

Nobel News

18 October 2024
Edition 13.03



Nobel

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

Our GCSE examination results were excellent, and this is undoubtedly down to dedicated work by students and teachers, however, a significant part of our improvement is down to us sharing good practice across the school.

Parents will not be aware that staff meet every week to share ideas and talk about teaching; our focus is on making marginal improvements in our pedagogy (the theory and practice of teaching) and sharing these with colleagues. Coupled with this, senior staff try to visit every class for every period, checking on progress, supporting on behaviour management and offering support to students and teachers. Staff have a pre-planned curriculum, agreed to by everyone in the department, then encouraged to develop this personally. We started this journey five years ago and it has proved an enormous success and our aim this year is to replicate this exercise in the sixth form.

Talking of the sixth form, it is our post 16 open evening next Wednesday, 23 October. We recommend that all year 11 students attend, to give them the opportunity to start considering what they intend to do next year. Last year 60% of our students stayed on into our sixth form. Departments will be present to discuss courses with parents and students and there will be a short talk from Ms Reeder, our excellent Head of Sixth Form.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents of the wide variety of clubs that are available to our students, there really is something for everyone. We currently have 90 clubs that will be running this year, although if your child has something specific that they would like to have taking place, then they simply need to speak to a member of staff who will be prepared to supervise it. Some of the clubs we have at the moment are: Darts Club - playing games to improve technique and to increase scores, Eco Club - working together to make the school more sustainable and reduce our carbon footprint, Running Club - for all levels to improve stamina and speed, Mathematics Challenge Club - a range of fun problems and puzzles, and Lego Club - who does not like making things with Lego?? Currently, we have 44% of the students signed up to a club (52% in KS3/4) and would ask for your help to sit down with your child, to look at the clubs that are taking place and to sign up to at least one club; you can do this online, using Arbor. If you need help, please email Nick Brown at nick.brown@nobel.herts.sch.uk

Finally, may I appeal to parents for their support in improving punctuality to school. The vast majority of students are always on time but, for some, arriving 10-15 minutes late in the morning has become habitual. Please support us in getting all Nobelians to the school gate before 8:25am. Being on time is a bugbear of mine and it is good practice for the work environment, where employers will be less forgiving.

For my sins I am off to Sixfields to watch my beloved Northampton Town this weekend; whatever you are doing, have fun, and take care.

Kind regards

Martyn Henson

David Street, Nobel Alumni

Another very successful former Nobelian, David Street, came to talk to our year 7 students on Monday 7 October, during period 1. David attended Nobel in the class of 1992, and he is a content creator, focusing on connecting brands or an entity with its target audience. Content creators can work in a variety of fields, such as social media, blogs, podcasts, video platforms, case studies, white papers, infographics and much more.

David sat his GCSEs at Nobel and then went on to sixth form college, but dropped out here because he was not enjoying the business course he was undertaking. This made his professional journey more challenging as he had to start at the bottom and work his way up. David worked for several companies before deciding to set up his own business in Hull. Here he spent about £150,000 on the equipment he needed to start producing his own media adverts for other companies, and quickly built up a strong professional reputation, enabling him to command a large salary for his work. He has worked for companies such as Porsche, Mr Kipling (cakes) and Hull County Council, producing promotional adverts for each of the businesses. He also works around the world, visiting places such as China and America to name a few.



The most important message David gave the students is to work hard in school and maximise all your opportunities. David did not fulfil his academic potential at school and, with the benefit of hindsight, now appreciates that GCSEs and A' Levels will help you to reach your goals much quicker than starting at the lowest level in a company. He also talked about how important resilience is in turning your ambitions into reality.

David gave an example of his working week to the students, and he often works 12-hour days, spending from about 8am to 8pm each day working to plan and prepare his media streams and advertisements for companies. This often includes travelling to other parts of the country or around the world to meet clients and decide what needs to be produced. One example David gave was that he visits Porsche's Head Quarters, where they might give him the latest model and ask him to take the car away and produce picture or video footage of the car in order to advertise it. He can have access to this luxury car for up to a week!

