

From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Our staff will be very pleased that half-term has arrived; they have done a tremendous job and deserve a rest from looking at screens, so do our young people.

As a parent of nine-year-old twins I'm all too aware of how difficult it is to motivate children to login to another 'live' lesson. Quite simply they miss school, they miss seeing their friends, they miss moving around the building and, like all of us, they miss routine. Teachers are the same, they miss their colleagues and friends, and they miss physically moving around the room checking, encouraging and making live assessments.

As Joni Mitchell, the great Canadian songwriter, put it a long time ago 'You don't know what you've got until it's gone' and I think we all want to return to 'normal' as soon as possible. In the meantime, we need to take extra care to look after ourselves.

There won't be lessons for anyone over the holiday because we all need a break and a rest. Try and do something different. I am useless at chess, but I taught my daughters and now have a couple of games – if you don't play chess, try to find something to do with them that doesn't involve a computer or screen and, if it involves fresh air, all the better.

Please don't think I'm telling what to do, I'm just sharing, as a parent, that our children have missed 'normal life' and doing something different with them works wonders.

Teachers and children will then be back on Monday 22 February and we would like you to encourage your child to turn their cameras on for lessons. It makes it much easier for teachers to assess the engagement and participation in lessons. Privacy can still be maintained by selecting an appropriate background.

As always, thank you for your support, stay safe and take care

Warm regards

Martyn Henson

Science Club

Thank you to all students for joining us in our first remote Science Club meeting on Monday afternoon, it was fantastic to see so many keen Nobel Scientists!

In this session, we were introduced to the Herts and Essex Virtual Science Fair Competition, that requires students to do an at-home science experiment, or extended research project into a science topic of their choice. The deadline for entries is Monday 1 March - if any year 7 or 8 students are interested in either joining us at Science Club after half-term, or in entering the competition, please email bethany.jones@nobel.herts.sch.uk where you would be more than welcome to join in!

We would also like to thank our wonderful year 12 Science Ambassadors for their help in the running of our Science Club:

Reem Al-Hemyari

Ruby Bolt

Jenson Bolton

Nadine Fieldsend

Jago Foord

Scarlett Ingram

Habibah Rahman

Haiqah Urrehman

Rae-Ann Williams

Benjamin Wright

Miss Bethany Jones
Science Teacher

Express yourself in Lockdown

Speaking a language confidently and coherently is an important part of the curriculum and forms a critical part of linguistic and cultural development for all learners of languages.

However, the impact of Covid-19 has meant that many students have had fewer opportunities to speak the languages they are learning. So we're delighted to tell you about the '**Express Yourself in Lockdown**'.event which is being run by the Association for Language Learning and the British Council.

This is an opportunity for students to showcase their enjoyment of a language that they are learning or that is normally used in their home community (except for English, unless you are an EAL learner!).

Students can prepare:

- ♦ A short poem in the target language (written by themselves or by another author)
- ♦ A short presentation on any theme e.g. climate change, equality, why I love languages
- ♦ A short sketch
- ♦ A short dialogue

This can be a solo or joint performance but should be no longer than **90 seconds** in total and should be recorded in landscape mode. The participants will record themselves delivering their performance, however participants who are under-16 should use either PowerPoint slides/Bitmoji/other pictures or video imagery rather than showing their faces.

If you'd like to enter please email your entry to your French, Spanish or German teacher, even if your entry is in another language, by **Thursday 25 February** at the latest.

The Languages Faculty

FONS New Year Raffle - Winners Announced

FONS are delighted to announce the winners of this year's raffle. Prizes will be available from reception after half term.

We are very grateful for the support of parents and carers who have helped us raise over £1000 during this difficult time.

As you may already know, we have supported the purchase of essential equipment to enhance classroom teaching and to assist home learning. With these funds we will continue to do so.

Well done to the winners and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

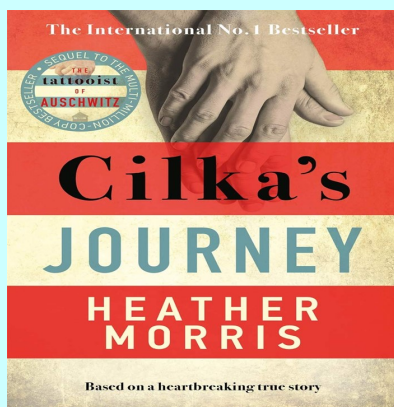
Mr Barry Burningham
Former Deputy Head

Prize	No	Winner
Pleasure flight	786	Miss Leanne Pateman
Amazon Voucher £100	697	Mrs Marsha Sellings
Two wills written up to £250	1105	Ms Sue Hamer
6 bottles of wine	801	Mr Manesh Chudasama
Free MOT	795	Mrs Stacey Sullivan
Family pass for Knebworth	1173	Mrs Melanie Gilbert
Body shop Gift set (£30+)	702	Miss Angela Grant
Nail voucher	696	Mrs Emma Evans

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

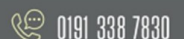
- **Watch online or offline!** Ask your child to download some Pods to their mobile device, this way they are free to expand their knowledge wherever they go.
- **Create Playlists!** Use the My Playlist area to create bespoke playlists on topics that they may find challenging. Having a personalised playlist 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



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RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

You may remember reading about the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch last issue; the event was a national survey of the birds in our gardens and communal green spaces. Quite a few of our Nobelians took part and we thought you would like to see some of the results.

