

Nobel News

6th March 2026
Edition 14.6



From the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Member of the Nobel Community,

As we began this half term, Year 11 students completed their mock examinations, and I would like to commend them for the maturity and dedication they have shown. It has been particularly encouraging to see many students arriving early each morning to revise in the canteen before their exams. Their commitment and determination are excellent signs as they continue their preparations for the summer. In addition, year 13 have been taking their revision seriously, with many dedicating spending more time after school to ensure they are preparing for their A Levels.

We also had a fantastic school trip to Madrid, led by Miss Perez-Lotcho and Mr Tabunor. I would like to extend my thanks to them and to all the staff who gave their time to make this opportunity possible for our students. The trip was a great success and, as always, our students represented the school brilliantly. In fact, former England footballer Jamie Redknapp happened to be on the same flight as our group and commented to staff on how well behaved the students were.

This term we have also welcomed parents into school for our Nobel Celebrates Success breakfasts, recognise the achievements of our students. Yesterday we trialled a new format, bringing two year groups together, which worked extremely well. It was wonderful for students to see their peers being recognised and to celebrate each other's achievements.

Many of you will remember Mrs Llewellyn, who sadly passed away just over a year ago and was a much-loved member of the Nobel community. In her memory, staff are taking part in charity step challenge in March in support of Garden House Hospice Care.

Our original goal of one million steps was reached very quickly, so we have now set ourselves an ambitious target of ten million steps. A link to support this wonderful cause will be included further below in the newsletter for any parents who would like to contribute.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents for your continued support in helping us maintain the high standards we expect at Nobel. This includes our expectations around school uniform. A shared commitment between school and home to presenting ourselves smartly and professionally plays an important role in reinforcing pride in our school community.

You may have heard about the "Red vs Blue" trend circulating on social media, where schools have been irresponsibly pitched against one another. Some posts connected to this trend have included worrying suggestions about causing harm. To reassure families, the secondary school headteachers across Stevenage have worked together and communicated consistently with our communities to emphasise that we stand united in prioritising the safety of all young people. At Nobel, we have also ensured there is additional staff presence at the end of the school day in the surrounding local areas. We would strongly encourage all parents to regularly check and discuss social media use with their children so that you are aware of what they may be exposed to online.

Many of our Year 13 students have also been receiving their university offers and apprenticeship offers, and we are delighted by the opportunities that lie ahead for them. This includes students who have accepted offers such as Maths at University of Cambridge and International Relations and History at LSE. Other offers coming in include an apprenticeship at KMPG, Architecture at University of Greenwich and many more universities across the UK. Congratulations to all students for their hard work and ambition as they prepare for this exciting next stage.

**Best wishes,
Rav Phagura
Headteacher**

Science at Nobel



Curiosity.....what's your question?

SCIENCE WEEK 9th-13th MARCH

13:30 -14:00

207

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Quicksand How long to live?	How high can the lava go?	Space Is anyone out there?	How do my fingers get blood?	What is the great attractor?

Current House ABC Points Totals

27 Feb 2026	House	ABC Points
1st	Eliot	33822
2nd	Curie	33644
3rd	Mandela	30617
4th	Teresa	30113

Ten Million Steps for Mrs Llewelyn

Sadly, Friday 27 February marked the one year anniversary of Rebecca Llewelyn's passing. For those of you who are new to the school, Rebecca was our Head of Dance, who lost a very brave fight against cancer last year.

A group of staff aim to walk ten million steps in March to commemorate Rebecca's life, as she would have turned 44 on the 1 March. We are doing this to raise money for the Garden House Hospice, a very worthy cause, who are struggling financially at the moment.

We have set up a Just Giving Page, which will remain open for all of March.

Please donate, if you can.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/corrina-reeder-1?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL



**Kind Regards
Mrs C Reeder
Assistant
Headteacher**

Focus on Careers Education

NOBEL SCHOOL CAREERS FAIR

Monday 9th March 2026



Plan your future - students from Years 9 - 13 are invited to browse stalls and talk to exhibitors from a wide range of industries and education providers to learn more about potential careers and the opportunities that are available.

This year's careers fair promises to be bigger and better than ever!

With almost 40 exhibitors expected to attend, across a wide range of employment sectors, we are giving more students the opportunity to benefit from the opportunity of a face-to-face conversation with a specialist in their area of interest.

The event will run from 9.00 am until 1.20 pm and each year group (from 9 - 13) will be given a time slot to attend.

We would ask parents to support us in encouraging their son/daughter to make the most of this annual opportunity and to seek out the exhibitors that may be of interest to them. Exhibitors usually bring lots of literature with them, but students should not be afraid to ask questions and, if appropriate, to make notes.

For those students in Y10, who have not yet secured their work experience placement for the summer, this is the perfect place to look for inspiration as you may find something you had not thought of before.

Dates for your Diary

- **Mon 9 March - School Careers Fair (Yr's 9 -13)**
- **Wed 11 March - Yr 8 Consultation Evening 3:30-6:30pm**
- **Fri 13 March - Yr's 7 & 8 FONS disco 7-9pm**
- **Wed 25 March - Yr 9 Consultation Evening 3:30-6:30pm**
- **Fri 27 March - school closes at 12:20pm for Easter holidays**
- **Mon 30 March - Friday 10 March (inclusive) EASTER HOLIDAYS**
- **Mon 13 April - independent Study day (Students to work at home)**
- **Tues 14 April - All students to return to school**



Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award News

Spotlight on the Skill Section

As part of the DofE programme, you pick a skill to learn or develop over a set period (either 3 or 6 months for Bronze for one hour each week). This could be anything from learning a new language to taking up gardening, the aim is simply to commit to improving something you're interested in. This can become something you enjoy long after the award is finished. Each skill is assessed by someone with experience in that area, which might be a teacher or a leader from a club or group you're completing the skill with.



For my Bronze DofE skill, I decided to learn a new recipe each week. One of my favourites was baking a loaf of sourdough. Even after completing my Bronze Award, I've kept my sourdough starter alive for over three years, and I continue to use it to keep baking and improving.

**By James Evans,
Gold Participant and DofE Student Leader**

Spotlight on the Physical Section

Within the physical section of DofE, students are expected to complete a certain number of months, doing their chosen activities to complete the section. By far, I found this section the best way to train for the expedition, keeping fit and it being a great opportunity for me to socialise with my teammates in my club while still working towards my DofE award. For me and many other participants of this award, sport is one of their passions and often is their favourite section. Students often look forward to their physical activity, and a lot of the time students continue to do the same sport or physical activity for a while and keep it as a main hobby of theirs. This is wonderful and it is such a great strength of this award as it gets people into exercise and often encourages them to keep on doing it!

**By Olivia Chalkley
Gold Participant and DofE Student Leader**

Spotlight on the Volunteering Section

Volunteering is one of the three compulsory sections for The Duke of Edinburgh Award, and each participant is required to complete this, whether they are working towards bronze, silver or gold. This section involves giving up and spending some of your time helping out in the community, although for some this can be seen as the hardest section to complete as many people do not already volunteer before DofE, there are many options on how you can complete this section, for example litter picking, in-school tutoring, sports leadership and volunteering at charity shops or food banks. For this section, I volunteered with a disability athletics squad. This involved attending the weekly training sessions and helping to lead the activities and support the athletes. This experience built and improved my confidence, communication, and teamwork skills, all of which will be needed in the future. It also allowed me to widen my knowledge on how to support others, no matter their ability or needs. I loved volunteering with this group and have continued to do so after my DofE sections were complete. I created strong relationships with the participants and the group leaders, and I learnt that volunteering not only benefits the place you are giving your time too, but that it is hugely rewarding to feel you are making a difference.

**By Abi Tonge
Gold Participant and DofE Student Leader**

Spanish students go to Madrid

From the 25-27 February students of Spanish in years 9, 10, 12 and 13 had the fantastic opportunity to go to Madrid and participate in cultural activities such as flamenco dancing and tapas cooking.

Students were outstanding, shops all complimented their behaviour, the flamenco dance instructors would like us to go back and even Jamie Redknapp thought our students had come from a private school!

The students on the trip made staff proud, not only for their behaviour but for getting so involved in all activities with such enthusiasm! Here is what they have to say about it:

Day 1:

We started the day by meeting all our friends at school, the airport was smooth and arriving in Madrid we got the pleasant surprise of meeting Jamie Redknapp. We arrived at the hostel where we were greeted by lovely staff and taken to our rooms. We got into our groups and met up with our tour guides and got to see all the lovely monuments including the Royal Palace. As we arrived back at the hostel we had time to relax and settle into our room and then we had a lovely dinner and went to sleep. It was an amazing first day.



Day 2:

We got ready and headed downstairs for breakfast, which was very nice. We then all walked to the flamenco studio, where we learned how to do some flamenco dancing. They gave us free fans!



After, we got put into groups depending on where we wanted to go. Some went to an art museum, whilst the rest went to the Bernabeu (Real Madrid football stadium). These groups went to a tapas cooking class which was really fun. The stadium was really cool to see and the journey there was really quick and easy.

Then, we went to a park and walked around. There were nice views and street performers which was cool to see. Finally, we went back to the hostel for dinner which was very nice.