I would like to thank David for giving his presentation to our year 7 students and giving up his time. The year 7 students were really enthused and asked a lot of questions about his presentation and career to date. Here are some links David shared with us, which portray his work.

Showreel 2023: <https://youtu.be/8tgX2A7TldQ?si=hX1mBSSTHAVqykwP>

Hull Karting: <https://youtu.be/JbRk70oTcoQ?si=OKKNu9icYV64tToT>

Porsche: https://youtu.be/Vz3WPXoauk?si=cjvj_TBVw9bJAmGu

Running Club

Come and join our growing running club. Keep fit, have fun and meet other runners.



Geography Club

Geography Club meets every Tuesday lunchtime in Room 321. Our next project, beginning straight after half term, is building biomes in a box. A biome is a large-scale ecosystem such as hot deserts or tropical rainforests and the challenge for our budding geographers is to produce a model of their chosen biome together with information about where it is located, what the climate is like and how plants and animals have adapted to living there. Below are some photos from previous years' entries.

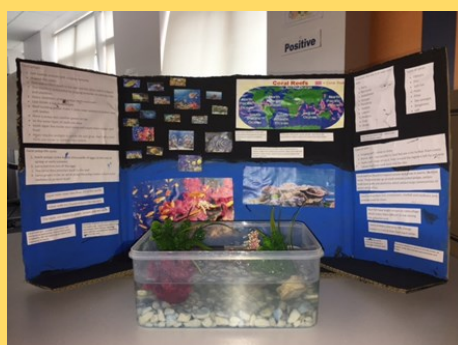
Geography Club is open to all students, who are welcome to bring their lunch along with them to Room 321 or they can ask Mrs Rose for an early lunch pass. It doesn't matter if you haven't signed up already, we'd love to see you there.

We're really looking forward to what this year's members will make of the challenge!

Students will have one week to research their chosen biome and then three weeks to make their project before judging takes place. There will be prizes in the following categories:

Ms Danaher, Ms Richardson, Mrs Rose
Geography Club

- ◆ The most informative box
- ◆ The most realistic biome
- ◆ The most creative box
- ◆ Best overall biome in a box



University Focus

The 2025 application cycle is well under way and a number of students have already applied for university. Some of these even have offers! We wish them all luck in their endeavours.

The application process began back in the summer term, with students researching courses and fields of interest. Students have been receiving individualised support from their form tutors in reading the drafts of these statements and will each have a one-to-one meeting with me to review the application, before we send it off. It is a real privilege to see the ambition, dedication and determination of Nobel students in taking these next steps.

This term the focus has been of writing personal statements in support of applications. Many of you will have attended our online session to learn more about the process but, if you were not able to attend, here is a flavour of what was covered. We ask students to think about the PS in 4 sections as outlined in the traffic light graphic below. Admissions tutors want to see engagement with the subject beyond the current programme of study and an understanding of what the course entails. In taught sessions, we have looked at examples of each section. Remember too additional help and support is available on the school website and on UCAS itself.



Today I want to share a link for additional support in making good choices about university from Better Uni Choices, and to draw your attention to the Springpod Subject Spotlights, which offer additional subject specific reading and advice.

[10 resources for making Better Uni choices](#)
[Subject spotlights](#)

Advice for parents, guardians and carers - 2025

<https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-parents-guardians-and-carers>

www.ucas.com/file/836141/download?token=zZ3xQW58

Mrs Una Bright

UCAS Co-ordinator

1. Why do you want to study your chosen course?

2. Is there a specific topic that you can discuss in detail?

3. What have you learnt from taking part in course-related activities?

4. What are your extra-curricular activities?

Structure and detail

Only 1 detail needed for each activity

Can you go into just a bit more detail?

Can you go into more detail and give specific examples?

Developing Character

For the next two weeks of school, character focus is on the Nobelian virtue of being [Grateful](#).

The Character Conundrum for 21/10/24 - 08/11/24 is below. Please can you take some time during the fortnight to read through this with your child and discuss what the right moral choice would be.

