

Nobel News

15 January 2021
Edition 9.08



From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

In difficult times it is so nice to receive positive feedback about the work we are doing. We have been back for two weeks and I think the school and staff have really shown how great they are and what a brilliant community we have at our lovely school.

We did learn much from the Spring 'lockdown' and we are extremely keen to make this period of school as fruitful as we possibly can. Students have responded to this magnificently and attendance rates at live lessons have been better than they would be during a usual January week! 11-16 is running at 95.8% (we are told that the national average is less than 85%) and, in the sixth form, it is 98% - remarkable.

Thank you to parents who are obviously supporting this at home and a plea to keep this going to make this period as successful as we possibly can. We are determined to keep our young people engaged and, therefore, if for any reason, students are missing learning, please contact the school in the usual way. We will also be contacting you if children are not engaging with the work.

With the help of Mr Burningham and our alumni, as well as Councillor Robin Parker, we have managed to source 150 laptops for students who weren't able to access our remote learning package. Many thanks to anyone who helped us with that.

At the same time, we have developed and trained our own COVID 19 testing team. Staff and students attending key worker school are currently being tested once a week. It is envisaged that we will continue with this routine as students return to the building.

Finally, given all that is happening at Nobel (and 1000s of other schools) it's a bit galling when politicians and the media say that schools are closed; we're not closed, we have just relocated!

Thank you to all my wonderful colleagues who have shown such adaptability, ingenuity and kindness.

Take care and stay safe.

Warm regards
Martyn Henson

Rising to the Challenge of Lockdown 3

Returning from the Christmas break to the Government announcement of a further national lockdown, was not the news anyone wanted to hear, however, contingency planning has been taking place for a number of months to ensure that, if the worst happened, we would be fully prepared, as a school, to rise to the challenge. And that is exactly what we did.

The entire staff mobilised to make up learning packs for every single student. Each pack contained a workbook for every subject and this is intended to supplement the full programme of online and live learning that is taking place. Students were invited in to school at intervals during the first week and, in order to keep everyone safe, staff greeted them outside in freezing conditions with their individual work packs. Uncollected work was delivered to students' homes by staff so that, by the end of the first week of term, more than 1400 learning packs had been assembled and distributed.

In addition, and assisted by generous donations from FONS, the Alumni and Hertfordshire County Council, the school has distributed more than 150 computers, ensuring that all students have laptops and connectivity to enable full access to and participation in the schedule of live lessons.

We know how tough the first lockdown was for everyone and the impact it had on mental health. The introduction of live lessons and daily form time helps us to keep an eye on the well being of all our students and allows us to quickly identify any students who are struggling and failing to engage, and we can act quickly to provide any additional support necessary to get them back on track without delay.

Mini-school is up and running once again for our most vulnerable students, as well as the children of key workers, and these students access the same online learning and live lessons as their peers at home.

Lateral flow testing is in place and many thanks to staff who have been trained to deliver the testing. Staff were all tested during the first week of term and testing is available every week for staff in school and for students in mini-school. It is another tool for ensuring the safety of us all.

