

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

We have worked incredibly hard this year on a more consistent approach to teaching and learning, and we feel it is having a profound impact on the learning of our young people. Every Tuesday morning before school starts and after school on Wednesday, we meet, either as a whole staff or in departmental teams, to discuss research-led methodology. An incredibly positive outcome is that the number of students taking GCSE examinations this summer is the highest in my time at the school, only one student did not sit all their GCSEs.

However, unfortunately there are times when parents are not happy with what we do. May I reassure you that we want to have good relations with all our students and families, and I ask that if you feel we are not dealing with a situation or that you are unhappy with something, please contact us and we will get back to you as a matter of urgency. As headteacher, I am willing to meet with you to try to sort issues before they become big problems, we are here to work with you in the best interests of our Nobelians. Successful institutions are always partnerships between home and school.

On a separate note, our head of modern languages, is looking for volunteers for next academic year. If any of you speak French, German or Spanish and are available to come into school for conversational work with GCSE and A level students please contact Mr James Kay (james.kay@nobel.sch.herts.uk) He would be delighted to talk to you.

Finally, I wanted to share with you that, at the end of the summer term, I will have completed 10 years as the headteacher of this wonderful school. I am assuming that not many of you were parents when I started back in 2013, but may I thank you for your continued support. We have gone from strength to strength in this time and I have enjoyed just about every moment, and I look forward to working with you over the next few years too.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

Kind regards

Martyn Henson

Bronze DofE Training Expedition

With DofE season in full swing, we took our bronze cohort on their training expedition on 9 and 10 June. What a hot expedition it was; lots of adjustments were put in place to suit the weather conditions. The students were all fantastic and pushed themselves, showing resilience and determination.

The students walked with a member of staff on their first day, honing their navigation skills in readiness for walking on their own. Once at the camp site, they set up their tents and beds, then cooked a two-course supper on their Trangias (a small stove run on methylated spirits). Lots of lovely food was prepared and, mostly, enjoyed, then it was lights out early ready for a 5.30am wake up call – we wanted the groups out early to avoid the hottest part of the day.

The teams were fantastic at getting up and packing away ready to leave the campsite – some of the best we have had since starting DofE!

All the groups did really well, learnt lots and are ready for their qualifying expedition the last weekend in June.

We were impressed by all the students, who dug deep and showed true Nobelian spirit, well done to them all.

The DofE Team



Out of School Sporting Achievements

The PE Department are keen to celebrate students who compete in a range of different sports outside of school. If your child achieves any out of school sporting successes, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Carolan with a small report, which includes a photograph, which can be featured in the school newsletter: Regan.Carolan@nobel.herts.sch.uk

Mr Regan Carolan
Teacher of PE

My Duke of Edinburgh Journey

Whilst completing my Bronze DofE, I developed the skills and attitudes I needed to become a positive and ambitious young adult. Throughout my volunteering during Bronze, Silver and Gold, my confidence grew massively and, as I progressed through the awards, I was able to consolidate my ability to work within a team and combat problems for myself. After my Bronze Award, I knew that I wanted to continue my volunteering, showing my commitment over an extended period and greatly benefitting my leadership skills with the reward of giving back to my community.

After DofE, my skill section of playing the piano has become my way to relax and is a lovely way to work through goal-based challenges that aren't academic. Undeniably, the expeditions are hard work, but that is what makes DofE so rewarding, and amazing memories are made with all your friends. Through my physical section, I was able to build my endurance and stamina whilst keeping fit and simultaneously improving my mental health, especially as a student and needing to manage time appropriately.

During the Gold Award, there is a residential section which, like the volunteering, skills and physical sections, allows for freedom to explore what you personally enjoy doing. I spent a week away with strangers on a conservation course, which not only further developed my independence, but also aided my A-level biology course.

After I completed all the awards, my group and I were invited to Buckingham Palace to receive our awards and even got the chance to speak with The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.

I applied for the DofE Prefect role as I wanted to help the younger years to see their capability, and the sense of achievement they have on their expeditions is unmatched. Supporting the younger students to overcome difficulties and reach their full potential has taught me skills such as listening and considering others' ideas, as well as then becoming Head DofE Prefect and assisting the other Prefects with their role. These Prefect roles have also contributed towards the sections of the DofE Young Leader's Award, which I was also able to achieve, alongside my DofE Expedition Assessor accreditation. All these factors ultimately made for great additions to my personal statement, as universities go crazy for DofE, and the more you do, the more you stand out! I would not be the person I am today without DofE.