Character Conundrum 4 – GRATEFUL

Mary is on her way home and passes the village war memorial. Sat on the steps is a group of students that she knows well from school. As she approaches, she notices that the students are dropping all their litter on the floor, and one is doodling on the list of people who died in the war. She feels quite angry that these people do not understand the sacrifice that these men and women made to secure the future that Mary and her peers all enjoy. She wants to say something but is worried about the reaction she might get, both in the instant and later at school.

What should he do?

Support

Peer pressure is a difficult thing for most young people. The wish to be accepted, liked and popular can often overshadow the key notion of being respected. Mary cannot fix the views of all the people in the world, but she can have an impact on these few. It is important that someone says something so that these young people understand that their behaviour is unacceptable but, if Mary is concerned about some sort of reproach, perhaps speaking to a trusted adult would be a better approach. These students need educating rather than telling off.

Questions

- ◆ Can you identify the moral dilemma in this situation?
- ◆ What do you think Mary should do?
- ◆ What do you think the reaction of the groups of students will be?
- ◆ Does it matter if they are the same age as her or younger?
- ◆ If you needed to speak to a trusted adult, who would you choose?

Mr Nick Brown
Assistant Head

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 23 October: KS5 Open Evening, 3.30 - 5:00pm

Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November: Half Term

Thursday 14 November: Y9 Options Fair, 4:30 - 6:00pm

Wednesday 20 November: Form Tutor Evening, 12:30 - 6:00pm



School Games Golf Festival

On Friday 4 October, seven students from across key stage three attended Stevenage Golf Club as part of a Golf Festival hosted by the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team.

Students had the chance to experience a carousel of golf stations, working alongside professional players to improve their skills. Students had the chance to work at chipping onto the green, putting and hitting off the tee on the driving range. This was an experience enjoyed by all (including Mr Ferguson) and hopefully may inspire those involved to have another go at golf in the near future.



Mr Jack Ferguson
Teacher of PE



Student report

On the morning of Friday 4 October, I felt proud to attend and be chosen to take part in the golf festival. I really enjoyed the event, despite not being an avid golfer and found it fun and educational. We did a range of activities from putting to chipping and then got to use the driving range, which was my personal favourite.

We began with putting, where precision and calmness was key. There were a range of different holes which were of varying lengths with a range of different obstacles. For chipping, similar activities occurred whereas the technique and range were different. Throughout these activities, we were coached by professional golfers at the club. Finally, on the driving range, we had an exciting opportunity to see how far you could hit the ball. At the end, we even had the chance to go up against Mr Ferguson in a tournament game.

Thank you to Mr Carolan for organising and Mr Ferguson for taking us to the event. It was an amazing opportunity and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Lewis Wilmott
8C RCN



PE Club Spotlight: Girls and Boys' Rugby

Day: Monday

Time: After school, 3:05-4:05pm

Year Group: All year groups

Location: Field

Club leads: Mrs Hill, Mr Ferguson and Mr Bennett

Since September, Rugby Club has been held on the field every Monday after school for both boys and girls. Come rain or shine, rugby club will run every week, so be prepared to get muddy!

By attending rugby club, students are able to extend the knowledge they have obtained within their PE lessons – if they have covered rugby – and apply this to a range of fun activities and practice matches. The key skills are covered including passing, tackling and support play.



Even if you haven't played rugby before, you will be able to learn new skills and find a love for a new sport.

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

- ♦ *"I genuinely didn't think I would like rugby, but I attended the club and have recently attended my first fixture and have been loving it."*
- ♦ *"After starting rugby at Nobel, I now play outside of school for a club."*

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

Mr Regan Carolan
Teacher of PE

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ASCL Association of School and College Leaders

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- 4) Create a username and password

GCSEPOD.COM INFO@GCSEPOD.COM 0191 338 7830

Physical Education Fixtures Spotlight: October 2024

Please see below some of the sporting fixtures that Nobel have taken part in over the past few weeks, up to and including Wednesday 16 October. To find details of extra-curricular clubs and fixtures, please visit the Fixtures Noticeboard in the PE Department which features upcoming fixtures, results, players of the match and team sheets for each sport.

