

News

30 June 2017

Edition 4.17

From the Headteacher



Dear parents and carers,

The examination season is now over for our year 13 and year 11 students. As I have said on numerous occasions, both year groups have done us proud. Whatever the outcomes, I cannot question the commitment of the vast majority of students and the professionalism, energy and expertise of my colleagues; their wonderful teachers. As always, examination results day – 17 August A level and vocational subjects; 24 August for GSCE – will be tense, but we are cautiously optimistic that students will achieve their targets.

Our year 10 has also been taking end of year examinations and the breakfast revision club has been a rip-roaring success. Over 60 students a day have turned up at 7:15am for hot chocolate, croissants and revision; there is a really positive work ethic among them that is really lovely to see – thank you to Mr Burningham and Mr Swendell.

It is also the time of year that we plan our calendar for next year. We are committed to improving what we do and therefore we are developing an extensive training programme for staff, including a radical shift in our behaviour management policy – more about this in the final *Nobel News* of the year. In order for us to successfully develop this vital part of our work we would like to extend super Wednesday to both weeks. This will give us the training time we need to develop as staff. May I reassure you that this change will not impinge on curriculum time as all students will still have 25 hours of lessons per week. This

new arrangement will simply mean that on Wednesdays students will go home at 2:45pm instead of attending afternoon registration – the register will be taken in lesson five.

Next academic year will be a big one for the school as we can expect a visit from Ofsted. We are determined to be an outstanding school; this extra time with staff will really help.

Finally I should like to pay tribute to Richard Aggus who steps down after 16 years on the Board of Governors - five as Chair. He has devoted a remarkable amount of time to the role; always with the best interests of the students at heart. I shall always be eternally grateful to him and his governor colleagues for appointing me as Head of this lovely school. He deserves a rest and we wish him well in the future; thank you Richard. I shall report on the new structure of the Board of Governors in the next edition.

Thank you as always for your support,

Kind regards

Martyn Henson

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

1. I have heard GCSEs are changing, what does this mean?

GCSEs will be graded on a new scale of 9 to 1, with 9 the highest grade, rather than A* to G as now, to distinguish clearly between the reformed and unreformed qualifications. The government and Department for Education (DfE) have specified that the new GCSE syllabuses will include more challenging and knowledge-based content with exams only at the end of the course. There is less non-exam assessment too. English language, English literature and maths will be the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017. Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.

2. If the exams are harder, what will happen to the grades this summer?

Although the exams will have to cover a wider, more challenging range of content, the independent exam regulator Ofqual has made it clear that students sitting these examinations for the first time will not be disadvantaged. Whilst students may come out of the exams feeling that they have done less well, Ofqual has said that broadly, the same proportion of students who currently achieve a C and above will achieve a grade 4 and above in the new GCSEs (see Q4). The exam boards will base standards on results of 16 year olds who took previous GCSE qualifications, so that it does not disadvantage this year's Year 11 students.

3. Why has this new grading system been introduced?

The introduction of the 9-1 system increases

the number of higher grades than the previous A*- G system. By using 9-1, there are now six different grades from 4 to 9 rather than four in the old system (A*, A, B, C), which means individual students can be more accurately recognised in terms of their outcomes. The revised scale will also enable employers and others to easily identify which students have taken the new, more challenging GCSEs.

4. How does the new grading system match the old one?

The new grade scale will not be directly equivalent to the existing one. However, to be fair to the students and to give meaning to the new grades, Ofqual has decided that there will be some comparable points between the old grades, and the approach used to awarding will ensure that in the first year of a new qualification:

- broadly the same proportion of pupils will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- broadly the same proportion of pupils will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above

Frequently Asked Questions for Students

1. Can I compare my grade in a reformed GCSE to my grade in an unreformed GCSE?

The new 9-1 grade scale is not directly equivalent to the current scale. However, there are three grade comparison points:

- The bottom of grade 7 is equivalent to the bottom of grade A.
- The bottom of grade 4 is equivalent to the bottom of grade C.
- The bottom of grade 1 is equivalent to the bottom of grade G.

