

Nobel News

29 September 2023

Edition 12.02



From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

It really has been a calm start to the academic year. Our new students in Year 7 and in Year 12 have settled in extremely well and we are delighted with how their studies are going and that they are enjoying coming to school.

I was talking to Mr Mesher, our excellent head of mathematics, this morning. We discussed our outstanding results from last summer, I was interested in how the department had improved their results by almost half a grade for each student in comparison with previous years – a remarkable achievement.

We discussed the excellent teaching within the school, but particularly the commitment of students in year 11 and their teachers to attend extra sessions every Monday after school. During this time teachers went through past papers every week, giving the students great confidence. We will be talking to year 11 parents in the coming weeks about repeating this commitment this year and would encourage parents to discuss coming to 'extra' sessions that are available to students.

This commitment from teachers in all subjects is special, however, if Nobelians do not attend, it can be disheartening.

On a separate note, although there is still some Covid about, unfortunately, our attendance at school has never returned to the excellent pre-pandemic levels. Within reason we want you to send your children to school if they have a cold or a sniffle. Often the hardest thing is leaving home, and children 'recover' very quickly. Obviously, we expect you to make these judgments but, please, where at all possible, help us to improve the attendance rates, as there is a definite link between school attendance and attainment.

As always, we are grateful for your support. Take care and have a restful weekend.

Kind regards

Martyn Henson

Developing Character

For the next two weeks of school, the character focus is our Nobelian virtue of being CURIOUS. This is especially relevant at the moment as the students have recently had an assembly on careers and should be thinking about possible careers or career sectors that might interest them in the future.

The Character Conundrum for 02/10/23 - 13/10/23 is below. Please take some time during the fortnight to read through this with your child and discuss what the right moral choice would be:

Character Conundrum 3

Julia was in year 9 and her two best friends were Wendy and Erin. Erin was the most popular girl in the class and all the girls saw her as the leader. One morning Julia arrived at school and Erin was acting weird. When Julia said “Hi” to her, she did not respond. She just looked away and smiled at a group of girls in the corner of the classroom. It did not take long for Julia to figure out that Erin had turned most of the girls against her. But she did not know why! She went to Wendy and asked her why Erin was mad at her. Wendy acted nervous and said that all she knew was that Erin told her that if she hung out with Julia, none of the rest of the girls would talk to her anymore. The rest of that day lasted forever. Whenever the teacher was looking everyone was nice to Julia. But, when her back was to the class, Erin or another girl would throw pieces of paper toward Julia or whisper to each other and look in her direction. Julia thought Wendy would help her, but Wendy just pretended nothing was happening.

That night Julia talked to her parents, and they told her to wait and see if tomorrow was better. If not, they said, perhaps they could help Julia talk to Erin and work through the problem. Julia felt like that would make her look stupid if everyone found out that her mum and dad had to get involved. She knew that sometimes the class would pick on someone, but she never thought her friends would turn against her and do the same thing to her. She felt like she did not have any friends, and nobody liked her. The next day was even worse, and it continued all week. No one wanted to hang out with her at break and she had to sit by herself at lunch.

Here was her dilemma. What should she do now? If she told the teacher about Erin and the girls ganging up on her she would look like a ‘snitch’, and who knows what the kids would do to her after that?

Support

Even as adults, we can conjure up memories of being the object of peer cruelty. That fact can help when we talk with students about issues like this one. There is nothing more important than social relationships at this age. To underestimate or minimise conflicts that students have around this issue is a sure way to lose connection with them.

Many students will read this and feel sorry for Julia but will also say that nothing THAT bad happens at their school. It is easy for them to relate and empathise with Julia’s case and connect it to their own experiences, yet they feel safely distant because it is such a blatant case of unkindness. However, after a few minutes of discussion students often begin to challenge the idea that cliques and unkindness are not a serious issue at their school. They begin to recognise that Julia’s situation is more common than they like to think, even if the unkindness comes out in different ways.

It gets students talking about the differences of how boys and girls act toward one another. The indirect actions that girls often use is fairly alien to the more obvious actions that boys seem to prefer. It is helpful to have a case like this which gives all genders permission to talk frankly about why and how this phenomenon plays out in their social lives.

Developing Character

Questions

- Can you identify the moral dilemma in this situation?
- What do you think Julia should do now?
- Why do you think Wendy did not stick up for Julia?
- Has this sort of thing happen ever happened to you or to someone you know?
- Have you ever been in Wendy's position? Erin's?
- How do you think this situation would be different if the case involved boys instead of girls?
- Why do you think people pick on others, and why do others join in?
- What do you do when you see or hear someone in your class making fun of someone? Do you join in? Speak up for the person? Say nothing? Why do you think you react that way?
- Have you ever felt that a good friend turned his or her back on you? What happened and what did it feel like?

Mr Nick Brown
Assistant Headteacher

National Poetry Day - Thursday 5 October

Refugees by Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

Thursday 5 October is National Poetry Day. The theme this year is 'Refuge'. We have included this very powerful, topical and thought-provoking piece by Brian Bilston.

Friends of Nobel School (FONS) News

Welcome to the new school year from the Friends of Nobel School group. We are a parent group, who help support the school through a few fundraisers each year. We meet about once per month, in the library, for no more than an hour. We would love to have you join us for one of the meetings or maybe to help out at one of our events during the year.

Our next FONS meeting is on Tuesday 14 November, at 7:00 pm, in the Nobel Library.

Our first event of the year is the Years 7 and 8 disco on Friday 10 November, from 7:00 – 9:00pm. If you're available to help with set-up, running the tuck shop, or clean-up. Please let Kym Arthur, our chairperson, know - kymarthur@btinternet.com.

You can also help by joining the monthly raffle called the '100 Club'. Each person who joins pays £2 per month per number. Half of the money goes to funds to support projects at Nobel and the other half is paid out in two monthly prizes. First prize is £24 and second prize is £16.

If you would like to join the 100 club or simply want more information about it, please contact the FONS treasurer, Jodie Laing, at jlaingseattle@gmail.com



July 100 Club winners

1st prize	D Thomson	18	£24
2nd prize	P Males	43	£16

August 100 Club winners

1st prize	A Castle	67	£24
2nd prize	C Watts	53	£16

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



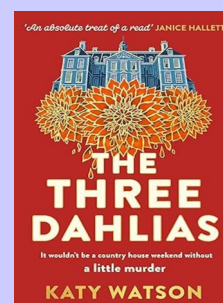

GCSEPOD.COM

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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 31 October 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

Student Sporting Successes - DMT & Trampolining

Congratulation to Mason Harradine (10M SPL), who recently competed in the DMT and Trampolining competition in Birmingham, as part of the Eastern Region Team.

The competition included teams from all 12 regions in the UK and Mason performed very well, now ranking 4th in the UK.

Well done, Mason.



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

Regan Carolan
Teacher of PE

Halloween Movie Night

On Friday 20 October, we are running a Halloween movie night to raise money for our World Challenge trip to Borneo, next July. Our trip to Borneo will be life-changing; the experience will be one of a kind. On the expedition we will be working with some locals to help improve their village, visiting/helping in conservation centres, trekking up a mountain and lots more!

Anyway, back to the movie night, we will be showing two films: Hotel Transylvania and Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. Both films are age rated 12 so our movie night is aimed at years 7-9, but students of any age, and their families, can come along. Snacks and drinks will be available too, as who can watch a movie without snacks?

ALL the information about timings for each movie, and location can be found on the poster, on the next page.

We are asking for an optional donation of £2.50 per person, which you pay at the door or through the School Gateway.

We hope to see many of you at the movie night very soon.

Thank you for your support.

Hannah Creighton (10T MGT)
Phoebe Chiwambo (10C RGY)

FUNDRAISING FOR WORLD CHALLENGE



JOIN US

MOVIE NIGHT HALLOWEEN

2 SPOOKY FILMS WITH FOOD AND DRINKS

DATE	20 OCT
OPEN GATE	MOVIE 1 - 4:45 MOVIE 2 - 6:45
LOCATION	THE HALL @ NOBEL
TICKET	IS AN OPTIONAL FEE (CAN BE PAID ON SCHOOL GATE WAY OR ON THE NIGHT)

MOVIE 1 - HOTEL
TRANSYLVANIA



MOVIE 2 - MISS PEREGRINE'S
HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN



Datchworth RFC GIRLS RUGBY

Inner Warrior
Recruitment Event

FREE TRIAL

Wednesday 18th October

7pm - 8pm

Datchworth Rugby Club

SG3 6TL

Open to girls
aged 9 to 17

Beginners Welcome!



Contact:

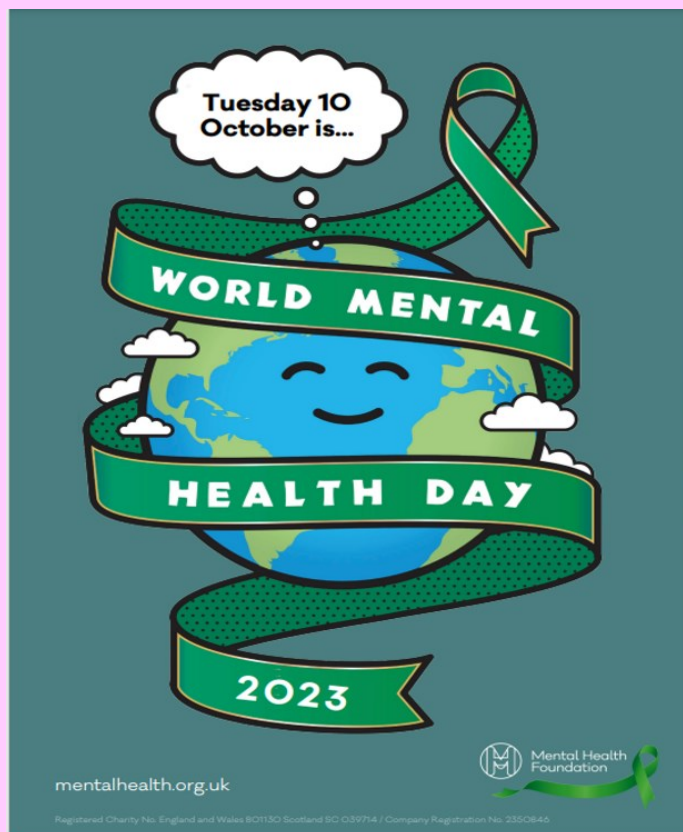
lynne.solomon@datchworthsportsclub.com



Mental Health Day - Tuesday 10 October

In alignment with World Mental Health Day, during the week commencing 9 October, we will be holding assemblies focused on mental health and well-being.

In addition to the signposts below, if you have concerns about your child's mental health, please contact their Head of Year.



Tips for World Mental Health Day:

- *Prioritize self-care: Dedicate time to activities that reduce stress and promote well-being.*
- *Connect with others: Reach out to friends and family for support and open conversations about mental health.*
- *Seek professional help when needed: Do not hesitate to consult a mental health expert if you're struggling with your mental well-being.*
- *If you, or someone you know is struggling with their mental health, do not hesitate to seek help from a professional. Seeking support can be a crucial step towards healing and resilience.*



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 12 October: 5:00 - 6:00pm - Year 11 Information Evening

Tuesday 17 October - Key Stage 5 Open Evening

Week Commencing Monday 23 October - Half term

Monday 30 October - School resumes for second half of autumn term



Autumn Term PE and Dance Extra-Curricular Club Schedule

Please see the PE Department and Dance 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 13 boys' football, Year 10 basketball, Years 7 to 10 netball, Years 7 to 10 badminton and table tennis and Years 7 to 9 boys' and girls' rugby.

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



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

NOBEL PE AND DANCE AUTUMN TERM SEPT-DEC

	Lunch-time 1:40-2:05pm	After School 3:15-4:15pm
MONDAY	Fitness Suite – Year 7 only CHL Badminton – KS3 only RCN Choreography club – all years	Boys football – all years LPY/PWR/DSN Netball – all years RCN/CHL
TUESDAY	Table Tennis – KS4 only LPY Basketball – KS4 only SHS/JFK Musical theatre club – all years	Staff meetings
WEDNESDAY	Fitness Suite – all years CHL Badminton – KS4 only NCT	Staff meetings and fixtures
THURSDAY	Fitness Suite – all years RCN Basketball – KS3 only JFK/CHL Tap Dance club – all years	Rugby – all students/all years JFK/LPY/CHL Dance club – all years
FRIDAY	Fitness Suite – girls only JSE Table Tennis – KS3 only JFK	Year 9 and KS4 Girls Zumba and Fitsticks RCN Girls Football – all years JSE

“To encourage maximum participation through an inclusive curriculum, inspiring students to fulfil a lifelong, healthy, active lifestyle.”