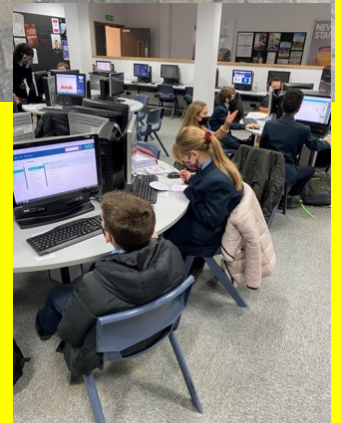
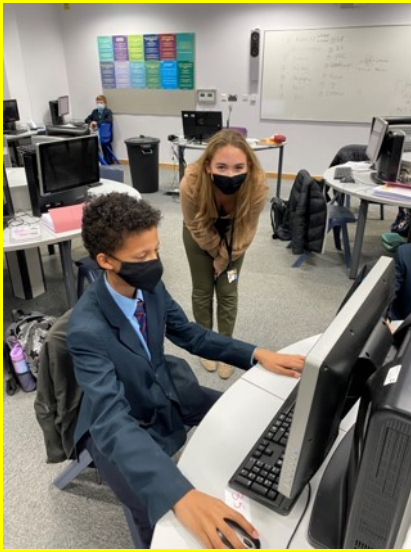
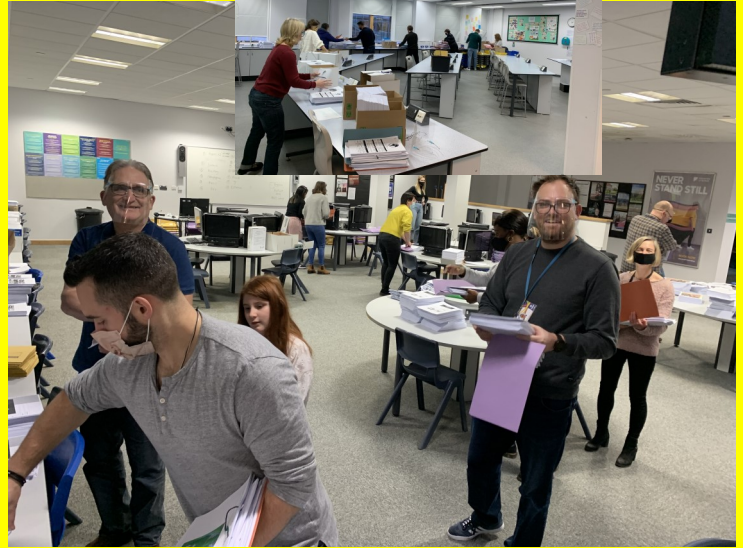
Finally, work has been ongoing to ensure regular and rigorous testing and assessment of students academic capacity and this will continue, so, even though we now know that the summer exams have once again been cancelled, we will be in a very strong position to confidently award centre-assessed grades, which truly reflect what each student would have been likely to achieve.

It has been a massive team effort and we are incredibly proud of our response and, of course, with the response of our wonderful students and their families, who have all undoubtedly proved their adaptability, resilience and Nobelian spirit.

Well done everyone!



Rising to the Challenge of Lockdown 3



Using your PlayStation or X-Box as a learning device

You may have seen in the media, articles on how newer versions of PlayStation or X-Box can connect to online learning platforms like Microsoft 365 (Email, OneDrive, Word, Teams, etc).

This will allow students accessing lessons by mobile phone to see slide presentations and documents on a much larger screen. Both consoles can use a low cost keyboard and mouse for web browsing. For further information on how to do this, please see the box below.

Mrs N Rose

Deputy Headteacher

Xbox



1. Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot (if you don't own one these can be purchased from around £10).
2. Go to 'my games and apps'.
3. Find Microsoft edge and select.
4. To move around the screen, you can use your controller or plug in a mouse.
5. Type in Office 365 and log in as you would if you were accessing your Office 365 account on a computer.
6. You can then access all your Office 365 apps including your OneDrive, Teams, Word and Powerpoint.

Playstation

1. Plug a keyboard into a USB slot on the front of your Playstation (if you don't own one these can be purchased from around £10).
2. The Playstation will recognise the device and ask who is using it. Choose the profile that you would like to pair the device to.
3. Press the Playstation logo on your controller
4. Go to the library and find options for games and applications.
5. Go into applications and identify the Playstation internet browser (it will have a www icon).
6. Type in Office 365 and log in as you would if you were accessing your Office 365 account on a computer.
7. You can then access all your Office 365 apps including your OneDrive, Teams, Word and Powerpoint.



Finley's Sporting Success

Year 9 student, Finley Clifton, has been appointed as one of Hertfordshire's Young Athlete role models. This is a nationally driven programme under the Youth Sport Trust (YST), Department of Education and Sport England Inclusion umbrellas, led by Anne-Marie Riddle (YST Lead Inclusion 2020) who congratulated Finley and Nobel school on Finley's appointment.

Finley's role will involve working with a YST Athlete Mentor, Toby Garbett, who is an ex Olympian triathlete and world rowing champion. Toby will support Finley in his journey as one of our County's role models. As Finley is in Year 9, he will also be guided by a current athlete role model who is in Year 13 from Roundwood Park School. This programme involves planning and delivering workshops and sessions designed to promote and inspire other young people with additional needs from other mainstream and special schools. Anne-Marie went on to say that she is looking forward to working alongside Finley and Lynn on his journey.

