

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

I want to write about how a number of things during the last week have made me feel incredibly proud to be the headteacher of this lovely school community. Even though our examination classes have now finished and as year 12 prepare for work experience, our staff have been working incredibly hard on preparations for the next academic year and beyond.

The whole school is embarking on a complete re-write of the key stage 3 curriculum so that we embrace the fantastic work that our local contributory primary schools do to engage and 'push' the students. We are also working to develop a new assessment scheme for the whole of key stage 3 – this will give parents a much clearer idea of where their children are in each of their subjects and what they need to do to improve. We are hoping this will go some way to improving our communication with home. It's exciting; another example of how we are constantly trying to improve what we do at Nobel. Thank you to our teachers, we are very proud of you.

I had the great pleasure to visit two fantastic art exhibitions over the last couple of weeks. Our art department is of the very highest calibre and I have the greatest respect for the expertise, commitment and energy of the teachers. The work is simply brilliant.

Students, on average, gain a grade and a half in our art department compared to the national average figure at GCSE and, at A level, the work is of such a high standard that two of our year 13 students, Willow Rowland and Jay Bradford, have been offered places at Central Saint Martin's School of Art. This really is the 'blue-ribbon' institution for creativity and excellence in the world of art – we are very proud of them, well done!

We have had more good news from our primary neighbour, Lodge Farm; our sixth form students who helped at sports day... 'were extremely helpful and ran their events efficiently. All our staff and many children commented on how good they were at giving instructions, demonstrations and encouraging the children. Please could you pass my thanks on to the students, they were a credit to Nobel'. Well done to Stephen Goodall; Rokib Ali; Naomi Tella; Libby Sypula; Sam Heron; Sam Larmour; Gabriel Kwarteng; Lawrence Ajong and Freeman Nyakumbi – we are proud of you!

And finally, Herts for Learning awarded the Quality Mark for Wellbeing, with a focus on emotional and mental health, to Nobel this week. Thank you to Kayleigh Hills who has led the bid with tenacity, drive and organisation. We are also very proud of the group of students who were interviewed as advocates of the school as part of the process, they were: Ruby Watson, Thomas Allen, Enola Marko, Jessica Blackburn and Tamsin Dobb.

Enjoy the sun and stay safe this weekend.

Warm regards
Martyn Henson

Year 13 Leavers' Prom

On Friday 21 June, with the exams finally behind them, Year 13 students were dressed to impress and in the mood to celebrate in style at their leavers' prom.

Hitchin Priory provided the perfect backdrop and lots of staff joined in the celebrations, with everyone having a most enjoyable evening. It was a fitting finale to the end of their sixth form studies - they have been a fantastic year group, and we wish all of our young people the very best of luck as they prepare to make their way in the world.

Special thanks to Y13 students Paige Hossack, Hannah Wallace and Lauren Kingsbury (pictured right) who organised everything down to the last detail to ensure that everyone had a night to remember. Well done, girls, you did us proud!

Mrs Jackie Saville
Head of Year 13



Salters' Festival of Chemistry

On 18 June, four of Nobel's best year 8 chemists took part in the Salters' Institute Festival of Chemistry at Hertfordshire University. Iaman Askri, George Barber, Ben Patterson and Zafeera Qamar, accompanied by Mr Gillson, arrived early at the brand new Science building on Campus. Here they meet chemists from ten other schools from across the region. Everyone was very friendly and discussions were had about exactly what challenges the day would hold.

Dr Paul Bassin from the University gave everyone an introduction to the day. The Nobelians, along with the other contestants, then proceeded to one of the large modern laboratories with their teachers. Lab coats and safety specs were donned before the teachers departed to leave the young scientists to their work.

Each group completed two difficult but enjoyable chemistry challenges. How well each team followed the instructions, kept safe and worked as a team were judged by assorted professors and doctors. There was then a demonstration of exciting chemistry, the Nobelians particularly enjoyed the exploding peach!

At this point the teachers returned and prizes were handed out by the judges. Competition was stiff and the Nobelians did not come within the top three schools this year, but were awarded certificates and did receive praise and recognition for their excellent work. All the students agreed they had benefitted enormously from the experience. Mr Gillson was particularly impressed that they could all now see themselves working in a laboratory in their future and that they took the time to thank all the organisers for such a brilliant day.