Jenna Lewan
Bronze, Silver & Gold recipient
Head DofE Prefect



Congratulations to our Wonderful Annie Cast

On 11 and 18 May, students from across key stage 3 put on a production of Annie Jr. The students have been working hard on this throughout the year, and it showed in two magical performances. Every member of the cast had worked hard to learn songs, dance routines and dialogue, and the result was a joyful production that everybody should be very proud of.

We were so impressed, in fact, that when the chance came to enter something for the Stevenage Festival, we immediately thought of the Annie cast. As a result, on Monday 12 June, the cast took to the stage of the Gordon Craig Theatre in what was (in our unbiased opinion) the highlight of the Stevenage Secondary Schools' evening of the festival. It was really lovely to see the cast take the opportunity to perform on a professional stage to a wider audience.

The performance faculty would once again like to thank everybody who came to see these shows; the turnout was excellent, and the students loved having the opportunity to share their hard work. And finally, of course, we would like to say a big well done, and, once again, thank you to the cast for all of their hard work. Roll on next year's production!

Mr Andy Hardy
Head of Performing Arts



Y12 Sport Study Students visit The University of Hertfordshire

On Thursday 25 May, the year 12 Sport Study students visited Hertfordshire University to learn about the different sport courses on offer at the University and possible subsequent career paths.

We were greeted and escorted to a lecture hall (a first for the students), where the day was outlined and the sessions explained. The University offers 6 sports courses on the De Havilland campus, and we were treated to taster sessions for them all.

The group started with a chat from a lead lecturer in Sport and Business Management. Students learnt about the impact sport has on society and the various careers within sport development. An astonishing fact learnt was that the sport industry generates 1 billion pounds each year, most through sports tourism.

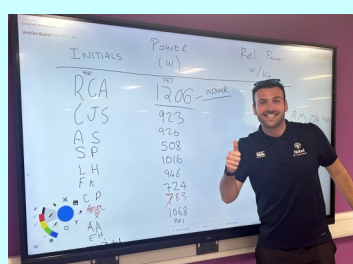
The group then moved on to two different Sport Science sessions which included various fitness tests. These included trying to power enough wattage to toast a slice of bread, to jump higher than Cristiano Ronaldo's record (Abraham succeeded) and to test if they could match the reaction times of their favourite F1 drivers.

We then had lunch on campus followed by a sports therapy afternoon. The students learned how to perform CPR and emergency first aid, with a focus on being a pitch-side responder. The final session and, arguably the most enjoyable, was led in the therapy lab where students learned how to treat various injuries by someone who has treated Marcus Rashford!

We then returned to the lecture hall where university life was explained and any questions were answered.

All in all, we had an extremely enjoyable day. Mrs Jones and Mr Carolan were extremely proud of the group and how they conducted themselves throughout the day. A superb day had by all.

Mrs Chloe Jones
PE Teacher





A LEVEL & GCSE

TUESDAY 20th JUNE 2023
4-6pm

ART EXHIBITION

FONS Annual Raffle

A gentle reminder that we really need your support to make this event a success.

We recognise the current financial climate, but hope that parents/carers will still feel able to support the FONS Annual Raffle which, this year, is running as a summer event rather than at Christmas, as it has in past years. The money raised last year has purchased items for Duke of Edinburgh Award and supported students to cover some expedition costs. It also supports the extra items in subject areas that add value to the normal resources funded from the school budget.

As the last electronic raffle was so successful, please help us make this year's raffle a success too.

Tickets are £1 each and can be bought via the **School gateway** in multiples of £1. The raffle opens on Monday 22 May and closes on Monday 3 July. **The winners will be drawn at the FONS meeting on Friday 7 July.**

- ◆ First prize – £150 Cash
- ◆ Second prize – £50 M&S Voucher
- ◆ There are also many other prizes including: a beauty voucher, cycle helmet, family meal deals, wine, vouchers from hairdressers and many more.

To purchase tickets, log onto the School Gateway. Example £5 paid will equate to 5 x separate numbers in the draw. The numbers will be selected by a random number generator and parents will be notified of timings for the draw nearer the time should they wish to attend.

If any parents wish to donate additional prizes, please email friends@nobel.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your support.



