

From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

It would appear that Covid, through the new variant, Omicron, is back. This is unwelcome news, and the school is now in the process of bracing itself for the worst possible news. We want to be ready to provide a reliable and regular online curriculum for students, in the eventuality of an enforced enclosure. In the meantime, may I urge you to extensively use lateral flow tests (LFT) so that any students testing positive can be kept at home to protect others at school. They should only return if a PCR test is negative.

At the moment, school will continue until next Tuesday, and I would, on behalf of everyone at the school, like to thank you all for your fantastic support and wish you a great holiday and best wishes for a happy New Year.

Warm regards

Martyn Henson

School History Unveiled

Although the school had already been open for a year, in 1962, Leslie Rose, the first Headteacher, wrote to The Nobel Institute asking that the school be granted permission to be called The Nobel School.

The Nobel Institute considered this request and replied that the school could, in fact, take its name and its values.

On Monday 13 December, Mr Henson welcomed the children and a grandchild of Leslie Rose to join him in celebrating the school's heritage.



The correspondence between the school and The Nobel Institute were ceremoniously unveiled by the family, and the mounted letters, presented in a handsome frame, now hang in the reception area for all to see.



The family, who are all former Nobelians themselves, were taken on a tour of our lovely new school by sixth formers, Denni Davies and Grace Elliott, and they also visited the Rose Garden, which they sponsor.

Mr Henson said, "We are very pleased that two further generations of the Rose family could celebrate with us in this way, particularly in the context of the school's 60th year."



Mr Barry Burningham
Nobelnetwork@nobel.herts.sch.uk

Lucas Fountain - Karate Black Belt

After 7 years of hard work and dedication, Lucas Fountain passed his Shodan Grading (1st Dan) with the English Shotokan Karate Association (ESKA) and is now an official Black Belt in Shotokan Karate (listed on the ESKA Black Belt Register).

Not only did this require physical training, 20 Kyu Gradings (different belt assessments), a Dan grading in front of 8 senior ESKA instructors (over 2 hours of demonstrating Karate ability - basics, sparring and Kata), but also a written Japanese terminology test, an oral history karate test and submission of a personal karate history (Karate CV).

Well done Lucas, you have shown true Nobelian qualities in this fantastic achievement and we watch with interest regarding your next accolade.



Of course, if any students are keen to find out more about karate, please ask Lucas and check out the ESKA Stevenage Karate (Stevenage Leisure Centre) website and Facebook pages. First lesson is absolutely free. <https://Stevenagekarate.co.uk>
<https://www.facebook.com/stevenagekarate>

Year 11 Sociology Experts



Following on from their recent mocks, and since we were recapping research methods before moving on to the final topic of the year, we wanted to give 11Ay Sociology students the opportunity to show off their skills.

We tasked four students with creating a revision lesson that they would present to the class. The rules were that it needed to feature a 'Do Now' task, several knowledge retrieval tasks and a fun plenary to check overall knowledge at the end.

The ladies created an amazing lesson using a wide variety of work sheets which they went around and marked, just like the staff within the ESS department. To finish, the class was split into two and competed on a game of Blockbusters to see who the ultimate champion of Research Methods was.

Thank you to Sunny Evans La Porte, Jenhiel Basa, Dyani Tehura-Nessa and Charlotte Telfer for their amazing work.

Miss Chloe Lister & Miss Rachel Gregory

Product Design Visit to IKEA

On 8 December, to further influence any future designs through the mini projects or the Year 13 non-exam assessment, our class travelled to Ikea and Refined Lighting in Milton Keynes. Exploring the different design possibilities that were displayed in both shops, allowed me to understand how they influenced the customer, their appeal and their manufacture.

The first part of the trip involved visiting IKEA, walking around the showroom areas. The shop is laid out as if it is a customer's house, and you are directed by arrows on the floor, which is a simple way to direct the customers into other parts of the shop. These areas were filled with household scenes displaying the products in different scenarios. For example, there were multiple kitchen displays with all the products being purchasable within the shop. These displays were all clustered in similar areas which made the customer experience easier. Further to this, shortcuts were strategically put between different areas which allows the customer to travel between points. However, due to the twisting nature of the pathways in the store, the customer is more likely to follow these as they want to know what is around the corner.