While the two grading scales are not directly comparable, what we can say is that a grade 4 is

While the two grading scales are not directly comparable, what we can say is that a grade 4 is broadly equivalent to a low to medium grade C, the threshold for a level 2 qualification. A grade 5 is broadly equivalent to a high C to low B. Also, fewer students are expected to get a grade 9 than previously got an A*.

2. What does it mean to get a grade 4 in English and maths this year?

A grade 4 means you have achieved a standard equivalent to a level 2 qualification which should facilitate progression to level 3 study. The government views this as a credible achievement and one that should be valued as a passport to future study and employment. You will not need to resit your English and maths if you have achieved a grade 4.

3. What will I need to progress to A level study?

This will vary according to different subjects and different institutions but schools and colleges are likely to ask for similar grades to pursue a particular subject at A level (eg 4 and above if currently C and above; 5 to 6 and above if currently B; 7 if currently A).

4. What will universities ask for?

Entry criteria to different universities will vary as they are able to set their own criteria. We expect that most universities will ask for a 4 where they would have required a C and most will ask for an 8 where they might previously have asked for an A* at GCSE.

5. Do I need a 4 or 5 in English literature or language and maths if I want to become a teacher?

If you want to train to teach, you will need to demonstrate:

- a standard equivalent to a GCSE grade C / grade 4 in mathematics and English to teach at secondary level

- a standard equivalent to a GCSE grade C / grade 4 in mathematics, English and a science subject to teach at primary level.

Getting to and from school

Walking is a great way to get to school - it's healthy, free and doesn't create **pollution**. It also reduces **traffic** congestion during the 'school run'. Walking to school also gives older children **independence**. Once they know their route and can cross roads safely, they can walk by themselves or with friends. Reducing the number of cars around a school, reduces the risk of injury to pedestrians.

Some of our young people do not yet display completely safe habits on the way to school and are placing themselves and other road users at risk. Typically this is because they are not looking as they cross roads, are distracted by a chat or mobile phone use, or they believe that cars will have to stop as they step out into the road. This is being reported to us on too frequent a basis.

Please stress to your children that cars are very much harder than humans and they really must take care on the way to and from school, particularly in the winter. We will be doing the same in school.

The safety of all Nobilians is of paramount importance to us, please stress road safety issues to your children on a regular basis.

Mr Burningham
Deputy headteacher

Mathematics news...

It has been a very testing time this year with all the curriculum changes to key stage 4 and the knowledge that this is the last year teaching key stage 5 as we know it. The year 10s and 11s have a very different curriculum with many topics that have been typically A-Level material brought down onto the higher, and in some cases, foundation tiers. There has been a much higher focus on not only the mathematical procedures that students should be familiar with but also that they are able to apply these in many, often unfamiliar, contexts.

We have had to develop our lessons in order to not only cover the content but to ensure that the students are able to show their understanding of the methods, that they can recognise when to use them, to evaluate where multiple methods can be used and state which method is the most efficient and why. In order to do this we planned our schemes of work to build on the Maths Mastery programme we use in key stage 3 and added extra problem solving practise into our lessons.

We have been one of the leading schools in the County following the Mastery approach which is fully supported at all levels within education. And as such, we have run a number of twilight sessions open to all the schools in the County to attend. It has been good to share good practice and to help other schools along the path that we started 3 years ago.

Students have continued to be given an overwhelming amount of support. We introduced Form+ for year 11s using question level analysis to highlight the specific areas of weakness that our students have. We put together small groups every day during form time and for 20 minutes after school. There were specific topics planned for those students that we knew they needed a little extra help in order to understand them. It was so well

received by some of the year 11s that we have actually been running it for many of the year 10s leading up to their end of year exams.

Thursdays were 'Maths Nights' for the year 11 students and all the teachers stayed behind to support our students; sometimes for more than 2 hours! We ran one-to-one and small group sessions during reading time and some staff even came in on some Saturdays where students told us they needed help. Many sessions were organised during the school holidays with virtually an open door policy. On the mornings of the exams all year 11 teachers were in their classrooms dealing with any last minute nerves and helping to eek out those last few marks, to ensure that we had done all we possibly could do for the students.

