

# Nobel News

22 November 2024  
Edition 13.05



## From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

I have fantastic news about our cricketers. Mr. Carolan and Mrs. Hill have led the national project 'A Chance to Shine' at Nobel which encourages girls and boys to play cricket. On Thursday evening at Lord's cricket ground, for our work in girls' cricket, we were announced as 'School of the Year' The girls involved were:

**Year 8** Jasmine Stiles, **Year 9** Emily Davies, Evie Dillnutt, Isabelle Harvey, Erin Kassir, Ruby Purkayastha, Lacey Shaw, Isla Smith, Sophie Teague, Suzannah Tonge, **Year 10** Kayleigh Abrey, Rose Beech, Rachel Bell, Ava Gentle, Sofia Turcescu, Mackenzie Zeelie **Year 11** Zara Barringer, Freya Hood, Amy Miller, Jessica Tolmie, Kacey Tolmie, Abigail Tonge.

A magnificent effort, we are immensely proud of you.

There were substantial numbers of parents and carers at school talking about the progress of their child's tutor. We really value our 'Meet the Tutor' event as it is now the only time when we meet our parents in the flesh, and although in some ways this is a disappointment, online parents' meetings are far easier to conduct for our staff, many of whom are able to meet you from their workspace at home. However, I should remind parents that if you do wish to have a longer conversation, in person, then we are available for appointments. I personally meet with families on most days and am always available should you wish to raise issues with me. My email is [head@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@nobel.herts.sch.uk)

The year 9 options process is now in full swing. Students have been encouraged in their tutor time sessions to think carefully about how to make good decisions about which subjects to study. Last Thursday we welcomed students and their parents and carers to our Options Fair.



Students took the opportunity to look at resources and see samples of student work and exam papers. It was great to see so many students engaging with subject leaders to find out more about the courses on offer next year.

After the 'Meet the Tutor' event now students have a period to reflect on all the information that they have gathered, re-read the information in their options booklets, and discuss their choices further at home before they have their options interview in school in the fortnight starting 2 December.

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish all our year 11 students the best of luck in the forthcoming 'mock' examinations. A parent reminded me last year that these were the children that because of Covid they did not take key stage 3 examinations when they were at primary school. This has a couple of important implications: firstly, this cohort has never been involved with public examinations and therefore some may feel extra stress and secondly, from a school's point of view there will be no Progress 8 this year, or indeed next year. We will of course make sure that there is support in place for all our students taking examinations next week. Good luck.

My daughter and I will be travelling up to watch Northampton play Cambridge United on Saturday, we already have our tickets for the away fixture with Stevenage on December 3 and looking forward to a much better result than last year. Whatever you are doing, have fun, and take care.

Kind regards  
Martyn Henson

## Airbus Experience

During October half term, two of our year 11 students, Joshua Ching and Flynn Walters, were invited to spend a week's work experience at Airbus. They spent the week working in two competitive teams, designing, costing, coding and testing mini Mars rovers using LEGO Spike. They were given a site tour and attended sessions with experts on various specialist subjects such as propulsion and AOCS (Attitude and Orbit Control Systems). They also gained practical skills such as using VR/AR and presenting to an audience. A fantastic opportunity for our students.

Ms Jemma Savo

Assistant Work Experience Co-ordinator

*"I had a great week's work experience at Airbus. The week involved working in groups of people I'd never met before, working on a challenging and interesting project - building a functional, smaller rover similar to the ones at Airbus. It was really interesting to have a real insight into the company and the various departments working within, and it was an unforgettable experience. I would highly recommend this to anyone, especially if you have an interest in this field!"*

Flynn Walters

*"I found the week of work experience at Airbus amazing! I got to meet and work with people I had never met before. The program encouraged teamwork skills and group agreement, and challenged us to work in unfamiliar circumstances. We looked at different simulations of rovers on Mars and tested different designs. It was an unforgettable experience for me that I thoroughly enjoyed; I would highly recommend this work experience to students hoping to become future aerospace engineers."*

Joshua Ching



# Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our Year 10 students are moving closer towards achieving the first half of their Bronze Award with many commitments made to a whole host of physical, skill and volunteering opportunities. As students draw towards the completion of these sections, our focus in school shifts to what is, arguably, the most memorable for many of our students - the expedition section. Students are receiving training on a whole variety of different areas to ensure they are successful and safe outdoors in the countryside. With the current national campaign encouraging us all to regularly exercise outdoors, it's nice to know our students will engage with the outdoors knowing how to respect and appreciate the environment around us - hopefully without getting too lost!

Meanwhile, our Silver Year 11 and Gold Year 12 students are also refreshing and developing the skills they learnt undertaking previous DofE Awards as they embark on dedicating more of their time to volunteering opportunities, physical activities and skill development.

It was lovely to have last year's Silver cohort back to celebrate their successes in what was the worst expedition I have ever run; the weather was hideous! Our students persevered when the rain was horizontal and the wind was bitterly cold. Even though it would have been a lot easier to give up, every single student showed incredible resilience, team work and perseverance during what felt more like a winter expedition than July!



Miss Lisa Steele

Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

## Reverse Advent Calendar

At Nobel, we understand how important it is to raise awareness of issues facing others in society and to try to challenge our young people to be better members of their community. This is a central part of being a “Nobelian” and we believe it is important to give our students every opportunity to demonstrate their kindness, consideration, and generosity to others. Therefore, as we enter the Advent period, we are asking that our young people use this time to put into practice some kindness and generosity to spread a little Christmas cheer to our local community in Stevenage.

This year, we are joining the Reverse Advent campaign led by ‘People for People’ and ‘The Foodshed’; two local charities that work tirelessly throughout the year to support those most in need in our community. The premise of a Reverse Advent Calendar is that, rather than taking something for ourselves each day, we give something back to those in need. Therefore, in the first two weeks of December, we are challenging our students to bring in a range of essential items between them, which will then be passed on to the local Foodshed, who will distribute them to those who are struggling to feed themselves and their families during the festive period.

Please see below a list of suggested items to donate. All items should be non-perishables and sealed, and please check the use by date before donating.

**Tinned food:** tinned vegetables, baked beans/spaghetti, tinned meat, tinned fruit, tinned puddings, tinned soup

**Packet goods:** pasta/rice/noodles, stuffing, oats/cereal

**Toiletries:** shower gel/shampoo, washing up liquid, toilet rolls

**Treats:** chocolate/selection boxes, sweets, biscuits, crisps/crackers

**Other:** UHT milk, squash, tea/coffee, jams and spreads, cooking sauces, pot noodles/similar

Students can bring items to their form room between **Monday 2 December** and **Friday 13 December**, when we will be dropping all of the donations to the foodbank. For each item donated during this window, students will receive 1 ABC point (up to 10) so, in helping our wider community, students can also play their part in form and house competitions.

We look forward to seeing our young people spreading Christmas cheer this Advent, and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Mr Jordan Dutt

Teacher

## Dates for your Diary

**Friday 29 November:** Occasional Day, school closed

**Wednesday 4 December:** Y13 Parents’ Consultation Evening, 3:30 - 6:30pm

**Monday 16: December:** Class of 2024 A level Presentation Evening 4:00 - 6:00pm

**Friday 20 December:** Last day of term—School finishes at 12:20pm



# Egg Drop Experiment

Students in year 11 triple physics have been learning all about forces this half term and have put their knowledge into practice by dropping an egg from the side of the school building.

The students needed to follow Newton's laws.

## ◆ Newton's Third Law: Action & Reaction

His third law states that for every action (force) in nature there is an equal and opposite reaction. The students had to ensure the impact of the egg on the ground was very low so the egg did not break. The upward force needed to be more than the downward force of weight, due to gravity, to slow the egg down. They came up with all sorts of ideas about how to do this and most eggs survived.

Mrs Amy Pearson

Head of Science

**Student account:** The other way to reduce the impact force is to **reduce the terminal velocity of the egg** as it falls. The egg and its container have a **weight**, and as the egg accelerates due to gravity, this force is equalised by the force of air resistance as it falls. When this occurs, the forces are balanced and by **Newton's 1st law**, the egg will reach its **terminal velocity** (maximum speed). By increasing the force of air resistance, we can reduce the velocity that this balance occurs. This can be achieved by using a parachute or similar.



In our recent physics lesson, we looked at impact forces, created when two objects collide, for example if you drop something from a height, and how to calculate impact forces.

During our egg dropping experiment we had to get creative and find ways to reduce the impact force and protect the egg from breaking. Our egg was protected by a hard layer of cardboard but was padded with toy stuffing and more cardboard as well as some tissue. We then placed this inside a container and wrapped it in sellotape so that we could attach it to two bags, which acted as a parachute to slow the descent of the egg by creating more air resistance.

Olivia Chalkley &  
Phoebe Chiwambo



# District Cross Country

On Thursday 7 November, 48 Nobel students from Years 7 to Year 13 travelled to Fairlands Valley Park for the annual District Cross Country event. Each year group participated in their respective races at different points of the afternoon.

All the runners showed fantastic effort and dedication in their individual races. All the Nobel students gave 100%, finishing their races and coming back to the team with some wonderful personal bests and success stories.

A special mention to Evie D (Year 9), Bethany A (Year 11) and Aubrey M (Year 11) who finished with third place medals and the senior team who finished in second place overall.

It was lovely to see the support from all the students for their peers, from across the age groups, to help each other get across the finish line and run a fantastic race.



Mr Regan Carolan  
Teacher of PE



# School Games Boccia Competition

On Wednesday 6 November, The Nobel School Boccia teams travelled the short journey to Lonsdale School to take part in the annual Stevenage School Games Boccia competition.

Boccia is a precision ball sport, similar to bocce, and related to bowls and pétanque. It is played from a seated position.

Despite this being the first time the students had played together, you wouldn't have known as they picked the game up incredibly quickly. They were able to work together in their team to suggest where to throw their team's ball to get closest to the Jack and how hard to throw the ball.

A thrilling contest finished with Nobel taking the gold medals, with the team also becoming District Champions. This is a wonderful achievement and nothing short of what the students deserved for their effort, passion and teamwork across the afternoon.

Well done to Year 7 student: Skyla B, Year 8 students: Leon M, Abbie M, Alfie V and Yi-Xin L and Year 9 student: Ella S. You showed true Nobelian qualities throughout and did the PE Department proud.



Mr Regan Carolan  
Teacher of PE

A vibrant poster for a Brazilian music event. The background is a mix of green and blue with a grid pattern. At the top, it says 'Club 85 GARDEN CITY SAMBA PRESENTS' with a logo for Club 85 and the Garden City Samba logo. Below that is a large, colorful feathered headdress. The main text reads 'A night of Brazilian music to help save Club 85!'. The event details are: Date: Sunday 1st December 2024, Tickets: £10, Time: Doors open at 18:30, Location: Club 85, Hitchin SG5 1PZ. There are two circular callouts: one for 'CARNIVAL &amp; AFRO-BRAZILIAN RHYTHMS From Garden City Samba' and another for 'BOSSA NOVA From the Doby K Quintet'. At the bottom, there are illustrations of people in colorful Brazilian costumes.

# Certification for Girls' Football Activators 2023/24

On Monday 18 November, the Nobel School Girls' Football Activators 2023-24 received their official certificates from The Football Association and Youth Sport Trust, which they celebrated during a pizza lunch.

The Barclays Game On – Go Lead programme provides training to secondary school students to design, create and deliver football opportunities for their peers.

Across the previous academic year, the activators worked on plenty of workshops throughout the year, linked to what makes a good leader, adapting a session for all participants, the importance of being a role model and ensuring inclusivity. This is not to mention the skills they have picked up and developed along the way such as self-belief, confidence and an increased knowledge of coaching football.

In school, the students developed an action plan to run a girls' football tournament to Year 7 and bring back the Girls' Football Club in Summer Term 2, amongst much more. To finish their programme, the Nobel School Girls' Football Activators organised and led a girls' football tournament for Year 5 and 6 students from local primary schools.

Well done to the following students who have received their Barclays Go Lead certificates:

**Year 9:** Hollie, Phoebe, Lucie, Lily, Isabelle, Erin, Sophie, Emily G, Emily K, Evie, Lucy

Mr Regan Carolan  
Teacher of PE





# Physical Education Fixtures Spotlight: November 2024

Please see below some of the sporting fixtures that Nobel have taken part in over the past few weeks, up to and including Friday 15 November. 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 13/11	Y9 Girls' Football	Marriotts School	0-6 WIN	Phoebe Probyn
Wednesday 13/11	Y9 Girls' Football	Barnwell School	9-1 WIN	Lily Jones
Wednesday 13/11	Senior Basketball	St Chris	55-21 WIN	Malcolm Mensa
Friday 15/11	EFL Girls' Cup 2024	Various	Reaching quarter finals	Evie Cherry 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://nobelhertsch-my.sharepoint.com/:b:g/personal/regan\\_carolan\\_nobel\\_herts\\_sch\\_uk/EQy2YiGqCj5MkTffpH5G40kBzXkNoXFNEOxqyRIJhsZH5w?e=bsNhfA](https://nobelhertsch-my.sharepoint.com/:b:g/personal/regan_carolan_nobel_herts_sch_uk/EQy2YiGqCj5MkTffpH5G40kBzXkNoXFNEOxqyRIJhsZH5w?e=bsNhfA)

Mr Regan Carolan  
Teacher of PE



# Library News

Each week we have a Genre focus

This week is

# Horror

Pop into the Library for recommendations and to 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

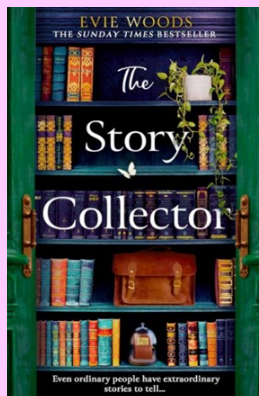
**Sparx Reader**

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 10 December 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



Stephen King

## Accessit

During Library Lessons recently, Year 7 have been introduced to Accessit, our online school library, and Year 8 have been reminded that it is available to them. This is a great way for all Nobelians to access the whole school library online. You can view the entire catalogue of books we have in the library, reserve books, write a review, create your own reading lists or access topical ones and so much more.

If you are having any issue with logging on, or need any extra support using this resource, please pop into the library for more help.

## Non-Fiction November

We are celebrating Non-Fiction November this month which highlights the importance of Non-Fiction books and to encourage the reading of such books for pleasure.

The theme this year is “Why Don’t You...?” This is to get us talking about hobbies and interests and to try something new.

We have several books on display, but there are plenty more on our shelves covering a wealth of topics.

This initiative is from the Federation of Children’s Book Groups.

New books have arrived in the library, so take a look at what we have available next time you visit, especially if you are a fan of Rick Riordan’s Percy Jackson. We now have the latest book in the series ‘Percy Jackson and the Olympians Wrath of the Triple Goddess’. This book has flown off the shelf already, so if you would like to borrow it, either reserve it on Accessit or pop into the library and add your name to the list!



Accessit quotes from students :

*“It’s useful if you want a book – it’s quick and easy to use” Luca Yr 7*

*“It’s really easy to use at home, if you are spending your lunchtime and breaks with friends” Denis Yr 7*

*“It’s really good. You can reserve a book, and it saves you looking around the library during your lunchtime. You can also find books easily by researching up the author” Cyprian Yr 7*



## Parliament Week 2024



If you want to know more about the UK Parliament and the history behind it, Parliamentary Systems, the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the State Opening of Parliament, plus plenty more - come and look at our dedicated display.



Mrs Amanda Hawke  
Librarian

# Developing Character

For the next two weeks of school, character focus is on the Nobelian virtue of being **Resilient**.

*The Character Conundrum for 25/11/24 - 06/12/24 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 5 – RESILIENCE**

Sam loves reading and when he finds a book he likes, he can hardly put it down. His favourite lessons in school are the library reading lessons, however, recently he overheard some of his peers talking about people who 'actually read' using terms like 'bookworm' and 'nerd'. His friends get any old book and pretend to read but Sam would really like to spend the time doing something he enjoys. Should he read as he would like, or should he do the same as his peers and just pretend?

## **Support**

Young people really only want to fit in. Where students are perceived as different or having unusual interests, this can open them up to ridicule or teasing. Of course, the students should use their time productively (and there is plenty of evidence to show that improving your reading skills raises achievement across the board) however, young people tend to focus on the here and now rather than long term goals. The added element here is that Sam actually wants to do something else because he enjoys it – the key is, does he have the strength of character to opt for his own choice, or does he just follow the crowd?

## **Questions**

- ◆ Can you identify the moral dilemma in this situation?
- ◆ What would you do in Sam's place?

- ◆ Do you think his peers will start teasing him and does this make them good friends?
- ◆ Do you ever do the same as others just to fit in?
- ◆ Should Sam chose to do what he wants regardless of what his friends want?

Mr Nick Brown  
Assistant Head

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## Nobel Book Group

The Nobel School Parents', Staff and Community Book Group celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in October. Over the last 10 years, we have read and discussed an astonishing 125 books ranging from young adult fiction such as *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera, classic fiction such as *Dracula* by Bram Stoker and popular book club fare like *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, and *Thrown* by Sara Cox. But we don't just read fiction! Over the years we've also tackled non-fiction such as *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu and *Journeyman* by Nobelian Paul Fry.

All members of the group, both long-serving and newer, agree that one of the great joys of the book club is to be had when you read a book chosen by the group that you would never have picked up through your own choice, and discover something that you really enjoy.

We were pleased to keep going through the Covid lockdowns, meeting regularly online; book group provided a real sense of normality at an otherwise crazy time. We have been back meeting in our school library since 2021 but have also been known to venture out. Over the years we have enjoyed visits to hear authors speak about their books (see the photo below of us with Victoria Hislop).



The group tries to meet about twice every half term on a Tuesday evening and is always keen to welcome new members. If you enjoy reading and talking about books (among other things!) then we'd love to welcome you to join us. Read all or just part of the book and come and join in. Dates of meetings and the book to read are always advertised in *The Nobel News*, please email our librarian, Amanda Hawke, for further details ([amanda.hawke@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:amanda.hawke@nobel.herts.sch.uk))

Mrs Naomi Rose  
Deputy Headteacher



Celebrating our 10th anniversary

The next meeting will be held in the Library, 6:30pm, on Tuesday 10 December 2024.

Please see advertisement on page 10 of this publication.

# Tickets available here!

## Christmas Lunch



18 December 2024  
Student Price: £3.75



SEASONAL TURKEY WITH  
TRADITIONAL TRIMMINGS

Or

BUTTERNUT SQUASH, APRICOT  
AND KALE ROAST (v)

&

CHRISTMAS THEMED PUDDING



Tickets available from all food  
counters using your card - must be  
bought before 9 December.



# Cosy Minds & Self-Compassion Workshop



**Herts  
Haven  
Café**

**Want to learn to be kinder to yourself in a warm and welcoming space?**

Join us for our workshop involving:

- Mindfulness and gratitude practice
- Challenging self-criticism
- Creating a self-care plan for colder months



**November**

**12<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**

**5pm - 6pm**

**Bowes Lyon Young People's  
Centre, Stevenage**

**For more information please email:  
[cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org](mailto:cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org) or call 0208 189 8400**

# Bike Donation Event

Having a clear out before Christmas? Do you have a bike you no longer need and would like it to go to a new home? If the answer is yes, where possible we will take it, service it and pass it on to a new home that needs it.

All sizes, conditions and makes will be welcomed. Although the most needed sizes are for children aged 8 to 11.



**8am to 1pm**

**25th of November 2024**

**Farnham House,  
Stevenage**

We will be available to accept donations at the side of Farnham House and Able Smith, Stevenage look out for the Gazebo on Monday 25th November.

To arrange your drop off or for further information please contact [cycle.training@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cycle.training@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Working in partnership with:

