

# Nobel News

25 November 2022  
Edition 11.05



## From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

A couple of weeks ago, in the last edition of Nobel News, Mr Macguire gave us a clear explanation of our teaching and learning strategy for the coming year. In this edition, I have asked Mr Head, who is responsible for assessment and outcomes, to give you an outline of where the school is in this key area. Mr Head writes...

'We were delighted with the achievements of our Year 11 cohort. Staff and students worked incredibly hard to overcome the adversity of the past few years and to secure the best results the school has seen in recent years.

Schools are measured against several national benchmarks with the most significant being Progress 8 (P8). P8 was introduced in 2016 to ensure schools and students were focused on a range of subjects, rather than only English and maths. However, the downside to P8 is that it can be difficult to understand. Essentially, it is a way of measuring 'value-added' as judged against a student's starting point; for secondary schools, that is student performance in Key Stage 2 (KS2) SATs. Every student is given a target grade based on their KS2 scores and assumes a set level of progress based against all students nationally. If they achieve the target then their score would be '0', if they exceed their target their score would be greater than 0 and, conversely, if they achieved below their target, they would receive a negative score.

To calculate P8, subjects are divided into four 'buckets' with only certain subjects included in each bucket. Bucket 1 is English and bucket 2 is maths. Both buckets are double weighted. Bucket 3 is Ebacc and includes subjects such as science and humanities. Bucket 4 is Open and includes the remaining best three subjects. All the scores are added and divided by 10. The students are then given an average score based on all their included subjects and the average of this is the school's overall Progress 8 score. The national average for P8 is 0. This score assumes that, on average, all students have made expected progress.

In 2022, Nobel achieved a P8 score of +0.05, which is a vast improvement on the previous external examinations in 2019, where we received a P8 of -0.22. Our goal, as a school, is to reach +0.20 within the next three years.'

I hope that makes things a little clearer, giving parents a better idea of what our target P8 score is.

Finally, it was great to see our team of sixth formers showing such commitment to the school and to the less privileged members of our community by setting up the uniform exchange. A wonderful scheme. Well done to all involved with Nobel's pre-loved uniform pop-up shop, especially, Zafeerah Rehman, Daisy Fennelow, Ellie Brown, Natasha Urrehman, Mya Desewu and Megan Dhilwayo. True Nobelians!

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

Martyn Henson

# Top Marks for Year 12 Student, Daisy Fennelow

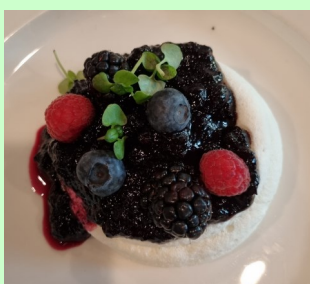
On Wednesday 16 November, I was lucky enough to be invited to the British Nutrition Foundation Annual Day. After getting the train to the Royal College of Physicians, in London, myself and Mrs Appleby attended a series of lectures surrounding this year's topic: "Balancing the scales on diet inequality."

In the morning, after the introductory lectures, five lecturers took it in turns to explain their food initiatives in a quick-fire round. Andrew Forsey from "Feeding Britain" talked about the affordable food clubs they have set up across rural Derbyshire. This allows families to stretch their budget further than they usually could, allowing them to shop for their preferences, gaining approximately £25 worth of food for just £4. Katie Palmer from Food Sense, spoke about her charity's initiative "Food and Fun". This is a school-based education programme, which aims to provide nutrition education, physical activities, and healthy meals across the summer holidays. I found it so interesting to learn just how many schemes there are to provide support across Britain, to end food insecurity and inequality

We were then invited to the annual lunch where we had an opportunity to speak with other people involved in the day. The food was lovely and beautifully presented.

In the afternoon, we attended the award ceremony where I was presented with the Drummond Educational Award. This was because I achieved the joint highest mark in the AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition exam (see pictures), which I sat in the summer of 2022. Nobel also received a school award for this, which was collected by Mrs Appleby.

Overall, it was a lovely day and a brilliant experience to be part of a national conference. A big thank you to Miss Hills and Mrs Appleby who supported me with my cooking and coursework and prepared me very well for the exam.



Daisy Fennelow - 12PFT



## Head Boy and Head Girl attend Remembrance Day Parade

On Sunday 13 November, we attended the Stevenage Remembrance Day Parade in the Old Town's High Street. The atmosphere was fantastic and we were both taken aback by the huge number of citizens of Stevenage who attended the event to pay their respects.

Everyone assembled in the former Waitrose car park before we joined the back of the parade alongside the staff and students of other Stevenage schools, and walked through the High Street with our wreath. A multitude of groups from many different backgrounds formed the parade: many children's clubs; Stevenage political figures; a motorcyclists' club; various charity organisations; social clubs/groups and many more.

When the parade reached the bowling green, we assembled around the War Memorial for the service of remembrance, which entailed several prayer readings, hymns, and a two-minute silence to pay our respects to the fallen. This was followed by the aforementioned groups being called forward to lay their wreaths. We then placed our wreath on behalf of Nobel, alongside many other schools in Stevenage, at the bottom of the War Memorial.



It was moving to see hundreds of people from our community coming together to honour those who have served in the armed forces, those who are currently serving, and those who have been lost. Also, it was especially impressive to see so many students from Nobel in various organisations, such as Scouts, St John's Ambulance Cadets, Air Cadets and more.

Overall, it was an incredible service, and we both took pride in representing Nobel on such an important day.

Kieran McManus - Head Boy

Grace Elliott - Head Girl

## Poppy Art Installation

This stunning art installation, featuring a textile piece, created by former Year 13 student, Bethen Craig, was inspired by war time poems.

Miss Emily Millhouse  
Art Technician



# The Great Gatsby

The Year 12 and 13 English literature and English language and literature students enjoyed a fantastic evening at an immersive 'Great Gatsby' performance in central London on Thursday evening, 17 November. We had great fun dressing up in our flapper dresses and Gatsby-esque suits!



As soon as we arrived at Gatsby's mansion, we were immediately immersed in the world of the novel. The students and teachers had a wonderful time chatting to key characters from the novel such as Myrtle, Daisy, Nick, Wilson and even Gatsby himself. The actors got everyone up dancing the Charleston too; there are some really talented dancers amongst our students!



There was so much going on in this immersive performance, with sections of the audience being whisked away to different rooms at different points within the evening; some students had the opportunity to get involved in shady business deals with Gatsby and Wolfsheim, whilst others found themselves caught up in a fiery argument between Myrtle and her brow-beaten husband, Wilson. The performance certainly brought the characters to life and I think many of us started to see some of the characters in a new light because of the ways in which the actors chose to play them.



Everybody was exhausted the next day but it was definitely worth it. Thank you to all the students for their impeccable behaviour throughout and for the support of the staff who accompanied the trip.



Mrs Caroline Phillips  
Head of English





## Emirates Stadium Visit and Ladies Football Match

On Saturday 19 November, Mrs Jones, Mrs Saville, Mrs Camp and Miss Hazelwood took 34 students from years 7 - 9 to the Emirates Stadium in London to see Arsenal Ladies V Manchester United Ladies.

We spent the journey to Finsbury Park covering each other in red glitter and face paint in preparation for the big game. We then walked the short distance to the Emirates with 40,000 other fans, soaking in the atmosphere, as kick off approached.

We soon filled ourselves up with hotdogs, nachos and the notorious Prime drink, whilst listening to the Arsenal band in the foyer.

The result was 3-2 to Manchester United, as Arsenal faced their first defeat of the season. The girls were able to see some of their idols from the Lionesses during the summer Euros. Players such as Toone, Russo, Mead, Paris, Nobbs and Earps were a stone's throw away.



A great night was had by all... especially the Man-U fans!

Thanks to all the students who were impeccably behaved.

COME ON YOU GOONERS!

Mrs Chloe Jones  
Head of Year 8

## Nobel U14 Boys' Badminton

The next round in the Stevenage School Games' competition saw the Nobel U14 Boys' Badminton team travel to John Henry Newman, where the first round took place before the half term break. The team played Thomas Alleyne, Marriotts and two teams from John Henry.

Just like the earlier competition, four students made up the team, with each student being ranked. Ranks one and two played singles and doubles and ranks three and four played doubles. Each match consisted of 5 games with the number of points accumulated and games won added together to produce the final match score.

The team recorded impressive victories against Marriotts and Thomas Alleyne, with a particular highlight being the game against a strong Thomas Alleyne team. Despite playing club badminton players, the boys worked incredibly hard together, and tactically, to overcome their opponents and record the victory.



The Nobel team brought home the bronze medals, finishing an impressive third out of five teams, winning the same number of games as Thomas Alleyne, who came second, merely losing out on total points, despite beating them in the head-to-head match.

Well done to Mason Harradine, Aubrey Murray, Filip Mehedinti and Mujtaba Mughal, the PE Department are incredibly proud of you!

Mr Regan Carolan  
PE Teacher

# Year 10 Celebration Breakfast

As their new Head of Year, it was lovely to invite students for the Nobel Celebrates Success Breakfast, on Thursday 10 November.

From the first data drop, it was a difficult task selecting only 26 students. It is always such a lovely morning and it was great to celebrate the excellent start many of our year 10s have made to their GCSE courses.

Congratulations to the following students who were invited to the breakfast. Well done and keep up the good work.