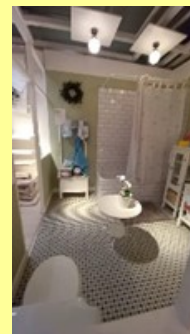
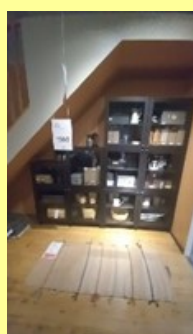
The final part of the trip was to visit a shop which sells unique lighting arrangements. The shop caters for both cost effective solutions to a more expensive client base. As it's just a small store of only two floors, all lighting is closely displayed and, for added customer convenience, they are all displayed in clusters with similar functions, such as bathroom and garden lights; all products are easy to get to.

Further to this, arriving in the store, a clear view to the second floor allowed the shop to feel more open and welcoming. Allowing the customer to look at the designs above means they are on display right as you walk in, especially the grander lights such as the chandeliers, which draws the customers in to buy them.



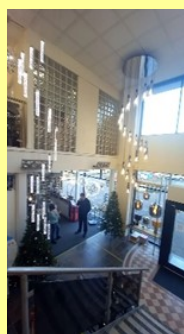
Joe Baker - 12RKI

I found the trip to IKEA amazing and inspiring. I was able to see new and quite modern designs. Rooms were styled to model different looks, and it made me feel like redesigning my own room to achieve something similar. It certainly provides plenty of interior design ideas. I have never been to IKEA before, but I found my first visit fascinating.



I liked Refined Lighting because of the sheer range and variety of styles, and how they compared old-style lighting to the modern designs. I was able to visualise and think of new designs or how I might make improvements to an existing design.

Masroor Badar Asad - 12KMN



Product Design Visit to IKEA

When we went to IKEA, I enjoyed seeing the room layouts and how the same products were sometimes repurposed over multiple rooms and styles, subtly displaying the simplicity and reusability of their products. Since the first half of IKEA was designed with these rooms it made the experience of the store feel much more welcoming, as opposed to walking into a warehouse full of brown boxes.

Refined lighting was interesting as I got to see many specialised, bespoke high end products that I may not have seen otherwise.

Oliver Jones - 12RKI

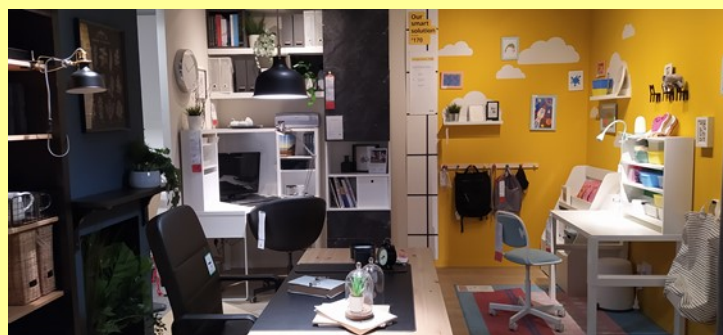
This trip was a great insight into clever marketing used by Ikea. It was also a good inspiration on how simple and cost effective products can be elevated by their surroundings and good decoration.

Dean Vaughan - 12RKI

IKEA is a very successful superstore that is famous for its inexpensive and logical furniture designs, and flat packs. In the store it's strategically laid out in a showroom manner so customers can be involved, in a multi-sensory way, in the products available. The store is easy to navigate with arrows on the floor, leading your through.

Throughout the store many different design movements and aesthetics are shown with each showroom showing completely different styles that appeal to different customers. In each showroom there is modern Ikea technology as well as small accents. Everything on display is available to buy in the shop making it an easy shopping experience and encourages the customers to buy more.

Olivia Benson - 12KMN



Sixth Form Ice Skating Rewards

On Wednesday 15 December, Nobel School Sixth Form went out of school for the afternoon to enjoy their first rewards trip for over two years. With three coaches and a minibus and 170 students the atmosphere was so exciting. Christmas hats and jumpers were on, and everyone was ready to have some fun.

The venue was Parker's Piece in Cambridge, which, as well as the ice skating, included fun rides and plenty of food.

After getting everyone kitted up with ice skating boots, the ice was full of Nobel students hanging on for dear life to the side of the rink because, for so many, this was their first time skating. Slowly, they all became more confident, helped each other and then blossomed into ice skaters. We have so many wonderful photos to share with the students, which I am sure I will be using in their leavers' assembly next year.



At the end of the ice skating session, with a few wet bottoms, the students moved onto food, which clearly is a very important part of the day for teenagers. It was wonderful to sit outside, coats on and just let the students relax with friends. Then, to my amazement, after a burger, chips and a crepe they were up on the fun rides and looking a bit pale when they landed!



Our time at the Winter Wonderland was finally up, and we left to return to Nobel. All the students were such a credit to the school, they behaved exceptionally well and just showed us how important these rewards are. It was lovely to see all the students having so much fun, particularly after such a challenging couple of years.

