

From the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

I have been the headteacher of this wonderful school since September 2013; it has been the privilege of my professional life to lead the staff and students at Nobel. However, for several reasons, I have decided to stand down this summer and, therefore, The Nobel School will have a new headteacher in September this year.

The school has made great strides in the last 12 years, three successful Ofsted inspections and outstanding examination results, so the school is an attractive prospect, and I am sure that there will be many high quality applications for the post. The process will start very soon led by Chair of Governors, Matt Reah, and his excellent team of governors.

Although examination results and inspections are important, what I shall miss most is the Nobel community. I remember coming for my interview in March 2013 - Hertfordshire was unfamiliar territory for me as I had only known London schools - and being bowled over by the friendliness, courtesy and support that seems to run through the veins of this fabulous community. Our wonderful students, fabulous staff, parents, and governing board have all worked to nurture and develop the concept of being a Nobelian.

It has been an honour to be part of all this and I shall always be a proud Nobelian.

I am not leaving until 31 August but, in the meantime, thank you for your kindness and support.

Kind regards
Martyn Henson

PE Club Spotlight: Years 7 and 8 Boys' Football Club

Day: Monday

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

Year groups: 7 and 8

Location: Astro and Field if required

Club leads: Mr Howells and Mr Carolan

Since September, Years 7 and 8 boys' football club has hosted an impressive number of students on the astro and field every Monday after school. We didn't originally plan to use the field, but we have had to due to the high numbers attending these sessions.

By attending the football club, you have the opportunity to represent your year group in matches against local schools within Stevenage and North Herts. There are still plenty of matches left this season!

Even if you haven't played football 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 attend the club:

"I love playing football with my mates after school."

"I like to try my best to impress the coaches and then be picked for the school team."

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



Current House ABC Points Totals

10 January	House	ABC Points
1st	Curie	20,153
2nd	Mandela	18,187
3rd	Teresa	17,910
4th	Eliot	16,781

SPARX are Flying!

Since its launch in late September last year, our Year 7 and 8 students have so impressed us with their efforts on SPARX Reader, our online reading platform. Homework reading completion rates are improving every week and the Leaderboard is generating a wonderful buzz and healthy competition! Several students have been vying for the Gold, Silver and Bronze spots each week, but a special mention, and gift, went to Ella Celen (Year 7) and Janeisha Chudasama (Year 8) in our Celebration Assemblies in December, as they have been in the much-coveted Gold position for many consecutive weeks and are proving hard to beat.

As of the end of the winter term, they had read a staggering 1,722 books! They had completed 3,848 hours of careful reading and answered an astonishing 322,000 questions. We could not be more delighted. Coupling this reading with reading the books they borrow from the library will, unquestionably, make such a tremendous difference to their reading levels.

On average, our students are spending 51 minutes doing careful reading each week. Evidence shows that just 30 minutes of careful reading every week helps students make, on average, 5 months more progress than those not using SPARX so we will continue to encourage even our most reluctant readers to join in and reap the massive rewards.

A congratulatory shoutout goes to 7Y/En2 (Mr Swift's form and Mr Paul's students); they achieved the highest average careful time across both year groups throwing down the gauntlet for other classes. Who will win this accolade in the spring term...?

Mrs Kate Di Gregorio
Head of Literacy

Nobel Celebrates Student Success

Amber Fraser, year 11, won a competition in the magazine, The Pheonix. It's a brilliant graphic design idea that Amber created herself and used all her amazing talent to bring it to life. We are so proud of her and all her hard work in art.

Amber say: *"I was so happy to find out that I had won the competition. Last year I entered and came runner-up. I won a signed drawing of the characters I designed drawn professionally by an artist of one of the comics in the magazine. This year, my idea was called 'Fluffy for President!' and it is about a girl's rivalry with a robot hamster. My prize for winning was a 4 page comic by the author of 'Mega Robo Bros' Neill Cameron, and a signed artwork of the characters."*



Year 10 looking at Chemical Reactions

Year 10 are studying Chemical Reactions topic, which includes acids and alkalis, electrolysis, oxidation and reduction (which will become very important at A-level), and this - extraction of metals! 10bCh achieved excellent results by heating copper oxide and carbon powder. The carbon is more reactive than the copper and displaces it from its oxide to create carbon dioxide gas and leave behind pure copper metal, which is the orange-brown powder you see in the photos. They had a lovely time and were very competitive about who made the most copper. They also learned an important safe heating technique and observed chemistry in action.



