

## From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

The debate over whether we should be in the European Union or not has been decided emphatically at the General Election. As Headteachers, new governments can be both liberating and challenging – for example, it is certainly true that, in real terms, budgets have not moved in the last five or so years and some extra funding at our school is long overdue. We have been working on a shoestring budget, with absolutely no wriggle room. This has meant that teachers have been working at full capacity and that we haven't been able to fund the extra projects that we used to. It would be both liberating and enabling if budgets were increased over the next few years. Therefore, we look forward to school budgets being addressed so that we can do even more exciting things with our Nobelians, who deserve the very best of us.

However, on a slightly wary note, if the government were to pursue 'a grammar school in every town' I think that would cause great unrest and would be a definite move in the wrong direction for Stevenage.

So, with optimism and scepticism, in equal measure, we look forward to next year and what it might bring. Whatever, you know you can rely on us to fight and support in the best interests of all the students at our lovely school.

At school, the last couple of weeks have been enjoyable. Students are working very hard on our new curriculum and we are beginning to see a real difference. The Christmas music concert was lovely, but the only slight downside was the small turnout, may I encourage you to look out for these events at school, they really are very uplifting. We were also proud of our students producing so many charity food boxes – a great effort and an enormous thank you to anyone who took part.

Have a great holiday and a wonderful Christmas – I look forward to seeing all the students, bright and early on Monday 6 January.

Warm regards  
Martyn Henson

## Homerton College, Cambridge

On 23 November, we went to Homerton College, part of Cambridge University, to see what life is like as a university student. There were 11 students, accompanied by Miss Mansfield, Mrs Gothelf and Mr Willsher.

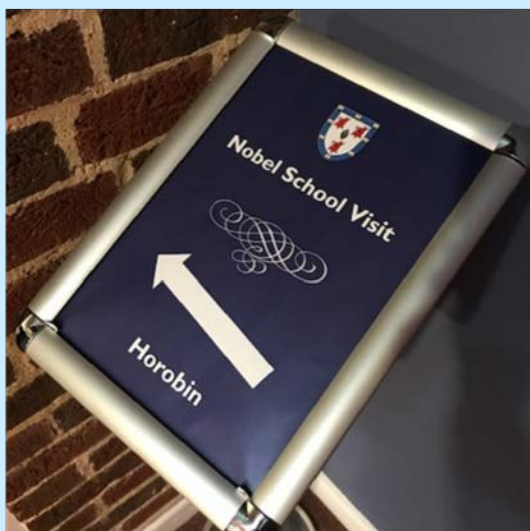
Students gained a first-hand insight into what student life could consist of when visiting Miss Mansfield's former university college. The day started with a sample lecture explaining how and what can be studied at the University of Cambridge and the reasons for choosing to study higher education.

Nobel Students also had the opportunity to interview current Cambridge students where they were able to find out first-hand the varied university experiences of each student. Later on we all dined in the Great Hall to gain an insight into the family community Cambridge strives to create between their students and academics. We ended the day with a tour of the college where Nobel students were highly impressed with all the facilities available to them.

Miss Megan Mansfield

*"It's a great place to study and a great way to learn about more opportunities."*

Summer Angell - 7M MMD



*"The building was massive! We went to a room specially reserved for Nobel and we met and talked to students who are there now as well as doing quizzes with them. We spent the whole day there looking around the college buildings, which were very interesting, and it helps to gain an insight into what going to any university would be like."*

*All round, the trip was very good, and thank you to Miss Mansfield for making it possible."*

Jacob Wickens - 9C PDN

*"I really liked it and I would like to visit again. I learnt that that students take notes in big lecture halls."*

Kennedi Goodridge 7E - ZBE

*"The university is large and very good for learning opportunities with really nice staff members. The food was also great!"*

Ruby Castle - 7E ZBE



## The Performance Faculty Getting Festive

The performance faculty has been very busy, as usual, as the festive season approaches. The Drama department put on a pantomime (oh, yes they did!) that was seen by around 1000 primary students. Wow! You can find out more about that in the next article.

The music department are currently gearing up for this year's Christmas concert on Tuesday 17 December. Students are working very hard for this, with quite a few first-time performers at Nobel.

In addition, some of the school choir visited the Lister Hospital to sing on some of the wards, and finished with a short performance in the reception area. As you would expect, the students, who are pictured here, were an absolute credit to the school and sang beautifully.