A big thank you to all the staff who accompanied the students on the trip and a very special thank you to Mrs Speirs, Mrs Davies and Mrs Carter for the hours of paperwork that needed to be completed to help make this trip happen.

We know that the Sixth Form students will continue to work hard next term, so we are already coming up with suggestions for the next rewards trip

It just leaves me to say a Merry Christmas to all of Year 12 and we look forward to seeing you all back next year without so many bruises.

Mrs Jackie Saville
Head of Year 12



Nobel Celebrates Success - Year 12

On Tuesday 14 December, we held a celebration assembly for Y12 students. Each form tutor was asked to nominate their 'star' students for this term, and this is what each form tutor said:

12NCT

Dora Oforiwaa - for always working so hard and doing an excellent job on the tills in the canteen. I've seen her when I've been on duty and she is always so polite to the younger students.

Mason Bettles - for settling in seamlessly to Nobel, it's as if he has been here from the beginning. He is polite and works hard.

12BLK

Ambry Game-Wright - for volunteering and creating the RRS poster for the form noticeboard

Jenna Lewan - for being so positive; from the start of term, she has just got things done when asked, without prevarication or the use of diversionary tactics.

Charlie Groombridge - for being so efficient in all that he does and for keeping on top of all his email requests.

12SSS

Katie Nash - for commitment and enthusiasm in all that she undertakes, in and out of school, - an exemplary Nobelian in the making.

Daniel Green - for his polite and cheery demeanour and willingness to get involved to help others.

12KMN

Teddy Sanderson - has embraced the opportunities that sixth form has offered him and is an excellent quizmaster

Josh Rutherford - for his excellent work mentoring a Y7 student and for being a positive member of the form.

12 AMP

Ella Whitworth and Callum Hodgson - have both done loads and they are such lovely, polite students. They have made a very good start and given so much back already.

12RKI

Lucy Banks - for being team leader for the prefects

Damisi Oloniyo and Abdullah Omisore - for the assembly

12GBE

Amelia Lund and Daud Imran - for their fantastic effort and commitment to volunteering.

Head of Year Award

Parris Mitchell - for continuously being seen around the school, working so hard; for her commitment to her studies and for all the fantastic comments from the staff who teach her.

A very well done to all of these students who received recognition for their endeavours. You have all made an excellent start to sixth form life. Keep up the good work.

Mrs Jackie Saville

Head of Year 12

MBDA Glider Challenge

Having missed out on the opportunity to attend this event last year due to Covid, I leapt at the chance of taking two teams of girls, one from Year 10 and one from Year 11, to the MBDA Glider Challenge on 3 December. The event can often be very male-oriented and, for that reason, I entered two teams of girls studying GCSE Design and Technology, to challenge that stereotypical view.



The event is held in the prestigious RAF Hendon Museum and students get the opportunity to explore the museum for inspiration and ideas to incorporate into their glider design later in the day.

Each team was assigned a STEM Ambassador, who are all MBDA graduates or apprentices, to mentor them throughout the day.

During the morning, the students listened to lectures on the basics of flight and discussions about material properties and joining methods and, during the afternoon, the students designed and prepared their glider so that they could participate in the competition.

I am so proud of all of the young ladies who took part, they were a real credit to themselves, the school and their families. The Year 10 team, consisting of Sophie Bridgman, Eleanor Metcalfe, Beheera Siddique and Paige Tate, won the coveted 'innovative design' award, and the Year 11 team, consisting of Rebecca Kappler, Amelia Ledger, Caitlin Pickett and Kasey Primett, won the 'best presentation' award when pitching their design ideas to the judges.

Mr Bob Lovelock
Head of ADT



On Friday 3 December, with seven team mates from years 10 and 11, I attended the MBDA Glider Challenge.

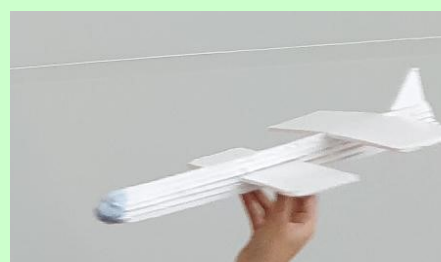
We started the day learning the basics of gliding, including the various forces and how the shape of our glider could affect them. We then had a tour of the RAF Museum to look at old and new planes to give us inspiration for our own gliders, before being put into teams.

We were set the challenge of designing, making and financing a glider that could fly over a map and score points. We issued jobs to each person, so everyone knew what they were doing, and then we got started.

Throughout the day, there were many 'intelligence' briefings, attended by one person from each team, to get information about the map and how to score points.

