

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

What a fantastic start to the new school year. Students and staff are genuinely excited by 'getting back to normal'. Behaviour and uniform are excellent and there is a nice vibe around the building. Our year 7s have settled in well and have already learned to navigate our large site.

Our Open Evening, on Tuesday 12 September, was incredibly well attended. It is lovely that so many young people want to join us and the feedback from prospective parents was very encouraging. If attendance at open evenings is any kind of gauge, we remain a very popular school in the town. We do not take this for granted and continue to work at improving what we do. Indeed, we gained our best ever GCSE examination results this summer. We were delighted that so many students managed to exceed expectations and that we will have an impressive progress 8 when the official data is released towards the end of October.

I hope that you manage to read our pleasing Ofsted report that I sent out to you last week. In my time at Nobel, we have had three inspections – all good. However, this was the best one and, with our examination results, we would certainly be very close to outstanding. I have asked our students to read our report too, it is very complimentary of them and starts with the line:

'Pupils are proud to be Nobelians'

All this is a lovely way to start the school year, we look forward to getting even better this year. In the meantime, have a good weekend and stay safe.

Kind regards

Martyn Henson

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition

During the final days of the summer term, nine Year 12 students (biggest Gold group ever for Nobel) completed a challenging 5-day journey through the Welsh countryside. The conditions were challenging (as you would expect of a Gold Expedition) winding through the Snowdonia National Park, yet all nine showed incredible resilience, teamwork and determination to complete their Qualifying Expedition and, for some, their final step on the journey towards completing the Award.

Unfortunately, the torrential rain, strong winds and lightening warnings prevented them from summiting Snowdon on the final day, however, it did not dampen their spirits as they skipped, sang and limped over the finish line and into the minibus for the long journey home and one final rendition of 'Let it Go'.

I'm incredibly proud of all these students, who I have seen grow and develop as they have progressed through their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards at Nobel.

Another first for the DofE team on this expedition was having a past Nobelian Bronze, Silver and Gold Award holder complete her first Assessor's expedition. We look forward to welcoming her back from university to join the team again next year.

Ms Lisa Steele

Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



Nobel School Awarded the Gold School Games Mark 2022/23

We are delighted to announce that The Nobel School has achieved the Gold School Games Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year.

A significant improvement from 2016 when we were awarded the Bronze School Games Mark, to Silver in 2017, Gold in 2018 and we have continued to develop and have, once again, been awarded the highest mark possible for our school.

The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With a huge number of students competing in local inter-school competitions across the previous academic year, we are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. This is not to mention the countless number of students who took part in a leadership programme.

The Stevenage Sporting Futures Team, who validated our application said the following:

"We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing The Nobel School participate in a range of the events across the year and visiting the school to participate in your sporting provision. Reading your application, it is pleasing to see the work you put in for extra-curricular sport, exposing children to a range of sports through recreation and competition within your school setting, especially through your intra-school sport programme. It is fantastic to see the advocacy work you do to share the messaging of PE and school sport within your school community."



As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded. We look forward to working towards another Gold award in the 2023-24 academic year.

Mr Regan Carolan

PE Teacher



Stevenage Sports Awards

On Friday 14 July 2023, the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team led the annual District School Sports Awards at The 76 Lounge located at The Lamex Stadium, home to Stevenage Football Club. The PE Department were delighted that a large number of students were nominated for a range of categories.

Firstly, the Year 9 Girls' Rugby Team were nominated for Secondary Team of the Year. This award recognised the achievement and teamwork of one team.



The team are a hardworking, outstanding, resilient bunch, who have an excellent work ethic, listen, and are lots of fun off the pitch and going to and from fixtures. There is some serious talent in this group, which could produce a future England player or two and certainly a few Women's Premiership representatives. **The team were highly commended in this category which is a fantastic achievement.**

Secondly, Pablo Ramirez Rioja, in Year 8, was nominated for Secondary Elite Performer of the Year. This award was for any secondary school student who has achieved a high level of performance, representing a club or higher level in their chosen sport/activity. Pablo is very dedicated, showing exceptional commitment to fulfil his school's duties to ensure that he has time to train Table Tennis 3-days a week at Urban TTC in Barnet.



Each season he participates in nationwide tournaments where he plays full weekends against the top players in England across different age categories. Thanks to his excellent results at the different tournaments, Pablo is currently the highest ranked English player in the Under 12s category and fourth in the Under 13s in Table Tennis England rankings. **Pablo won the Secondary Elite Performer of the Year award.**

Finally, the Year 8 and 9 Girls' Cricket Leaders were nominated for Leadership Crew of the Year. This award was for a group of students who have supported their school in sporting provision across the academic year, showing exceptional leadership qualities and commitment within their school. In partnership with Hertfordshire Cricket and Stevenage Sporting Futures Team, Nobel School has been able to offer a new leadership opportunity for Year 8 and 9 female students, centred around cricket.

The students were fantastic role models within school for their peers and younger students to look up to. Not only have they raised the profile of cricket within the school, seen through an increase in extra-curricular attendances and more girls taking part within lessons through choice, they have been an asset to the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team to run the primary schools' Dynamos Cricket Competition. They have all worked incredibly well together, been conscientious, hardworking, dedicated and have been able to adapt and deal with whatever has been thrown at them. **The girls won the Leadership Crew of the Year award.**

There were honourable mentions for the Nobel students in the local newspaper: <https://www.thecomet.net/sport/23678432.stevenage-sporting-futures-team-celebrate-year-school-sport/>

We are incredibly proud of all our student successes and believe they are thoroughly deserving of being recognised within the district for their achievements.

Mr Regan Carolan
PE Teacher

Nobel Students Organise Girls' Football Tournament to Local Primary Schools

In the last edition of the newsletter prior to the summer break, we introduced you to a new initiative that the PE Department were leading – the Girls' Football Activators.

The Nobel School activators followed two leadership pathways: marketing and delivery. As a group of activators, they were tasked with delivering extra-curricular opportunities for their peers and the local primary schools to experience and enjoy football.



Due to their efforts across the academic year, the Nobel Girls' Football Activators have received their official certification alongside their goodie bag at the start of the programme. Well done girls, you have done a fantastic job.



Well done to the following students who have achieved Girls Football Activator certification:

Year 8: Sofia, Rachel, Chloe, Abigail, Sophie

Year 9: Elise, Sydney, Jessica

Year 10: Lily Mae, Rebecca, Lucie, Bethany

In the run up to the Women's World Cup 2023, taking place in Australia across the summer, the Nobel students decided to run a Girls' Football Tournament to the local primary schools to increase the competitive opportunities available to local children.

Every element of the event was organised by the activators. This included communicating with the schools, organising the running order, writing the scoresheets, planning their drills, designing certificates and sourcing medals and trophies. During the event, the students took on the role of referee, team manager, scorer and timekeeper as well as setting everything up on the day of the event.

Five primary schools joined us on the all-weather pitch on Monday 17 July. As well as the competitive matches, the Nobel students decided to run a training session of drills alongside the competition to prepare the children for the event. Throughout the event, the Nobel students were organised, confident and wonderful role models to their younger primary peers. Congratulations to Round Diamond who were crowned the winners.



Mr Regan Carolan
PE Teacher

Student Sporting Successes

Girls Rugby

Congratulations to Jessica Tolmie (10M SPL) and Zara Baringer (10T MGT) who have recently achieved successes at their rugby club, Welwyn RC, within the summer holiday.

On Sunday 2 September, the girls took part in the St Ives Girls' U16 Rugby 7s festival with teams from across the country travelling to compete. Throughout the tournament, the Welwyn team remained unbeaten and conceded just a single try, which is a phenomenal achievement. The Mayor of St Ives presented the team with their trophy.

As well as this, within the six-week holiday, Zara, Jessica and Bethany Allardyce (10T MGT) attended county trials for the U16 Hertfordshire Rugby squad. After several trial sessions against a significant number of girls, we are delighted to announce that Zara will be representing the county in the new year.

Well done to Zara, Jessica and Bethany, we are incredibly proud of you all!



Football

Following a successful football season both for Nobel and their community clubs, Archie Kempster (8E ARD) and Jacob Anifowoshe (8M EHO) were invited to attend the North Herts District Football U13s trials in July 2023, where the team was being selected for the 2023-24 academic year.

We are delighted to announce that both Archie and Jacob were successful and have been selected to play for the North Herts District Football U13 team for this academic year. The team will come up against the other districts across Hertfordshire.

Well done to Archie and Jacob, we are incredibly proud of you. We look forward to hearing how your district football fixtures go.



Artistic Swimming

GB's Mixed Duet of Maxwell Sewell (Nobel School) and Kiarra Janikova (Monks Walk School) from Walkern Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City.

Both athletes swim at Aqualina Artistic Swimming Club. Under the guidance of Kerri Clewlow (formerly Brennan) both athletes began their swimming careers from a young age (Max was 10, Kiarra was much younger as she learned to swim with Kerri).

Four years ago Max appeared on local radio saying how he wanted to make it to the Olympics and, at the same time, Kerri went to Slovakia with Kiarra and her family to watch the world championships. Kiarra told her coach she wanted to be on the big stage swimming for Team GB.



Four years later we could not be more proud of our dynamic duo, who are 9th best in the world. Wow just wow!

For the full write up, please follow the link below

<https://www.swimming.org/artistic-swimming/youth-world-championships-2023-review/>

Developing Character

At Nobel we are committed to not only advancing our Nobelians academically but, equally, helping them to develop their character. It is imperative that we teach the students what it means to have good character and, in order for them to know how they can develop their own character, they must understand what good character looks like. With this in mind, Nobel will have a character focus each fortnight which will be referenced in lessons and around the school.

Each fortnight I will share the focus with you so that you can look to capture examples of good character at home. For the first two weeks of school, the character focus is our Nobelian virtue of being **RESILIENT**. I would love to hear of examples throughout the year of students going above and beyond to show their good character and could share a selection of these with their year groups in assemblies.

In addition, we will be giving the students the opportunity to think about character conundrums which require them to consider particular scenarios with difficult moral choices to make. This will start the fortnight beginning 18 September and students will take part in this during a form time period each fortnight. Leading up to the beginning of each fortnight, I will email the character conundrums to parents/carers with the fortnightly character focus. The information will contain the scenario, some guidance for parents/carers and questions you could ask your child to help them think deeply about the right thing to do in each situation. We would really appreciate it if this could become a fortnightly discussion topic for your family and it would support the work that they are doing in school.

The Character Conundrum for 18/9 - 29/9 is:

Character Conundrum 1

Jennifer is a new student in year 11. By November, she had made some good friends through her classes, but still felt on the outside of the more popular students. She has a great relationship with her parents and trusts their advice to just give it time. The first weekend of the Christmas holidays, rumours started that a party was happening at another year 11 girl's house while the parents were out of town. Jennifer did not know the girl well, but she was one of the most popular girls in the class and most of the year group were planning on attending, as well.

Another student had already asked her if she would be there. Everyone was saying this was going to be the best party of the year. This seemed like the perfect opportunity to break out of her group of friends and hang out with the students everyone always talked about. Her dilemma was that there was no way her parents would let her go to this party if they knew the parents were out of town, and she wanted to go very badly. Jennifer had rarely lied to her parents and never about anything big. She knew her parents trusted her and that made it even harder to lie to them. Because they respected her, she hated the times when she felt like she was letting them down.

Her friends told her to just not say anything and only lie if her parents directly asked her about adults being at the party. Easy enough for them to say, but her friends were not as close with their parents as she was with hers. She felt that if she just went to this one party her social standing at school could be a lot different. She would get to know more students and she would not be so shy about approaching the more popular students anymore.

Would it be worth it to hide the facts of the party from her parents and risk having to lie? And, if they found out about the party, could she deal with the fact that they probably would not trust her anymore? On the other hand, everyone lies to his or her parents eventually. And if they never found out, what would it really matter?

Developing Character

Support

This gets students thinking and talking about the fact that what feels like an okay choice for one person might not feel so okay to someone else. And it is a good example of how listening to others may only confuse, rather than help us make the right choices. Every child has a unique relationship with his/her parents, and that relationship informs the ethical choices the child makes involving his/her parents. At some point we must consider the potential consequences of our actions and weigh whether the benefits are worth the price.

Teens are constantly talking about “if parents ever found out...” yet they share in class how awful they feel when they lie or hide things from their parents. It often makes them feel alone and vulnerable. Getting kids to formally talk about a case like this tends to shed some light on this point.

Questions

- ♦ Can you identify the moral dilemma in this situation?
- ♦ What do you think about Jennifer's situation? Do you empathise with her? How does being new possibly affect her dilemma?
- ♦ What would you do?
- ♦ What do you think your parents would do if you told them about the party?
- ♦ Have you or someone you know ever been in a similar situation? What happened?
- ♦ What do you do when you are faced with a situation where there does not seem to be a “good choice”?
- ♦ Who do you have in your life (besides your parents) that you might go to if you were faced with this dilemma?

Mr Nick Brown

Assistant Headteacher

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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 19 September 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

Science Sixth Form Subject Ambassadors (Year 12) 2023-2024

Role of the Subject ambassador

An **ambassador** is an especially high-ranking student who represents science and is a representative of their own subject.

These students will have the opportunity to help with:

- ♦ Science Club - lunchtime in double science lab
- ♦ Science Year 11 catch-up: Combined Science, Tuesday after school, 3.00 - 4.00pm
- ♦ Triple science Year 11 catch-up: Biology, Chemistry and Physics, before school Tuesday
- ♦ Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 18 October
- ♦ Other positions throughout the year
- ♦ Small group work with younger students in lessons
- ♦ Writing articles for Nobel News
- ♦ Science week, 11 - 15 March
- ♦ Science week assembly, 11 - 15 March
- ♦ Any other ideas from you

- ♦ Apply to Mrs Pearson by email – What makes you a good ambassador of science
- ♦ Indicate if you are applying for a general ambassador position if you would like to put yourself forward for a leadership position. Leadership position: Head of Science Ambassadors, Head of Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Applied Science
- ♦ Deadline Wednesday 11 October. Meeting to be held on Thursday 12 October at lunch time in Science room 207

Science at Nobel



Mrs Amy Pearson
Head of Science

Running Club

Students from all year groups are invited to join running club on a Friday after school. Each week students will run to Fairlands Valley Park and then either run round the lake or improve their fitness by taking part in cardio building activities. Then all students run back to school to finish off 5 kilometres of running.

If anyone would like to sign up for running club with Mrs Pearson, Mrs Savo, Mr Mesher and Mr Bell, then please sign up via the clubs link.



SEND Summer School

Sixteen Year 6 students attended Nobel's two-day summer school to support their transition to Nobel in September.

The students took part in a history lesson on Greek myths, with Mr Philcox. They learned how to do up a tie, read a timetable and find their way around the school.



In addition to this, on day 2, Stevenage MHST attended the SEND summer school to introduce the service and deliver a short wellbeing session to the students in preparation for September. Students were divided into smaller groups and took turns to complete three different activities to support wellbeing and learn coping strategies to ease their transition to secondary school. The activities included breathing and grounding exercises, origami and mindful colouring and progressive muscle relaxation.



Students were able to discuss what they were looking forward to and how secondary school might differ from primary school.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends and meet the SEND team.

Ms Lynn Amey
SENCo

World Challenge 2024

Erin Hodgson, one of our Year 12 students, is participating in the World Challenge trip in July next year. In order to fundraise for her trip she is organising a Dinner Dance at Nobel School on Saturday 14 October. It will be a 3-course meal followed by a disco. There will also be a bar offering a selection of drinks. Tickets for the event are £30 per person. Should you wish to purchase tickets or would like further information for this event please contact Erin at Erinworldchallenge@gmail.com before 22 September 2023.

Nobel Enrichment Clubs - Autumn Term

The schedule of Enrichment Clubs for this term is still being developed and will be updated as more activities are offered. Clubs detailed below are already up and running. Do please encourage your child/children to sign up to those that may be of interest to them.

Nobel Enrichment Clubs 2023/24 Autumn Term

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCH	<p>The Bridge Club All Years 13-20 – 14:15 The Bridge</p> <p>Darts Club All Years 13-25 – 14:05 Rm 301</p> <p>Year 11 Spanish Conversation Club Year 11 13-30 – 14:10 Rm 402</p> <p>Story Gaming Club All Years 13-30 – 13:50 Rm 413</p> <p>Choreography Club All Years 13-40 – 14:10 Dance Studio</p> <p>Fitness Club Year 7 Year 7 13-40 – 14:05 Fitness Room</p> <p>KS3 Badminton Club Year 7,8,9 13-40 – 14:10 Sports Hall</p> <p>Doffe Bronze Training Club MANDELA Year 10 13-25 – 14:10 Rm 318</p> <p>Year 9 Food Tech Club Year 9 13-40 – 14:10 Rm 112</p> <p>KS3 History Club Year 7,8,9 13-30 – 14:10 Rm 316</p> <p>Year 10 GCSE DT Club Year 10 13-20 – 13:50 Rm 105</p>	<p>The Bridge Club All Years 13-20 – 14:15 The Bridge</p> <p>Musical Theatre Club All Years 13-20 – 14:05 Auditorium</p> <p>Knitting Club All Years 13-30 – 14:00 Rm 203</p> <p>Year 10 Spanish Conversation Club Year 10 13-30 – 14:10 Rm 402</p> <p>Dungeons and Dragons Club All Years 13-20 – 14:15 Rm 206</p> <p>Spy Club All Years 13-25 – 14:00 Rm 207a</p> <p>KS4 Table Tennis Club Year 10,11 13-40 – 14:05 Gym</p> <p>KS4 Basketball Club Year 10,11 13-40 – 14:05 Sports Hall</p> <p>Philosophy Club (WEEK 2 ONLY) All Years 13-40 – 14:10 Rm 314</p>	<p>The Bridge Club All Years 13-20 – 14:15 The Bridge</p> <p>Coffee Connoisseurs Club Years 12-13 13-25 – 14:00 Rm 326</p> <p>Science Club All Years 13-30 – 14:00 Rm 203</p> <p>Year 13 French Club Year 13 13-30 – 14:00 Rm 405</p> <p>Prayer and Reflection Club Year 7 13-30 – 14:00 Rm 201</p> <p>Lego Club Years 7,8 13-20 – 14:10 Rm 205</p> <p>KS4 Badminton Club Year 10,11 13-40 – 14:05 Sports Hall</p> <p>Dog Care Club All Years 13-40 – 14:10 Rm 326</p> <p>Fitness Club WEDNESDAYS All Years 13-40 – 14:05 Fitness Suite</p> <p>Making monsters Club All Years 13-20 – 13:50 Rm 108</p> <p>Doffe Bronze Training Club ELIOT Year 10 13-25 – 14:10 Rm 318</p> <p>Guitars and Bass Club All Years 13-45 – 14:15 Rm 222</p> <p>Astronomy Club All Years 13-40 – 14:15 Rm 210</p> <p>Year 11 French Club Year 11 13-40 – 14:10 Rm 400</p> <p>Year 11 RE HW Support Club Year 11 13-30 – 14:15 Rm 320</p>	<p>The Bridge Club All Years 13-20 – 14:15 The Bridge</p> <p>Chess Club All Years 13-25 – 14:10 Rm 302</p> <p>Skittles Club All Years 13-20 – 14:10 Rm 206</p> <p>Geography Club All Years 13-30 – 14:00 Rm 321</p> <p>Tap Dance Club All Years 13-40 – 14:10 Dance Studio</p> <p>Psychology Club Year 11 13-20 – 13:50 Rm 323</p> <p>KS3 Basketball Club Year 7,8,9 13-40 – 14:05 Sports Hall</p> <p>Fitness Club THURSDAYS All Years 13-40 – 14:05 Fitness Suite</p> <p>Doffe Bronze Training Club TERESA Year 10 13-25 – 14:10 Rm 318</p> <p>Year 8 Food Tech Club Year 8 13-40 – 14:10 Rm 112</p> <p>Maths Challenge Club Year 7,8,9 13-40 – 14:10 Rm 305</p>	<p>The Bridge Club All Years 13-20 – 14:15 The Bridge</p> <p>KS3 Cards Club Years 7,8,9 13-45 – 14:15</p> <p>Creative Writing Club All Years 13-45 – 14-15 Rm 415</p> <p>Polish Conversation Club All Years 13-40 – 14:10 Rm 407</p> <p>Girls Fitness Club All Years 13-40 – 14:05 Fitness Suite</p> <p>KS3 Table Tennis Club Year 7,8,9 13-40 – 14:05 Gym</p> <p>Relaxed Reading Club Year 8 13-40 – 14:10 Rm 317</p> <p>Doffe Bronze Training Club CURIE Year 10 13-25 – 14:10 Rm 318</p> <p>Nobel Singers Club All Years 13-45 – 14:15 Rm 222</p> <p>Year 13 German Club Year 13 13-35 – 14:15 Rm 401</p>
AFTER SCHOOL	<p>Sports Maths HW Support Club (MON) All Years 15-15 – 16:15 Rm 310</p> <p>Art Eco Club All Years 15-15 – 16:00 Rm 110</p> <p>Boys Football Club All Years 15-15 – 16:15 Meet 106</p> <p>Girls Netball Club All Years 15-15 – 16:15 Sports Hall</p>	<p>Girls Football Club All Years 15-15 – 16:15 Meet 106</p>	STAFF MEETINGS	<p>Sports Maths HW Support Club (THURS) All Years 15-15 – 16:15 Rm 310</p> <p>Woodwork Club All Years 15-15 – 16:15 Rm 103</p> <p>Nature Walks Club All Years 15-20 – 16:15 Rm 200</p> <p>Dance Club All Years 15-15 – 16:15 Dance Studio</p> <p>Boys and Girls Rugby Club All Years 15-15 – 16:15 Meet 106</p> <p>Year 7 Food Tech Club Year 7 15-15 – 17:15 Rm 112</p>	<p>Sports Maths HW Support Club (FRI) All Years 15-15 – 16:15 Rm 310</p> <p>Running Club All Years 15-30 – 16:30 Reception</p> <p>Girls Football and Zumba Club Years 9 – 13 15-15 – 16:15 Dance Studio</p>