Mr Paul Willsher  
Head of Year 10

Daniel Abibu – 10RME	Gracie Abraham – 10ESR
Tania Begum – 10ECP	Rebecca Bell – 10RME
James Bland – 10STH	Ruby Castle – 10RLN
Mackenzie Chiwambo – 10RME	George Dutton – 10ECP
Elizabeth Fatuzzo – 10AHY	Emmie Fennelow – 10KPR
Lily Mae Hadley – 10RME	Erin Heyes – 10RME
Poppy Isaacs – 10KPR	Lily-Angel Kennedy – 10ECP
Harry Layton – 10ECP	Harrison Lund – 10STH
Isobel Matfield – 10AHY	Aleks Nikolov - 10KPR
Lauren Parkinson – 10AHY	Millie Potter – 10ECP
Gracie Saunders – 10ESR	Alyssa Sim – 10RLN
Artemis Svolopoulou – 10KHS	Mihai Turcescu – 10ESR
Isabelle Walker-Impett – 10RME	Caleb Zeelie – 10STH

**Tickets available here!**

**Christmas Lunch**

Wednesday 16 December 2022  
Student Price: £2.65

SEASONAL TURKEY OR BAKED HAM LUNCH WITH TRADITIONAL TRIMMINGS


Or

STUFFED AUTUMN SQUASH WITH XMAS DINNER TRIMMINGS (v)

&

CHOCOLATE BROWNIE PUDDING

Tickets available from all food counters using your card - must be bought before 17 December



**stand-by-me**  
bereavement support

**£15**  
Plus booking fee

Presents an evening of  
Classical, Jazz  
and Modern  
Music

**Christmas**  
Musical Evening

With Pianist Iain Farrington

**2 DEC** : **Kingshott School**  
7:30 PM : Stevenage Road, St Ippolyts, Hitchin, SG4 7JX

Licensed Bar Available  
Tickets available at <https://Tickets-SBM.eventbrite.co.uk>

In aid of Stand-by-me Bereavement Support  
Registered Charity 1161035



## Year 7 Boys' Rugby - Nobel: 45 Thomas Alleyne Academy: 10

The new school rugby tops seem to be acting as a good luck charm for our Nobelians, as the Year 7 boys had a convincing win against Thomas Alleyne Academy 45-10.

Nobel had a solid start, as captain, Ethan Hince, was busy acting as playmaker, with linking passes, while also making a fair few breaks himself. The scoring opened as Archie Bray ran a hard line, which was the first of his 3 tries. The New Zealand born Nobelian has really impressed with his strength and dynamic running along with excellent tackling. Further tries came from a length of the pitch run by Nathanael Bullen, Charlie Frost breaking tackles, a scything step from Hince and two powerful runs by Sam Anghita, who is improving every week with his aggressive hard running and defence.

Matthew Jackson has taken some time out of rugby, but certainly showed his understanding of the game, particularly with his lines of running and passing, which was complimented by other players such as Omer Mehmet and Tyler Vi-Coe who have been training consistently hard on Thursdays. I was delighted with the intensity shown by Rhys Allen, Charlie Lizdek-Rember, Zayne Dillon, Callum Sealy, Harry Spencer and Ronnie Reed, who also bagged a wonderful try for himself.

I am so pleased with all the progress made by this group and think they are going to be a successful team through their years at Nobel. Rylan Waters has typified this showing great progress and understanding of the rules which he has worked on since the Knights Templar game.

It was wonderful to take 20 students over to TAA and, unfortunately, could not take any more due to mini buses but, well done to all who played and to newcomers like Archie Kempster, Johnny Oatway, Michael Kazaura and Mason Havis.



Leo Laws flies in to compete for the ball



Nobel tunnel up at the end of the match

My Ryan Spence  
PE Teacher and Head of Year 11



## Year 9 Girls' Rugby - Nobel: 31 Robert Clack: 29

Further success was seen the following Monday, 21 November, on a miserable, wet and windy day, where the temperature had dropped, and the rain was relentless. The girls played against an exceptionally strong Robert Clack side, who play rugby week in, week out, against other schools and clubs.

Nobel caught the Robert Clack team by surprise with strong carries by Ava Fulton and Amani Grundy, followed by an excellent show and go from Zara Barringer, who complimented her try with the conversion. There were lots of 'to and fro', and Mia Moseley worked hard to be part of this 'arm wrestle' with determined running.

The Robert Clack side soon seemed to get the bus journey out of their systems and were throwing everything at Nobel. The first half finishing 19-10 thanks to a hat trick and two conversions from Zara and some excellent outside centre running and breaks by Amani.

The second half became a very close affair with Robert Clack gaining the lead for the first time at 29-24. Their hard tackling forwards and backs with pace to burn really put Nobel under pressure, but brave tackling from Gracie-Mae Davis, Eve Farmer and Freya Hood kept Nobel in the game with a one score difference.