Mrs Lynn Amey

SENCo



Friends of Nobel School (FONS) News

In previous editions we have let parents and carers know about the fantastic financial donations made to allow the purchase of extra laptops by FONS and the Nobel Network of former students.

I am also very pleased to announce that Cllr. Stephen Booth, Cllr. Andy McGuinness, Cllr. Graham Snell, Cllr. Tom Wren and Cllr. Robin Parker CC have agreed for their community budgets to support students. During the Covid pandemic, they have collectively donated over £4500 to help continue the purchase of laptops.

We are very pleased that elected local officials are making such a real difference alongside parents, students and alumni and we send our grateful thanks to them all.

Our fund-raising efforts continue, and it is still not too late to buy tickets for the FONS New Year raffle. The deadline is Monday 25 January and the winners will be drawn the following Monday (1 February). Tickets, priced at £1 each, can be purchased via the school gateway and are available to all Nobel staff and parents/carers.

Mr Barry Burningham

Nobel Network Co-ordinator

Nobel School Parents, Staff and Community Book Group

On Tuesday evening, 12 January, our group was thrilled to be joined by author and journalist Paul Fry to discuss his book *Journeyman*.

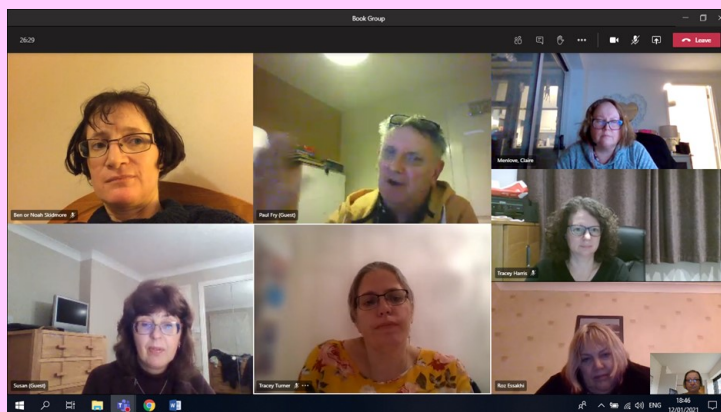
Paul grew up in Stevenage and is an old Nobelian. His book *Journeyman* documents his career, which began at a local newspaper, and moving on to work in Fleet Street. He also spent five years living in New Zealand, also working in newspapers. Over his career, Paul covered many major stories and sporting events.

He has also seen many changes in the newspaper industry and worked with many colourful characters including Robert Maxwell.

Paul told us that he is currently working on a new book about famous sports people from Stevenage.

If you would like to find out more, Paul has a Facebook page *Journeyman* that contains photos, chat, offers and other content.

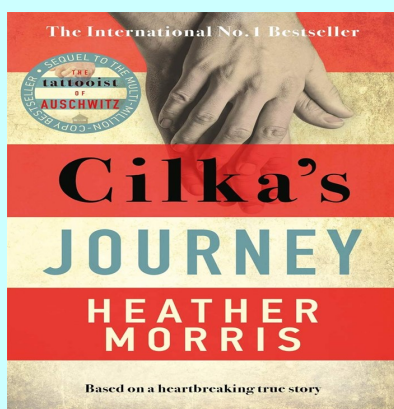
Mrs Rosalind Essakhi
Librarian



NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF and COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Next meeting will be held **remotely (or in the Library if we're able to)** 6:30pm, Tuesday 23 February 2021

The book to read is:



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

library@nobel.herts.sch.uk

How to support your child using GCSEPod



What is GCSEPod?

GCSEPod is an award-winning expert in Subject Knowledge. We provide 3-5 minute bursts of audio-visual, teacher written learning which can help to reinforce and consolidate key GCSE topics covered in lessons.

Experts read and explain everything clearly including all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and diagrams on screen.

