Nobel News

28 April 2023 Edition 11.12



From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Our society is not as kind as it should be. I cannot put my finger on the reason why but, in the last 10 years, many of my headteacher colleagues agree that we are more intolerant and less empathetic than ever before. With your help I would like our school, to become a beacon of kindness and empathy.

A week or so ago, I spoke to our staff about how we can tackle unkindness. I have become concerned about the number of letters I have received from parents about poor behaviour online. Furthermore, one of my daughters has become the victim of awful comments from some of the children in her year, so I know how devastating it can be. I think we can be much better than that and by working in partnership — school and family — we can look to value and reward kindness and, at the same time, work with those who persist in behaviour that might be classed as bullying.

At home, it is vitally important that, as parents, we monitor the online activity of our children. By doing this, we can protect them from making inappropriate comments or being victims of bullying behaviour. At school we will sanction unkind online behaviour against other students very seriously. To be blunt, such persistent behaviour will lead to suspension or even permanent exclusion.

Meanwhile, at school, we will be looking to teach and reward kindness. We will be launching several new initiatives aimed at developing and rewarding this component of being a Nobelian. There will be more on this as we develop our approach to 'Kindness at Nobel'.

Finally, the public examination season will soon be upon us. If your child is in Year 11 or Year 13, then make sure you are aware of the examination timetable so that you can support them in preparation and revision.

Enjoy the Spring sunshine and take care.

Kind regards Martyn Henson



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Following the increase in popularity of the Duke of Edinburgh Award across all three levels, Nobel now has a recognition board installed at the front of the school to celebrate the success of those students who have worked through and achieved their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

It has been lovely to see the popularity of the Duke of Edinburgh Award grow at Nobel, as more and more of our students and their families recognise the importance of extra-curricular activities and the powerful impact they can have on CVs and applications for colleges, universities and apprenticeships. It's also an incredible opportunity for students who progress onto Silver and Gold Awards to develop their leadership skills as they become DofE Prefects.

Congratulations to Jenna Lewan, Anika Shah, Alicia Scott and Benedict Clark who are all receiving their certificate at Buckingham Palace next month.



Miss Lisa Steele

Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

Herts for Learning Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 19 April, five Nobelians represented the school in the final heat of the Herts for Learning Mathematics Challenge. Amandeep Singh, Chloe-Mai Noakes, Pablo Ramirez Rioja, Sumiran Jadhav, and Jaydon Allen, competed alongside 19 other teams from schools across the county.

The Nobelians pushed themselves to the limit answering a variety of mathematical questions that required problem solving, strategy, and teamwork. The team put in a fantastic effort, and were placed 13th overall.

Well done to our Nobel mathematicians!

