

# Nobel News

21 March 2025  
Edition 13.12



## From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you'll be able to see in this edition of Nobel News, it has been an extremely busy couple of weeks!

Science Week was marked by some fantastic assemblies and a brilliant and very well-attended Science Fair. Congratulations to all students who exhibited their ideas and experiments at this event. I'd like to thank the Sixth Form Science Ambassadors for their involvement. These students threw themselves wholeheartedly into sharing their love of science with younger Nobelians. Whether it was demonstrating practical experiments in the assemblies or working directly with students at the Science Fair and other events, their enthusiasm and commitment shone through. Thank you to the Science Team for all of their work in putting together an exciting and fascinating week of events.

In the same week, we welcomed over 30 exhibitors to our annual careers fair. Students from Years 9-13 all had the opportunity to talk directly to employers, colleges and training companies about ideas for future careers—something I certainly never got to do at school! It was particularly pleasing to see so many of our Nobelian alumni back in school, talking to students with passion about what they are doing now and sharing their wisdom about how our students can best prepare for the future world of work. Thank you to Miss Savo, Mr Bown and Mr Burningham for their work in putting together such a brilliant opportunity for our students.

World Book Day saw the English Department take on a very different look with characters from classic and modern fiction mingling with our students. Where else would you see a Hobbit, Miss Trunchball and a handmaid all sharing notes on their favourite books? Thanks to Mrs Di Gregorio, Mrs Hawke and the English Team for their organisation of events across the week.

These events remind us of what a lovely place Nobel is when students and staff come together in this way, finding common ground in the things that interest us and the fun that can be had. Miss Harnetty's assemblies this week for International Women's Day have, however, reminded us that we as a school community, as well as society at large, still have much to do to ensure that everyone is included, treated fairly, and given the opportunities to excel.

To this end, students today will be receiving the Nobel School Equity, Diversity and Inclusion survey. We want our students to share their experiences of issues relating to these areas in schools that we can then work with them to find solutions and better ways of doing things.

Please encourage your children to complete the survey—they can access it via Satchel One and it will be open until the end of school on Thursday 4 April.

Kind regards

Naomi Rose

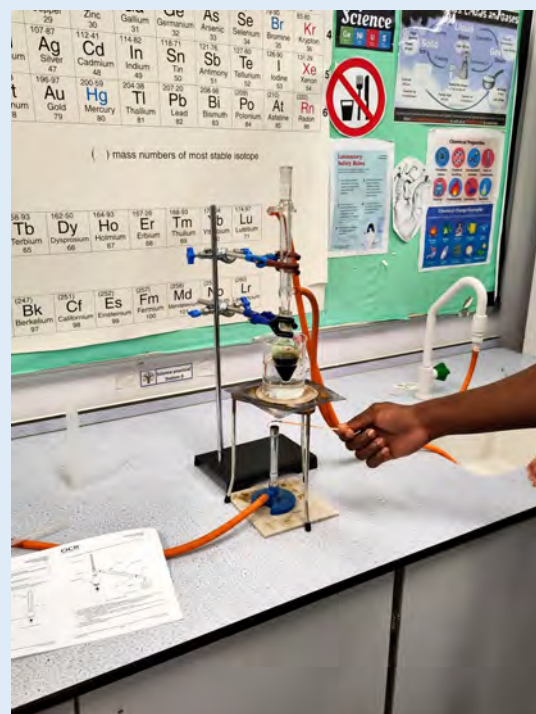
# A Level Chemistry - Organic Synthesis

In recent weeks Year 12 chemists have been learning how to make organic chemicals from starting materials.

This challenging work involves understanding the structures of the starting molecule and the conditions needed to transform it into the target molecule.

Students must master this content on three levels; at the macro scale they must recall colour changes and be able to physically carry out reactions, the sub-microscopic scale sees students appreciate what is happening to individual atoms and chemical bonds while the symbolic requires students to draw equipment accurately and explain the reactions using diagrams.

In this lesson, the students oxidised a primary alcohol using distillation (condenser angled diagonally down) to remove the volatile aldehyde product and prevent further reaction and reflux (condenser vertical) to make the primary alcohol oxidise completely to form a carboxylic acid. The students showed their conscientiousness, adhering to all of the safety precautions and producing the correct products in a safe manner.

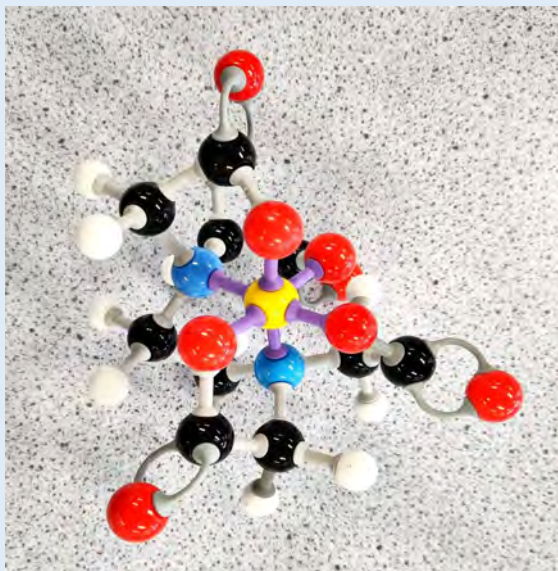


Ms A Redmond  
Head of Chemistry

## Current House ABC Points Totals

18 March 2025	House	ABC Points
1st	Curie	30101
2nd	Mandela	28025
3rd	Teresa	27893
4th	Eliot	25135

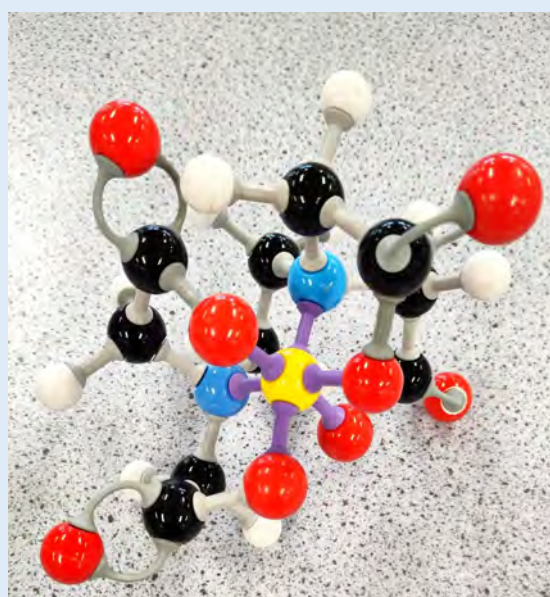
# A Level Chemistry - Transition Metals



Year 13 students are nearing the end of their course, and our final inorganic chemistry topic is transition metals.

Transition metals are all around us and they include iron, copper, nickel and titanium. Their reactions are very important in chemical testing and also represent somewhat of a crossover with organic chemistry since, for example iron is found in haemoglobin which is responsible for transporting oxygen around our bodies.

The two models in the photographs show optical isomers of metal complex ions. In these ions, a transition metal sits at the centre of three small molecules which form chemical bonds to the iron.



They are optical isomers because they have the same structural formula but different arrangements of atoms in space. The array of chemicals shows the results of the follow-up practical activity which saw the students reacting transition metal complexes with other chemicals and making careful observations of the results. The students really showed their curiosity during these lessons as well as their resilience when we didn't get the results we were expecting.

**Ms A Redmond**  
**Head of Chemistry**



## Science at Nobel

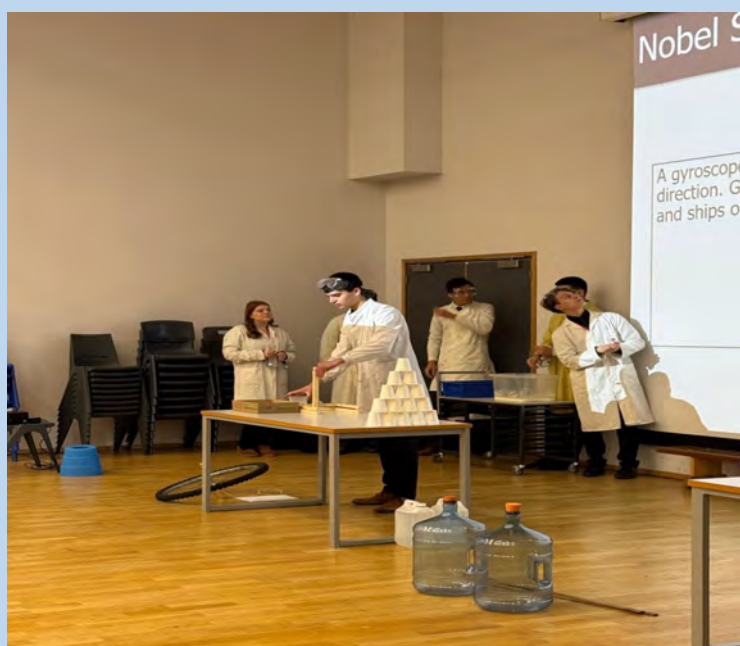


# SCIENCE WEEK 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> MARCH

## 13:30 -14:00

## 207

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Geology Talk	Growing crystals	Science Fair	Adapting animals	Midwifery and pregnancy

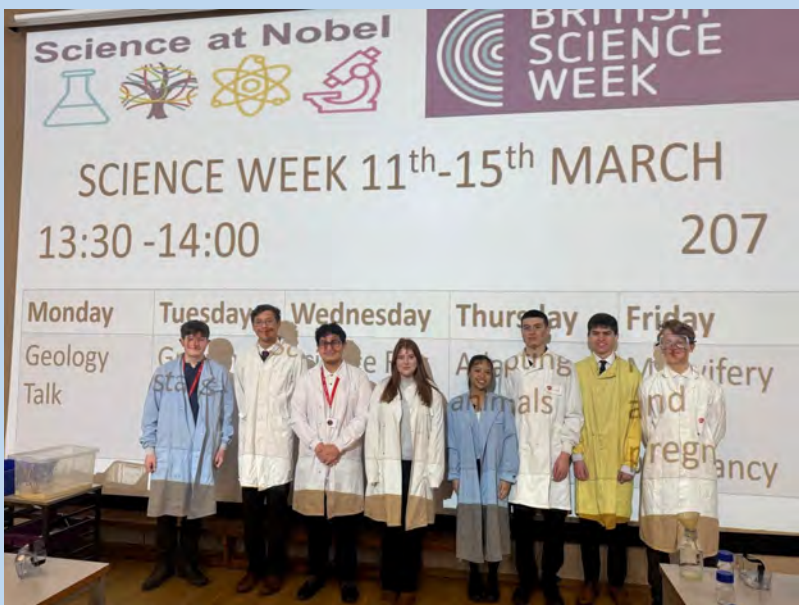
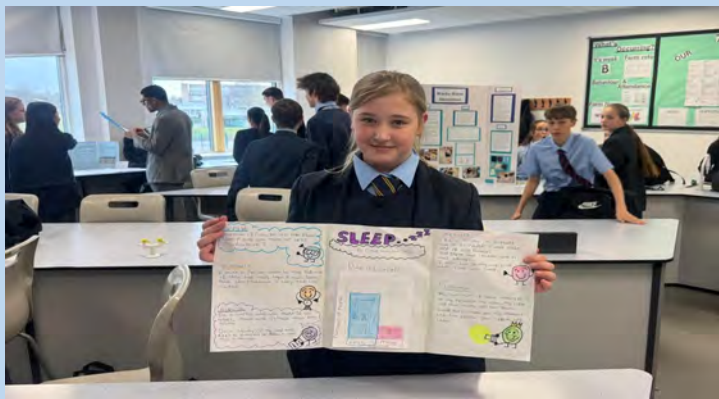


*During science week, every participant had to create a presentation about a science project they were interested in. I did a science project on water absorption levels of different materials. Every person had to come up with a hypothesis and then come up with an experiment to test/ prove it. After the student conducted their experiment, they would then have to have some proof of the experiment and some background information. Overall, science week was very fun and looking at all the projects was very interesting.*

*Coco Tyler Yr 7*



# Science Week Activities



## Student Spotlight



Congratulations to Pablo (9C AMY) who continues to see success within Table Tennis.

Pablo's table tennis progression continues with steady pace, although this year is particularly challenging because of the two-year jump in the category he now plays (Under 15's known as Cadets). In this year Cadet's nationals Pablo was only ranked 5th and had to face England number 2 in the quarter-final. Pablo gave it his best but lost that match and his singles event ended there.

However, it was in the Cadet's doubles event where Pablo excelled. Pairing with the very same player he lost in the singles, they progressed together to reach the Final where they faced England's number 1 and 4 whom were the favourites to win it. Pablo and his partner displayed superb determination right from the start and performed with great aplomb. After taking a very close first game 12-10, they cruised over the next two sets to end the encounter with an unexpected 3-0 and brought home a well-deserved Gold Medal and the Cadet Doubles Winner's trophy.



Further information can be found on the Table Tennis England website: <https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/surprise-doubles-champions-crown-mark-bates-ltd-cadet-u17-nationals/>

**Mr Regan Carolan**  
Teacher of PE

Congratulations to Archie Brown (13 NLT) who ran the Cambridge half Marathon on Sunday 9 March for Addenbrookes Hospital in a personal best time of 2hrs and 5 mins. There is still time to sponsor him on the attached link: <https://gofund.me/c1274c0b>



## Student Spotlight

Congratulations to Eden (8C DAN) who has been incredibly busy over the past few months, training 6/7 hours a week within Taekwondo.

He competed in Chungdokwon on the weekend of the 8th March in Twickenham and brought home a gold medal for Teams poomsae, silver for individual poomsae and a silver for sparring. He also competed in Milton Keynes Sunday 16th March and got a bronze for individual poomsae.

Most impressively, he has now got his international licence to compete internationally which is a big step towards his ambitions to compete at a higher level!

**Mr R Carolan**  
Teacher of PE



## Under 13 Girls Indoor Cricket Competition

On the 6 March, eight girls from across Year 7 and Year 8 took part in an Under 13 Girls Indoor Cricket Competition hosted at the Hertfordshire Sports Village in Hatfield.

Girls cricket at The Nobel School has been going from strength to strength, so it was fantastic to see eight girls keen to represent the school.

In total, four games were played, with each innings being eight overs long. After an early win in their first game against Onslow St Audrey's, the girls faced some stiff competition from the other teams in attendance. Despite the later results not going their way and with two games coming down to the wire, the girls continued to improve throughout and played some fantastic cricket.

The Nobel School player of the tournament was **Rebecca J**, who in her final game achieved a hat trick of wickets across three balls. The Nobel School most improved player was **Eliza Z**, with a great catch and some much improved bowling.

Well done to all the girls involved!

**Mr J Ferguson**  
Teacher of PE



# Year 12 Sports Leaders teach Lodge Farm and Nobel students

The PE Department have been delighted to offer students the opportunity to complete the Level 3 Sports Leadership Qualification through the Leadership Skills Foundation.

Most recently, the Sports Leaders have been completing unit 4, whereby students must plan and lead three progressive sporting sessions. Every element of the session has been planned by the students from planning the warm up, researching activities for the main part of the session, ensuring that they have good knowledge of the rules and planning on how to finish their sessions effectively through a cool down and plenary.

Students had the choice to lead to Year 7 Nobelians or Lodge Farm Year 3 children. So far, two weeks' worth of sessions have been completed, on Tuesday 4 and 18 March. For these sessions, students prepared their equipment and set up at breaktime ready for the arrival of the children. Now into their second session, it has been great to see both the leaders and the participants learn names and enjoy the sessions thoroughly.

Across the hour the sports leaders have been delivering, 100 children are taking part in four different sports within seven different groups.

Well done to the Year 12 Sports Leaders!

**Mr R Carolan**  
Teacher of PE



*On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, I led a PE session for the year 7 girls and the sport I chose was netball. In preparation, my partner and I carefully planned engaging activities that we thought would be both fun and physically beneficial for the girls. For their first session we focused on developing key skills in netball like catching/ throwing and introducing defensive tactics to encourage working in a team.*

*After that we incorporated a fun interactive game which I thought went well. Initially my partner and I were nervous, but the students were engaged and responded positively to the instructions we gave. Overall, it was exciting to incorporate the skills we have learnt over the past few months into a session, and it was rewarding to see their positive engagement.*

*Shakira Maganezi*  
12 MBS

# Girls' Cricket Taster Sessions led by Hertfordshire Cricket



In the first few weeks of the second half of the Spring Term, five PE classes have been lucky enough to take part in Girls' Cricket taster sessions led by Hertfordshire Cricket. Over 150 students had one of their PE lessons led by Rebecca from Hertfordshire Cricket as part of Nobel's ongoing partnership with the organisation. The aim of the session was to give students a positive experience of cricket and encourage them to get involved with the extra-curricular club.

During the session, coach Bex went through a fun warm up game to get the students ready and excited for the session. Students were stood opposite a pair and had to follow a simple instruction such as 'heads, shoulders, knees, toes'. When they heard 'cone' they had to react the quickest to hold the cone above their head before their partner.

Students then moved onto a bowling activity which focused on the correct overarm technique and accuracy, scoring points for hitting a cone or doing even better and hitting the stumps. Once this activity was completed, students had the opportunity to practice their batting and fielding skills in a mini competitive game where all students had the opportunity to bat, bowl and field.

It was amazing to see the students so engaged with the sessions, with some students taking part in cricket for the very first time. Wonderfully, many students have joined the lunchtime club following these sessions. Students who wish to join Girls Cricket Club can do so with Bex and Mr Carolan in the Gym every Thursday lunchtime, 1:30-2pm, before moving to the field in the Summer Term.



**Mr R Carolan**  
**Teacher of PE**



# Year 9 and 10 Girls' Cricket Leadership Day

On Thursday 13 March 2025, 17 students from Year 9 and Year 10 took part in the Girls' Cricket Leadership Training. The opportunity was led by Hertfordshire Cricket and Chance to Shine on-site at The Nobel School.

The aim of the day was to raise the profile of Girls' Cricket within the school and provide the opportunity for selected students to develop their leadership, communication and social skills. The students will use their new skills and knowledge to support with a range of girls' cricket opportunities at Nobel and within the local community.

To start the day, the students focused on building the skills of young leaders which included exploring the skills, qualities and behaviours of a good leader and how they are going to become inspirational role models. The day started with the girls working in partners, using their problem-solving skills in a rope puzzle. Having explored the different behaviours and skills, the students evaluated what they are confident with and what they wanted to develop.

The students moved on to searching the Chance to Shine website, which has a bank of fun and exciting cricket activities. Having looked into the STEP principle, showing the students how to adapt a session, they led their own 10-minute activity focusing on a core skill such as bowling or fielding. They were in charge of collecting their equipment, setting it up and explaining the instructions to their peers. All of the groups did fantastically well and led with confidence!

In the afternoon, the students learnt the rules to Dynamos Cricket, which is a competition format followed by primary schools. In order to show they had learnt everything they needed to know, the students participated in their very own game, taking it in turns to umpire, score and lead to their peers. They managed to get through lots of content in the day, learning new concepts and developing their leadership skills. For many of the students, this was the first time in which they have looked at cricket in great detail.

Now the students have successfully completed the training day, students will be expected to assist with the Girls' Cricket Club which takes place every Thursday lunchtime.

Students will also have the opportunity to attend local primary school events to assist with the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team and Hertfordshire Sports Partnership Dynamos Cricket competitions later on in the academic year.

It was fantastic to see the girls' so enthused by this opportunity. They fully engaged with the activities throughout the day and are passionate about growing girls cricket.

Well done to the following students who have successfully completed the training day:

**Year 9: Cienna, Emily, Isla, Jessica Ga, Ruby, Lacey, Suzannah, Dania, Summer G, Jessica Gr, Summer B**

**Year 10: Kayleigh, Ava, Rose, Rachel, Sofia, Mackenzie**

**Mr R Carolan  
Teacher of PE**



# Physical Education Fixtures Spotlight – March 2025

Please see below some of the sporting fixtures that Nobel have taken part in over the past few weeks in this half term, up to and including Tuesday 11 March 2025:

Date	Team and Sport	Opposition	Result	Player of the Match
Thursday 13 February	Year 8/9 Boys Rugby	St Chris	5-27 Loss	H Brown
Monday 24 February	Senior Boys Basketball <b>District Final</b>	Hitchin Boys	61-47 Loss	L Fatuzzo
Tuesday 25 February	Year 7 Boys Football	Barnwell	0-0 Draw	N Garton
Wednesday 5 March	Year 9 Girls Football	Tournament – various opposition	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	L Pickett L Jones
Tuesday 11 March	Year 8 Netball	Tournament – various opposition	4 <sup>th</sup> place	A Mihalache
Tuesday 11 March	Senior Boys Basketball	Onslow St Audrey's	49-48 WIN	L Fatuzzo

Congratulations to the following teams:

Senior Boys' Basketball team for finishing runner's up in the North Hertfordshire Basketball final  
 Year 9 Girls' Football team finishing runner's up in the North Hertfordshire tournament  
 Year 9 Basketball team who finished runner's up in their league and have been promoted to division two for the next academic year

Well done to all of 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.

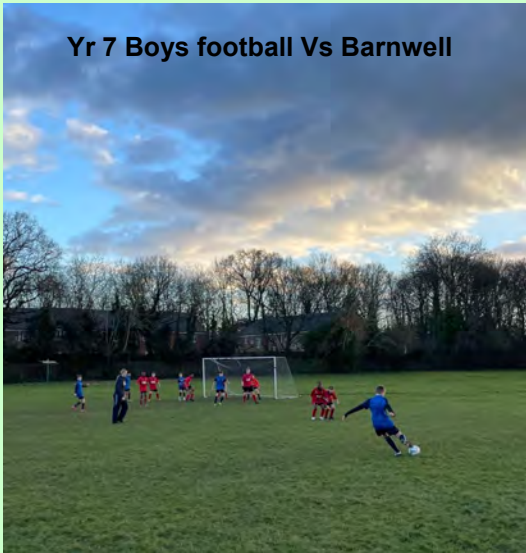
A huge thank you to all of the parents, carers and guardians who have taken the time to cheer from the sidelines for our teams both home and away. This doesn't go unnoticed and is a big support for our students.

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.

**Mr R Carolan**  
Teacher of PE

# Physical Education Fixtures Spotlight – March 2025

Yr 7 Boys football Vs Barnwell



Yr 9 Girls football team at Marriotts Tournament



Yr 8 Netball team at Marriotts Tournament



Yr 8/9 Boys Rugby Vs St Chris



Senor Basketball Team Vs Onslow St Audrey's



Senior Basketball team—District Final



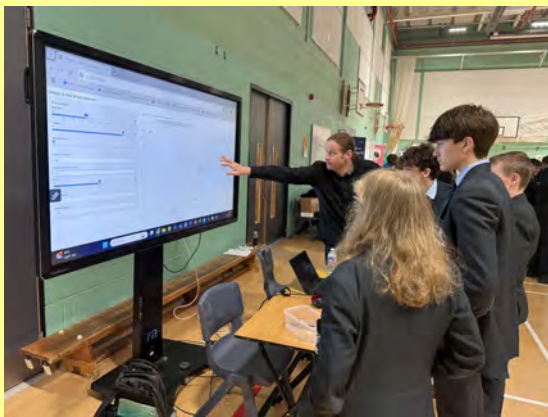
# Nobel Careers Fair

On Monday 10th of March, it was Nobel's Careers Fair, where we had over 30 local business and large organisations all based in the local community, supporting our students from Year 9 to Year 13.

Students enjoyed speaking to these companies, discussing the many various apprenticeships available, local NHS and Fire Services, Science companies such as Nemco, IET, and MBDA along with local colleges and Universities to name but a few. Some of these companies are also part of our Alumni at Nobel, supporting our students career pathways.

Thank you to all that attended and supported us as a school.

**Miss Jemma Savo**  
**Assistant Careers Coordinator**



# University Challenge!

Across the last couple of weeks, it has been our pleasure to produce University Challenge style quizzes to engage the minds of all sixth formers. We have been giving the aspiring younger members of our school a taste of how academically engaging sixth form can be.

Following heats between the Year 12s and Year 13 teams, we hosted a final between 13 NLT and 12 MWG. With NLT only winning by one mark in their semi-final, and MWG competing in an intense tiebreaker in theirs, we knew the final would be exciting.

The two teams went head-to-head in a high-paced quiz testing a broad range of topics, ranging from Sports to Literature and philosophy, and even an exciting round of "Who said that?" These questions tested the students on their skillsets and enabled them to delve into the answers to some tricky questions and really test their intellect, whilst simultaneously having fun and displaying real Sixth Form unity. Despite MWG's best efforts, NLT never showed any signs of letting up their convincing lead, and were crowned the 2025 champions.

As Student Presidents, we've always believed that learning goes beyond textbooks and classrooms. This quiz was more than just a competition; It was a fun and engaging way for our sixth formers to challenge themselves and discover just how much they already know. The electric atmosphere of the final was undeniable, with the sheer excitement of some of our brightest younger students, who were keen to earn ABC points by answering any questions the finalists were unable to. It was fascinating to see the variety of strengths and interests that we have at Nobel.



With Miss Reeder as quizmaster, it was a brilliant event for everyone.

**Mariyah Rahman 13 SSS and Samuel Huttleston 13 NCT - Student Presidents**



# World Book Day Events

World Book Day 2025 was a truly memorable one this year with English faculty members dressing up as their favourite literary character. We had Dorothy and Elphaba from *The Wizard of Oz*, Katniss from *The Hunger Games*, Harry Potter, Matilda's Miss Trunchball, a handmaid from *The Handmaid's Tale*, Alex from *A Clockwork Orange*, *The Cat in the Hat* and a Hobbit!

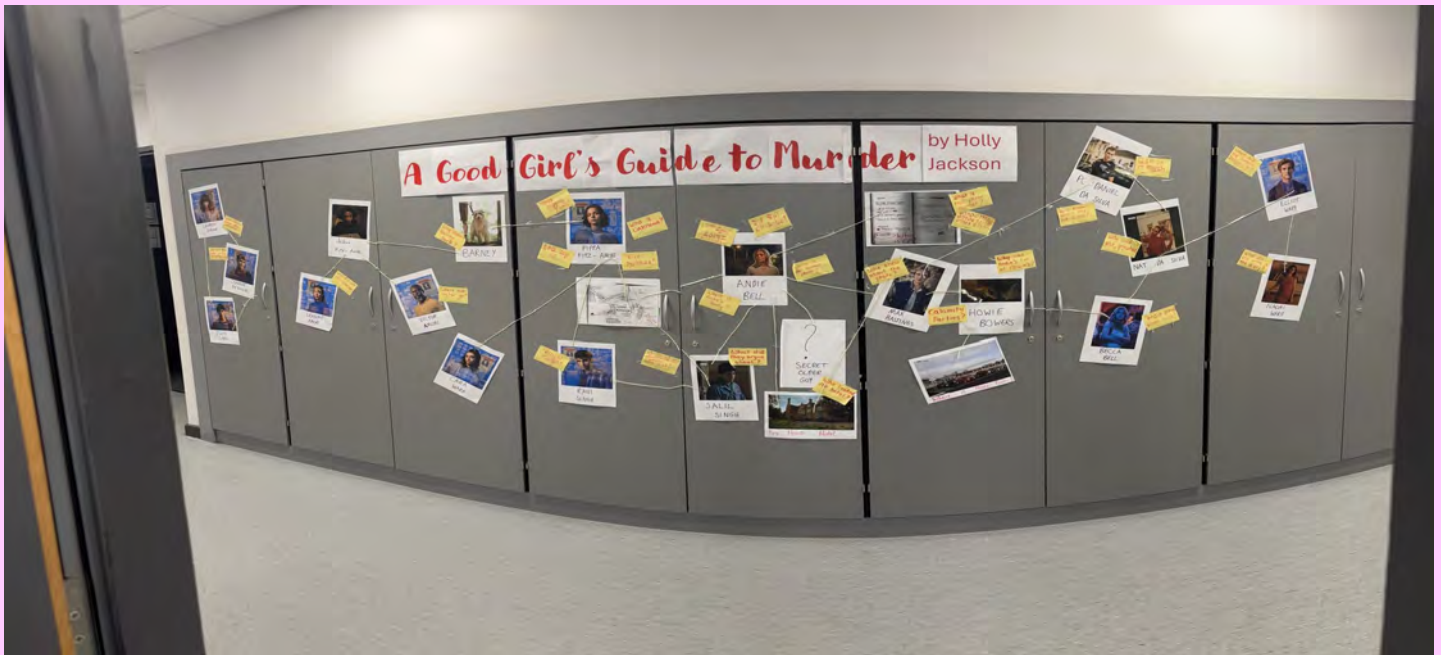


All week, some sixth formers and I promoted reading in assemblies by reading chapter one extracts of iconic literary characters, such as *Black Beauty*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Hobbit*, *Dracula* and many more. All of the books are available in our amazing Nobel library, so students are encouraged to come along and borrow a book to continue the character's journey. Thank you to year 12s Phoebe Hudson, Kiera Corderoy and Natasha Agyemang.

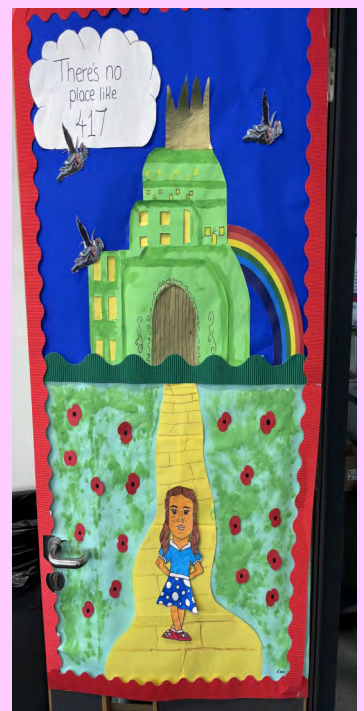
Librarian, Mrs Hawke arranged some fun activities, such as a book hunt and decorate-a-bookmark, and displayed some of our latest book purchases in a pop-up library throughout lunch.

# World Book Day Events

Form tutors and students decorated their classroom doors and corridors, and the displays were simply wonderful. The most impressive corridor display has to be that of 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder', a magnificent collaboration between Mr Philcox's 9E BPX and Miss Whitby's 9T KQY.



This was closely followed by Miss Steele's sixth form group, 12LSE, for their recreation of The Snowman! The winner of Best Door Award went to Miss Hill's form with their fantastic Wonka chocolate bar surrounded by cheeky Oompa-Loompas. Awesome doors were aplenty, but a few of my personal favourites are pictured here along with our worthy winners.



Happy Reading!  
Mrs Di Gregorio  
Head of Literacy

## Book Token reminder



Last chance to use your World Book Day token – they expire on Monday!

## COMING SOON TO YOUR LIBRARY

A brand new Hunger Games Novel has been released this week.

Pop into the Library to reserve your copy .



Mrs A Hawke  
Librarian

## Women's History Month and International Women's Day

To celebrate both Women's History Month and International Women's Day both falling in March, our display is encouraging us to think about which women inspire us either from the present day or days gone by

.We have a small selection of books out on display, but we have so many more on our shelves. You may find one in Art or Science, Sport or Politics in non-fiction, or you may have a favourite author who writes fiction. Don't forget we also have a Biography section which is worth looking at.



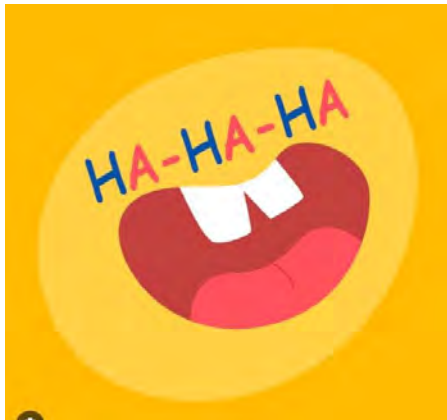
*"International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 4 March, and is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women"*

## National Literacy Trust

*"Every March Women's History Month raises awareness of the contributions women have made to events through history and society"*

**BBC**

Each week we have a  
Genre focus  
This week is Humour



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

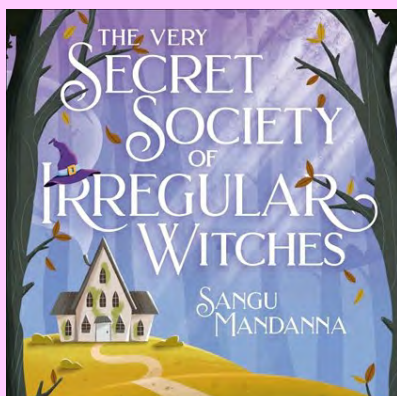
Sparx Reader

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 29th April 2025

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

# READING

*helps  
your  
mind*



# BLOOM

# North Herts Book Awards



On Tuesday 18 March, we went to the North Herts Book Awards at Hitchin Boys' School. To prepare for this, we were previously given 3 book titles to read, so we would be able to discuss them. It was really fun, and we saw loads of other students from other schools

## Younger Fiction



## Older Fiction



Copies of all of the books nominated at the Book Awards are available for you to borrow from the library.

Log on to Accessit for more information on each of the titles or click on the link -

<https://uk.accessit.online/thn03/?serviceId=ExternalEvent&rlSn=67&rlKey=47529709>

When we arrived, we went to their hall and had to find our names on the seating plan. Then we sat down at the tables with students from other schools. We answered questions about the books and discussed what we liked or didn't like about them. We went on to discuss what happened in each story, the characters and how each was written.

After that, we all voted for our favourite book. We then had a break with delicious cookies and juice.

Following the break, we listened to Robin Ince, our guest speaker. He is a comedian, author and broadcaster. He talked about growing up, and the books and poems he has written. He said to us if we are interested in getting into writing, write about things you enjoy.

Finally, the winners were announced:-

**Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell for the Younger Fiction Award**

**Glasgow Boys by Margaret McDonald for the Older Fiction Award**

At the end, we had our photos taken with the guest speaker and he signed autographs for us.

We looked around Hitchin Boys' School library, before heading back to Nobel on the minibus.

**Malakee Year 9**

"All of the people were really friendly, and all of the questions were really in depth" Coco Year 7

"It was really fun, and the author speaker was really interesting" Penny Year 7

"It was an amazing experience and unforgettable" Delilah Year 7

# Developing Character

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

The Character Conundrum for 24/03/25 - 04/04/25 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 13 – CURIOUS

Katy had been studying the cold war in history and actually found it really interesting. She was fascinated by the thought of two super-powers potentially coming to blows over their perceived threat from the other. All her friends said it was boring, but Katy couldn't get enough and, when the teacher said it was the last lesson on the topics, she was even a little disappointed.

Katy really wanted to know more, and wanted to speak to the teacher about where so could research it more but was worried to do this in front of her friends because she thought she would look like a 'nerd'. What should she do?


## Support

Although the suggestion of speaking to the teacher in private is likely to be one of the first suggestions from students, they are missing the big picture. What is wrong with enjoying something, and finding it interesting, even if it does not interest others. Young people often want to fit in and worry that by being seen as different, they then put themselves forward for ridicule. Katy should not need to speak to the teacher in private as she should not need to hide her interest – even if it is different to those of her peers.


## Questions

- Can you identify the moral dilemma in this situation?
- Do you have any interests that your friends do not share, and do you hide them from these friends?
- Why does it seem to matter that friendship groups like the same things?
- Do you believe that being curious about a particular topic makes you a 'nerd' and is there anything wrong with being a 'nerd'?
- Should real friends make you feel like you need to hide aspects of your personality?

**Mr N Brown**  
**Assistant Headteacher**



### 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](http://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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## FONS News

The next meeting of the FONS Committee is Monday 28 April in the school library please email: [kymarthur@btinternet.com](mailto:kymarthur@btinternet.com) for further information.

The 100 club is available to join for a small fee and winners drawn at end of every month.

Some of our funds we have raised are going to the SEN team so they are able to buy sweatshirts for the children's trip to Jimmy's farm.

## QUIZ NEWS

Following the huge success of the last Quizine, we have organised 'Quizine,

the sequel!' Quizmaster Philcox will be making a return and Darren, our Chef, will be back in the kitchen. People that attended last

time will know how much the tables groaned with delicious food (see the curry opposite) and this will be no different.

Please support FONS and the fundraising that they do for the school if you can. Payments can be made via School Gateway or in cash at reception. We MUST have completed forms for each team regardless of payment method.

We really do recommend booking early as this was very popular last year.

**Barry Burningham**  
FONS

Friends of Nobel School present...



# 'Quizine'



Please come and join us in the school hall with your team of up to 6 players for a fantastic, fun evening of food and entertainment.

**Quiz:**  
Our very own,  
'Quizmaster  
Philcox'!

+

**Italian:**  
'Chef Darren's'  
Italian themed  
menu

= **'Quizine'**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**6.30 - 10.00 pm**

Just  
**£12.50 per  
person!**  
(Bring own booze)

Please note.....

THIS EVENT WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT FUNDS TOWARDS A NEW SCHOOL MINIBUS AND EXTRA EQUIPMENT FOR SUBJECTS.

Please see booking form attached or at the end of the newsletter.

**BOOKING DEADLINE: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**





# QUIZINE - BOOKING FORM

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025 @ The Nobel School (Hall)  
(6:30pm for 6.45pm start Finish approx. 9:45pm)



THIS EVENT WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT FONS PROVIDE THE DEPOSIT FOR A NEW SCHOOL WINIBUS.

Tables bookable via:

Email-Simply fill in the form below and return to [trips@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:trips@nobel.herts.sch.uk)

then pay £12.50 per head on school gateway. Please use surname and team name as the reference. or

Email-Simply fill in the form below and return to: [trips@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:trips@nobel.herts.sch.uk)

then hand an envelope with £12.50 per head cash in it to reception with your surname and team name on it

**\*\* £12.50 per head in advance \*\*** (Due to food preparation requirements, we cannot accept casual entry on the door on the night). There will be a raffle and a 'Heads and Tails' game (Please bring some charge/cash too)

**Team: Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No in Team (6 max):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Main contact email / phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NB:** Food will be prepared in advance to accommodate allergies that have been notified to us in advance, however the kitchen is not completely gluten/dairy free, for example.

I require (add up to 6)

Meat Ragu & Pappardelle	Mushroom & Sage Risotto

(all served with assorted crostini & Insalata)

Team Leader must sign to take responsibility for allergy notification. Sign below	
My team has <b>no</b> known food allergies:	
OR My team has the following known food allergies:	

Tick one:

- I have paid via School Gateway using the Surname/Team name.....
- Or  I have given cash in an envelope to reception labelled with the Team Name .....



**BOOKING DEADLINE: 2-5-25 (Bring your own booze!)**

## What is The Eureka's?

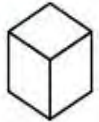


The Eureka's is an annual physics competition for students aged 11-16 in the UK and Ireland, where we challenge you **to see physics differently.**

Imagine the world as a giant puzzle waiting to be solved, from global challenges such as tackling climate change to the more personal such as mastering the perfect rise on your latest bake or understanding the strategy behind a winning goal. **We challenge you to show us how physics can provide the answers.**

We want to see submissions that show you interacting with physics creatively and in a way we might not expect - as you explore how physics can provide the solution to the mysteries in our lives.

An inspiring judging panel will determine which entries demonstrate exceptional originality and creativity, with an overall winner receiving **£1,000/€1,200**, plus **£250/€300** for their school. Two runners up will each win **£500/€600** and there will be six prizes of **£250/€300** awarded to an outstanding entry from someone at every age, from 11 to 16.



IOP Institute of Physics

## Get creative

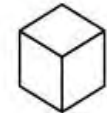


Think about what your entry might be.

- **Craft an artwork** showing how you would solve a **problem**, global or local, that you're passionate about
- **Make a sculpture** of a health device that has made life better for you or someone you love
- **Direct a video** explaining the physics in your favourite sport
- **Sing a song** or play an instrument and explain how physics makes the music happen
- **Imagine your hero** - someone you admire. Explain the physics in what they're famous for
- **Sew, bake or build something** and show us how physics makes it possible
- **Power up your favourite game** and demonstrate how it uses physics to be realistic

As long as your entry shows how **physics help you see the world differently?** you will be in the running for the top prizes.

You can explain this thought process in your covering letter (see **Competition Guidelines** for more information).



IOP Institute of Physics

### Next steps...

Do you have any ideas off the top of your head? Start jotting them down and get creative!

Ask your teacher or parents/carer for help with ideas and information on deadlines.

**And remember... see physics differently.**

**IOP** Institute of Physics

### Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 2 April:** Year 9 Parents; Consultation Evening, 3:30—6:30pm

**Friday 4 April** - Early finish for all students—school closes at 12:20pm

**Easter Break:** 7th April - 21st April (inclusive)



Please note that school will close at 12:20pm on Thursday 27th March 2025 so that members of staff can attend the funeral of our friend and colleague Rebecca Llewellyn .

# TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS



**Tuesdays 9.30 - 11.30am** Face to Face Course: ID 755  
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June, 1st & 8th July 2025  
Gade Community Room, Oakleaf Primary School,  
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2JU

**Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm** Online Course: ID 756  
6th, 13th, 20th May, 3rd, 10th & 17th June 2025  
Delivered online using Zoom

**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 and increase co-operation
- Improve emotional regulation
- Explore sensory needs.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage the different needs within your family.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'I have been on a few courses to help me with my child but this was by far the most helpful'

**Booking essential**  
Please quote the course ID  
To check eligibility and book a place,  
contact Supporting Links on:  
**07512 709556**

[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)  
[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)



Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

# TALKING DADS



**Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm** Online Course: ID 761  
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th June, 2nd & 9th July 2025

**6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers of all ages, sharing information on:**

- Increasing confidence in your parenting.
- Developing a healthy dad/child relationship now and for the future.
- Improved listening and communication skills.
- Effective strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- How to enforce boundaries.
- Being the dad you want to be.

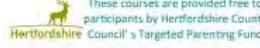
Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom. Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

"The course has given me the confidence to know that I can break out of the cycle and make things different for my child."

**Booking essential**  
Please quote the course ID  
To check eligibility and book a place,  
contact Supporting Links on:

**07512 709556**

[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)  
[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)



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# TALKING FAMILIES



**Thursdays 9.45 - 11.15am** Online Course: ID 757  
8th, 15th, 22nd May, 5th, 12th & 19th June 2025

**Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm** Online Course: ID 758  
6th, 13th, 20th May, 3rd, 10th & 17th June 2025

**6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children under 12, sharing tips on how to:**

- Manage challenging behaviour with consistency
- Encourage positive behaviour
- Build your child's self esteem
- Set and maintain boundaries
- Respond to tantrums and difficult feelings in children
- Develop a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.

'Every parent should do this course! It has taught me so much about how to deal with family life.'

**Booking essential**  
Please quote the course ID  
To check eligibility and book a place,  
contact Supporting Links on:  
**07512 709556**

[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)  
[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)



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# TALKING TEENS



**Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm** Online Course ID 759  
7th, 14th, 21st May, 4th, 11th & 18th June 2025

**Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm** Online Course: ID 760  
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June, 1st & 8th July 2025

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

- The Teen Brain: Recognising the physical and emotional changes taking place during the teenage years and why their behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and difficult feelings.
- Maintaining your relationship with good communication.
- Understanding risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate during a conflict situation.

Our online support sessions are delivered weekly via Zoom.

Groups are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child

"Our home is no longer a battlefield. I am less stressed and my teenager speaks to me more. Thank you!"

**Booking essential**  
Please quote the course ID  
To check eligibility and book a place,  
contact Supporting Links on:

**07512 709556**

[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)  
[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)



Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

## University / Post 18 focus:



- Y12: On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March Y12 will be attending the UCAS Discovery Event in London as they start their research into next steps. In form time they will be planning their day to make the best use of their time and further details of the event and the delegated can be found here: there will be talks on a whole range of topics, subject spotlights, information sessions and representatives from universities, employers and apprenticeship providers.

[Event Guide](#)

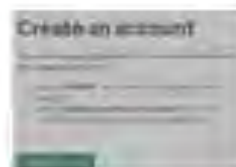
[Visitor Information Guide](#)

## Y13: Student Finance 2025-6.

For students starting university on September/October of 2025 the time has come to start applying for student finance. I will be speaking to students in PSHE about this further but here are some useful links for parents to get you started

- Opened in **March 2025**
- apply by **May 16<sup>th</sup> 2025** to guarantee having the money by the start of your course
- Tuition Fees for full-time undergraduates in **2025-26** are **£9,535** per year.

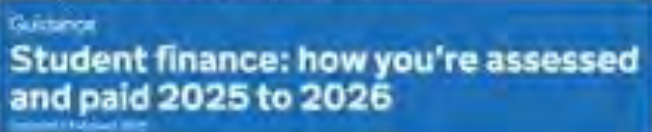
**You will need to create an account:** you can do this online at Student finance, England



**You can apply for funding for:** (University of Warwick)

The screenshot shows the UK Government Student Loans page. It features two main sections: 'Tuition Fee Loan' and 'Maintenance Loans'. The 'Tuition Fee Loan' section includes a graduation cap icon and lists key points such as the loan amount, interest rates, and repayment terms. The 'Maintenance Loans' section includes an icon of a hand holding coins and lists details about the loan amount and how it is used for living expenses.

- Complete Guide to Student Finance:



[Student finance: how you're assessed and paid 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

- Advice of how much you may be entitled to can be found here:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/funding/fundingyourstudies/2025-26/>

- or by using the Student Finance Calculator <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator>
- How to apply: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance>
- Eligibility: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies>
- Sign up now for when Student Finance 2025 opens: <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk/>
- Student Finance in England: everything you need to know (UCAS) <https://www.ucas.com/money-and-student-life/money/student-finance/student-finance-england>

- Further information can be found here:

<https://www.betterunichoice.com/articles/fees-loans-grants>

Martin Lewis: Money Saving Expert: [Student Guides | MoneySavingExpert](#)

Including information on what you'll repay

• The table fits all repayments made after the summer 2025/26 payment period. It does not fit the 2024/25 repayments.

Entry	What you'll repay and how
Direct	Repayment
Loan	Repay 10% of earnings
Grant	Repay 10% of earnings
Loan	Repay 10% of earnings
Grant	Repay 10% of earnings

Una Bright

UCAS Advisor

# Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Conference

Dear Parents & Carers ,

On **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025**, from **9am to 1pm** Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Services system are hosting a **free**, morning conference and invite mental health, social care, health and education professionals to explore themes and topics which support 'curating resilience' This event is being held at the **Weston Auditorium, University of Hertfordshire**.

Resilience and the ability to adapt to change both daily, and over time affects everyone; our children, families, the workforce and our mental health system as a whole. Throughout the morning, hear from a range of experienced speakers on their approaches to teaching, supporting and learning from others, while acknowledging that we are already, highly resilient – we just don't always realise.

At the interval, enjoy refreshments while networking and sharing with other system professionals in the foyer, before returning to your seat for part two!

You can book your seat by clicking on the image, or using the link below. **Please limit your bookings to two per service.**

## **Book my seat**

In the days after the opening event, a range of virtual sessions will be available for professionals to dial into, and take a more in depth look at some of the most prominent issues. These bitesize webinars will showcase case studies, good practice and practical application of services and approaches that support children's mental health.

**Information on these sessions will be shared in the coming weeks.**

\*The conference is free to attend however parking is chargeable at £2 per person. Further information will be shared in the joining instructions.

Please direct all queries to [schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk).



# STEVENAGE TOWN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



**U14'S**

(YEAR 9 2023/24)

# PLAYERS WANTED

**TRIAL FOR FREE**

**ALL ABILITIES & EXPERIENCE WELCOME**

**TRAINING IS HELD ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 6.30-8PM . MATCHES  
ARE HELD ON SUNDAYS. ALL COACHES ARE DBS CHECKED.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND A FREE TRIAL, PLEASE ASK A PARENT/GUARDIAN TO CONTACT THE  
U14's MANAGER, JOEL MORRIS AT [JTMORRIS1988@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JTMORRIS1988@GMAIL.COM)**



**STEVENAGE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, 22 NORTH ROAD, STEVENAGE, SG1 4BB**



**EVERYONE  
CAN PLAY**

# JUNIOR BASKETBALL

## NEW Junior Basketball Sessions!

A turn up and play basketball session in a safe, fun environment organised by a qualified Coach for ages 11-15 years!

Every Friday, 4:30-5:40pm!

Only £2 per session!

For ages 11-15 Years!

Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre

Starts Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

You can book online or download the Everyone Active app or ask a member of staff at reception to help with booking you on!

For more info please contact:

[stevenageactivecommunities@everyoneactive.com](mailto:stevenageactivecommunities@everyoneactive.com)

Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre  
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Sg1 1LZ  
Tel: 01438 576658

 |  | 

Working together for the health and happiness of Stevenage schools

# GCSE MATHS

## EASTER: FINAL PHASE EXAM PREP



**JOIN US!**

**TUESDAY 8TH APRIL**  
(PAPER 1/NON-CALC)

**THURSDAY 10TH APRIL**  
(PAPER 2/ CALCULATOR)

**TUESDAY 15TH APRIL**  
(PAPER 3/ CALCULATOR)

**FOUNDATION SESSIONS:**

11am-12:15pm

**HIGHER SESSIONS:**

1pm-2:15pm

WWW.ACETUITION.ONLINE



**FOCUSING ON:**

- ✓ MULTI-MARK QUESTIONS
- ✓ MODEL ANSWERS
- ✓ EXAM QUESTIONS STRATEGIES



**£22.50 PER SESSION**

WWW.ACETUITION.ONLINE

## GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE 'GRADE BOOSTER' EASTER CRASH COURSES

Mon 7th April |  
10am-1pm

**GCSE SHAKESPEARE  
'MACBETH'**

Mon 7th April |  
1pm-3pm

**GCSE 'ROMEO  
& JULIET'**

Tue 8th April |  
6pm-9pm

**GCSE 'POWER &  
CONFLICT POETRY'**

Wed 9th April |  
10am-1pm

**GCSE 'CHRISTMAS  
CAROL'**

Wed 9th April |  
1pm - 3pm

**GCSE 'DR JEKYLL &  
HYDE'**

Tues 15th April |  
6pm-9pm

**GCSE 'INSPECTOR  
CALLS'**

Sat 19th April |  
6pm-9pm

**Edexcel  
'CONFLICT  
POETRY'**

**Masterclass includes:**

- GRADE 9 key themes and character analysis
- GRADE 9 language structure quotation analysis
- Top strategically selected whole-text quotations
- Question by question success criteria
- Structure for each response
- GRADE 9 model answers
- GRADE 9 psychoanalysis & critical theories
- Exam practise and live marking
- Successful analytical and essay structure
- SENIOR EXAMINER STRATEGY TIPS!



**£50  
PER SESSION**

## GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE 'GRADE BOOSTER' EASTER CRASH COURSES

**SESSIONS TAUGHT BY:**



- HIGHLY EXPERIENCED AND SUCCESSFUL  
'HEAD OF ENGLISH'
- SENIOR 'DIRECTOR OF LEARNING'
- GCSE EXAMINER!

**REGISTER NOW!**



✓ AQA LANGUAGE PAPER 1  
MON 14th April | 10AM-1PM

✓ AQA LANGUAGE PAPER 2  
WED 16th April | 10AM-1PM

✓ EDEXCEL PAPER 1  
MON 14th April | 1PM-3pm

**Masterclass includes:**

- GRADE 9 key themes and character analysis
- GRADE 9 language and structure quotation analysis
- Top strategically selected whole-text quotations
- Question by question success criteria
- Structure for each response
- GRADE 9 model answers
- GRADE 9 psychoanalysis and critical theories
- Exam practise and live marking
- Successful analytical and essay structure
- SENIOR EXAMINER STRATEGY TIPS!

WWW.ACETUITION.ONLINE



**£50  
PER SESSION**

**JOIN US NOW**