Next year all of this will again take place (and probably more). If students need help, they only have to ask. We ask that parents and guardians support us by continuing to encouraging their child to attend (and rewarding them if you feel it is appropriate when they do) so that at the end of the exam period our students can put their feet up and say "I've done my very best".

In this time of uncertainty, with unknown grade boundaries and new topics, what we can be certain of is that we have prepared our students to the best of our ability giving them the best chance of success and the stepping stones for whatever path they choose to take next.

Mr Brown
Director of Mathematics

Dear Parents/Guadians

**SPORTS DAY, FRIDAY 7 July
8:30 am – 1.45 pm**

Nobel's annual Sports Day will take place on Friday 7 July. Students will make their own way to the Ridlins Stadium for 8:30 am to register, with competition commencing at 9:00 am and finishing at around 1:45 pm. There will be a minibus available to shuttle students who have no access to transport from school to Ridlins from 7:45 am onwards.

On this day it is important that students wear the correct PE kit and bring warm clothes and waterproofs just in case the weather turns inclement. It is also advisable to bring plenty of water, suncream and a hat for protection against the sun. No face paint is allowed to be worn on the day.

We would be grateful if all students could wear a tee-shirt (not a vest or strappy top) of their house colour:

Curie Blue
Eliot Green
Mandela Red
Theresa Yellow

There will be no food provided on the day, so students should bring a packed lunch with them. Students who receive free school meals will have a packed lunch provided for them which will be delivered to the stadium.

If you would like to come and watch your son or daughter compete, there will be a designated area for parent spectators; please note that parents will not be permitted to access other areas in the athletics stadium and will not be able to sit with students. The taking of photographs and videos is permitted, but no material should not be placed on any form of social media.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Howells

Mr Howells

Director of Sport Faculty



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

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Nobel

Excellence in Everything

SPORTS DAY ORDER OF EVENTS AND EVENT ORGANISATION

- 8:15am - staff in position in stands ready to register.
- 8:30am - students arrive and go straight to form tutor for registration
- 8:40 – 8.55am – whole school warm up with flags

Events Timetable

TIME	High Jump	Long Jump	Shot Put	Discus	Triple jump	Javelin	Track Events Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12
9:00 – 9:40am	7	7	8	8	9	9	800m and 1500m
9:40 – 10:20am	10&12	10&12	7	7	8	8	Hurdles
10:20 – 11:00am	8	8	9	9		10&12	400m /300m
11:00am – 11:20pm	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:20 – 12:00pm	9	9	10&12	10&12	10&12	7	200m
12:00 – 12:20pm							100m
12:20 – 1:05pm							Relay races, including staff house relay and 6 th form versus staff relay.
1:10 -1:40pm							Final presentation

1.45pm – Students will be dismissed by Mr Henson and supervised by form tutors until students have left the stadium. Form tutors should remain with their form until the last form member has left.



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

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Year 8 celebration breakfast



On Tuesday 27 June, we held a celebration breakfast for our students in year 8. The 22 students who have made the most progress since the last data drop were rewarded for hard work, excellent progress and exemplary behaviour.

Rose Aramoun	Isabel Larking
Abidah Begum	Megan Lingwood
Tahmina Begum	Ellie Owers
Ruby Bolt	Kaitlin Peebles
Joe Broom	Maayan Peleg
Florence Cave	Leon Reeve
Alexander Challis	Victoria Robinson
Elle Colbourne	Eloise Sewell
Sahil Gaikwad	Helen Todd
Victoria Hope	Sam Whitby
Clara Juanillo	Molly Woodard

Community book group

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

Next meeting will be held in the Library 6.30pm
Tuesday 18 July 2017

THE BOOK TO READ IS:



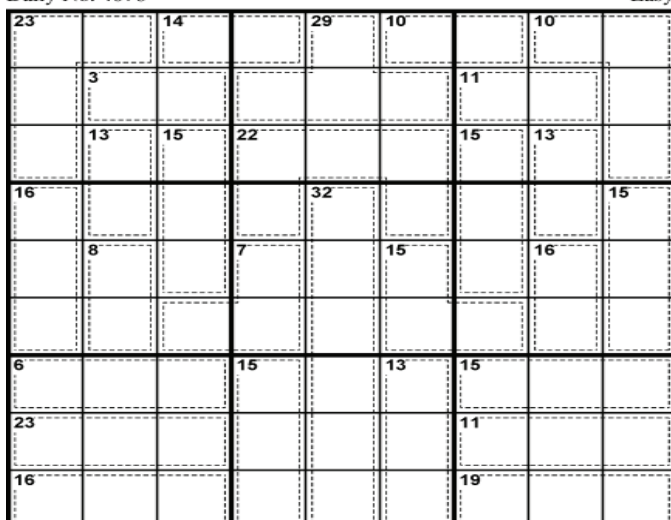
Contact: Rosalind Essakhi: 01438 222600
or email:

library@nobel.herts.sch.uk

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

Sudoku

Daily No. 4076 Easy



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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 9

Locker keys

All locker keys must be returned so that lockers can be cleaned and any necessary repairs completed during the summer holidays.

Please see the following dates that students must return locker keys to Reception and the £5.00 deposit paid at the beginning of the year will be returned on receipt of the locker key.

Monday 3 July – Curie Students

Tuesday 4 July – Eliot Students

Wednesday 5 July – Mandela Students

Thursday 6 July - Teresa Students

Mrs A Horton

Catering assistant

The Nobel School

Job Vacancy

Part-time catering assistant
required

Term time only

Monday-Friday 25 hours per week
£7.50 per hour

To Apply
Call 01438 222600 – ask for the
catering department

Logic puzzle

Five years ago, Anthony was three times as old as his sister. Now he is only twice as old. How old are Anthony and his sister?

Answer page 9

100 Club winners for June

65	Jo & Hilary Rogers	£36
44	Ann Tooley	£28

Word of the week

U is for... **utilise**
verb

make practical and effective use of.

"vitamin C helps your body **utilise** the iron present in your diet “



V is for... **vindicate**
verb

"It was not enough to **vindicate** the innocent; the guilty must be exposed and punished."

1. to clear from guilt, accusation, blame, etc

2. to provide justification for something



Sudoku

Logic puzzle answer

Daily No. 4076

Easy

²³ 4	9	¹⁴ 8	6	²⁹ 5	¹⁰ 3	7	¹⁰ 1	2
3	³ 1	2	8	7	9	¹¹ 5	6	4
7	¹³ 6	¹⁵ 5	²² 4	1	2	¹⁵ 9	¹³ 8	3
¹⁶ 2	7	1	9	³² 3	6	4	5	¹⁵ 8
8	⁸ 3	9	⁷ 1	4	¹⁵ 5	2	¹⁶ 7	6
6	5	4	2	8	7	3	9	1
⁶ 1	2	3	¹⁵ 7	9	¹³ 8	¹⁵ 6	4	5
²³ 9	8	6	5	2	4	¹¹ 1	3	7
¹⁶ 5	4	7	3	6	1	¹⁹ 8	2	9

Anthony is 20 and his sister is 10.
Five years ago he was 15 and she was 5.

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The Nobel School presents



Dates for the diary:

3 July	Parents' forum
3 & 4 July	Sixth form induction days
4 & 5 July	Year 8 Walton on Naze
6 July	Year 7/8 choir performance at Lister hospital AGM University of Hertfordshire, Weston Auditorium
8 July	Choir performing at Lonsdale summer festival
7 July	Sports day (see pages 4 and for information)
10 July	Year 6 transition evening (parents' only)
10 - 14 July	MFL trip Normandy
12 & 13 July	School musical production "Annie"
13 July	6th form trip to Ikea
13 July	Year 6 transition day
13 July	Understanding your Child's Stress - Teenage Brain 6.00pm - 6.40pm
15 - 20 July	Year 10 trip to Berlin and Nuremberg
20 July	Last day of term, students dismissed at 1.00pm
17 August	A level results
24 August	GCSE results