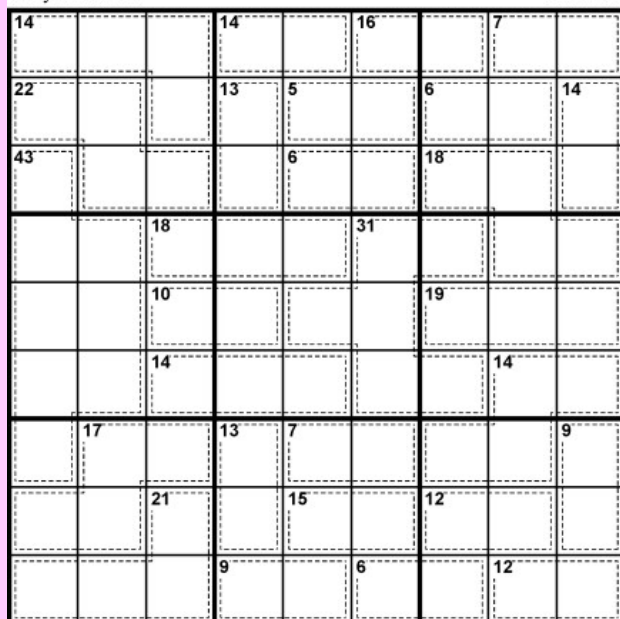
Mr C Gillson
Chemistry Teacher



Sudoku Puzzle

Daily No. 4406

Moderate



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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

Brain Teaser

How many in the family?

Each son in the Hubbard family has just as many brothers as sisters, but each daughter has twice as many brothers as sisters.

How many boys and girls are there in the family?

Solutions, page 7

Innovation Day: Crime Scene Investigation - CSI

This past week, we were fortunate enough to take a group of year 10 students to the North Herts College campus to engage in a crime scene investigation day.

The stage was set as we arrived with a physical car crash on the front of the premises, it was police taped and protected but ready for the students to investigate. Numerous suspicious items were collected from the 'wreck' with the assistance of the college team and we had our evidence.

Other tasks throughout the day involved the use of code breaking equipment to decipher the information on the USB the students collected.

They also used DNA coding equipment to discern various characteristics of our suspect, finishing with a 'panic room' activity, where students were required to use mathematic problem solving algorithms to earn their freedom.

It was a pleasure to watch our Nobelians behave impeccably, develop some new skills with incredible equipment and fine tune some of their academic skills for use in a real life working scenario.

A special thanks to Heather Almond at North Herts College for affording us this opportunity, it is one we should definitely access again.

Mr C Swendell
Head of Year 10



Dates for your Diary

1 and 2 July - Year 12 Induction - compulsory for **all Y11 students** hoping to join **Sixth Form**

5 July - Annual Sports Day, until 1:00pm, Ridlins Athletic Track

19 July - Last day of term - students dismissed at 12:45 pm



Student well-being in schools

Whilst placing student wellbeing at the heart of my teaching and in pursuing my MEd, I aim to explore how, and to what extent specific art practices can contribute to changes in student wellbeing.

Through my research so far, I have identified that there is little available in regards to how schools are specifically embracing wellbeing within their curriculum and how particular schemes of work are delivered in subject lessons. The Department for Education explains in a recent report, published in November 2018, that there is no statutory requirement for schools to maintain policies around wellbeing, although most schools identify wellbeing within their policies surrounding equality, behaviour and their core values.

Focusing on one year 7 art and design class, I have planned and delivered a creative scheme of work, influenced by the traditional Japanese ceramic technique known as 'Kintsugi', where I hope to highlight how one can visibly promote wellbeing within a specific scheme of work.



The ceramic process is concerned with repair, nurturing a peaceful and calm mind-set, and embracing visible cracks, symbolising scars and disruptions in someone's personal journey. These ideas correlate with traditional Buddhist practices, which are concerned with meditation techniques, repetitious acts, and unconscious decisions explored to clear the mind and, ultimately, reduce stress that one may be experiencing.

Through engaging with the physicality of this project which has no correct or incorrect format, my aim is to expose students to an unknown way of working where they can move away from the 'I've done it wrong' or 'I can't draw' mind-set.

The project is not primarily concerned with the outcome, rather the process itself, although the students artwork will be displayed together to symbolise a collaborative outcome of the engagement with complex materials and an underlying cultural voyage.