Miss Courtney Wright
Maths Teacher





Nobel Enrichment Clubs 2022/23 Summer Term MONDAY WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY FRIDAY** TUESDAY The Bridge Club Years 7 = 9 13:20 = 14:15 Rm 221 The Bridge Club Years 7 = 9 13:20 = 14:15 Rm 221 The Bridge Club Years 7 - 9 13:20 - 14:15 Rm 221 The Bridge Club Years 7 - 9 13:20 - 14:15 Rm 221 The Bridge Club Years 7 = 9 13:20 = 14:15 Rm 221 Card and Dominoes Club Years 7 = 8 13:45 = 14:10 Rm 416 Dog Care Club Year 7 13:40 – 14:10 Rm 326 Brain Teasers, Puzzles, Riddles, Trivia and Rock Band Club (THURS) All Years 13:45 – 14:15 Rm 222 Piano Skills Club All Years 13:45 – 14:15 Rm 222 Games Club All Years 13:20 – 13:50 Rm 327 nime Film and Japanese Culture Club All Years 13:30 – 14:00 Rm 402 Duke of Edinburgh Club DofE Students 13:30 - 14:10 Rm 318 Board Game Club All Years 13:20 – 14:15 Rm 304 Chinese Club All Years 13:20 – 13:50 Rm 401 Duke of Edinburgh Catch-Up Club DofE Students 13:30 - 14:10 Rm 318 Fusion 360 Club All Years 13:20 – 13:50 Rm 104 Card Game Club Years 9 – 13 13:25 – 14:00 Rm 300 KS3 Debate Club Years 7 = 9 13:45 = 14:15 Rm 320 Culture and Identity Club All Years 13:20 – 13:50 Rm 319 Knit and Natter Club All Years 13:30 – 14:00 Rm 203 KS3 Creative Writing Club Years 7 - 9 13:45 - 14:15 Rm 415 Cake Club All Years 13:30 – 14:00 Rm 205 Geography Club All Years 13:25 – 13:55 Rm 321 Wednesday KS3 Film Club Years 7 = 9 13:25 = 13:55 Rm 411 Making Monsters Club Years 7 = 9 13:20 = 13:50 Rm 108 InSync Dance Club All Years 13:30 – 14:15 Dance Studio KSS Book Club Years 12 – 13 13:25 – 14:10 Rm 417 Darts Club All Years 13:30 – 14:00 Rm 301 KS3 French Club Years 7 = 9 13:45 = 14:15 Rm 403 Mindful Colouring Club All Years 13:30 – 14:00 Rm 204 Meditation Club All Years 13:45 – 14:15 Rm 110 Skittles Club All Years 13:20 – 14:15 Rm 206 KS3 German Club Years 7 - 9 13:45 - 14:15 Rm 401 KS3 History Club Years 7 – 9 13:20 – 14:15 Rm 317 Sociology Club Years 9 = 13 13:20 = 13:50 Rm 327 Marvel Film Club All Years 13:30 – 14:15 Rm 314 Transatlantic Board Game Club Years 7 – 11 13:30 – 14:10 Rm 404 Monday KS3 Film Club Years 7 · 9 13:25 = 13:55 Rm 411 KS4 Creative Writing Workshop Club Years 10 - 11 13:25 - 14:10 Rm 417 Tap Dance Club All Years 13:30 – 14:15 Dance Studio Wellbeing Champions Years 7 – 9 13:45 – 14:15 Rm 112 Indoor Plant Club All Years 13:40 – 14:10 Rm 210 Live Theatre Appreciation Club All Years 13:20 – 14:00 Rm 225 Lego Club Years 7 – 8 13:45 – 14:15 Rm 312 Spy Club All Years 13:40 – 14:10 Rm 201 Year 10 Tennis Club Year 10 13:40 – 14:10 MUGA Maths Club Week 1 Years 7 - 9 13:40 - 14:10 Rm 305 Girls' Cricket Club Years 7 – 9 13:30 – 14:10 Meet in PE The Connoisseurs Caffeine Club Years 12 – 13 13:20 – 13:50 Rm 327 Mixed Basketball Club All Years 13:40 – 14:10 MUGA Mindfulness Club All Years 13:45 – 14:15 Rm 314 Psychology Club Years 9 – 11 13:20 – 13:50 Rm 323 Year 8 Tennis Club Year 8 13:40 – 14:10 MUGA Yr7 Girls Confidence Club Year 7 13:40 - 14:10 Gym Science Club All Years 13:30 – 14:00 Rm 203 Rock Band Club (WED) All Years 13:45 – 14:15 Rm 222 Duolingo Club All Years 13:45 – 14:15 Rm 403 Mixed Basketball Club All Years 13:40 – 14:10 MUGA Yr9 Empowering Teenage Girls Fitness Session All Years Tennis Club All Years 13:40 – 14:10 MUGA Cards and Chats Club All Years 13:30 – 14:10 Rm 305 (Invite Only) Year 9 13:40 – 14:10 Dance Studio Mixed Basketball Club All Years 13:40 – 14:10 MUGA Prayer and Reflection Club All Years 13:30 – 14:00 Rm 201 Mixed Basketball Club All Years 13:40 – 14:10 MUGA Year 9 Tennis Club Year 9 13:40 – 14:10 MUGA Mixed Basketball Club All Years 13:40 – 14:10 MUGA Eco Art Club (After half term only) Years 7 – 9 15:15 – 16:15 Rm 111 Year 7 Food Tech Club Year 7 15:20 - 17:00 Rm 113 Woodwork Club Years 7 – 9 15:15 – 16:15 Rm 103 Running Club All Years 15:15 – 16:00 Reception AFTER SCHOOL VEX Robot Club All Years 15:15 – 16:15 Rm 104 Frisbee Club All Years 15:15 – 16:00 Meet in PE KS4 Girls Zumba and Fitsticks Club Years 10/11 15:15 – 16:15 Dance Studio Athletics Club All Years 15:15 – 16:15 The Field Sparx Maths Homework Support Club All Years 15:15 – 16:15 Rm 310 STAFF MEETINGS Cricket Club All Years 15:15 - 16:15 Astro Rounders Club All Years 15:15 – 16:15 The Field