There were many times we had to present our ideas to a panel and answer questions about the origins and reasons for our designs, and our glider also had to pass a flight test. Overall, our team won the award for best presentation, and it was a great day.

Rebecca Kappler - 11JHS



MBDA Glider Challenge



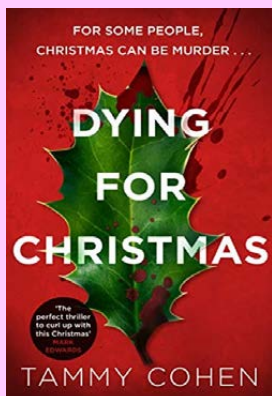
Pre-competition test flights before flying over the map



NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF and COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Next meeting will be held in the Library, 6:30pm, Tuesday 18 January 2022

The books to read are:



Read all or part of the books, and discuss them 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



GCSEPOD.COM

INFO@GCSEPOD.COM

0191 338 7830

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Christmas Baubles

Throughout November and December, Year 9 students Bessie Banks, Kiera Corderoy, Molly Heynemann, Lola Lockwood, Grace Pigdon, Kimberley Richards, Jessica Shadwell, Hollie Smith, and Eva Steptoe have been hand-making baubles ready to sell before Christmas. We would meet after school every Thursday to make our baubles, as well as at break and lunchtimes. We made these baubles to raise money for charity and, together, we decided on the charity, Mind. This is a charity close to our hearts and which we all feel very strongly about, as it works extremely hard to provide advice and support to people who struggle with their mental health.

I am sure you would agree, we all know someone we love and care about, who has struggled through difficult times and, as a result, suffered with their mental health. It is such an important issue and we are proud to be able to help support this amazing charity.

We have all really enjoyed making baubles, using it as a way to meet new friends, talk about our feelings and as an opportunity to use our creative sides to help us relax. We hope, by raising the money, we can help Mind to get as many people as possible the support they need and deserve. Thank you to everyone who purchased a bauble, we really appreciate it. The final amount raised was £98.25.

Bessie Banks - 9KPR



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 21 December - End of Term - school closes at 12.15pm

Monday 10 January 2022 - Start of spring term

Wednesday 12 January - Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening

W/C 17 January until Friday 4 February - Year 11 Options Interviews



Science Club

This week at Science club, students designed and created their own floating devices for a toy car. The winning entry was made by Harry Archer and Tom Brooke. It was a clever design which successfully carried the toy car with no sinking.

Over this half-term at Science club we have performed a fire writing experiment, built light mazes and observed refraction.

Join us on Wednesday lunchtimes, in SC11, between 13:30 and 13:55, where we will be doing more fun science-related activities.

Mrs Nicola Waites
Science Teacher



Friends of Nobel School (FONS) News

The Friends of Nobel School are delighted to announce this year's Christmas and New Year raffle. The top prize, is a day at Duxford Imperial War Museum, with a pleasure flight for three people in a Piper Dakota-256 aircraft. There are many other fabulous prizes, including:

- ◆ Two wills written up (£250 value)
- ◆ £200 Amazon voucher
- ◆ Studio photoshoot (£150 value)
- ◆ Six bottles of wine
- ◆ One week's membership to Stevenage Leisure gym and swimming pool
- ◆ One make up session for a night out, by an experienced make up artist
- ◆ Free MOT
- ◆ Nail voucher
- ◆ And much more

Tickets, priced at £1 each (£5 for a book of five tickets) may be purchased via the school Gateway, and all proceeds will continue to support Nobel students.

The deadline for purchasing tickets is Monday 24 January and the draw will take place at the FONS meeting on Wednesday 26 January, at 7.00pm.

Good luck!

Please keep a look out for details of the FONS Quiz Night, our first big post-lockdown event, which will take place on Friday 5 February. Do join us if you can.

Please also consider joining the 100 Club at just £2 per month (details at the end of the newsletter).

The 100 Club November winners are:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-----|
| 1 st | L Ford | No. 36 | £26 |
| 2 nd | M Rhea | No. 81 | £18 |

KS4 Eggsperiment

Physics can be a fun and engaging topic to learn but, in our daily lives, it is fundamental to our survival. Whether you play sports, ride a bike or drive a car; it is the idea of impact forces and momentum that keep us safe.