Mr Andy Hardy

## Nobel Christmas Pantomime

The Drama department once again put on their Christmas Pantomime, which was a great success. Over two days the students appeared in front of almost 1000 primary school children, and then in front of friends, family and teachers (much scarier).

There was noise, fun, mess and music, and a good time was had by all. Roll on next year!

Mrs Wendy Parsley



## Year 12 and 13 Reward Trip

As a reward for all their hard work and effort this term, sixth form students had the opportunity to participate in some festive ice skating (and some very festive hot chocolate) at Van Hage Garden Centre in Ware.

As you can see from the photos below, a great fun afternoon was had by all.

Miss Jackie Mordaunt - Head of Y13

Mrs Jackie Saville - Head of Y12



## Global Citizen Awards

On Friday 13 December, myself and two other students (Emily Thompson and Sitara Aman) were given the opportunity to attend the Global Citizen Awards in London, at the Royal Albert Hall.



By completing the 'Work the Change' course, we were rewarded with this opportunity to represent the school and, also, the Peace Child Foundation. The night consisted of travel, future career conversations and non-alcoholic drinks (probably not my favourite part). Although we were 'up in the Gods' we had the most amazing view watching artists like John Legend, Stormzy, Sting, and Jennifer Hudson perform. Running through all the acts, the most important message of the night was what we could all do to help the world and to recognise the people who have taken a step towards changing global problems like poverty, health care and education.

I feel the messages that were conveyed during the evening have really impacted on me and have made me want to take a step towards change. I have seen the reality for other people, who, essentially, have nothing, and the potential for how their lives might be improved and, as a high-income country, we could all help even more.

Everyone wants change, but we all have a duty to stop being selfish and really try to help others who need our support, and to look beyond our own immediate issues.

In conclusion I had an amazing night and, if anyone gets the opportunity to attend these awards, then I would say take it.

James Marsh - 12SSS



# Art, Design & Technology - Aircraft Reconnaissance Challenge

Four students from Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology recently took part in the MBDA STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths) event 'Aircraft Reconnaissance Challenge'.

The competition took place in the RAF Museum, Hendon.



The students were given 'briefings' on a number of key criteria that are required for flight and then began designing and making their aircraft with the guidance and support of an MBDA engineering graduate.

The teams were given a tour of the museum and had the opportunity to look at the exhibits as part of their research into which designs would be best for the most accurate flight and the most length of time spent airborne.

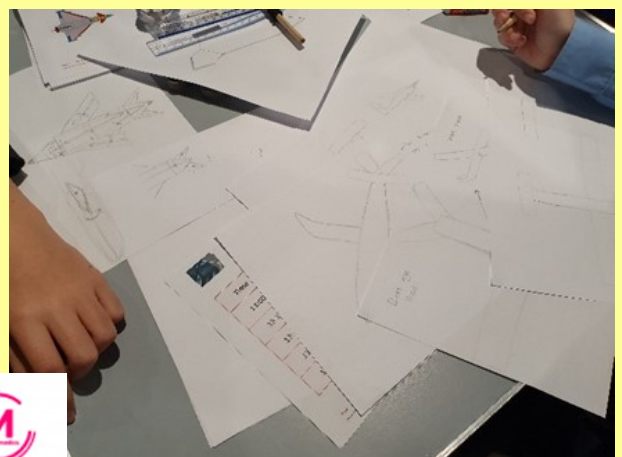
The students took part against other teams from other schools and had to hand launch and propel their craft across a purpose built topographical map using grid coordinates calculated by 'intelligence' briefings. The idea being to collect aerial reconnaissance of strategic enemy equipment and layouts without landing on the map area.



The importance of the task was to develop good communication and team working. The only way to achieve the missions successfully, was to assign each person with a task and pool ideas to achieve goals.

The team were quite successful and made lots of good contacts throughout the day which will help them with their future career aspirations. MBDA regularly recruit employees from students who have taken part in events such as these.

Mr Bob Lovelock

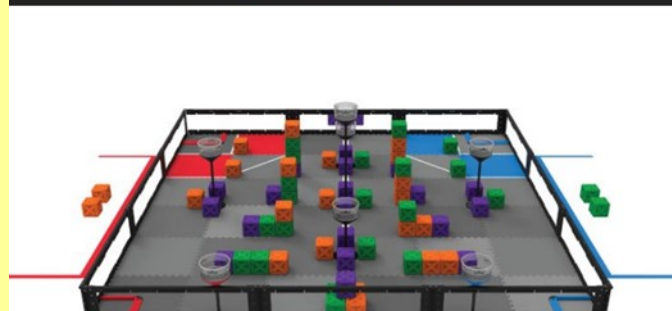


# Art, Design & Technology - Nobel Robot Club

The recently introduced Nobel Robot Club meets on a Monday and Thursday after school. The club has built on the successes of the MBDA Robot Rumble event which has seen teams from Nobel win the competition three years in succession.

Students spend their time building and programming their robots to carry out a number of pre-determined tasks set by Vex Robotics Company. Each year the tasks vary but all retain the theme of completing a number of complex tasks whilst ensuring that the robot does not exceed the maximum size dimensions of an 18" cube.

The three robot teams travelled to Henrietta Barnet School on 11 December to take part in a national qualifying event. One of the teams got through to the quarter finals.



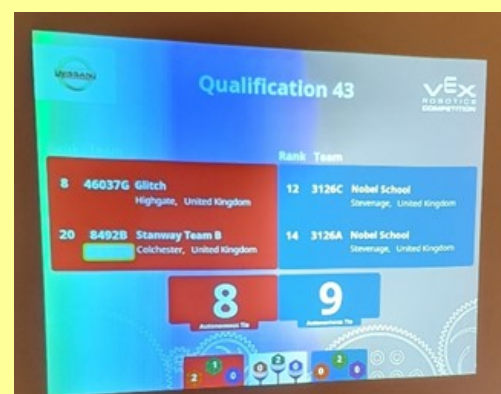
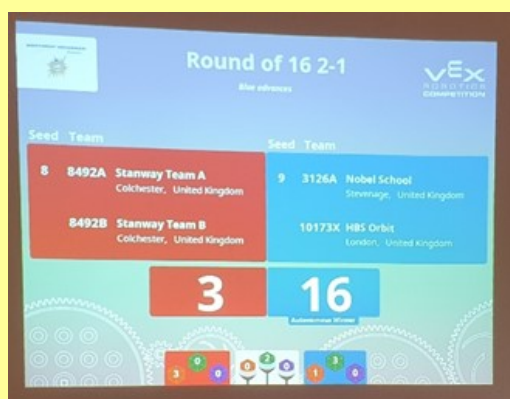
This was their first real taste of a competition for most of the students, although some have taken part in previous MBDA competitions when they were in year 8 into the autumn of year 9. This is the first time that we have entered teams into external competitions in the Vex calendar. Students have the chance to test the functions between rounds on a practice arena.

The students have three more competitions to take part in and will be working on improving their robots' capabilities before this year's competition closes.

- ◆ Presdales School 19 January 2020
- ◆ Brunel University 8 February 2020
- ◆ John Warner School 14 February 2020



Mr Bob Lovelock



## Reading Leaders

During this 20-minute session, Year 7 students read to Year 12 volunteers from a fiction book of their choosing. Each student is paired with a sixth former whom they see every Wednesday.



It has been a real joy for those involved to be able to share their passion of reading with the newest members of the Nobel School. The feeling of community between the youngest and most senior Nobelians is a delight to be a part of on a Wednesday morning.

Zoe Booyse - 12M GBE

For the first 5 minutes, the sixth former reads a section from their book in order for them to hear a confident reader modelling the reading process. Next, it is the mentee's turn to continue to read the book aloud. While the Year 7 student is reading, the mentors follow along on the page and are ready to assist with pronunciation and any definitions of words that they don't understand. To round up the session, the Year 12s ask at least three questions about the content to support the Year 7s' comprehension of the story, as this is a key component of successful reading.



## Friends of Nobel School (FONS) News

At our last meeting, Friends of Nobel (FONS) were able to grant several requests for funding for a variety of items needed by the school. We are helping with the purchase of new electricity equipment for the science department, new football kit for the Nobel team, 6<sup>th</sup> form lockers, 12 visualisers, as well as support for the MFL department with the cost of a professional drama production in German and/or French. Thank you to everyone who has supported FONS so that we can support student learning at Nobel.