Summer Term Enrichment Clubs

Dear Parents/Carers

The enrichment clubs continue to be a great success and we are now up to over 90 different clubs running this term. Almost all students have attended at least one club so far this year, but we believe this is a valuable opportunity for everyone, and would hope that all students would have found a club to join by the end of the year.

Please support us by taking the time to discuss this with your child and help them to choose the club or clubs that they will attend. We are always looking to expand our offer further so, if there is a club that we do not currently run, then please email me and I will do my upmost to facilitate this.

Students can now sign up to the clubs they would like to attend for the summer term, so could you please discuss this with your child and sign up using the same process on the Arbor Parent Portal as before. If you have any issues with this, then please email me nick.brown@nobel.herts.sch.uk and I will support however I can.

Please be aware that some of the clubs that ran in the spring term have now ceased to allow the staff to run a summer club. The PE clubs have all changed for the summer term to reflect summer sports.

Please note that, if a club is continuing into the summer term but your child signed up for the spring term only, they will need to sign up for the summer term as well.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

Mr Nick Brown Assistant Head

Girls Football Activators - Barclays Go Lead

Just before the Easter break, the PE Department signed up to the Barclays Game On - Go Lead programme through the Stevenage Girls' Football Schools Partnership and Youth Sport Trust.

The Barclays Game On – Go Lead programme provides training to secondary school students to design, create and deliver football opportunities for their peers. The Nobel School activators will follow the two leadership pathways: marketing and delivery. As a group of activators, they will be tasked with delivering extra-curricular opportunities for their peers and the local primary schools to experience and enjoy football.

We are delighted that 12 students from key stage 3 and Year 10 have been selected and have already completed their first two training sessions. The introductory session provided an opportunity for the group to hear from inspirational speakers and engage in fun activities to start their leadership journey. The photos show the group fully engaged in the activities and having fun.

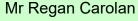


Further workshops will support the girls in creating and delivering additional opportunities as well as developing their leadership skills. As part of the programme, all of the students have received a sweatshirt, t-shirt, whistle, lanyard and stress ball.



The students have been lucky enough to receive tickets to the Women's FA Cup Final 2023 which they will be attending at Wembley Stadium on Sunday 14 May.

We look forward to updating you on their progress and the activities they choose to deliver within school and to the wider community to make a positive influence for girls through football.



PE teacher



Girls' Cricket with Hertfordshire Cricket

The PE Department are delighted to have been offered the opportunity to work in partnership with Hertfordshire Cricket to develop the opportunities within school for our female students.

Through the 'Proof of Concept' and 'Chance to Shine' programmes, Hertfordshire Cricket are delivering taster sessions within PE lessons, running a cricket leadership programme and supporting the delivery of the Girls' Cricket extracurricular club.

Taster Curriculum Sessions

To ignite an interest in cricket, Hertfordshire Cricket will be delivering taster sessions to the majority of the key stage 3 girls' PE groups. During these sessions, students will participate in a range of cricket activities, led by qualified coaches, focused on the core skills. Students who enjoy the sessions will be encouraged to attend the lunchtime club.