Jessica Tolmie then found her rhythm with a strong carry down the midfield putting Nobel into the Robert Clack half. Powerful scrummaging and outstanding hooking from newcomer Sydney Teagle, who used her footballing skills to win crucial scrums, started to put Nobel in the driving seat. This resulted in the ball spilling out to the Robert Clack scrum half who threw a difficult pass to their fly half resulting in a player on ball tackle, where Zara ripped the ball from the number 10 and scored to the left of the posts. Zara coolly slotted the conversion to put Nobel in the lead and after a few more minutes and a scrum to Nobel, the girls won their set piece, kicked the ball off the field and celebrated the win at 31-29.

Congratulations to Diana Segadelli who represented Nobel for the first time at Rugby. She has been training well for weeks now and it really showed in her strong performance in this game.

Well done girls.

Mr Ryan Spence

PE Teacher and Head of Year 11



Nobel Year 9 Girls celebrating a hard-fought win



Zara Barringer lines up a conversion to win the game at 31 – 29, with 2 minutes to go

# Winged Encounters at Stevenage Museum

Art students from Years 10 - 12 currently have artwork on display at Stevenage Museum, in an exhibition entitled **Winged Encounters, 2022**. The work comprises of various drawing studies and sculptures created by our students, taking their inspiration from the stuffed bird collection owned by The Museum. After-school volunteers also helped with the installation of this project.

We are incredibly excited about this opportunity, and it is a **massive achievement** for our students. Please do visit if you can. Opening times and exhibition running dates are shown below.

Miss Emily  
Millhouse



## Basketball Club

The PE Department are delighted to announce that the Year 7 and 8 Basketball teams have joined the national Junior NBA Basketball competition which is organised by Basketball England.

The Junior NBA League was created for 11-13 year old boys and girls to participate in basketball and represent one of the 30 NBA teams.

Each year group has been entered into the East – Co-Ed West league where the Year 7s have been allocated Toronto Raptors and, Year 8s, the Boston Celtics. We are looking forward to receiving our new basketball kits soon.

If you are interested in joining the Nobel Basketball teams, please join us for Basketball club:

- ◆ Key Stage Three – Monday lunchtime
- ◆ All years – Tuesday after school
- ◆ Key Stage Four and Five – Friday lunchtime

We look forward to keeping you updated on the teams' progress. Students are able to see the upcoming fixtures on the noticeboards in PE.

Mr Regan Carolan  
PE Teacher





SAM Learning is a website run in a similar fashion to a social networking site, where students can complete thousands of different tasks and work across subjects and topics. The service covers all National Curriculum subject areas for KS2, KS3 and GCSE. Content is written by examiners and teachers and is updated frequently. It can be used both at school and at home and all Nobel students have access to it free of charge!

## Why use SAM Learning?

- ◆ The materials are written by experienced subject teachers and examiners.
- ◆ Students receive instant feedback and marks, giving them the opportunity to identify strengths and areas for improvement and revision targets before the exams.
- ◆ Two recent studies carried out showed that the majority of students who spent 10+ hours using Sam Learning, as part of their revision programme, achieved a grade higher in their GCSEs than had been predicted.
- ◆ Students are able to access the service at anytime and anywhere. Many exercises are also tablet enabled.
- ◆ Students can create their own avatars and compete against their friends – it's fun!

In order to log in, students will need to go to [www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com). The login bar is in the top right hand corner of the screen. Here they should enter the following details:

Centre ID SG2NS2

User ID: School email address

Password: School email address

If your child has changed their password and cannot remember it they should either click on "Can't login?" or email me and I can reset it.

Some teachers may set homework via this service but it can equally be used for revision purposes and independent learning at home.

We hope that your child is able to take full advantage of SAM Learning and thank you in advance for supporting the initiative.

Mrs Naomi Rose

Deputy Headteacher

## Year 7 and 8 D.I.S.C.O. makes a welcome return

Last Friday evening, the Friends of Nobel School (FONS) held the first lower school disco for two and a half years! It is always a joy to see our young people letting off steam, and it grants me the chance to try and understand more recently released pop songs. I do try to like some of them, but it is a far cry from 'Going underground', by The Jam!

This event was attended by nearly 200 of our youngest students all of whom behaved really well. There was dancing, general merriment and vast quantities of sweets and drinks consumed. Fashion and outfits seemed to be the topic of lots of conversations, but I must commend the student who was confident enough to arrive dressed as a full sized banana!

I think students had a great time and were supported by members of the FONS committee, school staff and a fantastic group of Sixth Formers. My thanks to them all.

There will be another opportunity for a disco in March 2023.

If any parents or carers want to help FONS at any events, they would be most welcome. Please contact [Friends@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Friends@nobel.herts.sch.uk)

Mr Barry Burningham

Former Deputy Headteacher