Ms Anna Redmond
Head of Chemistry

Parent/Carer Support Session

Is your child or young person receiving support or on a waiting list for a HPFT CAMHS* or STEP 2 mental health service?

This session will provide guidance on how parents/carers can support their own emotional wellbeing. Learn more about:

- The importance of self-care
- Normalising thoughts and feelings
- Communication with young people
- Information and ongoing support

Where: Online over Zoom.

When: Tuesday 4th February, 7pm to 9pm

* Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

For more information or to book your place:

Call: 01992 58 69 69

Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk

Go online: www.carersinherts.org.uk/events



About Carers in Hertfordshire

We are a charity that provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers - people looking after a partner, relative or friend, who is ill, elderly, has a physical or learning disability, or misuses substances.

We support carers of all ages - young people and adults - living, working or caring in Hertfordshire. Our services are free to carers and bereaved carers, who can access support for three years after the death of the person they looked after.

We provide services to carers to help them with their caring role or have a break from caring, to improve their health and wellbeing, and to have a voice in shaping health and community services.

We are partly funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS in Hertfordshire. In partnership with them and other local organisations we work to ensure unpaid carers are identified, informed, supported and heard

Carers in Hertfordshire

The Red House, 119 Fore Street, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1AX.

Tel: 01992 58 69 69 Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk

www.carersinherts.org.uk

Our support for parents and carers.

We have a team of Carer Engagement Workers who can provide advice and information and also support you to speak up.

We also:

- Give you a chance to meet and talk to other parents, carers and staff who understand;
- Give you the opportunity to represent your views to the authorities that commission and manage Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) in Hertfordshire;
- Provide free training and learning opportunities; and
- Offer a Carers' Passport Discount Card that gives savings in shops, restaurants and other venues (contact us to apply for one today!)



U13 Girls' Football Utilita Cup Area Finals Competition 2025

Just before the Christmas break we were delighted to be invited to the Utilita Girls' Cup Area Finals to represent Stevenage FC. This took place on Tuesday 14 January at Peterborough FC's training ground in the Dome, for our U13 Girls Football Team. Schools from across the South East took part representing EFL teams, including Peterborough, Watford, Norwich and Cambridge.

Well done to all our Nobelianians for working hard throughout the event, supporting each other and playing creatively with strength, determination and passion. Our students came up against some of the best teams within this region, but they held their own. It was an absolute pleasure to give our students this opportunity and well worth the long drive. Well done to the following students who represented the school superbly:

Year 7: Layla C, Evie-May I

Year 8: Elana D, Lucy B, Evie C, Rose A, Mia D, Janeisha C, Evie P

A huge thank you to sixth formers Ana and Katie who attended the competition with Mrs Saville and took on the role of manager. They were so caring towards all the students and were amazing. They have both written a report from the afternoon, which you can read here.

Mr Regan Carolan
Teacher of PE



The girls worked very hard within their games, communication playing a vital role within their brilliant sense of teamwork. They also had a positive attitude throughout the tournament. These qualities allowed them to draw against challenging teams such as MK Dons (2-2), who came first in the tournament, and other teams such as Colchester United and Peterborough. They finished off the tournament with a well-deserved win against Northampton Town (2-1). Mrs Saville, Katie and I were extremely proud of their dedication and hard-work during each game, by putting their all into it - using their admirable passion to put up a good battle against all teams.

Ana Maria G 13 GBE

As a team, the girls worked incredibly well together ensuring they communicated, advised, and encouraged each other. It was also an amazing opportunity for the girls to showcase their individual talent using various skills, completing difficult passes, and scoring. On a small pitch the game becomes that much harder, however I believe the girls adapted well, creating space wherever they could and exploiting it. The time restrictions also add slightly more pressure to the



team, but we took this as a positive, allowing the girls to take their chances more frequently. Overall, everyone worked incredibly hard and performed to a great standard, the girls should be very proud of themselves.

Katie H-P 12 LSE

Spring Term PE and Dance Extra-Curricular Club List

Please see the PE Department and Dance Extra-Curricular Clubs list for the upcoming Spring Term, with clubs starting after the Christmas break.

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, Years 7 to 10 girls' football, Years 7 to 10 netball, Years 7 to 10 girls' futsal, Year 7 sports hall athletics 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.