These sessions have already started and it has been fantastic to see our students fully engage with the different activities and mini games. For the majority of students, this was their first exposure to cricket. Despite this, there was a real enthusiasm surrounding the session and plenty of skill on show!





Girls' Cricket Leadership Training

On Wednesday 10 May, Hertfordshire Cricket will be delivering a leadership opportunity to students in Years 8, 9 and 10. Activities during the day will focus on building the skills of the 'young leaders' to help them to run their own extra-curricular cricket club; this includes cricket coaching skills, support to promote the club within the school and behaviour management skills. This will include exploring the skills and qualities of a good leader and how they are going to become inspirational role models. Further to this, students will learn how to score a Dynamos Cricket game.

Following successful completion of the training day, students will be expected to assist with the Girls' Cricket Club which takes place every Wednesday lunchtime on the field. Students will also have the opportunity to attend local primary school events to assist with the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team Dynamos Cricket competitions in the second half of the Summer Term.

If you are in Years 8, 9 or 10 and would like to be considered for this opportunity, please email Regan.Carolan@nobel.herts.sch.uk or speak to the PE Department.



Mr Regan Carolan
PE Teacher





Summer Term PE Extra-Curricular Clubs List

Please see the PE Department Extra-Curricular Clubs list for this term.

Linked to our department vision, our aim with extracurricular is to give students the opportunity to be active, socialise and have fun, whilst encouraging students to fulfil a lifelong, healthy, active lifestyle.

Many of the clubs will prepare our students for upcoming inter-school fixtures.

Extracurricular fixtures this half term:

- Years 7 to 10 Athletics
- Year 7 and 10 Boys Cricket
- Years 7 to 10 Rounders.

To sign up for a club, please visit the Arbor Parent Portal or email regan.carolan@nobel.herts.sch.uk. If you have any further questions, please speak to the PE Department.

Mr Regan Carolan

PE teacher

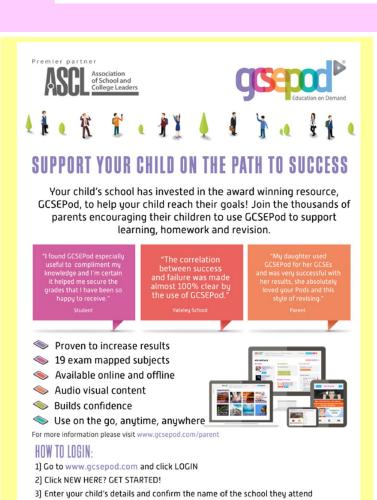
NOBEL PE "To encourage maximum participation through an inclusive curriculum, inspiring students to fulfil a lifelong, healthy active lifestyle."			
AR	MONDAY	YEAR 7 TENNIS (MUGA) - RCN/SHS ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - LPY	AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS ALL YEARS CRICKET (ASTRO) - PWR/LPY/RCN/SHS ALL YEARS ROUNDERS (FIELD) - NCT/ECP/CJS/JSE
15	TUESDAY	YEAR 8 TENNIS (MUGA) - PWR/SHS ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - RCN	ALL YEARS ATHLETICS (FIELD) - ALL STAFF
IRRIC	WEDNESDAY	YEAR 9 TENNIS (MUGA) - CJS ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - RSE ALL YEARS GIRLS CRICKET (FIELD) - NCT	SUMMER TERM 1 2023
XTRA CL	THURSDAY	YEAR 10 TENNIS (MUGA) ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - RSE YEAR 7 GIRLS CONFIDENCE CLUB (GYM) - PWR YEAR 9 EMPOWERING TEENAGE GIRLS FITNESS SESSION (ROOM 225) INVITE ONLY - RCN	PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR FIXTURES - ALL STAFF
M	FRIDAY	ALL YEARS TENNIS (MUGA) - JSE ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - LPY	KS4 GIRLS ZUMBA AND FITSTICKS (DANCE STUDIO) - RCN