For all the budding 'twitchers' out there or for anyone interested in 'wildlife on their doorstep', more information and inspiration can be found on the RSPB website via the link below.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>



Mr George Breese
Head of Geography

Well done to the students listed below who took part and here is a selection of their photos and results:

Zoe Booyse - 13 GBE
Max Sewell - 9 CMY
Aubrey Murray - 7 JRN
Gauden Kagimu - 9 RBD
Micah Egembah - 7 CLR
Harrison Cherry - 7 DCE
Phoebe Chiwambo - 7NAN
Olivia Kemp - 7 NAN
Hollie Willmot - 8 CDE



Making a Difference

Former Nobel student, Owen Rodbard has been busy fundraising for the NHS during the coronavirus crisis, after his much-loved father died of the deadly disease. Owen's loss during the first lockdown prompted him to run in honour of Gary's memory and for the NHS who battled so hard to save his dad and countless others up and down the country.

Gritty Owen has been pushing himself with a gruelling challenge - to run 150km in 30 days - in a bid to raise much-needed cash to boost the NHS in responding to the Covid crisis.

Thanks to his grit and determination and the generosity of more than 100 friends, family and well-wishers, the 21-year-old has raised more than £1,500 already.

He's been running in all weathers including heavy snow, but has refused to quit - and now, the finish line eases into sight for the inspirational university student and massive Stevenage FC fan.

Here, in his own words, is Owen's inspirational story:

Ever since my dad passed away from Covid in April, I'd had the thought of taking part in some sort of fundraiser.

My dad was always a keen runner; he ran the London Marathon in 1998 and represented his county at national events when he was at school. Therefore, I thought that running would be an appropriate way of raising money in his memory. Covering 150km in 30 days doesn't seem like much running when you split it up but, add in the hilly terrain of Leeds (where I'm currently at university), heavy snow and a few hungover mornings and it's suddenly a different challenge!

I've played football for over 10 years now, but straight running is a very different affair. It's been tough. Going straight into 150km after not properly training over any of the three lockdowns has taken its toll. However, the finish line is in sight!

I've found that running in the north is very different to running in Hertfordshire. The constant hills, the muddy paths and the freezing rainstorms have really hampered my progress. There have been times when I've wanted to quit or just stop, which was not helped much by the heavy snowfall which prevented me from running proper distance for three days. I've had to push myself to catch up on those days when I couldn't run, which has been the biggest challenge so far.



Owen, pictured with his late father, Gary

As I write this I'm 21 days into my challenge and currently I've raised £1,575. An incredible feat, which wouldn't have been possible without the amazing generosity and kindness from over 100 donators. The amount raised so far has really pushed me on and inspired me to keep going throughout these 30 days.

This challenge hasn't just been physically demanding but also mentally, but the support I've received has been amazing and it's nice to know that so many people are looking out for me. The main purpose of this piece was to thank everyone who has donated.

I wanted to prove to myself that, after everything that's happened, I could push myself and really make a difference.

Hopefully this is just the start of my 'adventure' into running and, one day, I might even follow in my dad's footsteps of completing that marathon.

A version of this article appeared in Hitchin Nub News, where Owen is a regular Stevenage FC writer.

Well done, Owen, everyone at Nobel wishes you well.

Free Resources from Hertfordshire Libraries

Knowing where to find free and reliable information resources is an important part of education. The library offers a gateway to such resources and Hertfordshire Libraries can help, particularly in these times of online learning.

Our Reference Library Online (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/orlib) has a range of resources that library members (it's [free to join](#) the library) can use for free at home, or anywhere. Perfect for helping with homework, research, study, or just for fun. All the resources are reliable and from trusted and established publishers.

Here is a quick introduction to just some of the online resources that students may find most useful:

- ♦ **Britannica Online** - the online version of the complete Encyclopaedia Britannica. There are three versions available depending on students' level: junior (suitable for Key stage 1 & 2), student (suitable for Key stage 3 & 4) and adult (Key stage 4 & 6th Form)
- ♦ **Credo Reference** – this is like having your own reference library, ideal for research projects and homework. Search or browse over 1300 subject-specific titles from reputable publishers. This is aimed more at older students, but it also includes 66 titles from DK Eyewitness collection, suitable for younger students.

- ♦ **Oxford English Dictionary and Oxford Dictionaries Pro** – dictionaries from Oxford University Press, to explore the English language with expert guidance on style, usage, grammar and spelling. This also includes French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Portuguese dictionaries

- ♦ **Archive newspapers** – search or browse digital version of newspapers (the Times 1785-2014, the Sunday Times 1822-2006, Illustrated London News 1842-2003). This would be most suitable for older students, particularly to see how past events were reported. This resource could be used for History, Media Studies, English, and Social Studies.

There are many more resources to explore on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/orlib and, to get everyone reading, let's not forget BorrowBox (our e-book and e-audiobooks library – www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ebooks) and free digital newspapers and magazines (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/librarymagazines). All are useful educational resources, as well as encouraging reading for pleasure.

West End Workshops and Half-Term Dance

For anyone interested in doing some extra activities during half-term and having some fun along the way by joining stars of the West End for some virtual dance classes, this could be for you!

We are also incredibly proud that the first event is led by former Nobel student, Bethany Huckle, proving that you can make it to the west end or, indeed, wherever your dreams may take you.

Please click on the link below for further information and to book your place.

<https://www.westwayperformingarts.co.uk/west-end-workshops-1>

Rebecca Llewellyn
Head of Dance

WEST END WORKSHOPS

		13th FEB 12:30
		18th FEB 17:00
		19th FEB 18:30
		20th FEB 11:00
		21st FEB 11:00

Nobel Healthy-Selfie Campaign

This half term we have been motivating and encouraging students and staff to get moving through this lockdown. From our core PE lessons, to walks, runs, cycles and other workouts, as a school, we have taken part in huge amounts of exercise to get us out and to get us active in these strange times. This collage is just a few #Healthyselves from our campaign on @NobelSchoolPE twitter that Nobelians have taken over the last 6 weeks to get involved and keep motivated. The dedication as a school has been outstanding with half marathons being conquered and flexibility goals being stretched we have taken this time to ensure we have stayed safe and active.

Well done to all those that have taken part so far.



Mill Louise Temple
PE Department

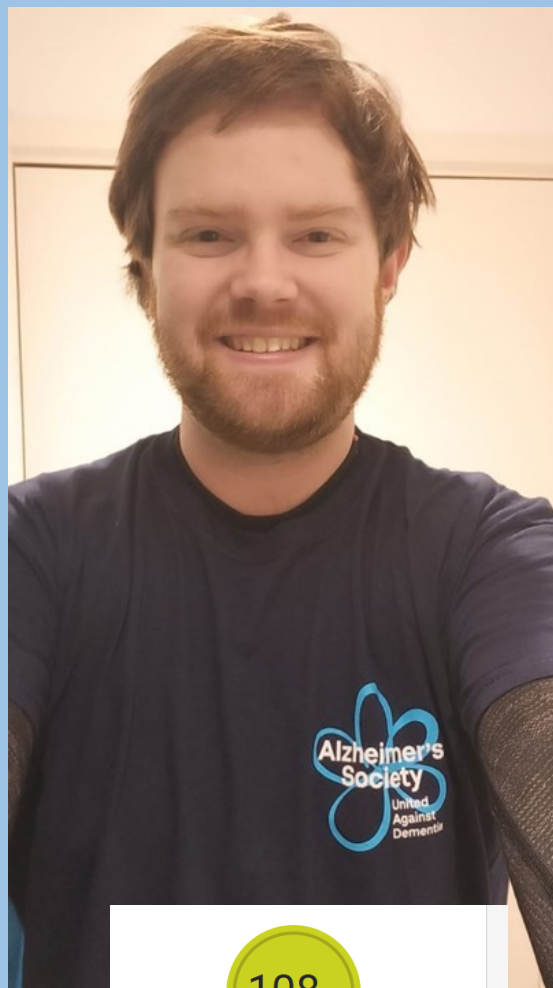
Raising Money for Alzheimer's UK - Progress Update

This month, my partner Rebecca and I are completing a 100 mile charity run to raise money for Alzheimer's UK. It is a charity close to both of our hearts following family bereavements. We started at the end of January, and have until 28 February to run 100 miles (160 km). We are about to hit the halfway mark (50 miles/80km) with two and a half weeks to go, which is excellent news!

Neither of us are experienced runners, and we are both feeling the impact of the constant running - finding the spirit to run after a long day's virtual teaching is certainly a challenge!

Thank you so much for all of the support so far - at the time of writing we have now raised over £800! Our original target was £200, and we have been blown away at the level of support and encouragement we have received, from friends, family, colleagues (and students).

If anyone would like to sponsor us, here is the link to our fundraising page: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/benphilcox?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=benphilcox&utm_campaign=pdf_share&utm_term=ae7561462b7545bda5bfd0b9142c267e&fbclid=IwAR0cFDHkZ883mPFnOyY0wYS84i_cY-I2hnbiJ9y4lkHFV19MmZK2fCEsYY



Thank you again, and have a wonderful well earned break. I hope you are more relaxed than we will be out running!

Ben Philcox
History Department

Dates for your Diary

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

W/C Monday 12 February: Half-term Break

Monday 22 February: Online/live lessons resume

Wednesday 24 February (6.00-7.00pm): Y13 Student Finance Briefing - online