		Lunch-time 1:30-2pm		Afterschool 3:05-4:05pm		
EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS	MONDAY	Year 7 Health Related Fitness (Fitness Room) - PWR		Girls and Boys Rugby (Field) - all years - CHL		
		KS3 and KS4 Badminton (Sports Hall) - ECP/SHS		Senior Basketball (Sports Hall) - JFN		
	TUESDAY	Health Related Fitness (Fitness Room) - all years - ECP		SPRING TERM 2025		
		Volleyball (Sports Hall) - all years - NCT/JFN				
	WEDNESDAY	Health Related Fitness (Fitness Room) - all years - PWR				Year 7 Boys Football (Astro) - SHS
Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics (Sports Hall) - all years - invite only - CHL/RCN		Year 8 Boys Football (Field) - RCN				
GCSE and A Level Dance Rehearsal (Dance Studio) - invite only - RPD		Year 7 and 8 Netball (MUGA) - ECP				
THURSDAY	Health Related Fitness (Fitness Room) - all years - NCT		Girls Football (Astro) - all years - JSE/NCT			
	KS4 and KS5 Basketball (Sports Hall) - JFN		Basketball (Sports Hall) - Years 7, 8 and 9 - JFN/PWR/RCN			
	Girls Cricket Club (GYM or Field) - RCN		GCSE Intervention (for invited students only) - NCT/JFN			
FRIDAY	Girls Health Related Fitness (Fitness Room) - all years - JSE		Year 9 Netball (MUGA) - RCN			
	Multi Sports (Sports Hall) - all years (invite only) - CHL		Year 10 Netball (MUGA) - CHL			
	Afrobeats Dance (Dance Studio) - all years - RPD		Year 9 and 10 Boys Football (Astro) - PWR			
			Nobel Dance (Dance Studio) - all years - RPD			
			Girls Fitsticks and Bounce (Dance Studio) - RCN			

Dates for your Diary

Monday 17 - Friday 21 February: Half-term break



Quantum Gravity Lecture

On Wednesday 29 January, 19:00 – 20:00

Lindop Building
College Lane Campus
University of Hertfordshire
Hatfield
AL10 9AB

The lecture is free and open to all but registration is required. Please register via the Book Now button on the webpage:

<https://www.iop.org/events/quantum-gravity-0>



This would be of interest to Sixth Form Physicists or keen Y11 students.

Mr John Murphy

Head of Physics

The Great Toilet Twinning Challenge 2025

As Geography Club members, we care about the world and what's going on in it. This term, we are doing a project to raise money to twin the toilets on the Humanities corridor with one in sub-Saharan Africa.

We are doing this because today there are still 2 billion people worldwide without access to clean water. Furthermore, 3.5 billion people don't have safe sanitation. The money that we raise will be used to fund projects to provide sustainable clean water and sanitation to some of the poorest communities in the world. In return for our donation we will get a framed photo of the toilet that we have been twinned with, which will serve as a reminder that even our small donations can make a big difference to the lives of others.



To raise the funds, we are going to carry out a **coin collection** during form time each day. We will do this at the **end of assembly** so students should bring any spare loose change with them on the day that they normally have assembly, or they can also give it to their geography teacher in lessons. **Every single penny counts** so please bring along whatever you can.



Any students that want to get more involved are welcome to come to Geography Club every Tuesday lunchtime in Room 321.

We will have a grand unveiling of our twin toilet photo once we've raised the money and will let you know where our toilet twin is located.

Malakee Rogan and Albert Phillips Year 9

Library News

We hope our Year 7s are enjoying the book they have chosen from Bookbuzz programme. As previously mentioned, we now have 2 copies of each of the 16 titles available to borrow from the library. We know lots of students found it difficult to choose just one book, so now they can read as many as they like!

All books are on display.



Why not try the Online Quiz which is available and see how much you remember about the books on offer for 2024.

In addition, how about taking the Bookbuzz Challenge. You can aim to complete 3, 5 or all 10 tasks available. If you like the idea of turning your Bookbuzz book into a Graphic Novel or reading 3 of the Bookbuzz books, then this challenge is for you.



We also have available a 'Thinking about books' questionnaire and would love to read your thoughts.

Pop into the Library for more information and to collect a Challenge Sheet and Questionnaire.

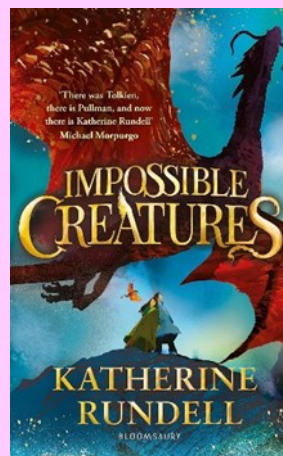


Award winning New Book to the Library

Author of the Year British Book Awards 2024

Children's Fiction Book of the Year 2024

Waterstones Book of the Year 2023



Mrs Amanda Hawke

Librarian

Each week we have a Genre focus

This week is

Mystery

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

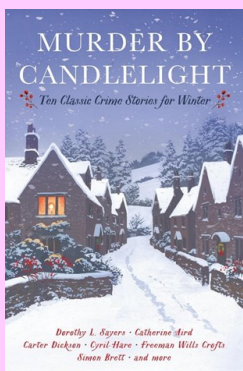
Sparx Reader

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 28 January 2025

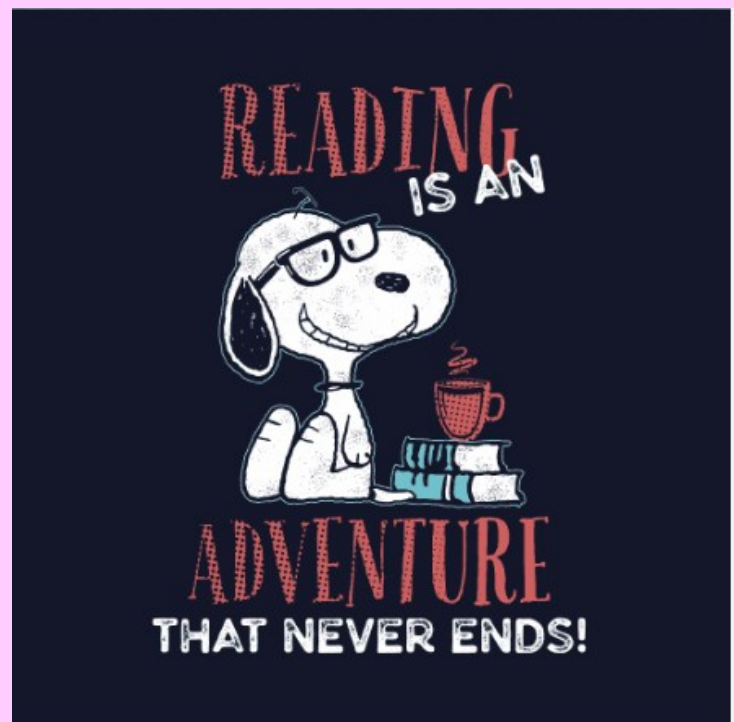
The books to read are:



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

Contact: Amanda Hawke:

01438 222600



Developing Character

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

The Character Conundrum for 20/01/25 - 31/01/25 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 9 – KIND

Jemma is on her way home and she passes an elderly gentleman, Mr Green, who is struggling to carry his shopping from his car to his front door. He has usually been grumpy towards her, and she is in a bit of a rush to get home for her favourite TV programme – what should she do?

Support

Most, if not all, students will identify that they should help the man and offer to carry his shopping for him, however, how many, hand-on-heart, would actually do this? During our lives, there are multiple situations where we can all support or help those in need, but when it is a truly selfless act, and there is no benefit to us, often the situation passes us by, and we have failed to act. The added information about Mr Green being grumpy in the past could invoke a hesitation from some students and a notion of whether he *deserves* to be helped. It is society's duty to help those in need, not for weaker individuals to earn our support.



Questions

- ◆ Can you identify the moral dilemma in this situation?
- ◆ Do you think you should help Mr Green? Would you actually offer though?

- ◆ Does it matter that he has been grumpy towards Jemma in the past?
- ◆ Should people only be offered our help if they deserve our help?
- ◆ Does Mr Green's age or gender make a difference? Why/why not?

Mr Nick Brown
Assistant Head

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**  **INFO@GCSEPOD.COM**  **0191 338 7830**

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DESIGN A MURAL COMPETITION: 2025 Grantham Climate Art Prize

Students aged 11 – 25 are invited to enter the 2025 [Grantham Climate Art Prize](#) by designing a mural to draw attention to the climate crisis. Two murals will be unveiled at Imperial College London in 2025. Designs for the first mural – at South Kensington campus – are now being sought. The winner will get a £200 prize and three runners up will get £100 each – all in gift vouchers.

Students from schools, colleges and universities across London can submit a design for the mural with the theme From Grey to Green – focusing on the importance of boosting nature and green innovation to allow us to have a more sustainable future, which will be better for the planet and for our physical and mental health.

The winning design will be transformed into a large-scale (9.4m by 2m) mural by a professional artist while runner-up designs will be exhibited on the campus.