Date	Team and Sport	Opposition	Result	Player of the Match
Wednesday 02/10	Y10 Girls' Football	Barclay Academy	0-1 WIN	Ruby Sypula
Thursday 03/10	Y9 Girls' Football County Cup Round 1	Longdean School	6-1 WIN	Emily Grint
Wednesday 09/10	Y9 Girls' Football	Barnwell School	0-6 WIN	Evie Dillnutt
Thursday 10/10	Y9 Boys' Football	Barclay Academy	11-2 WIN	Ethan Hince
Thursday 10/10	Y8 Boys' Rugby	Thomas Alleyne	2-9 WIN	Adewale Adekanye
Thursday 10/10	Y8 Boys' Rugby	John Henry Newman	5-6 Loss	Adewale Adekanye
Monday 14/10	Y11 Netball	St Chris School	7-19 Loss	Bethany Allardyce
Monday 14/10	Y10 Netball	King James Academy	17-5 Loss	Mackenzie Zeelie
Wednesday 16/10	Y10 Netball	Barclay Academy	0-16 WIN	Lucy Peterson
Wednesday 16/10	Y8 Girls' Football	King James Academy	2-0 WIN	Lucy Baker

Well done to all the students who have represented Nobel over the past couple of weeks. You have made the PE Department proud, showing true Nobelian spirit. Every student who represents the school and PE Department at extra-curricular fixtures are awarded with ABC points for each and every attendance.

A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and guardians who have taken the time to cheer from the sidelines for our teams, both home and away. This doesn't go unnoticed and is a big support for our students.

Both parents/guardians and students can be reminded of the extra-curricular processes and offering in Physical Education by visiting the following link: https://nobelhertssch-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/regan_carolan_nobel_herts_sch_uk/EQy2YiGqCj5MkTffpH5G40kBzxcNoXFNEOxqyRIJhsZH5w?e=bsNhfA



Mr Regan Carolan
Teacher of PE

Physical Education Fixtures Spotlight: October 2024



Junior Football Coach Award - October Half Term

Who is it for?

The award is aimed at 12-16 year olds.

Learners are required to be a minimum of 12 years old and maximum of 16 years old, on the date of the course.

Overview

The award showcases arrival activities which your junior coaches can deliver back at your club, along with creating their own by working with other course participants. The course also covers what a 'good' coach looks like, allowing participants to identify their own positive attributes. Lastly, junior coaches will look to practice giving players individual challenges in a small sided game/match scenario.

To book, please follow the links below.

Letchworth

Date: Wednesday 30 October 2024

Time: 12pm - 4pm

Venue: Hertfordshire FA, Community Football Centre, Baldock Road, Letchworth GC, SG6 2EN

Cost: £50pp

Booking Link: http://eventspace.thefa.com/hertfordshirefa/event/junior_coach_award_005

Kings Langley

Date: Thursday 31 October 2024

Time: 10am -2pm

Venue: Kings Langley School, Love Lane, Kings Langley, WD4 9HN

Cost: £50pp

Booking Link: http://eventspace.thefa.com/hertfordshirefa/event/junior_coach_award_006



Library News

Each week we have a Genre focus

This week is

*S*cience Fiction

Pop into the Library for recommendations and look at our display



Library Opening Times

Monday 8:15am to 4:15pm

Tuesday 8:15am to 4:15pm

Wednesday 8:15 to 4:15pm

Thursday 8:15am to 4:15pm

Friday 8:15am to 3:45pm

Also remember, you have

Accessit
LIBRARY

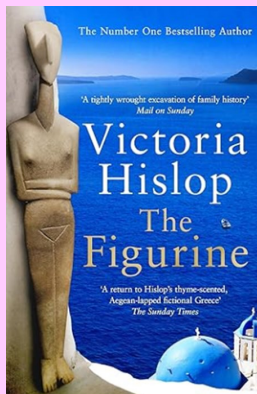
Sparx Reader

whenever you need them

NOBEL SCHOOL PARENTS, STAFF and COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

The next meeting will be held in the Library, 6:30pm, on Tuesday 22 October 2024

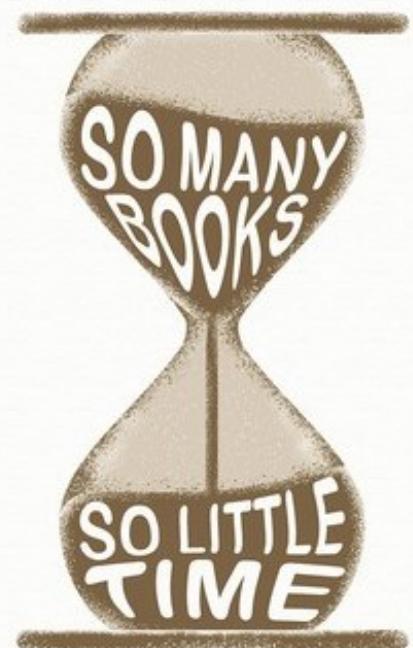
The book to read is:



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

Contact: Amanda Hawke:

01438 222600



There is currently a Buzz around the Library during Library Lessons throughout October. At Nobel we are pleased to be able to enhance our Year 7 students' love of reading by giving them the opportunity to choose a book, to keep, for free, from a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books.

There is a choice of 16 books that cater for a wide range of interests and have been carefully chosen by Book Trust reading experts. There really is something for everyone!

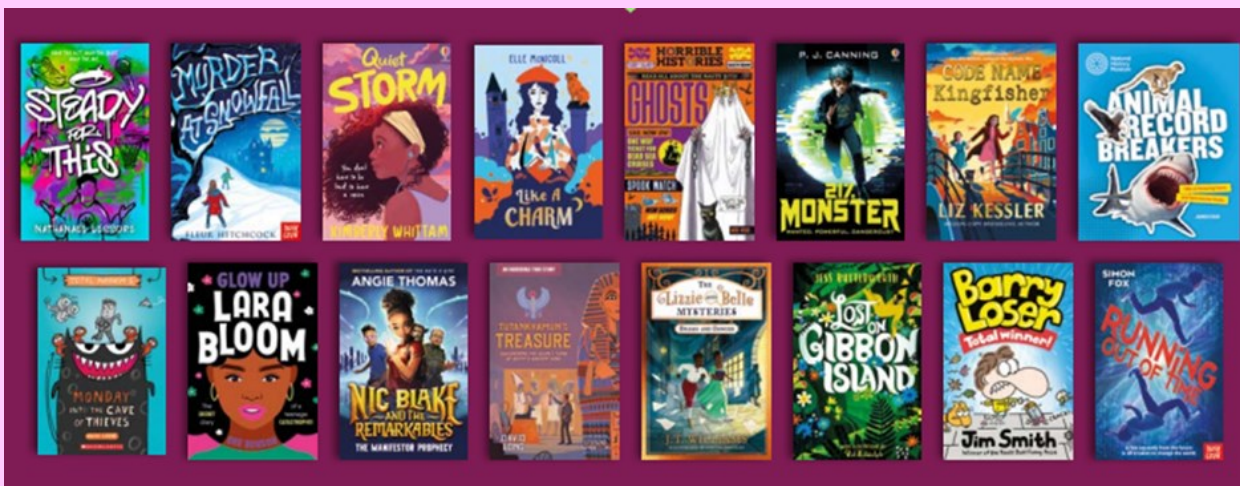
To help the students decide, firstly we watch a short film. This introduces the authors and gives them 30 seconds to talk about their book.

We then have copies of each book, which the students can physically look at to help them make their choice. This gives an opportunity to look at the front cover and blurb in more detail and actually look inside and begin reading the first page.

Here is the selection of books that our students can choose from.

Mrs Amanda Hawke

Librarian



October - Black History Month

We are celebrating Black History Month in the Library this October with a display of books which help us learn more about Black History and to celebrate its heritage.

This year, Black History Month has an inspiring theme "Reclaiming Narratives" to encourage:

- ◆ Taking control of stories
- ◆ Celebrating heritage
- ◆ Ensure voices are heard

On display are books available from your Nobel Library but there are more available on the Accessit Web App.

Take a look at our [Black History Month Reading List](#).

<https://uk.accessit.online/thn03/?serviceld=ExternalEvent&rlSn=15&rlKey=752874888>



Supporting Your Neurodivergent Child

Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS are delighted to share with you the exciting and new Supporting your Neurodivergent Child handbook that has been developed for Hertfordshire parent/carers and professionals. The [Neurodiversity Handbook](#) has useful resources, support and signposting on a whole range of things relating to Neurodiversity.

The resource is accessible to all regardless of whether a young person has a diagnosis or not, and can be used at any point during a young person's journey.

Please also look at the Neurodiversity directory [Neurodiversity Service Directory \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#) for further avenues of support.

Details of all these offers can also be found on the [Neurodiversity Support \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

The Herts Parent Carer Involvement 2024 Survey is open until 3rd November

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HPCISurvey2024

We want to hear from Hertfordshire parent carers of children and young people (age 0-25) with any Special Educational Need and/or Disability. Your child doesn't need to have a diagnosis or EHCP for you to take part.

Share your thoughts and make a difference



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Mon - Fri**
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2:30pm
3rd session 4 - 4:30pm
(optional session for
reflection and support if needed)

Parent & Carer Support Spring Term 2025



FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire

TALKING TEENS



6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **12-19**, covering:

- The Teen Brain: physical and emotional changes taking place and why behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understand risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.

Wednesdays 7pm - 9pm

26th Feb – 2nd Apr

Face to Face: ID 707

**Gade Community Room
Oakleaf Primary School,
Hemel Hempstead**

Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm

7th Jan – 11th Feb

Online Course: ID 708

TALKING ANGER in FAMILIES



6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **0-11**, supporting you to:

- Understand why teens and adults get angry.
- Develop strategies to handle anger in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anger.
- Reduce conflict and arguments.
- Encourage positive behaviour.

Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.30pm

8th Jan – 12th Feb

Online Course: ID 705

TALKING DADS



6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers, sharing information on:

- Improved listening and communication skills.
- A healthy dad-child relationship now and for the future.
- Effective strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- How to enforce boundaries.
- Being the dad, you want to be.

Mondays 7.45 - 9.15pm

6th Jan – 10th Feb

Online Course: ID 710

0-19yrs

Thursdays 7.45 - 9.15pm

27th Feb – 3rd Apr

Online Course: ID 711

0-11yrs

Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm

26th Feb – 2nd Mar

Online Course: ID 712

12-19yrs

TALKING FAMILIES



6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **0-12** sharing tips on:

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self-esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries.
- Responding to tantrums and difficult feelings in children.
- Developing a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future.

Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15am

7th Jan – 11th Feb

Online Course ID 703

Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm

7th Jan – 11th Feb

Online Course ID 704

Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm

25th Feb – 1st Apr

Online Course ID 702

TALKING ANXIETY in TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children **12-19**, supporting you to:

- Understand why young people and adults get anxious.
- Develop strategies to handle anxiety in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anxiety.
- Reduce stress and tension.
- Encourage resilient behaviour.



Mondays 7.45 - 9.30pm

24th Feb – 31 Mar

Online Course ID 706

TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children with any additional need.

Your child does not need a diagnosis.

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict.
- Improve emotional regulation.
- Explore sensory needs.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage different needs in your family.



Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15am

25th Feb – 1st Apr

Course ID 701

2-19yrs

Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm

8th Jan – 12 Feb

Online Course ID 709

12-19yrs

Booking essential. Please Quote the Course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, please contact Supporting Links on:
07512 709556 or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund

Information taken on booking will be used to process your booking, check your eligibility, identify any access needs and will be stored in accordance with our GDPR policy which is available on request