The Christmas and New Year raffle ticket sales continue until 13 January, with the drawer on 20 January. Get your ticket now for a chance to win some great prizes, including:

- \* £250 Amazon Voucher
- \* Duxford Pleasure Flight for two
- \* Will Writing for two
- \* A Hamper
- \* Gel Nail Manicure

For more information on this or any of our events, or if you think you might be able to help out on the Committee, please email [friends@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:friends@nobel.herts.sch.uk). Our next meeting will be on Monday 20 January from 7:00 - 8:00pm in the school library. Please join us if you can.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Nobel Network in Action

On Friday 6 December, six former Nobel students and members of the alumni Nobel Network, gave up time to work with current students in years 7-9. They presented on careers in government, business ownership, surveying, accountancy and medicine then were subjected to questions from the students. This was a fantastic first event and one which we will replicate in the coming terms for many more students. We hope that our alumni will inspire future doctors, civil servants, engineers and business owners to come from our Nobel context. Our visitors shared aspects of their own journeys, some of whom had overcome real challenges and adversity. This helped students focus on qualities such as resilience and the need to 'keep going'. A fantastic day enjoyed by all.



If anyone reading this is a former student (or knows one), please contact us at [nobelnetwork@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nobelnetwork@nobel.herts.sch.uk) or better still, register at, <https://tinyurl.com/Join-the-database> to receive alumni newsletters.

Mr Barry Burningham  
Former Deputy Head

## World Challenge - Easy Fundraising

Each year, Year 10 students are offered the chance to visit a different part of the world as part of a project called World Challenge. This year, the team are fundraising to go to eSwatini (Swaziland) in Summer 2021. Whilst there, they will be helping out the local communities, trekking around the country and taking part in some amazing experiences, for example a safari. Over the next 18 months, students need to fundraise towards going on the expedition.

I have registered the World Challenge team with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

[Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) is a great way to raise funds for the team whilst shopping online at no extra cost to yourself. There are over 3,000 retailers who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to the team of World Challenge students in Year 10 to say thank you for shopping with them.

Registering is free and easy:

Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/benphilcoxswaziland/>

Get shopping – your donations will be collected by [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and automatically sent to the team's fundraising account. It couldn't be easier!

Your support in helping the students meet their goal is much appreciated, and will undoubtedly have a positive impact upon them. All money raised through this will be split equally between the members of my Year 10 team.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me at [ben.philcox@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:ben.philcox@nobel.herts.sch.uk)

Thank you for your support.

Mr Ben Philcox

# Language Learners of the Half-Term: November/December 2019



Aleks Nikolov	7T KPR
Erin Hayes	7M MMD
Maisie Birchenough	7T KPR
Filip Paszkiet	7T KPR
Adil Shah	7M RGR
Mahi Parmar	8T WGN
Abi-Mai Collins	8T ELW
Emmanuel De-Graft Quansah	8T ELW
Ioana Turlea	8E KRN
Matthew Turner	8E KRN
Sachi Shah	9T KKT
Maisie Goodyear	9T NFD
Logan Flecknell	9T NFD
Lois Asiam-Kwaarteng	9M LSE
Sunny Evans	9E JHS
Logan Wyles	9M BPX
Afrah Peeran	10T JKY
Nathan Jacobs	11T JBT
Hornela Zadio	12T KMN



Roxy Cooper	8M RMS
Harris Corney	8M RMS
Eleanor Metcalfe	8E PCN
Sam Reynolds	8E PCN
Jack Jones	8E PCN
Jason Ching	9T NFD
Caitlin Long	9C PDN
Charlotte Oakley	9E JHS
Maurice Forbes-Jr	9E JHS
Hope Matthews	9E TSH
Suniya Shahrokhi	9E JHS
Yusuf Jami	10E JBL
Helen Todd	11E ECP



Artemis Svolopoulou	7E KHS
Jessica Thomas	7E KHS
David Bercea	7C STH
Ellis Coker	7E ZBE
Tania Begum	7C CDE
Ella Whitworth	10T RME
Ruby Bolt	11E ECP
Kiah Shah	11T JBT
Joseph Heyes	12CML



## Linguavision

Thursday 12 December saw the first ever Linguavision competition take place at the Nobel School. Year 7 students came together to perform French and Spanish pop hits in front of their peers and teachers after having learnt and practised during their music and language lessons over the course of the half term. We were incredibly proud of the performances and both students and teachers enjoyed hearing some foreign language songs.

The winners were 7C CDE and 7T AHY—congratulations to both forms!

## Nobel Supporting Charities

### Feed Up Warm Up

9LSE chose the independent local charity Feed Up Warm Up to support as a chance to give something back to Stevenage in the lead up to Christmas. Feed Up Warm Up has been in Stevenage for just over one year and are doing an amazing job supporting families and individuals to get back on their feet.