The data collected through questionnaires, interviews and observations is under review. However, I have already observed positive changes in students' attitude to learning with less apprehension and a growth in confidence when approaching unusual tasks and, instead, enjoying the journey. Some students initially described the project as 'confusing' and 'complicated', but I have now had some lovely and rather mature conversations with the group where comments around trying new things, the importance of exploring other cultures, and learning not to rush their work have been shared.

I have thoroughly enjoyed planning, delivering and sharing this journey with this particular class and hope to continue to underpin my teaching with the knowledge I have gained. I am also extremely thankful to the Art, Design and Technology Department who have supported me throughout the course of research.

Megan Mansfield - Art Teacher

Steel Pans Performance at Fragments Fashion Show

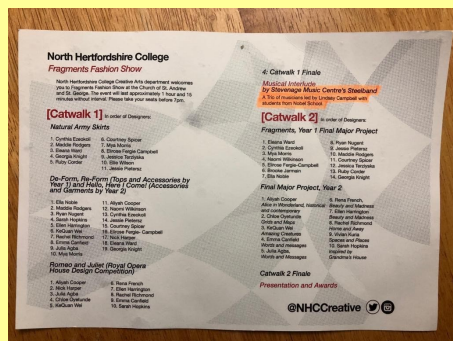
Jason Ching and Rene Quansah represented Nobel School, as well as Stevenage Music Centre (with Lindsay, their tutor) when they played Steel Pans at Fragments Fashion Show, hosted by North Herts College.

This event took place in the Church of St Andrew and St George and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Stevenage.

It was a successful event and we all thoroughly enjoyed it!

Jason Ching - 8T NFD

Rene Quansah - 9T MMD



HMS Queen Elizabeth Open Day – Saturday 20 July

There is an opportunity for any interested students and a family member to visit the HMS Queen Elizabeth for an open day which will include visits to a Type 45 destroyer and River Class ships as well as interactive stances from the following:

- ◆ Logistics – chef demonstration
- ◆ Royal Marines
- ◆ Science, Engineering and technology
- ◆ Medical
- ◆ Dental
- ◆ Diving
- ◆ Fleet Air Arm



This is an exciting opportunity to visit the QE and meet serving personal and experience life in the Royal Navy and places are expected to fill quickly.

To take up this opportunity please call the AFCO (Pete Chappell) on 01223 315118 to register your details, closing date for registering your interest 10 July. There are limited spaces available so please call asap.

Further details will be given, however the intention is to meet at Portsmouth RN dockyard at approx. 11:00 where we will visit the ships and finish at approx. 15:30 before returning home.

Attendees are required to make their own travel arrangements to Portsmouth.

Further details and confirmation to be given nearer the time.



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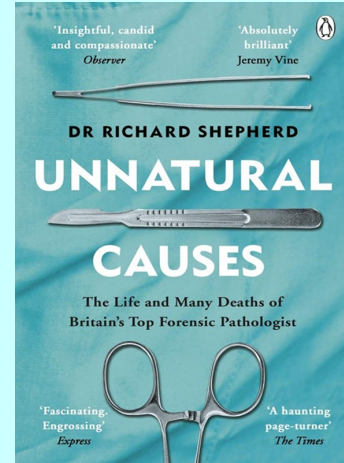
0191 338 7830

NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF and COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Next meeting will be held in **the Library**,
6:30pm, Tuesday 16 July 2019

The book to read is:

Unnatural Causes



Read all, or part of, the book, and come to discuss it in a friendly informal group - Contact: Rosalind Essakhi: 01438 222600 or email:

library@nobel.herts.sch.uk

Puzzle Solutions

Daily No. 4406

Moderate

14	2	5	1	14	6	8	7	9	7	3	4	
22	4	7	6	13	5	9	2	3	6	1	5	8
43	9	3	8	4	6	1	5	18	2	7	6	
	5	4	2	7	9	6	3	8	1			
	8	1	7	3	5	2	4	6	9			
	3	6	9	1	4	8	7	2	5			
	7	9	5	8	3	4	6	1	2			
	1	2	3	5	6	9	8	4	7			
	6	8	4	2	7	1	5	9	3			

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Brain Teaser - ANSWER:

There are 4 boys and 3 girls in the family.

(Each boy has 3 brothers and 3 sisters, but each girl has 4 brothers and 2 sisters.)

Book Fair News

Thank you everyone who supported our Scholastic half price book fair. Congratulations to Mia Fraser in year 7 who won the prize draw of £25.00 worth of books from the fair.

We have also added some great new books to the library!

Mrs R Essakhi
Librarian