Tips & Tricks

- **Watch online or offline!** Ask your child to download some Pods to their mobile device, this way they are free expand their knowledge wherever they go.
- **Create Playlists!** Use the My Playlist area to create bespoke playlists on topics that they may find challenging. Having a personalised playlist means your child has fast access to Pods that will help to fill in knowledge gaps.
- **Use Favourites!** Challenge your child to a favourite 10 Pods on topics they find difficult/challenging. Watch the Pods together and use one of our other suggested learning techniques to help simplify what it is they're struggling with.
- **Memory Cards!** Watch the Pods and then together write key facts, dates, diagrams and quotes. Then test their knowledge to see how much they remember.
Top Tip* Turn it into a competition and reward your child for correctly answered questions. If you're stuck on what questions to ask your child then head over to our 'Quiz your Child' document.
- **Support Homework!** GCSEPod isn't just for revision, it's to help expand your child's subject knowledge. If your child is struggling with a piece of homework, you can search for the topic on GCSEPod and use the Pods as an additional resource.

Does your child know they have access to GCSEPod?

If your son or daughter have already activated their account, they simply need to log in with the username and password they've created.

If they've not yet activated their GCSEPod account, simply follow these simple instructions:

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com
2. Click **Login**
3. Click **New Here? Getting Started**
4. Ensure they've selected they are a **Pupil**
5. Enter their personal details as requested
6. Create a Username and Password



GCSEPOD.COM

INFO@GCSEPOD.COM

0191 338 7830

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PE Department - Healthy Selfie

During lockdown, for core PE we have recorded workouts, focusing on different fitness components every lesson, and the response so far has been great!

We have also started a campaign to encourage students and staff to ensure they take time for themselves during this lockdown period by doing some sort of exercise and taking a #healthyselfie, and tagging us on twitter @NobelSchoolPE.

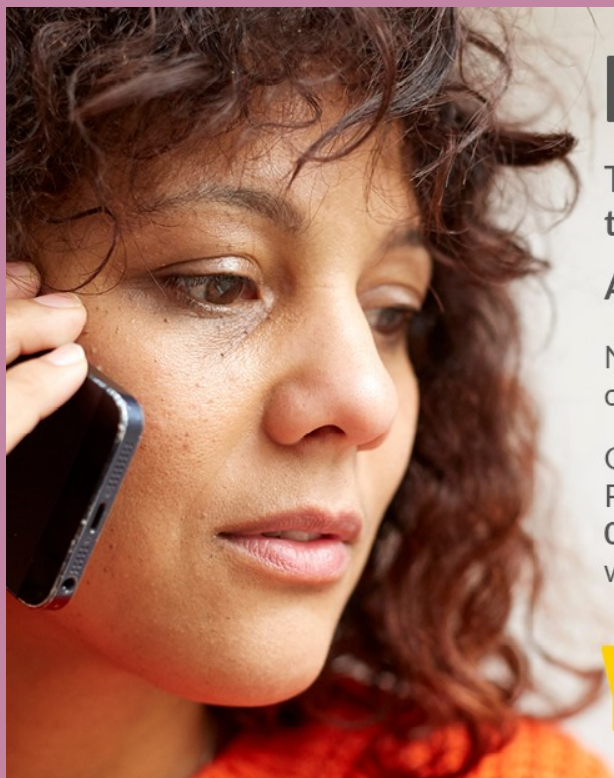
We have so far received pictures from students and staff on weekdays as well as weekends. Here is just a collection of pictures from both students and staff.

Well done everybody - keep on keeping fit!

Miss Louise Temple

PE Teacher





Parenthood..

The most rewarding job in the world

And also the toughest

Need some advice about your child's behaviour?

Contact YoungMinds
Parents Helpline
0808 802 5544
www.youngminds.org.uk/parents

YOUNGMINDS

Worried about how you're feeling?

Check out:

youngminds.org.uk/find-help

YOUNGMINDS



Dates for your Diary

As always, should you have any concerns or require any information please contact your child's form tutor.

Wednesday 20 January: Y13 Parents' consultation evening

Monday 25 January - Friday 5 February: Y11 Options Interviews

Wednesday 3 February: Y7 Parents' consultation evening

W/C Monday 12 February: Half-term Break