill was very impressed by your professionalism. Although Nobel's team didn't make it through to the final, their commitment and performance throughout the competition was exemplary. Well done!

Mrs Phillips

Community book group

NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF and COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Next meeting will be held in the
Library 6.30pm
Tuesday 06 June 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

Logic puzzle answer

A total of nine coins.

Four pennies, one nickel, two dimes, one quarter, and one half-dollar.

Walking on Sunshine

The performing arts faculty enjoyed great success at the May show 'Walking on Sunshine' on Thursday 18 May. Staff and students put in huge amounts of time and effort to produce a spectacular show full of variety that delighted our 100+ strong audience. We would like to say a big thank you to all those involved and the wonderful audience who came along to watch our fantastic students.

Our next school show 'Oliver' will be taking place on 12-13 July tickets for which can be bought from the performing arts faculty.

Miss Woodhouse, Head of extra-curricular music

The Nobel School presents

A poster for the school play 'Oliver!'. The background is a warm, golden-yellow sunset or sunrise sky. In the foreground, a pair of hands is shown holding a large, shallow wooden bowl. The silhouette of a city skyline is visible at the bottom, including a clock tower. A street lamp stands to the left of the title. The title 'Oliver!' is written in a large, bold, black serif font, with a small silhouette of a boy in a top hat standing between the 'l' and 'i'.

Oliver!

July 12 & 13 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Parents into Psychology - Research Evening

I am writing to invite you to the first 'Parents into Psychology' event on Wednesday 14 June from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.

As part of our A level psychology course, students are expected to conduct psychological research of their own throughout the year. This event will be an opportunity for them to showcase their work and discuss some of their findings. Specifically, this year, students have researched memory, sleep and dreaming, and study habits.

The evening will act as a 'drop-in', meaning you are welcome to arrive at any time between 6:30pm and 7:30pm and the event will take place in the main hall. Students will be in small groups around the room with displays of their work and will be prepared to explain their research to you. There will also be refreshments available.

Not only is this an excellent opportunity for our students to discuss their work, but it is a chance for students and parents with an interest in psychology to ask questions about the psychology courses that are offered here at Nobel.

If you have any further questions about this event, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

I hope to be able to welcome you to our event on Wednesday 14 June.

Yours sincerely

Miss R. West

Miss R West
Head of Psychology



"Ofsted 2014: The Nobel School is a good school"

Headteacher: Marilyn Henson, The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG2 0HG
Tel: 01438 222600 Fax: 01438 222606 Email: admin@nobel.herts.scs.uk www.thenobelschool.org

Dates for the diary:

05 June - Students return to school

06 June - Nobel school parents, staff and community book group

08 June - GCSE Art Exhibition

10 & 11 June - Duke of Edinburgh award 30 year 10 students

13 June - Parents' meeting for school visit to France

14 June - Early closure 12:30pm due to staff training

14 June - Parents in psychology research evening

Successful singing at Lister

On Friday 19 May a group of students from the school choir represented Nobel at the Lister hospital dementia awareness week. The performance opportunity enabled students to entertain staff, patients and families visiting the hospital whilst bringing smiles to many faces. This is Nobel's second visit to the hospital to perform to patients and is a link to the local community we hope to maintain.

Since the visit the choir has also been invited to perform at the hospital AGM at the University of Hertfordshire Weston auditorium on Thursday 6 July at 6:30pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students and we will be performing to our biggest audience yet: 400 people! All staff and parents are warmly invited to attend to support our wonderful choir.

Miss Woodhouse,

Head of extra-curricular music

Sudoku solution

Daily No. 4068 Easy

²² 9	7	6	⁸ 5	3	¹⁵ 8	¹¹ 2	1	²⁰ 4
¹¹ 5	3	⁶ 4	2	1	6	8	9	7
2	1	²⁰ 8	¹⁴ 9	4	²⁷ 7	3	¹¹ 6	5
4	5	3	1	8	9	¹⁸ 7	2	¹⁵ 6
⁹ 6	2	²⁴ 7	¹² 4	5	3	9	8	1
1	8	9	²¹ 6	7	¹² 2	¹³ 4	5	3
¹⁷ 8	9	5	3	6	4	1	²¹ 7	2
¹⁶ 3	6	⁷ 2	²⁴ 7	9	⁶ 1	5	4	8
7	4	1	8	⁷ 2	5	¹⁸ 6	3	9