- · Compulsory for all students who would like to join the sixth form in September
- · An opportunity for you to find out more about sixth form life
- Experience taster sessions for the subjects you are interested in studying in September

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 24 August 2023



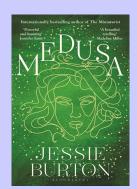


NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF and COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

The next meeting will be held in the Library, 6:30pm, on Tuesday 13 June 2023

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

GCSEPOD.COM

4) Create a username and password

North Hertfordshire Schools' Book Awards

On Tuesday 14 March, our book group were excited to be taking part in this year's School Book Awards. It was great to meet with other book enthusiasts from ten schools across North Herts.

Highfield School were our hosts this year, and we all quickly settled in our groups to discuss the three shortlisted books in each category.

Older Category:

- Why is Nobody Laughing? by Yasmin Rahman
- ♦ You'll be the Death of me by Karen M McManus
- ♦ Future Girl by Asphyxia

Younger Category:

- Fake by Ele Fountain
- Nisha's War by Dan Smith
- Saving Celeste by Timothee de Fombelle

Students showed great insight and passion for their favourite book. Next, we cast our vote for our favourite title. After this, we enjoyed some well-earned refreshments, lots of mingling and book buying.

Elle McNicoll took to the stage to talk about her experience of working in publishing. She also told us how she came to publish her first book, *A Kind of Spark*, that won our younger category award last year. Students then got their books signed, as you can see from these pictures, and were delighted that Elle engaged in conversation with them all individually.

At the end of the morning, this year's winners were announced. The older readers category was won by *Why is Nobody Laughing?* by Yasmin Rahman and the younger readers category winner was *Fake* by Ele Fountain. All books are available to borrow from the school library.

Mrs Rosalind Essakhi Librarian

Below, some of the comments from students who attended this event:

It was such a treat to meet Elle McNicoll, as she is such an inspirational speaker, and gave really useful advice on how to become an author. As preparation for the visit, I really enjoyed reading all the short-listed books, which gave us all a common thread, making us feel like one big community.

Thank you so much for taking us all along, I really appreciate all your efforts.

Roberta Chastell - 8MEJS

I personally thought it was very enjoyable and nice to discuss our different thoughts about the books.

Amandeep Singh 7T ARD







PE Club Spotlight: Year 7 Girls' Confidence Club

Following on from the Hertfordshire School Games Girls' Festival in the spring term, the Year 7 students who attended have been working hard to increase the opportunities for students within Nobel. The aim of the festival was to inspire our students to develop ideas in order to establish a club of their choice.

Using everything they have learnt from the festival linked to why girls take part in physical activity and potential barriers to participation, our students have decided to run a lunchtime club which focuses on physical activity. This will be called the Year 7 Girls' Confidence Club, aiming to provide an extra-curricular physical activity which increases the confidence of the participants.

The first club session took place on Thursday 20 April, with the Year 7 students introducing a range of team-building activities they had learnt from the festival. It was fantastic to see the girls' leading their peers with confidence, explaining the activities and helping students who needed the support. This was an excellent opportunity for the participants to get to know each other and work as a team and communicate to achieve a common goal. Going forward, the leaders will conduct a voting system to make sure the club is as targeted as possible for those taking part.



Here are some of the student voice comments from those who attended or led the club:

"I really enjoyed leading the club to my friends, it has really boosted my confidence and self-esteem."

"It was great to be with my friends and take part in activities where we could work together."

"I can't wait for the club every week, that was really fun!"



The club runs in the Gym, every Thursday lunchtime, from 1:35 - 2:10pm, and is lead by Mr Carolan/Mr Willsher and the Year 7 Girls' Festival Leaders

To sign up for a PE club, please visit the Arbor Parent Portal or email

regan.carolan@nobel.herts.sch.uk

If you have any further questions, please speak to the PE Department.