- 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



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 expand their knowledge wherever they go.
- **Create Playlists!** Use the My Playlist area to create bespoke playlists on topics that they may find challenging. Having a personalised playlist means your child has fast access to Pods that will help to fill in knowledge gaps.
- **Use Favourites!** Challenge your child to a favourite 10 Pods on topics they find difficult/challenging. Watch the Pods together and use one of our other suggested learning techniques to help simplify what it is they're struggling with.
- **Memory Cards!** Watch the Pods and then together write key facts, dates, diagrams and quotes. Then test their knowledge to see how much they remember.
Top Tip* Turn it into a competition and reward your child for correctly answered questions. If you're stuck on what questions to ask your child then head over to our 'Quiz your Child' document.
- **Support Homework!** GCSEPod isn't just for revision, it's to help expand your child's subject knowledge. If your child is struggling with a piece of homework, you can search for the topic on GCSEPod and use the Pods as an additional resource.

Does your child know they have access to GCSEPod?

If your son or daughter have already activated their account, they simply need to log in with the username and password they've created.

If they've not yet activated their GCSEPod account, simply follow these simple instructions:

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com
2. Click **Login**
3. Click **New Here? Getting Started**
4. Ensure they've selected they are a **Pupil**
5. Enter their personal details as requested
6. Create a Username and Password



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NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF and COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

The next meeting will be held in the Library, 6:30pm, on Tuesday 11 July 2023

The book to read is:



Read all or part of the book, and discuss it in a friendly informal group

Contact: Rosalind Essakhi:

01438 222600 or email:

library@nobel.herts.sch.uk

U16 Girls' County Football Team

Nobel School would like to congratulate Isobel Matfield (pictured below) on being selected for the U16 Girls' County Football Team. This is an incredible achievement with over 80 players attending the trials. Isobel is our first County player for about 15 years at Nobel School.

Congratulations also to Katie Harrington-Pike for getting through to the final round, again a great achievement with so many attending.

Nobel is very proud of both girls.

Mrs Jackie Saville
PE Teacher



I currently play for West Ham United U16s and have done so since October last year. Joining West Ham has allowed me to face harder physical competition and has increased my speed of play, which has really helped my game develop.

Earlier in May, the PE department picked me, along with 3 other year 10 footballers, to attend trials for next season's Hertfordshire U16 County team. The first trial included 50-60 girls from schools in East Herts. We played a few 7 a-side matches before going into a bigger 9 a-side game at the end. The second trial had a similar number of players, however, this time, it included girls from East and West Herts. We first played a small attack vs defence drill to test the defenders and our attacking skills. We then played an 11 a-side match before heading into a small shooting drill to allow the coach to see the goalkeepers. Both trials allowed me to see and play with friends and old teammates, which made it more enjoyable.

I am really proud to be chosen to represent Hertfordshire, and I am excited to meet my new teammates and coaches. Thank you to the PE department for giving me this opportunity.

Isobel Matfield - 10AHY

Dates for your Diary

Monday 3 - Friday 7 July: Y10 and Y12 Work Experience Week

Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 July: KS5 Induction Days

Tuesday 11 July: FONS Meeting, 7pm in the Library

Friday 14 July: Sports Day

Thursday 20 July: Last day of Term

PRIDE AT NOBEL

Come and celebrate your pride on Friday 30 June 2023 from 3:30pm – 4:30pm.

Everyone welcome, whether you are a member of the LGBTQ+ or an ally.

Events will include:

- ♦ Pie a teacher (£2 per plate or £5 for 3 plates)
- ♦ Bakesale (£1 - £2 yummy snacks)
- ♦ Face painting (£1 - £3 dependent on the design)
- ♦ 3 point shot contest (£2 entry)

Members of all sexualities and genders are welcome.

All donations raised will be donated to an LGBTQ+ Youth charity

Don't forget to bring your money to support charity, see you soon.

Mr Kevin Power
Head of Biology



Bring your £ Coins and help us raise money for a good cause!

NOBEL PRIDE

£2 or 3 for £5 **Pie A Teacher Music** From £1 **Bake Sale Items** £2 to enter **3 Point Shootout** From £1 **Face Painting**

Friday 30 June, 2023
3:30pm - 4:30pm

Money Raised will be Donated to benefit LGBTQIA+ Youth

URGENTLY WANTED



YOUR OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

DO YOU HAVE SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS
LANGUISHING IN YOUR LOCKER OR BAG?
GATHERING DUST UNDER YOUR BED?
SITTING AIMLESSLY ON YOUR SHELVES?
PLEASE DIG THEM OUT AND RETURN THEM TO
THE LIBRARY
OTHER STUDENTS ARE WAITING TO BORROW
THEM!