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Friends of Nobel School 100 Club Winners for May

6 D Southwell £36

39 J Pennington £28



BEDWELL RANGERS FC GIRLS & LADIES

Arsenal Ladies Platinum Sister Club

REGISTERED CHARITY 1131242



PLAYERS WANTED

We are always interested in hearing from new players at all age groups from Under 7 to Ladies

We are particularly keen to hear from players of secondary school age to join our Under 12 to 18 teams & those aged 16+ to join our Ladies Team

We are an FA Charter Standard Development Club with a priority of child protection, quality coaching & Implementation of the FA Respect Programme

FOR MORE INFORMATION

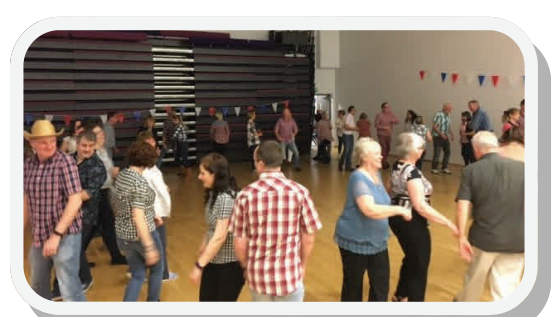
 bedwellrangersfc@gmail.com
 Neil Finch 07985 338356

www.bedwellrangersfc.com

 **Bedwell Rangers F.C.**
 **@BedwellRangers**

Barn dance

Eighty-five guests enjoyed the second FONS Barn Dance, which was held at Nobel last Saturday. A BBQ supper was included, and members of FONS ran a cash bar and a raffle on the night. Over £700 profit has been raised from this successful event, which will go towards school projects.



EXAM SUCCESS

PARENT'S GUIDE

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH GCSES



GCSEPod offers GCSE students hundreds of mini online lessons, in the form of short videos called "Pods". These Pods are just 3-5 minutes long and perfect for understanding and revising key topic areas. **Encourage your child to use GCSEPod to support their learning.**

102 PODS
The highest achieving students each watched on average so there is a clear correlation between GCSEPod and results.
Principal

73%
of videos are watched out of school

It's the best thing you can have to revise and make sure you are ready for the exam.
Student

WATCH 10 PODS PER WEEK
During exam time aim to watch 3 Pods per day



I cannot emphasise enough how important it is that GCSEPod be used all year round, not just for revision, for maximum impact.
Parent

Our top users exceeded their target grades in many areas.
Principal

20 MINUTES
Little and often is best, so try to keep sessions around 20 minutes to get the best results.

GCSEPod played an important role in helping me achieve A*. I would definitely recommend it.
Student

CREATE A PLAYLIST
Identify the areas which are most challenging and create a playlist to focus learning.



Nobel
 Excellence in Learning

SPRING TERM SPORT EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIME 1:10 – 1:40	TENNIS - MUGA BASKETBALL – MUGA CRICKET – ASTRO FOOTBALL - ASTRO	TENNIS - MUGA BASKETBALL – MUGA CRICKET – ASTRO FOOTBALL - ASTRO	TENNIS - MUGA BASKETBALL – MUGA CRICKET – ASTRO FOOTBALL - ASTRO	TENNIS - MUGA BASKETBALL – MUGA CRICKET – ASTRO FOOTBALL - ASTRO	TENNIS - MUGA BASKETBALL – MUGA CRICKET – ASTRO FOOTBALL - ASTRO
AFTER SCHOOL 3:30-4:30	ATHLETICS - ALL YEARS	ROUNDERS – ALL YEARS BOYS CRICKET – ALL YEARS	GIRLS CRICKET – ALL YEARS	HOCKEY – ALL YEARS BOYS CRICKET – ALL YEARS	CYCLING – ALL YEARS STAFF SPORTS

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

** IF YOU ARE ATTENDING THE CYCLING CLUB PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU BRING YOUR OWN BIKE AND HELMET TO TAKE PART. MAKE SURE YOUR BIKES ARE LOCKED SECURELY IN THE BIKE SHEDS UNTIL THE LESSON STARTS.