Mr Regan Carolan
PE Teacher

Rube Goldberg Competition

Congratulations to the students who entered a fantastic Rube Goldberg machine during science week.

> 1st place - Emily Davies 2nd place - Alexander Chapman 3rd place - Jaydon Allen

Alexander and Jaydon are pictured here receiving their Amazon voucher and certificate.

Mrs Nicola Waites Science Teacher



The Right Honourable Sir Stephen Irwin visits Nobel

As part of the Speakers for Schools initiative, Nobel was delighted to welcome guest speaker, The Right Honourable Sir Stephen Irwin (retired Justice of Appeal), who visited Nobel on Monday 24 April to talk to some of our year 11 and 12 students.

Sir Stephen Irwin was born in Belfast and was educated in a state school before moving to England to take up a place at Cambridge University. When he became a barrister, he dealt with a wide range of cases, including accidents and crime. He specialised in scientific and medical cases, such as brain diseases from infected beef.

He then became the Chairman of the Bar and became a highly visible public figure, frequently appearing on TV and radio. On the Bench, Sir Stephen dealt extensively with crime, at trial and on appeals, including many murder cases. He then became Chair of SIAC, which handles cases involving the intelligence agencies and national security, much of the time in 'closed' hearings, dealing with top secret evidence in every case.

In the Court of Appeal, he dealt with a very wide range of subjects. He was the lead judge for national security cases, and for extradition, the system by which those charged in criminal trials abroad may be sent out of the UK to face trial in another country. Since retiring as a full-time judge, Sir Stephen has sat part-time in court. He has also taken on responsibility, on behalf of the House of Commons, for appeals and final sanctions on MPs accused of bullying. inappropriate harassment or behaviour in or around parliament. He is also the Chair of the Slynn Foundation, through which UK judges train and support judges abroad.



The Nobel students were really enthused by Sir Stephen and, at the end of his presentation, asked him some really good questions, such as:

What was you most memorable case? How do you defend someone who you know is clearly in the wrong?

Do you need a law degree to become a lawyer?

It was great having Sir Stephen in school and the students really appreciated listening to his knowledge on the subject of law, and would like to thank him for giving us this opportunity.

Mr Stephen Howells
Head of Enrichment

Dates for your Diary

Monday 1 May: Bank holiday - school closed
Monday 8 May: Bank holiday - school closed

Monday 15 May: Public exams summer series commences for Years 11 and 13

Wednesday 17 May: Year 7 Parents' Consultations Evening

Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June: Half-term break

Staying safe at Nobel

10 tips to stay safe online

Not sure what advice to give your child? Our pointers have got you covered.

- Be careful about talking to people you don't know and trust in real life anyone
 can pretend to be a child online. If you do talk to people you don't know, don't give
 away personal information such as what street you live on or where you go to
 school, or share your location with them. Say no to any requests they send you for
 images or videos of yourself, and stop talking to them
- 2. Set your profiles to private, to limit what others can see
- Think carefully about what you share and with who. Once you've shared an image, you've no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's illegal to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s, full stop
- Be mindful of your digital footprint. What you post online now could come back to bite you later, like when applying for jobs, college or university
- If you see something upsetting, or someone bullies you, tell an adult you trust. Report it too
- When reading news online, ask yourself what the source is, when it was published, and whether it could be a hoax or made up. Read beyond the headline too
- Remember, people try to make their lives look more exciting and interesting online.
 There's a <u>lot</u> people can do with photo editing to make their photos look better. So <u>don't</u> assume everything you see is a true-to-life representation
- Watch out for hoaxes and scams, like messages you're meant to forward on or that ask you for payment details or your password
- Take any content that seems to glamourise gang lifestyles with a very large pinch of salt – <u>it's</u> not as glamourous as it looks. Be wary of schemes promising easy cash for receiving and transferring money too, <u>they're</u> almost definitely criminal activity
- Watch out for loot boxes or other parts of games where you pay money to take a chance on getting a reward – you can get sucked into spending lots of money on them

<u>Don't</u> feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety