

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

Last week, I attended the annual Hertfordshire Headteachers' conference. The two-day event was attended by 80% of all the secondary headteachers and, as always, it was great to network and share ideas with colleagues from across the county. There were inspirational speakers, yet our conversations focussed on three related issues that seems to be affecting all schools whether they are in St Albans and Harpenden or Stevenage and Letchworth. Firstly, the unprecedented number of our young people with emotional needs. Secondly, the decline in behaviour of a small number of students and, finally, how we are all finding it difficult to set balanced budgets.

These three issues are, quite obviously, related but the thing that affects classroom teachers most is poor or low-level disruptive behaviour and, as parents, you need to know that we will not accept this decline. As you know, we have strengthened our systems at school, and we always expect best behaviour from all our students. We will not, under any circumstances, lower our expectations and our teachers should be shown courtesy and respect. They are a fantastic team working extremely hard. I do want to stress that those providing these challenges are a very small minority – certainly less than 5% of the school population.

At our conference, this picture was common in schools across Hertfordshire. Indeed, my wife, a headteacher in north London, reports a similar story. The reasons, I am sure, are complex, and the aftermath of the pandemic is certainly a factor, so is the decline in funding and the lack of alternatives to mainstream education. The decline in civility is also an issue.

My intention is not to alarm you, far from it. I like to tell you about what we are working on, we are holding the line for the vast majority, a third of whom have not had a single behaviour point since the beginning of the academic year. Please be assured that we will always work with you in the best interests of our students.

Finally, on a nice note, let me tell you about a story that we picked up on 'Stevenage Mums' Chat'. It was reported that some Nobel Year 7 students, playing football in the park, had noticed a seven-year-old watching with his mother, the boys approached the youngster and asked if he would like to join their game. He duly did and was encouraged throughout by our year 7 students. I thought that was lovely; whoever those boys are, well done!

Whatever you are doing over the holiday, please stay safe and have some fun.

Kind regards

Martyn Henson

U12 Girls' Futsal County Champions

For the first time ever, Nobel are U12 Girls' Futsal Champions!

During the first round at Barnwell School, back in February, the team played some fantastic futsal, and beat all the Stevenage Schools. This then led us to represent Stevenage in the next round at the County Competition at Hertfordshire University.

We played the following schools

Ashlyns, Roundwood, Chauncy, Knights Templar, St Albans Girls' School and Rickmansworth.

All of the above schools were tough opponents so all of the games were very difficult. Futsal is a very quick and skilful sport, the whole team really did have to work hard to keep winning the games.

Lucy Baker kept scoring the goals and defending so well, and Evie-Jane Cherry also kept scoring the goals. Janeisha, Evie and Mia worked hard in defence, keeping the goal scoring opportunities very low. But when the shots were coming in, Elana Day did some outstanding saves to keep Nobel in with a chance.

At the end of the competition we really didn't know who had won, as there was only one point separating the top two teams.

The first announcement was for Elana Day who had received the vote from the officials for Player of the Tournament, and was presented with the trophy by an England player. Then the announcement came that Nobel had won by one point, to make us County Futsal Champions, for the first time ever in Nobel's history. This is just a fantastic result for this wonderful team who have now won the District 7-a-side tournament and are the County Champions at Futsal.



We are so excited about this team in the future!

I would also like to give a special mention to Austin Holland who was exceptional on the day with this team. He talked them through everything, making the substitutions and, after every game, giving them debriefs on what we needed to do for the next game, which resulted in the team just getting better and better.

Congratulations ladies, we are so excited about next season.



Mrs Jackie Saville
PE Teacher



Year 8 Visit to The Opal Coast in France

On Wednesday 13 March, we left England to travel to France by coach. We crossed the Channel by Euro Tunnel.

After a long and exciting journey, we arrived in France before a quick detour into Belgium to visit **P&J Belgian Chocolate Factory**. We were taught how they make chocolate from cocoa beans and the different processes for dark, milk and white chocolate. It was fantastic to learn about the history behind chocolate and see the journey that cocoa beans take before they end up in our shops, as the chocolate we buy. We then decorated our own chocolate bars with marshmallows and smarties – they were very tasty! After the experience, we explored the gift shop and many of us bought chocolate to bring home.

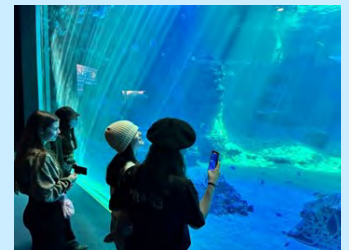


Then, we travelled to our accommodation – **Le Château d'Ebblinghem** – where we had some free time. We were able to settle into our rooms, play on the fields or make the most of the new games room, which had table tennis, table football, pool and more. After this, we had a delicious dinner at the Château. Once everyone had eaten, we all experienced a special crêpe-making workshop where we had to follow French instructions to make and enjoy our own crepes. After a very busy and exciting day, we went to bed for a good night's sleep before another busy day.



The next day started with breakfast and making baguettes for lunch. We then went to the market and had some free time to look around the stalls, which sold everything from food, clothes, jewellery and more. Following this, we went straight to the biscuit factory to learn how biscuits are made in France. We bought biscuits and then we went to the beautiful old town, which was surrounded by great stone walls. Here, we went to a restaurant to buy crêpes and desserts and, if you ordered in French, the teachers would pay for the food!

Later, we went to **Nausicaa** sea life aquarium – the biggest in Europe. Nausicaa was an incredible experience and a chance for us to see a vast array of marine life, from stingrays to sharks, jellyfish to penguins and even crocodiles. We returned to our Château for dinner and a silent disco in the games room before bed.



Day three started with another yummy breakfast and lunch prep, before packing up our last bits and getting back on the coach for our final adventures.

Our first stop was la boulangerie (a bakery) where we had a masterclass in making croissants and also learned how bread is made by hand in a furnace. The man who was at the croissant station was funny (but scary), and some students were even called 'petit' (small) by him. We concluded our visit with a trip to the bakery shop to buy bread and cakes as a treat.



Year 8 Visit to The Opal Coast in France

Later, we went to the snail farm and learned how they breed snails. We also learned they had over 100,000 snails there! They let us put the snails on our hands and even on our faces. We explored the grounds, and the shed where the snails are bred was truly fascinating. We were then given the opportunity to try some snails, with different flavourings (feta cheese and tomato, cheese and paprika, and garlic butter). Some people liked the snails, others were not so keen.

After the snail farm, we returned to Le Shuttle (the Euro Crossing via the Euro Tunnel) and returned to Stevenage.

It was a fantastic three days and we loved learning more about the French culture. It was great for us to be able to put our learning into action and have a go at speaking French. We would like to thank the teachers for all their hard work in organising and running the trip, as well as their fun and energy whilst on the trip.



Written by Year 8 students: Matthew Jackson, Charlie Jones and Oli Janas



Year 7 Visit to Jamie's Farm

On Monday 11 March Ms Hill, Ms Fox and Mrs Amey took twelve Year 7 students to visit Jamie's farm in Monmouthshire, Wales. After a long minibus journey with all our bags we finally made it onto the farm. Students stayed on a working farm and helped by mucking out the cows, pigs, horses, and sheep, feeding all the animals including the chickens.



Each day students woke up at 7:30am sharp, ready for their morning jobs. Every morning one group cooked a tasty breakfast for the other student groups who were outside working hard in the wind, rain, or sunshine. The breakfasts always started with porridge and were followed by pancakes or French toast if we were lucky.



After breakfast we had a check in, where we ranked how we were all feeling that day, between 1-10, and then we were onto our afternoon jobs. We had to make sure the new sheep that had arrived had a comfortable bed; some of the students did some grooming of the horses and the rest were busy preparing lunch.



At the end of every day, we completed a walk. Some were wet, some were foggy, and some were super fun. The last walk of the week started with a hill rolling competition in which the students (and some staff) walked to the top of the hill and started to roll down. After lots of screams and a bumpy journey down we had our winner. It was a muddy hill roll but we all had the best time!



The Barn is where we gathered to give a 'shout out' to anyone we thought had faced a challenge and overcome it. All students were able to feel proud of a challenge they had overcome and to help support each other throughout the week.

Staff are so proud of our students, who all truly showed their Nobelian character with each challenge they were faced with. It was a brilliant week for all of us and, rain or shine, we had a great time!



Mrs Lynn Amey
SENDCo



Nobel Network in Action Again

More former Nobel students and members of the Nobel Network recently visited us. They gave up time again to work with current students in Year 10.

Charlotte Llewellyn – psychotherapist, Dr Kat Bailey – fire fighter, psychologist & business owner, and Jonathan Rudd - motion designer, all gave thought-provoking talks on their jobs and their journey since their student days at Nobel. Presenters were then subjected to questions from the students. This was another fantastic event and one which many more students will have access next year.

We hope that our alumni will inspire future leaders in their chosen fields. Our visitors shared aspects of their own journeys, some of whom had overcome real challenges and adversity. This helped students focus on qualities such as resilience and the need to 'keep going.' A fantastic couple of days enjoyed by all.

If anyone reading this is a former student (or knows one), please contact us at nobelnetwork@nobel.herts.sch.uk or better still, register using the QR, to receive alumni newsletters.



Barry Burningham

Nobel Network Co-ordinator



Friends of Nobel School (FONS) News

At the last FONS meeting, we agreed to support a number of requests from a variety of departments within the school, which totaled £776.67.

These funds went to purchase the following:

- ◆ Some hats for a residential trip to 'Jamie's Farm'
- ◆ Trophies for students for a series of awards
- ◆ Gelli plates for the art department
- ◆ New netball kit for the team

Your support for FONS is always very welcome.



The next FONS Meeting will take place on Monday 15 April, 7.00-8.00pm, in Nobel library. Do please join us if you can.

Alternatively, why not support us by joining the 100 Club. Details of February's winners are below.

February 100 Club winners

1st prize	Julie Pennington	39	£24
2nd prize	Cheryl Hodgson	47	£16





AGES 4 - 14
BOYS & GIRLS

9AM - 3PM

EASTER CAMP!

TOURNAMENTS CHALLENGES FUTSAL
GAMES INFLATABLES
AND MUCH MORE...

WEEK 1 :
TUESDAY 2ND
WEDNESDAY 3RD
THURSDAY 4TH

LOTS OF FOOTBALL FUN!

WEEK 2 :
TUESDAY 9TH
WEDNESDAY 10TH
THURSDAY 11TH

**£20 A DAY
£50 FOR 3 DAYS**

BOOK YOUR HALF TERM FUN!

07982428399 - JT

VENUE :
THE NOBEL SCHOOL
SG2 0HS

Garden House Hospice Leys Avenue shop
Prom 2024 dress event
Thursday 18th April 6pm to 8.30pm
SAVE THE DATE



Preloved prom dresses, shoes and accessories . More details soon.



STEVENAGE AND NORTH HERTS ATHLETIC CLUB

RUN. JUMP or THROW

Holiday Athletic Programme 2024

8years-14years only

2nd - 5th April and 8th - 12th April

Hurdles, Sprints (100m, 200m, relays), Endurance (800m, 1500m), High Jump, Long Jump, Shot, Discus, Hammer and Javelin.
In addition Wednesday 3rd April & Wednesday 10th April, 10-12 Beginners PV for those aged 12-14 years only

10-3pm (bring your own packed lunch) £26 per session - £20 each for 5 or more

or
10-12am or 1-3pm £14 per session - £11 each for 5 or more

Booking Link Below
<https://forms.gle/hGakHUaQ3Lctw8DX9>

Part of the HAPPY Scheme for Children on Free School Meals – book through Playwaze.



Enquiries holidevclubsnhac@gmail.com



JT COACHING



FUTSAL TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY 5TH APRIL - MONDAY 8TH APRIL -
U7 TOURNAMENT (AM) U9 TOURNAMENT (AM)
U10 TOURNAMENT (PM) U11/12 TOURNAMENT (PM)

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL - 4 TEAMS PER AGE GROUP
U8 TOURNAMENT (AM) £60 PER TEAM
U14/15 TOURNAMENT (PM)

INFLATABLES INCLUDED -
FOR PLAYERS & SPECTATORS
PANNA PITCHES & KICK DART

TUCK SHOP AVAILABLE -
SNACKS & DRINKS
CASH & CARD ACCEPTED

5 v 5 FORMAT -
MAXIMUM 10 PLAYERS
PER SQUAD

07982428399 - JT

VENUE :
NOBEL SCHOOL
SG2 0HS

British Science Week: 8 - 17 March 2024

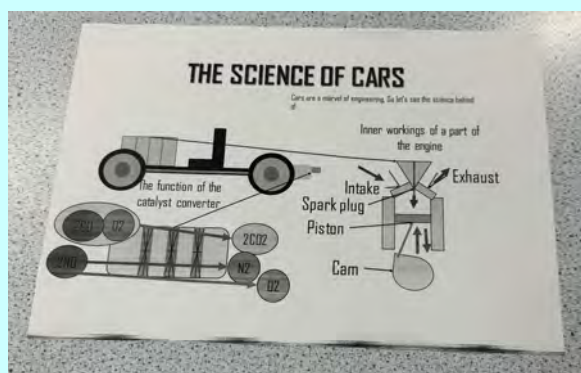
This year's theme for Science Week was time, and the science department have celebrated this in multiple ways. Science assemblies were run for years 7 – 11, where videos of our science teachers explaining how science relates to time were viewed. Speeches on famous scientists – Albert Einstein, Mary Anning and Ronald Mallet – were read by three year 9 and 10 students, and multiple sixth form science ambassadors performed interesting experiments, such as making a rainbow fizz with universal indicator. For years 9 – 11, the assembly ended with a fun video on where a career in science could take them, linking in with their GCSE studies and (for the year 11s) post-16 options.

Lunchtime sessions were also run every day of the week in the double labs, where students of all ages could take part in fun activities related to time. On Monday, students made acid clocks using lemons and strips of zinc and copper. On Tuesday, real fossils were brought in for students to look at, and students used toy dinosaurs and plaster casts to make their own fossils. On Wednesday, students looked at the science behind music, and on Thursday some students displayed their own experiments as part of a science fair. The students placed first in the science fair were Roberta Chastell and Keira -Leigh O'Neil, with their experiment on how time is perceived differently depending on what activity you are doing. On Friday, students took part in an exciting egg timer challenge.

Overall, this year's science week was celebrated in a fun and interactive way, while also teaching students about all the amazing ways that time links to science!



Bea Gray 10C RGY





North Herts Schools Book Awards

Our book group set off on 15 March for Hitchin Girls' School, in eager anticipation of our annual Book Awards morning.

On arrival we were allocated our tables and met with students from ten schools across North Hertfordshire. We quickly settled in to discuss the shortlisted books. Everyone enthusiastically discussed and deliberated over the books. Then it was time to cast our votes, which were counted while we enjoyed a well-earned break and lots of mingling.

Our speaker this year was Yasmin Rahman, author of last year's winner for the older category, *Why is Nobody Laughing?* Yasmine explained her motivation for becoming a writer and the inspiration for her stories.

Students were able to buy copies of Yasmin's books and have them signed.

A very enjoyable morning was had by all!

The winners for this year are, for the younger category: *Until the Road Ends* by Phil Earle, and for the older category: *Boy Like Me* by Simon James Green. All books are available to borrow from Nobel Library.

The Shortlists:

Older Category:

- *Boy Like Me* by Simon James Green
- *Crossing the Line* by Tia Fisher
- *You Think You Know Me* by Ayaan Mohamud

Younger Category:

- *Until the Road Ends* by Phil Earle
- *Ravencave* by Marcus Sedgwick
- *Murder at the Museum* by Alasdair Beckett-Smith



Mrs Ros Essakhi
Librarian



Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Depending on how our brains are wired, we think, move, process information and communicate in different ways. Many people in our community use neurodiversity as an umbrella term used to describe alternative thinking styles such as Dyslexia, DCD (Dyspraxia), Dyscalculia, Autism and ADHD. But, regardless of labels, neurodiversity is about recognising those who think differently. At Nobel, we foster an inclusive environment making reasonable adjustments to support all.

Approximately 15-20% of the population has a neurological difference. Instead of labelling students with deficits or disorders, when we use the term neurodiversity, we take a balanced view of an individual's unique strengths and challenges. Many 'challenges' neurodivergent students face are more to do with the environment and systems they are placed in, often designed by a majority population.

Did you know?

- ◆ No two people are the same, and so we will all have different profiles
- ◆ Although we talk about specific neurodivergence, such as Autism and Dyslexia, the reality is that they can co-cure
- ◆ Every neurodivergent individual has a unique pattern of strengths and challenges
- ◆ We tend to operate on an approach to diagnosis and labels which can mean that, quite often, the focus is on the challenges rather than the many strengths and talents of neurodivergent individuals
- ◆ It is important that we take a person-centred approach by tailoring strategies to each individual
- ◆ It is important to harness the strengths of neurodivergent individuals, this helps to build confidence and self-esteem, and ensure individuals are given the opportunity to flourish
- ◆ **At Nobel School, approximately 13.3% of our students are neurodiverse**

Student Quote: 'Obviously, being neurodiverse affects me in school but, outside of school, it's not much of a problem. I don't really care about it, but when I don't take my meds, I get really distracted and stare around and don't really listen. I feel like I've been supported well at the school, but I probably haven't taken advantage of it as much as I should. I'm different to my peers because I can jump really high, and they are all small, so they jump really low'.

Staff Quote: 'A school is a place where everyone, all students and staff, are constantly learning, adapting, trying new things and growing every day. This can be incredibly challenging and draining for neurodivergent people, which is why it is so important that we get to work somewhere supportive and understanding and create that same environment for our students.'

It is so nice to work in an environment where no question feels too big, too small or silly and I know, whenever I need help, support or advice, there are so many friendly faces I can turn to, and I can't wait to see how much further I can go. I really struggle with doing things for the first time as it feels like I am walking a tight rope where one wrong step could lead me plummeting to my death. I am thankful for my safety net just below me created by all staff at Nobel, which makes me feel comfortable and confident enough to try and master new skills.'

Mrs Lynn Amey

SENDCo



Developing Character

Currently, the character focus is on the Nobelian virtue of being resilient

The Character Conundrum from now until 19/04/24 is below. Please can you take some time during the Easter holiday to read through this with your child and discuss what the right moral choice would be. Please note these are not planned to necessarily match the fortnight focus.

Mr Nick Brown
Assistant Head

Character Conundrum 12: focus on CURIOUS/ RELIABLE

Peter and Bridget had been best friends since primary school. A few months ago, Bridget started chatting with some guy online. Bridget and the guy did not know each other's real names. All Bridget knew was that he lived in London. Peter found out the guy told her that he was nineteen years old. Bridget was only thirteen and Peter started sensing danger.

Peter tried to talk to Bridget one afternoon. Bridget's mum had found out the day before that she was making long calls on her phone and had taken it off her; now she wanted to use his. Peter tried to talk to Bridget, but she said she was not going to stop talking to this guy just because Peter was upset. Peter was only thirteen and felt he had no power to protect his friend. He did not want to go to Bridget's mum. That left only his parents, but telling them felt like a betrayal Bridget might never forgive. What was he supposed to do?

Support

More and more, our young people are facing dilemmas and dangerous situations that look nothing like when we were young. This fact, coupled with what little amount of time adolescents spend talking with or even seeing their parents during their secondary school years, creates a serious issue. Even when busy or overwhelmed, parents try to learn how to navigate this new landscape of technology and stress, they don't feel they have the tools to see red flags. When it feels like something is wrong, something **is** wrong. Parents must pay attention and follow their gut.

Some parents feel that because the game has changed, the rules have as well. They have not. What parents and adults need to do is pay attention and act unashamedly on behalf of their children's safety, despite the anger or resentment that might cause.

Fine, so that is advice for the adults. But that is not Peter's dilemma. It is important to know that the first issue is Peter should not have to deal with this dilemma alone. There is something wrong that Bridget has been racking up hours of time with this guy and still Peter is the only one who has noticed.

Questions

- ◆ Can you identify the moral dilemma in this situation?
- ◆ How do you know the difference between a challenging situation and a dangerous one? Which do you think describes Bridget's decision?
- ◆ What would you do if you were in Peter's shoes? Is there anything he can do without losing his lifelong friendship? What, specifically, makes Peter's decision so hard?
- ◆ What are some reasons maybe Peter should tell someone about this?
- ◆ Have you ever had a friend you knew was doing something that could get her/him into trouble? What did you do?
- ◆ What do you think about Bridget flirting with this guy online?
- ◆ Do you know anyone who flirts online? Have you ever worried about him/her?

Nobel Sports Leaders at the School Games Hertfordshire Finals

On Tuesday 19 March, nine Sports Leaders from Years 9 and 10 represented Nobel at the School Games Hertfordshire finals, helping the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team to run the Year 3 and 4 rapid fire cricket competition.

As part of our partnership with Hertfordshire Cricket, students took part in a leadership day in January to develop their leadership skill and understanding of the game of cricket in order to help at primary events. Amy's report opposite, outlines what the students did in the build up and on the day.

Julia Burrows, Competition Lead at Stevenage Sporting Futures Team said, *"The Year 9 and 10 Rapid Fire cricket umpires did Stevenage proud at the Herts School Games County Final, on Tuesday 19 March, at Wodson Park in Ware. The Nobel students were the official umpires for both the Year 3/4 large schools and small schools events."*

"This followed on from them umpiring the local rounds in Stevenage, working alongside the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team. The girls showed great maturity and knowledge in all the games and helped both events to run smoothly throughout the day. They were an absolute credit to Nobel and SSFT look forward to working with them again in the future."

Well done to Kayleigh, Amy, Freya C, Freya H, Rose, Kacey, Zara and Jessica who showed incredible Nobelian character, and did the school proud.

Mr Regan Carolan
Teacher of PE

Student report

Over the last year, we have all learnt a lot about how to umpire cricket games, especially for primary school children. Recently, we learnt about rapid fire cricket.

Firstly, we learnt how to play the game and we tried it out ourselves, which was a lot of fun. Then we learnt how the scoring system worked and tried it out on one of the games we played together.

Once we understood the game and how to score it, we then umpired the small schools' years 3/4 competition where we got to help the children to play the game. For some of them, it was their first time playing. We were able to explain the rules and umpire their matches to make their day enjoyable while improving our umpiring abilities.

After that, we were at the rapid fire cricket county finals, where all the schools that had won in their area were competing. We started first with the large schools and then onto the small schools. The entire day was enjoyable for both us and the primary schools and it was filled with great cricket and umpiring skills.



Amy Miller
10E TBT

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15 April - Summer Term begins

Wednesday 17 April - Y7 Parents' Consultation Evening

Wednesday 8 May - Y12 Parents' Consultation Evening



Macbeth at Milton Keynes Theatre

Some of our Year 10 students had the privilege of attending a performance of 'Macbeth' on Friday. It was an interesting adaptation with two actors performing all the characters; making the use of lighting and sound effects really important in presenting a coherent story line.



The performance focused on looking at pairs of relationships within the text, which was wonderful from a revision perspective. It was also wonderful to see some students mouthing key quotes as they were performed on stage while other students chose to follow the performance through in their annotated text to see which scenes were cut for the shortened stage adaptation.

We were pleased to hear some of the questions our students posed to the actors in the Q & A session after the performance.

Miss Lisa Steele
English Teacher

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 to 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 23 April 2024

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



SIGN UP
HERE



GIRLS PATHWAY TRIALS

TUESDAY 28TH MAY - THURSDAY 30TH MAY 2024

TUESDAY 28TH

U11 - 9:30-11AM

U14 - 11:30-1PM

U13 - 1:30-3PM

U12 - 3:30-5PM

WEDNESDAY 29TH

U10 & GK's - 9:30-11AM

U11 - 11:30-1PM

U13 - 1:30-3PM

U16 - 3:30-5PM

THURSDAY 30TH

U10 & GK's - 9:30-11AM

U12 - 11:30-1PM

U14 - 1:30-3PM

U16 - 3:30-5PM

MARRIOTTS SCHOOL - TELFORD AVE - STEVENAGE - SG2 0AN

Nobel Celebrates Student Achievements

Martial Arts - Congratulations to Eden Brown, 7C DAN (pictured right) who recently attended the national taekwondo championships and finished with a silver medal for sparring and a bronze in poomsae.

Well done Eden!

Football - Congratulations also to Emily Grint (8T EES) and her football team, Hertford Ladies Under 14 Rio, who won the Hertfordshire County Cup on Saturday 23 March 2024 beating Hitchin FC 3-1 at the County Ground in Letchworth. This is a fantastic achievement and it is wonderful to see Emily performing magnificently inside and outside of school.

Well done Emily!

Dance - On the weekend of 9 March, Jack Collins in Year 8, participated in the XM Street Dance Championships. This is a competition where teams from across the country come together to compete in different age groups and perform their choreographed sequences. While there, Jack had a great time and placed 5th in the U14 intermediate solos, 3rd in U14 intermediate crews and 5th In U14 advanced quads. We are very proud of Jack as a Nobel student participating in such an event and with such good results.

Well done Jack!



Hertfordshire School Games Girls' Festival

On Wednesday 20 March, a group of Year 7 students visited Wodson Park for the annual Hertfordshire School Games Girls' Festival. The festival was an opportunity for students to represent the school in a county event, whilst participating in activities which encouraged them to develop important skills such as communication and teamwork. The aim of the festival was to inspire the girls to develop ideas in order to establish a club of their choice.

Before attending the event, the students completed a pre-training session at Nobel with the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team where the students completed several icebreaker activities, whilst exploring why girls take part in physical activity and potential barriers to participation. The Year 7 students were also able to meet the two Year 10 mentors who had been specifically selected to support the students at the event.

The festival started with an inspirational opening speech from paralympic gold medallist, Kylie Grimes MBE, who spoke to the girls about having big dreams, overcoming diversity and the importance of having a strong support network around you. This was a fantastic way to motivate the students even further and prepare them for their first activity. At the start of the day, the Nobel students reported feelings such as being nervous, excited and curious, with the aim of becoming confident and proud by the end of the event.



During the first activity, students were encouraged to work as a team to solve problems. The way in which the students worked with each other was outstanding and meant they were able to complete all the activities. They had great fun trying to work their way out of the human knot icebreaker!



Following this, the students participated in two alternative activities: Roundnet and Pickleball. Roundnet is a game with a ball and a small trampoline-like net where the ball must be rebounded off the net to the opposition team. Pickleball is a game where players try and hit a plastic ball over the net with a large paddle. Participating in the two sports inspired the students to consider the different types of activities that could be led during their club.



After the lunch break, the final session was led by Jenna. During the first activity, which encouraged students to practice their communication skills, it was brilliant to see our Nobelians working with students from other schools and, within their groups, guessing the route across the hall by considering previous options they had taken. For this activity, it was essential for the students to work together and take into account everybody's ideas.

Hertfordshire School Games Girls' Festival

Further activities within the session encouraged students to work outside of their comfort zones and face their fears. Jenna's focus was centred around being confident and changing the word 'impossible' to **I'M POSSIBLE**. Students completed activities focusing on teamwork and trust. Nobelians were working in pairs, with one student blindfolded and the other tasked with helping their partner complete a maze, avoiding the obstructions. Finally, students held a large rope within a circle and Emma walked on top of the rope the students were holding.



At the end of the event, the Nobel students said they felt proud and inspired, having had a fantastic day. A special thank you to the Year 7 form tutors and pastoral team who nominated the students to attend the event. Also, to Head of Year 7, Ms Danaher, who accompanied the students to the event and took part in all the activities alongside the students, boosting their confidence. Thank you!

Well done to all the students who took part in the festival. A special mention must go to Year 10 mentors Isobel Graham and Kiera Martin, who participated fully across the day, supporting their younger peers through some challenging activities. We look forward to seeing the club that the students create.

Mr Regan Carolan
Teacher of PE

Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics County Final

As previously communicated, the Nobel Year 7 Girls Sports Hall Athletics Team became district champions on Thursday 15 February, having won the Stevenage School Games competition. Therefore, the team made the county final and would come up against the strongest teams across the county from each School Games district.

The Sports Hall Athletics competition is held indoors and features a range of track events, including: relay, 2-lap individual and 8-lap paarlauf, and field events including: triple jump, shot putt and speed bounce. Typically, students compete in 2 track events and 2 field events across the competition, requiring an incredible level of skill to be able to participate in a range of different events.



The county final took place at Wodson Park in Ware, on Tuesday 19 March. The county competition was always going to be tough, and we truly feel that the Nobel team did fantastically well. They finished 8th out of 12 teams, meaning they are the 8th best Year 7 Girls' Indoor Athletics Team in the county. Not many students can say that, and it is a wonderful achievement. They are the first Nobel Indoor Athletics Team to make the county final in many years.

Well done to all of the following Year 7 girls: Fearn G, Mia D, Evie-Jane C, Annierose B, Elana D, Rose A, Jasmine S, Chloe B

The PE Department are incredibly proud of all the team's achievements; both the district win and their efforts during the county competition.

Mr Regan Carolan
Teacher of PE

Celebrations all round for our Nobel Sports Teams

As we approach the end of our second term this academic year, we thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to reflect on our fixtures and successes so far!

Since September, we have dedicated over 160 hours to extra-curricular clubs both at lunchtime and after school. From badminton club to indoor athletics club and everything in-between, our students have been offered a variety of activities to get involved with and many have taken this opportunity to fully immerse themselves in a club or two each week.

Off the back of these well-attended clubs, we have fulfilled a grand total of 127 fixtures since the start of September. Through, quite literally, blood, sweat and tears, our students have conducted themselves in true Nobelian fashion – gracious when winning and showing acceptance when losing. They have battled hard, shown dedication, and displayed excellent sportsmanship values throughout, which has made us immensely proud to have them as part of our PE community here at Nobel.

Below are just some of the sporting accolades we have achieved so far this year.

Teams

District Champions:

- ◆ Senior boys' basketball team
- ◆ Year 7 girls' 7-a-side football team
- ◆ Year 7 girls' indoor athletics team
- ◆ U19 mixed boccia team

County Champions:

- ◆ Year 7 girls' futsal team

Runners Up:

- ◆ Year 9 boys' football district cup final
- ◆ U14 girls' badminton team
- ◆ U16 girls' badminton team
- ◆ Year 7 boys' indoor athletics team
- ◆ Year 8 girls' 7-a-side football team

Individual

- ◆ Aubrey Murray – District X-Country champion and bronze medal in Intermediate Boys' Freestyle
- ◆ Ruby Whitby – Silver in Junior Girls' Breaststroke
- ◆ Matthew Jackson – Silver medal in Junior Boys' Backstroke
- ◆ Lucy Peterson – Silver medal in Intermediate Girls' Freestyle
- ◆ Annabelle Brown – Silver medal in Senior Girls' Freestyle
- ◆ Elana Day – Player of the County Futsal Tournament

With the spring term drawing to a close, we are in the process of preparing for our summer curriculum and extra-curricular activities which will include Athletics, Cricket and Rounders. Please find the new extra-curricular timetable below and please encourage your children to come and join us in the PE area to give one of these sports a go. After all, the weather should be getting warmer, and the evenings will be getting lighter.

Finally, we just wanted to say a huge thank you to parents/guardians who have helped support the PE department this year, from dropping off packed lunches and forgotten football boots to running the line and standing on poolside until 9:45pm, as well as dropping other students home after fixtures. Without your support, our job would be a lot more difficult, so thank you!

The PE Department

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Tennis MUGA	Tennis MUGA	Tennis MUGA	Tennis MUGA	Tennis MUGA
After-school	Athletics FIELD	Staff meet- ings	Staff meetings	Cricket ASTRO Rounders FIELD	No clubs