The art prize is a biennial competition and previous themes have included British Biodiversity Loss (2021) and A Greener, Cleaner, Cooler World (2023), inspired by our 9 things you can do about climate change: www.imperial.ac.uk/stories/climate-action/. As well as the 12 murals across Great Britain – from Brighton to Glasgow – we've had exhibitions of winning and runner-up designs at COP26, in museums, and on billboards in London's transport hubs.

Enter via the competition webpage: www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/events/grantham-art-prize/ The deadline is 31 January 2025. Otherwise you need to send a clear photograph of your landscape style design as a JPEG, PNG or GIF less than 20MB to granthamartprize@imperial.ac.uk with **your name, email address, date of birth, age, title of your artwork and a brief description of the design**. If sending several entries (teachers) please do so separately, or by www.wetransfer.com with the required info for each image.

ENTER HERE ↓ QR SCAN



IMPERIAL Grantham Institute



Hertfordshire parents!

Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) system wants to understand what parents and carers need when they are faced with supporting their child or young person's poor emotional wellbeing.

It can be difficult to understand why they might be experiencing low moods, anxiety or self-harming behaviours, how to cope as a family, or knowing the strategies that could help at home. In preparation for commissioning a new service, we want to make sure parents and carers feel supported, have professionals and peers to speak to and share experiences with, all while knowing they are far from alone.


[Complete the survey here](#)

The survey will be open until Sunday 26 January 2025



Powell Tae Kwon-Do


ADULTS & KIDS



Tigers:
(from 4 years old)
Tuesday: 6 - 6.50pm

Family class:
Tuesday: 7 - 8pm
Thursday: 7 - 8pm

Contact John Powell
5th Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon-do
Tel 07976 795121
Email: john@jptkd.co.uk



The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 oHS

Powell Tae Kwon-Do

At our club we teach outstanding self-defence and Tae Kwon-Do to the highest standard. You and your family will not only learn excellent techniques from the art but also at a pace that is suitable to your personal needs and ability. The result will not only help grow your confidence but challenge and reward your progression. Our training environment is both fun and positive so be prepared to be addicted from your very first class! 3 times winner for Southeast Tae Kwon-Do Championships!

Benefits of Martial Arts • Listening • Memory and Focus
• Hand-eye Coordination • Speed, Agility & Balance
• Socialization • Goal Setting

Tigers: (from 4 years old)
Tuesday: 6pm - 6.50pm

Family class:
Tuesday: 7pm - 8pm
Thursday: 7pm - 8pm

The Nobel School, Mobbsbury Way,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 oHS



www.jptkd.co.uk

Contact John Powell
5th Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon-do
Tel 07976 795121 Email: john@jptkd.co.uk

North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce our open afternoon at **Springboard Letchworth** which will be held on Tuesday 4 February 2025, 3pm – 5pm at our premises. This is an opportunity for professionals, parents, and prospective students to meet the team and find out more about the Springboard programme.

Please note our address for this event will be: Springboard, Letchworth Town Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3BX

The nearest car park is Morrison's where you can park for free for three hours.

Springboard is a full-time personalised course which provides students with the support, knowledge, skills and confidence to become more independent, make informed decisions and ultimately to progress into mainstream college and work. The course is delivered in self-contained teaching centres in Watford and Letchworth.

Springboard is for young people aged 16 and over who require additional support before progressing to a cross college vocational course or employment. Many of our students have a diagnosis or traits of autism. Many have associated emotional and mental health needs that require specialist and bespoke support before they can move on and make a successful transition to adulthood. We do also consider 15-year-olds but only if they have a EHCP.

Our students study Employability, Functional Skills Maths and English from E3 to Level 2, Creative Arts (Drama) Therapy, Life Skills, Personal Development and Wellbeing, Vocational Tasters in Art, Cooking and First Aid, Enrichment, and complete 34 hours of work experience in their vocational area of interest. We support our students to transition into cross college vocational courses, supported internships or apprenticeships or employment by helping them to discover what they want to do after Springboard, arranging taster sessions and supporting them at interviews.

Students need to meet our assessment criteria in order to access the provision although individual needs are always considered and decisions are made on a case by case basis and subject to funding being approved by the Local Authority.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to Mickaela Windsor mwindsor@nhc.ac.uk or Rebecca Lewis rebecca.lewis@nhc.ac.uk or call us on 07943 526089.

To help us to manage numbers we would appreciate a confirmation from you as to what time you are planning to attend.

If you are unable to attend but would like to find out more about our provision, we would be happy to meet with you on an individual basis. Please email Mickaela or Rebecca at the above emails and we can arrange for you to come in and see us. Alternatively, we can come to your setting to meet with you any groups of students and parents that you believe would benefit from Springboard.