We dropped our donated goods off on Tuesday 10 December. It was a cold and miserable night yet 45 clients sought to gain support and advice that evening. Our donations were used to help create 40 food parcels, 36 clothing parcels, and 34 hot meals and drinks that were given out that evening.

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who donated, the food, camping equipment and clothes were certainly well received.

Miss Lisa Steele



### St Albans Sleep Out

On Friday 6 December, Oaklands College hosted a sleep out on their playing fields. Together with my family and about 100 other people who were also raising money for charity, we spent the night outside, sleeping on cardboard boxes with just a sleeping bag to keep us warm.

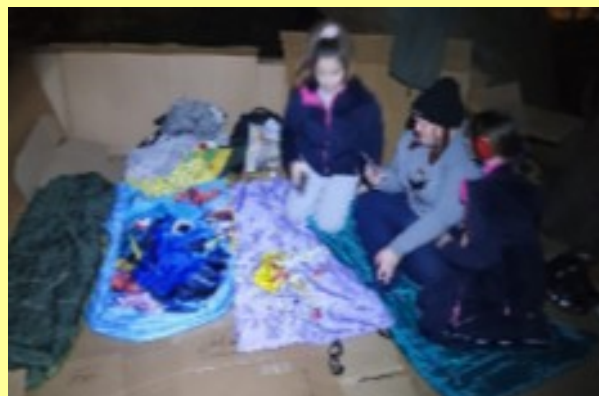
It was cold, wet and boggy and not the most comfortable night of my life, but it was okay and, so far, we have raised £350 for homeless charities.

There was a silent disco, with hot drinks, soup and biscuits and, in the morning, breakfast rolls with bacon and sausage. It was an amazing experience.

Summer Angell - 7MMD

### Stevenage Foodbank

Thank you, also, from Mr Howells, Head of Enrichment, to everyone who contributed items to Stevenage Foodbank, which will help families in need have a happier Christmas this year.



## A Dickensian Christmas

Students in Years 8 and 11 were provided with a fabulous opportunity last Wednesday to watch a live performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. Quantum Theatre came to Nobel so our students could engage in the festive tale without having to leave school!



Year 8 students have spent this term exploring Victorian literature and Victorian life in England. Having already studied the resurgence in popularity of what we now deem Christmas traditions created by Charles Dickens, it was lovely to see those traditions presented on stage in a classic text to broaden their knowledge and develop their enthusiasm in literature.

Some of our Year 11 students have studied the text in preparation for their GCSE literature exam and it was so encouraging to see students revise and further build on their understanding of characters, setting and plot in such a unique fashion.

Nobel is pleased to have the opportunity to provide these enrichment activities and appreciate your support in offering a wide range of valuable learning opportunities to our students.



Miss Lisa Steele  
English Teacher



### Dates for your diary

- 6 January 2020** - Start of term - all students
- 6 - 17 January** - External CTEC exams
- 13 - 24 January** - Year 11 options interviews
- 22 January** - Year 13 Parents' Consultation Evening





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- 3) Enter your child's details and confirm the name of the school they attend
- 4) Create a username and password

[GCSEPOD.COM](http://GCSEPOD.COM)

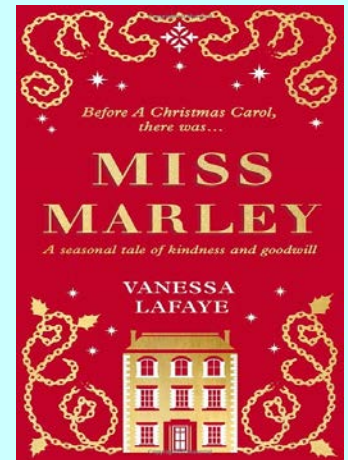
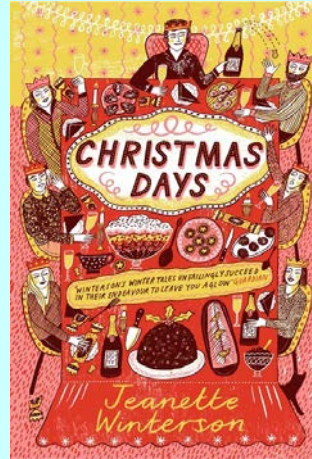
[INFO@GCSEPOD.COM](mailto:INFO@GCSEPOD.COM)

0191 338 7830

## NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF and COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Next meeting will be held in **the Library**,  
6:30pm, Tuesday 14 January 2020

The books to read are:



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

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



Wishing you all a  
Merry Christmas

&

A Very Happy  
New Year