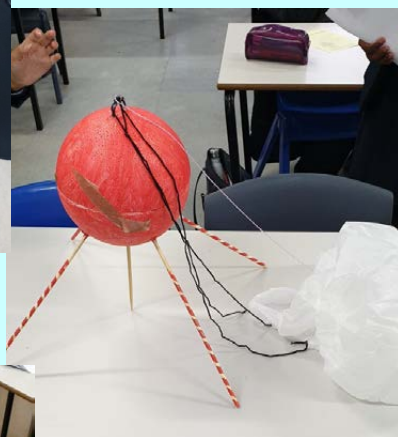
For two weeks, my Triple Year 11 class researched the common methods of reducing velocity and momentum in order to reduce overall impact forces before creating their very own safety vehicles. Each individual/group was asked to deliver a presentation before strapping in their very own test dummy (egg). What was planned to be a short and messy experiment turned into something much more.

Exceeding all expectations, students rose to the challenge and created inventive and ingenious designs. Many students had clear evidence of planning as well as trial and error adjustments which added to the excitement and pride of their creation.

First, we dropped them from the ceiling of the classroom and to my surprise nearly all of the eggs survived. So, in true science fashion, we had to add some excitement. Moving to the first floor balcony, many of our eggs still survived. Through another two trials (each on different levels) we realised just how well researched and constructed these vehicles were.

However, in the end, it was our very own Erica Buckwell, whose elegant design seized the day. Congratulations to all of my class who showed not only a great mind for physics and designing but also true scientific curiosity.

Mr Kevin Power
Head of Biology



Nobel School Christmas Card Competition

This year's annual Nobel Christmas card competition, once again, attracted much interest, matched by a very high standard of creativity and artistic prowess, making judging extremely difficult.

Amongst the many entries, the five designs featured below (in no particular order) were selected as this year's winners.

The winners will each receive a small prize, and the winning entries will be professionally printed and sent out with the Year 7 charity boxes, bringing some very welcome Christmas cheer to all who receive them.



Hanoona Muhamed Askarali 10RBD



Emmie Fennelow 9KPR



Amber Fraser 8RGY



Phoebe Chiwambo 8RGY



Unnamed entry

Congratulations to the winners and very well done to everyone who took part.

Mr Steve Howells
Head of Enrichment



Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas
&
A Very Happy
New Year

A message from Hertfordshire County Council

As we head into the festive season, we'd like to say thank you for continuing to play your part in the fight against COVID-19 and helping to keep yourselves and others safe.

We are all looking forward to spending time with friends and family this year, there are simple steps you can take to help make this festive period as safe as possible and reduce the risk of you and your family catching and spreading COVID-19:

Get vaccinated - Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. You can also now get your booster three months after your second dose, to book this and any COVID-19 vaccinations, visit:

www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination

Young people aged 12-17 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) can find out more and book at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

Test regularly – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest

From 14 December, all adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 by NHS Test and Trace – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

Stay at home – if you have symptoms stay at home and book or order a PCR test online at: www.nhs.uk/get-tested

If you test positive you must self-isolate for the required period and not have people visit you at home. There is support available to help people who need it, to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Finally, please don't send children back to school in January if they have symptoms. Hertfordshire's childcare, nurseries, schools and colleges are working so hard to keep our communities safe and reduce disruption to children's learning and development so let's all work together to help them and each other.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe festive season.

Hertfordshire County Council



FRIENDS OF NOBEL SCHOOL – 100 CLUB

The Nobel School has a thriving Parents' Association and, as part of our fundraising events for the school, we run a successful 100 Club.

Each person who joins the 100 Club pays £2 per month and half the money raised each month goes towards our funds for the school whilst the remaining money is divided into two prizes, 60% for the first prize and 40% for the second prize.

We are always looking for new members, especially as this is an easy way to raise much needed money for the school, and a way for parents to contribute whilst having a chance to win some money themselves.

Membership is not limited to 100 members – the more members, the more money is raised for the school. Members can have (and are encouraged to have!) more than one entry in the monthly draw by paying the additional subscription. Payments can be made by standing order. *(Applicants must be over 16.)*

The easiest way to join the club is to complete the form below and either drop it off/mail it to the school office (sealed envelope marked for Friends of Nobel School (FONS), The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage, SG2 0HS) or you can email the information below to Jodie Laing, jlaingseattle@gmail.com. Once your form or email is received, Jodie will contact you with the bank details for you to set up a standing order through your online bank or app.

If you would rather do an annual cheque for £24, then complete the form and enclose the check when you drop it off at the school office.

✂.....

FRIENDS OF NOBEL SCHOOL - 100 CLUB

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone/mobile:

Email:

Quantity of numbers required _____ at £2 per month (£24 per year).

I would like to set up a standing order or

I attach a cheque for £24 (payable to The Nobel School Parents' Association)

By signing this form you are declaring that you have received and accept the Friends of Nobel School 100 Club Rules and Regulations.

Signed: |