Girls' Cricket Leaders - Primary Dynamos Cricket Competitions

Following a successful Girls' Cricket Leadership Day, the students were invited to attend two local primary school events to assist with the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team Dynamos Cricket competitions. This has been a fantastic opportunity for the students to put everything from their training into practice and develop their leadership skills.

Like true Nobelians, the students did us proud and represented the school impeccably. The students were responsible for umpiring and scoring the matches ensuring everyone knew what decision they had made through the use of signals and keeping track of the score to give into the scorer at the end of the games.

The students received several positive comments throughout the events from primary staff and children, commenting on their knowledge of the rules and for their professionalism. One school in particular, commented on how enthusiastic the Nobelians were and how helpful they were to the children. There was a further comment relating to the importance of the students at the event, stating it would not have been possible without them.

A huge well done to the following students:

Year 8: Sofia, Kiera-Leigh, Mackenzie, Claudia-Ann, Sebeal, Lucy, Aminata, Amelie, Maleah, Ava, Freya

Year 9: Freya, Lily-Rose, Olivia, Amy, Abigail, Eve, Amani, Neve

Mr Regan Carolan
PE teacher

Student report

On Thursday 8 June and Wednesday 14 June, some year 8 and 9 girls went to Stevenage cricket club where we helped umpire the Stevenage Sporting Futures Mixed and Girls' Dynamo Cricket Tournament.

Before the competition, on 10 May, we had a training day where we learnt how to coach and umpire a cricket game. We learnt how to score a match, how to use hand signals to score and umpire and the rules of the game. This day was great fun and extremely interesting.

On the days of the tournaments, we were split up onto 3 pitches where each had a team of leaders helping to score and umpire. On each pitch, there were 3 primary schools. Everyone helped each other and worked together to ensure the correct decisions and scores were made.

We all worked extremely well together and really enjoyed the day and can't wait to do it again.

Amy Miller
9E TBT



Student Report 2

Recently, we were given the opportunity to umpire and score for the Stevenage Sporting Futures competition. Before the two days of the Cricket Leadership, we were taught the way the scoring works and the hand signals you had to use when umpiring a game. This helped me gain confidence to enable me to teach others.

On both days I really enjoyed teaching the junior schools how to play Dynamo cricket and teaching them what I had learnt. On day 1, we were first split into our groups and had been given a pitch to umpire. When a match was being played, we had two umpires on the pitch and the others in the group were focused on scoring runs. My main goal was umpiring, which I really enjoyed.

I have really enjoyed this experience.

Eve Farmer - 9JBT



STEER SCHOOL OF DANCE

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES, STYLES AND ABILITIES!



"I HAVE TRIED A LOT OF DIFFERENT DANCE SCHOOLS IN THE AREA AND HAVE NOT FOUND ONE AS WELCOMING AND FRIENDLY AS STEERS. MY DAUGHTER ABSOLUTELY LOVES COMING AND HAS IMPROVED A LOT SINCE JOINING. IT IS HER FAVOURITE PART OF THE WEEK."

"THE TEAM AT STEER SCHOOL OF DANCE ARE AMAZING!! MY LITTLE ONE ABSOLUTELY ADORES HER DANCE CLASSES AND HER TEACHERS. I HONESTLY CANNOT RECOMMEND THIS SCHOOL ENOUGH. IF YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR CHILD HAPPY, BRING THEM HERE!"



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Oakfest



Get ready for an unforgettable summer experience at Oaklands College! OakFest is coming to our St Albans Campus on Saturday 1 July.

OakFest promises a day filled with non-stop entertainment and exciting attractions for all ages. Here's what you can expect:

Live Music from Boyz on Block and many others

BBC's Bluey

Funfair

Bar and Food Stalls

DJ and More

Book you tickets here:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/oakfest-oaklands-summer-festival-funfair-tickets-608318766807?aff=LambingWeekendEmailAudience&mc_cid=d5a14acc2f&mc_eid=UNIQID

District Athletics at Ridlins

On Tuesday 6 and Tuesday 13 June 2023, it was the turn of the Year 8 and 10 Athletics Teams to travel to Ridlins Stadium to show the local schools their talent. The first fixtures for these teams saw Nobel go up against Barnwell, Marriotts, Highfield, St Francis, Barclay Academy, Thomas Alleyne, Priory and Hitchin Boys' School.

Nobelians were selected for these events due to their effort and achievement within PE lessons and their attendance at the extra-curricular club.

It is important to highlight the extreme heat the students competed in for these competitions and the way in which they did not let it impact them. Instead, students remained positive, hydrated, and supported each other throughout. A special mention must go to the students who participated in long-distance running events.

Some highlight results were as follows:

- ◆ Sophia T's 2nd place in the Year 8 girls' hurdles
- ◆ Lily-Mae's 1st place in the Year 10 girls' hurdles
- ◆ Rose's 1st place in the Year 8 long jump
- ◆ Jayson's 3rd place in the Year 10 boys' 1500m
- ◆ Gracie-Mae's 1st place in the Year 10 girls' javelin
- ◆ Isobel's 2nd place in the Year 10 girls' long jump
- ◆ Joseph's 1st place in the Year 10 boys' 200m
- ◆ Harrison's 2nd place in the Year 10 boys' 400m and long jump
- ◆ Lucy's 1st place in the Year 8 girls' 1500m
- ◆ Caleb's 2nd place in the Year 10 boys' javelin
- ◆ Lina's 2nd place in the Year 8 girls' 800m
- ◆ Oliver's 1st place in the Year 10 boys' 800m

There were several highlight results and personal bests beaten across the evening and it would be impossible to write them all in this article.

A highlight from the event was the Year 10 Boys and Girls teams who, despite being smaller in numbers, finished with a fantastic set of results across the evening. This is due to the effort they had put in during PE lessons to prepare for their field and track events.

We look forward to preparing our athletics teams for the annual District Athletics event on Wednesday 28 June 2023.

Please see below the upcoming Athletics fixtures:

Date	Year Group
Wednesday 21 June 3-6:30pm	Years 7 and 9
Wednesday 28 June All Day	Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 District Athletics

Students who are interested are able to join Athletics club on a Tuesday after school.

Mr Regan Carolan
PE teacher



Summer Term PE Extra-Curricular Club list

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

Linked to our department vision, our aim with extra-curricular 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 and 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

Teacher of PE

NOBEL PE		"To encourage maximum participation through an inclusive curriculum, inspiring students to fulfil a lifelong, healthy active lifestyle."		
		LUNCH CLUBS	AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS	
EXTRA CURRICULAR	MONDAY	YEAR 7 TENNIS (MUGA) - LPY ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - CJS/PWR W1 W2	ALL YEARS CRICKET (ASTRO) - PWR/LPY/SHS/RSE ALL YEARS ROUNDERS (FIELD) - ECP/CJS/JSE/RCA	
	TUESDAY	YEAR 8 TENNIS (MUGA) - SHS W2 ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - RCA/ECP	ALL YEARS ATHLETICS (FIELD) - ALL STAFF	
	WEDNESDAY	YEAR 9 TENNIS (MUGA) - CJS ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - RCA ALL YEARS GIRLS CRICKET (FIELD) - NCT	SUMMER TERM 2 2023	
	THURSDAY	YEAR 10 TENNIS (MUGA) - ECP ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - NCT/RSE W1 W2 YEAR 7 GIRLS CONFIDENCE CLUB (GYM) - PWR YEAR 9 EMPOWERING TEENAGE GIRLS FITNESS SESSION (ROOM 225) <u>INVITE ONLY</u> - RCA	PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR FIXTURES - ALL STAFF ALL YEARS FRISBEE (ASTRO) - ARD	
	FRIDAY	ALL YEARS GIRLS TENNIS (MUGA) - JSE W2 ALL YEARS BASKETBALL (MUGA) - ECP/LPY&PWR	YEAR 9 AND 10 GIRLS ZUMBA AND FITSTICKS (DANCE STUDIO) - RCA	

Staying safe at Nobel



Upcoming Free Online Parent/Carer Workshops in Hertfordshire

Monday
5th June

Supporting
Parents/Carers of
Children with Anxiety

1:00pm -
3:00pm

Friday
16th June

Supporting
Parents/Carers with
Children with Self
Harming Behaviours

9:30am -
11:00am

Monday
19th June

Supporting
Parents/Carers of Children
with Emotionally Based
School Avoidance

9:30am -
11:00am

Thursday
29th June

Supporting
Parents/Carers of
Children who are
Gender Questioning

9:30am -
11:00am



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