Nobel News

11 March 2022
Edition 10.11

Nobel

From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will know, year 11 and 13 will be taking examinations this summer; they will be the first public examinations since 2019. This can create tension and nervousness, and this is one of the many reasons why we set a series of trial examinations (mocks) so that students can prepare, experience, and succeed at taking on actual questions under exam conditions. Year 11 are taking their second set of mocks now and they have responded wonderfully well, much improved on where they were in December. Results at GCSE, A Level and vocational are looking very promising. As parents, you play a pivotal role in giving your child a quiet place to work, and the encouragement to revise and work hard.

We are shocked and horrified by the invasion of Ukraine, but we have been heartened by the response our school community has made to support the vast numbers of refugees fleeing Russia's blitzkrieg. It has always been our policy to avoid making comment on issues outside of school, but this reminds us that, when a stronger group bullies a weaker group, it needs to be called out. Sadly, such persecution is also happening in other parts of the world, for example in the middle East, Myanmar and China, our hearts also go out to other human beings wherever they are being subjugated by a 'stronger' power.

In all these situations, we must remember that it is the fault of leaders and not the generality of the population. Therefore, for example, it is important to continue to show respect to Russian people living in the UK and, specifically, students or staff from Russian backgrounds. It is my experience that they are as appalled by this as we are.

Finally, on a positive note, it is lovely that our first public performances are happening next week in Dance. The families of participants have been invited to the 'show' and this marks our first public performance for two years. Another indication that, at last, we are slowly getting back to normal at school.

Have a great weekend, as a Northampton Town supporter I am very much looking forward to the game next Tuesday evening at The Lamex. I am afraid, in this situation, I will be supporting the opposition!

Take care and stay safe.

Martyn Henson

Stevenage Stands with Ukraine

The Nobel School is pleased to be acting as the drop off centre for Stevenage Stands With Ukraine.

We would like to thank all students, parents and staff who have donated items to support Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and are very grateful to the students who have been helping this week to sort donations ready for transportation this Saturday between 10am and 2pm.

If you have any further donations to make, or would like to volunteer for an hour or two on Saturday helping to sort donations and box them up ready for their onward journey then please do come along between these times. Below is a list of the current items that the group are looking for:

Collection List

Stevenage Stands with Ukraine

Below are the items are classed as **priority**. Please only donate these. We also have an **Amazon Wishlist** you can donate to, see our page for details.

Medicine and first aid
- Anti-diarrhoea tablets
- Ibuprofen & Paracetamol
- Bandages & Gauze
- Savlon gel
- Antihistamines
- Electrolyte tablets
- First aid bags

Infant/ children
- Baby food (formula milk)
- Nappies (all sizes)
- Children's medication
- Puree pouches only - no glass jars
- Baby and toddle bottles (new only)
- Sterilising tablets

Food/ Hydration
- Tinned food only - no glass
- Pot noodle
- Granola bars/ Oat bars
- Energy bars
- Dried fruit
- Nuts
- Bottled water
- Sweets

General
- Torches
- Batteries
- Power banks
- Foil blankets
- Sleeping bags - new only
- Pop up tents new or used in good condition
- Inflatable pillows - new only
- Camping mats/ Yoga mats - new or used in good condition

Drop Off Point

SATURDAY
12TH MARCH
10AM - 2PM ONLY

The Nobel School
Mobbsbury Way
Stevenage
SG2 0HS

Donations can **only** be taken on this day. **Do not** drop them before. They **will not** be taken.

We **cannot** accept any donations of clothing, **bedding, pillows, blankets, hats, gloves, scarfs and thermals** new or used.
Please only donate items from the list - thank you

On Wednesday, we also took delivery of donations from parents, pupils and staff at Lodge Farm. There were so many donations that we had to form a staff human chain to unload them all!

Mrs Naomi Rose

Deputy Headteacher

For further details about the work of this community group and the onward journey of your donations, please see the Stevenage Stands With Ukraine Facebook page.

Year 12 Cambridge University Visit for Aspiring Oxbridge Students

On Thursday 3 March, a group of Year 12 students had the opportunity to visit the University of Cambridge, to an event hosted by Gonville & Caius College.

We boarded the minibus at 8:30 am and began our hour-long journey to Cambridge. Along the way there was very little to see in the countryside (besides empty fields and the odd village or town here and there), a stark difference to the historic town that lay ahead of us. We knew we were close to our final destination when we could see the enormous edifice that is King's College standing tall in the distance, eclipsing the other buildings around it.

Upon arrival, we were met by the College's liaison officer and, as Nobel was the first school to arrive, we keenly took the front row of seats in the auditorium.

Most of the morning was spent listening to the liaison officer give useful information about applying to competitive universities and life in Cambridge. We also had a special insight from Dr Chris Scott, The Tutor for Admissions and Outreach for Gonville & Caius, who was happy to answer all our questions. Cambridge Students, currently studying a variety of subjects, also came to talk to us and joined in the question and answer session.

Shortly after we had finished barraging the speakers with questions, all of the students were separated into three large groups in preparation for a tour around the college. We experienced breath-taking views of the Cambridge architecture, and some of the most notable sights were The Gate of Honour (which can only be used by a select group of people, namely graduates on their way to collect their degrees), the library, a magnificent building only accessible to members of the college, and the college chapel.

Now that we had worked up an appetite, we made our way to the hall where we were served a hot lunch. As we were eating, I noticed the stained glass windows, adorned with colourful illustrations and the names of influential academics such as James Chadwick and John Venn. Another thing that caught my eye was a gigantic portrait of the world-famous physicist, Stephen Hawking, the largest painting in the entire room.

At around 2:00 pm, we sat back down to enjoy our final talk of the day, an academic taster session of our choice. Students could choose from Medicine or Human, Social and Political Sciences. Denni, a STEM student, attended an interesting session about the mechanism responsible for inflammation; and, Alicia attended the human, social and political sciences taster session, where the tutor provided an insight into Social Anthropology. It was an interactive session where we discussed the real-life field study that she had done for her PhD and, for me, was the best part of the day.

At the end of the session, we took our final photographs and made our way back towards the minibus before journeying home.

Year 12 Cambridge University Visit for Aspiring Oxbridge Students

In summary, Alicia added: *"It was a very interesting and hugely enjoyable day, and the unique opportunity it provided for us to experience first-hand a prestigious college and get a flavour of the courses they offer, as well as meeting some of the current students and hearing about their experiences of university life, made me realise that maybe the University of Cambridge isn't this educational establishment that is beyond a state school student, and re-affirmed my desire to potentially apply for a place there."*

And from Denni: "*Overall, the trip was a unique experience, being both fun and informative. The tour gave me a rare look at the inside of the college and library and really opened my eyes as to what it is like to live and study at the University of Cambridge, something which I will always be grateful for. If, given the opportunity, I would not hesitate to go again!"*

Special thanks to Dr Martin Mienczakowski, who lead the visit and to Mr Barry Burningham, our driver for the day; and the final word (above) must go to the late Dr Stephen Hawking.

Alicia Scott 12RKI and Denni Davies 12BLK

Nobel Network - More Role Model Posters Go Up Around School

As we have mentioned in the past, the alumni association, The Nobel Network, provides inspiration to current students by presenting role model posters around the school of former Nobelians. The latest set are on the science walls and there are more on the way!

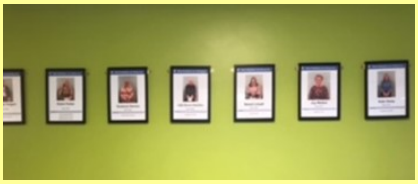
In doing this we hope to present careers and jobs to students that they may never have thought of and we are able to broker safe communications to Nobel Network members if students have career based questions.

If you are a former Nobelian, please join so that we may expand this opportunity for students, or pass on the contact details to other Nobelians. Email or use the registration link below.

Register for Nobel Network membership at:

https://tinyurl.com/Join-the-database

E: nobelnetwork@nobel.herts.sch.uk



Mr Barry Burningham

Nobel Network

British Science Week: 11 - 20 March 2022

A whole range of extra-curricula activities are planned at Nobel as part of British Science Week, this year.

On Tuesday 15 March, between 3:00 - 4:00 pm, in SC13, Year 9 students are invited to attend a lecture on Climate Change. The lecture will be delivered by a highly experienced and award-winning STEM Ambassador, willing to virtually teach the students about climate change and climate action. The lecture will include 3 parts:

- Introductions, experiences and civil engineering
- Explain the impacts of climate change
- Explore the new types of engineering, which are aimed at helping in the fight against climate change impacts

There will be a question and answer session at the end, covering all things climate change and including a look at related careers.

Students are also invited to participate in a competition to design a poster on the theme of 'Growth'. This can range from growing your own cress plants to personal growth, i.e. overcoming a challenge you thought you could not do and how it has helped you to become stronger, braver, kinder of more accomplished.

Posters will be shown for judging on Thursday 17 March, between 1:15 - 2:00 pm, in SC13. For more information, please see Mrs Waites, KS3 Science Co-ordinator.

In addition, there is a full schedule of lunchtime activities planned, which will take place daily in SC13 between 1:20 - 2:00 pm (please see below);

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Eye Dissection	Why should I wash my hands?	Electrostatics	'Growth' Poster judging	Whizzes, Bangs and Smells

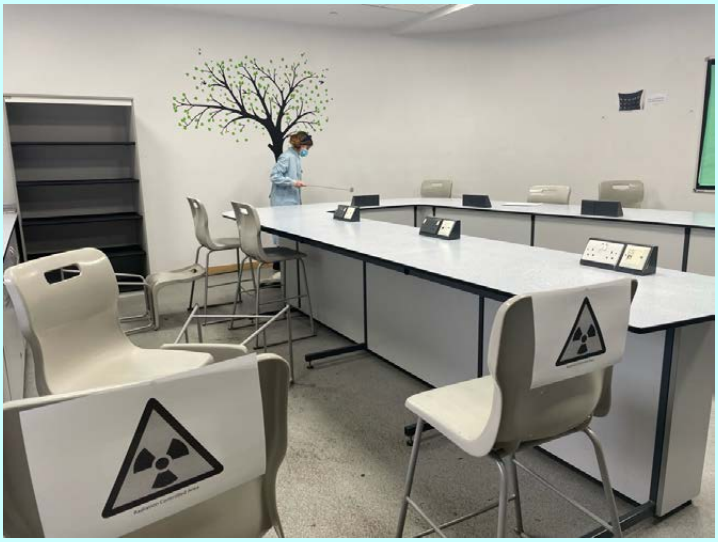
Science Club

On Wednesday 2 March, in science club, we did an escape room, to test our scientific knowledge on how to deal with science-related emergencies.

In our protective clothing, it was fun to explore and to look for the hidden specimen that was concealed somewhere in SC08, where the science lab had been set up as if it had been in a freak science accident. We enjoyed making new friends with other scientists, who helped us to retrieve the substance, and Dr Mienczakowski was great at leading our mission.

The science element involved our creativity and our scientific knowledge of that specific specimen so we could stay safe and get the job done.

Jasmine Rumsey and Rachael Loader 7E JBL



Women in Science

The science department have linked World Book Day and International Women's Day to promote Women in Science.

Thank you to Chloe Birchenall, Technician, for our fantastic display.

Mrs Amy Pearson

Head of Science

World Book Day - Thursday 3 March

This year, our school library was the centre of our World Book Day celebrations. We usually hold our lunchtime celebrations in the open area in the English faculty. If I am brutally honest, my choice for holding it in this space was the gross misconception that libraries had fallen out of vogue with our students and our times. I couldn't have been more wrong!

After my period four lesson, I took the long walk to the front of school where our library is located. I was nervous. We had invited the entire Key Stage 3 community to come to the library and snuggle up with a book and a hot chocolate. Nothing more, nothing less. No fancy costumes or gimmicks, just a book and a warm drink. I expected to see maybe a dozen keen students enjoying the reading activities and free books that Mrs Essakhi, our school librarian, and Miss Bennett, the newest member of our literacy team, had prepared.

I was genuinely moved by what I saw. The library was packed! Students were crammed around desks reading books; students were huddled in corners sharing stories; students were browsing the aisles and exploring.

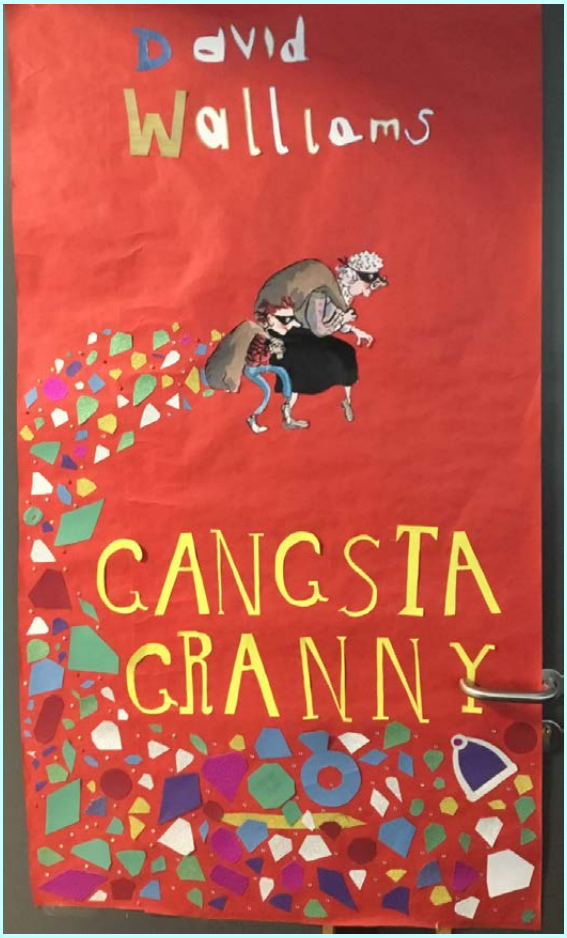
I don't think our students came to the library just for the hot chocolate. Indeed, the hot chocolate ran out in the first half of lunchtime. They came and they stayed because our students recognise that reading really is important. Our library really is important. And their teachers, who helped decorate classroom and office doors with their favourite stories and characters, let the students know that they believe reading really is important too.

Some of the amazingly imaginative office doors are featured here and details of the winning classroom doors are on the following page.

Mrs Janine Port

Lead Practitioner, English

World Book Day - Thursday 3 March



Our World Book Day competition to decorate a class room door in the theme of a book title really fired the imagination and the calibre of entries was exceptionally high.

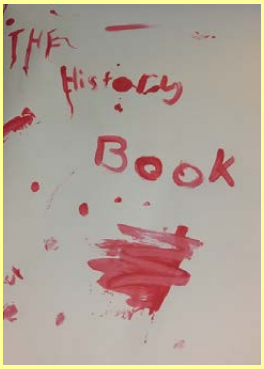
The winners for each year group in Key Stage 3 are:

- 7M EJS for Wonder
- 8M JRN for The Maze Runner
- 9E KHS for Gangsta Granny

Well done to everyone who took part.

History Club Model Competition

Key Stage 3 History Club has been going from strength to strength this year. Every Thursday a dedicated group of students come to HU04 to celebrate the best of History with Mr Philcox and Mr Colbourn, researching, investigating and doing a variety of challenges. Recently we have mummified members of staff, built our own catapults, learned to write like a Viking and written our own Horrible Histories songs!



Over the last three weeks, we set the challenge of building a historical model - it could be based on any historical area. Students had to plan their designs and submit them, and then had a fortnight to create their models. We were amazed at the level of creativity and imagination that the students displayed, as it was definitely the highest standard we have ever seen for this annual competition. Models included a German tank, a communist farm, Stonewall, WWII RAF displays and the eruption of the Pompeii volcano, amongst others.

Our winners were:

1st - Bea Gray 8C RGY (Pompeii volcano eruption)

2nd - Filip Paszkiet 9T KPR (Tank)

Joint 3rd - Roberta Chastell 7M EJS (Thomas Beckett's murder)

Joint 3rd - Amber Fraser 8C RGY (Pop-up dinosaur book)

Congratulations to all of our winners and all the other model makers - all will receive ABC points and prizes to reflect their hard work.

Well done!

Mr Ben Philcox and Mr Philip Colbourn

University Challenge

The University Challenge final took place on Monday 7 March, at lunchtime, and the competition between 12BLK and 13SPN was incredibly tense .

Under the supervision of Mr MacGuire and Mrs Saville, the two teams battled it out for the Nobel University Challenge Crown, being tested on subjects like science, pop culture, history and languages. Both forms were neck and neck until one of the last questions where SPN managed to get the lead due to a technicality and went on to eventually win the title.

Commiserations to 12BLK and congratulations to 13SPN - you were both incredible, but Year 13 edged you out slightly!

The winning team (above) - Jago Foord, Tobi Adekunli, Toby Burtenshaw and Lewis Callister - receiving the trophy from Head of Sixth Form, Mr MacGuire

Below, Mr MacGuire commiserates with the gallant runners-up - Denni Davies, Thomas Prentice, Evan Laing and Charlie Groombridge

Georgia Hall - 13PFT

Head Girl

Year 8 Netball Tournament

On Thursday 3 March, the Year 8 netball team; Raheema Omisore, Mae Saunders, Daisy Harradine, Megan Burton, Olivia Chalkly, Kacey Tolmie, Jessica Tolmie, Kiana-Leigh Meade and Phoebe Chiwambo all played a great game against Barnwell and King James.

In the match against, Barnwell, Nobel won 7 goals to 3 and, in our match against King James, Nobel won 2 goals to 1.

I think that throughout all the games everyone did an amazing job.

Phoebe Chiwambo - 8C RGY

International Women's Day 2022 #Beatthebias

This week, Nobelians have been discussing gender equality in recognition of **International Women's Day**, which was on Tuesday 8 March. Students began by considering female representation in cinema, and learnt that the answer to one girl's question, were more realistic female characters, like Mirabel in *Encanto*. Students considered other trend-changers such as *Enola Holmes, Eternals, Black Panther* and *His Dark Materials* and the way that their casting choices have challenged gender stereotyping, which still exist within many industries.

Years 12 and 13 discussed gender stereotypes as a result of the 'male gaze' and all students found ways to celebrate the achievements of women. Some students enjoyed reading novels with female protagonists, from our fantastic library recommendations, whilst others wrote stories about inspirational women or designed vote boxes. Students and teachers showed solidarity by raising awareness of the **Break the Bias** pledge, to build an equal world, starting with school!

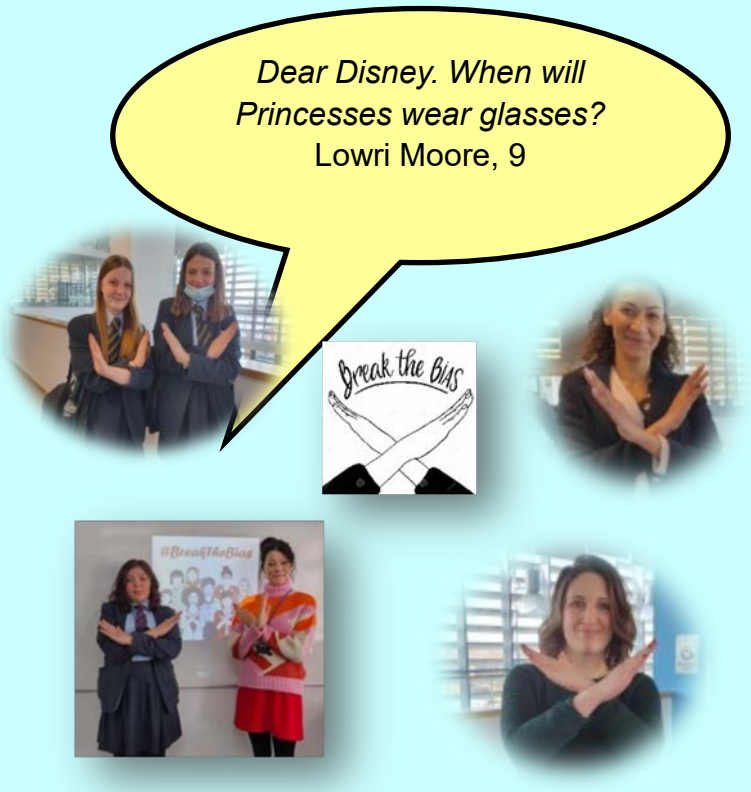
Whether its Adele's third Album of the Year, Sky Brown's Olympic medal, Dame Nadia Whittome becoming the youngest elected female MP, among a record breaking 224, or Dame Sharon White's appointment as Chair of John Lewis, Nobelians have had a truly inspirational week!

And what better way to share their opinions about films challenging gender stereotypes, than via Nobel's form time platform, Votes for Schools. Nobelians were able to cast their voices way beyond the school walls and into government offices.

Together, Nobelians continue to build the blocks of equality, safety and respect.

Mrs Anji McAnuff

English Teacher



Meanwhile, the library celebrated International Women's Day with a selection of books (below) featuring strong female lead characters, poetry by women and books about women's lives. These, and more, are available to reserve on our Accessit Webb App. Please follow the link: https://uk.accessit.online/thn03/?serviceId=ExternalEvent&rlSn=27&rlKey=1466615709

Mrs Ros Essakhi

Librarian

Cupcakes, Cookies and Confectionery

Sally Bolt, a member of the Nobel catering team, has taken on a new role in the kitchen, baking desserts and cakes. The role started the week after half term and, so far, we have seen some amazing results. The feedback from the pancake cakes was brilliant (a pancake mix cup cake with maple buttercream and a mini pancake).

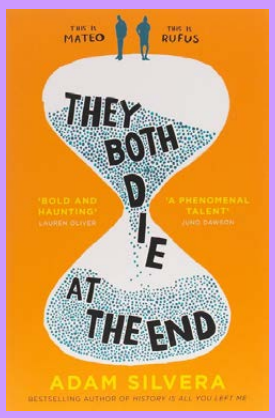
Sally has been working really hard to produce these new products and we are very excited to see her in this new role.

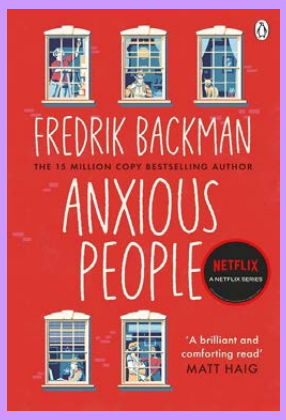
Some of Sally's creations are pictured here, including the pancake cake (bottom left).

NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF and COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Next meeting will be held in the Library, 6:30pm, Tuesday 19 April 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

Friends of Nobel School (FONS) News

We would love to see you on Saturday 19 March at our FONS Quiz Night - our first event in more than 2 years. For more details, including how to purchase tickets, please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Below are the 100 club winners for February.

1st	E Evans	No. 3	£26
2nd	M Reah	No. 73	£18

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 16 March - Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

Saturday 19 March - FONS Quiz Night

Friday 2 April - End of term

Tuesday 19 April - Start of Summer term

The Nobel School
Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage, Herts, SG2 0HS
Telephone: 01438 222600 Fax: 01438 222606
http://thenobelschool.org

Required as soon as possible

Exam Invigilators – Bank Staff (Variable Hour Contract)

Salary: H1.4 (£18,933 pro rata)

The Nobel School is a very exciting and vibrant Ofsted rated "Good" secondary school with 1490 on roll, covering the full age and ability range, the majority of whom continue their education into our flourishing sixth form.

We are looking to recruit exam invigilators to join our existing team and work with us during our school's exam periods, mainly May, June and December. Candidates must be well organised, confident in dealing with young people and able to remain calm under pressure. Experience is not essential as full training will be given. Flexibility in hours will be needed although this can be tailored to work round childcare.

The key focus of this position is to supervise examination invigilation and ensure that guidelines and regulations are met. You will have good leadership and customer service skills and the ability to create a calm, organised and vigilant environment.

The Nobel School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all of its students and staff. The successful candidate will have to meet the requirements of the person specification in order to be offered the post and will be subject to recruitment checks, including an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and satisfactory references. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or religion.

For additional information, please contact Suzanne Crow, Head's PA (HR@nobel.herts.sch.uk).

Important Notice for Parents of Students in Years 7-11

Students are not allowed mobile phones in the school building, either seen or heard. This is predominantly for safeguarding and anti-bullying reasons. If students' mobiles are seen or heard, they will be confiscated as per our behaviour policy. If it is taken for the first time during the term, it will be returned to the student from reception at the end of the school day. If it has been confiscated for a second/multiple time(s) within the term, parents/carers will be contacted by Mr Morley or Mr Swendell and then parents/carers will need to come into school to collect the phone, however, this will only be within the school opening hours of 7:30 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Thursday and 7:30 am – 4:00 pm on Friday.

Thank you for your support.

Nobel Friends

...back by popular demand, **Quizmaster Philcox!**

FONS Quiz Saturday 19 March 2022

@ The Nobel School

6.45pm for 7.00pm start

(Finish approx. 10pm)

Bring your friends and family for a fun evening whilst helping to support Nobel School (questions suitable for ages 11+)

Tables bookable via email. Simply fill in the form below and return to friends@nobel.herts.sch.uk

** £20 per table in advance **

(£25 on the door. Limited tables and we cannot guarantee availability on the night.)

Teams of up to **6** people. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles!

Raffle - (donations gratefully received via Reception)

Team: Name: _____ **No in Team (6 max):** ____

Contact email / phone: _____

I would like one table for the Quiz Night on 19/3/22. (£20 per table in advance)

Tick one:

☐ I have paid via Parent pay using the Surname .....

Or

☐ I have given a cheque/cash in an envelope to reception labelled with the surname.....

(any cheques payable to Nobel School)