Day 3:

We started off the day by eating breakfast together and got everybody's bags packed and away. We then left the hostel to walk to the wonderful Royal Palace and we had a tour of the inside and all the history behind it. We were able to explore the gardens and sit and eat our lunches together. Then we went to the churro shop and the churros were lovely and it was a great experience. Then we had some free time to spend with our friends and shop. Then we went back to the hostel packed the coach and went to the airport and had a swift exit. We all had an amazing time and everyone enjoyed it. It was a really great experience.

As a whole I think the trip was really fun and I will never forget it. We all loved every moment of it and were really nicely exposed to the Spanish culture. My favourite part was getting to go to the Bernabeu. I will never forget this trip, it was incredible!!

Ethan Hince 10C MGS, Rylen Walters 10C MGS, Jaydon Allen 10E ARD



**Miss M Perez-Lotcho
Head of Spanish**

Madrid Trip



After an early arrival at school, navigating a busy airport, we finally reached Madrid. The first activity was a walking tour of the city where we saw important landmarks and learnt some interesting facts about the culture and history of Madrid. The next day started with a quick shopping stop in the plaza before a group flamenco dancing lesson. In this session, we were taught the key components of flamenco. This includes hand movements and positions, clapping and steps. We were then split into three groups for the next activities. First, our group went to see the Bernabeu Stadium. There was a lot of excitement from both students on the trip and others also visiting this stadium. After this we got back on the Metro and went to a tapas cooking class. Here we learnt how to cook three traditional foods: paella, tortilla and an almond cake. All of these are very delicious and everyone enjoyed this experience. The final activity of the second day was a walk to and around Retiro park before heading back to the hostel. In the morning of the final day after an early start, we headed to the Royal Palace, where we saw the crown and many other royal items. These are all very interesting and exciting to see. This was followed by lunch in the Royal Gardens before heading to our final activity. This was hot chocolate and churros at famous churro shop.

Abi Tonge 12 CML

Art Club

Students in the **lunchtime Art Club** have been busy getting creative with a seasonal craft project, making Easter bunnies using string and papier mâché.

Carefully wrapping string around moulds and layering papier mâché to build structure, students explored texture and form while developing their making skills.

Once dry, the bunnies were decorated and personalised, resulting in a range of imaginative and characterful designs.

The three examples shown in the photo highlight the creativity and effort students put into the project, bringing a festive touch to the Art Club as we approach the Easter season.



**Ms S Sears
Head of Art**

Yr 11 Fitzwilliam Museum Trip

Year 11 Art and Design students recently visited the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to support the development of their GCSE exam projects on the theme **“Found.”**

During the trip, students explored a wide range of artworks and artefacts, observing how artists use objects, materials, and ideas that have been discovered, collected, or reinterpreted in their work. The visit provided valuable inspiration for their own projects, allowing students to make first-hand studies, gather visual references, and deepen their understanding of how the theme can be expressed in different ways.

The experience was both inspiring and educational, helping students to generate new ideas as they continue to develop their GCSE exam work.

Ms S Sears
Head of Art



Yr 12 Teaching PE lessons

Recently, Year 12 students studying the OCR Cambridge Technical in Sport have been teaching PE lessons in classes lower down the school as part of their Unit 02 work.

Students have had to lead 6 individual, progressive sessions based on a sport of their choice. Whilst this can be a daunting process, for some this is something they fall naturally into.

Leo F lead 6 superb basketball sessions, with a clear focus on shooting. Between each session, Leo was keen to take on teacher feedback before implementing this into his next session. His sessions went from strength to strength, with there being a real buzz amongst the Year 8 group who he was teaching. As a measure of his success, not only were the Year 8's keen to offer very complimentary feedback, but they were also asking "where is Leo" in their next lesson after Leo had delivered his 6 sessions.

Well done to Leo and all other Y12 students who have stepped outside their comfort zone recently to take on teaching for the first time.



Mr J Ferguson
Teacher of PE

Yr 7 Basketball Team



The Year 7 team have started their basketball season well after the Christmas break. The basketball league in Year 7 is short and sharp, with all District League games needing to be played in just a few weeks.

So far, the Year 7 team have taken on Thomas Alleynes and The Priory School.

Our match vs Thomas Alleynes ended as a nailbiter. With the score 10-2 going into the final quarter in our favour, complacency started to creep in and after a few quick concessions, the game was tied 10-10 forcing a 5 minute overtime. Whilst Thomas Alleynes had the chance to win the game with a free throw, the game thankfully ended as a draw, but this provided valuable lessons to take into our next match.

For our next match vs The Priory, a fast scoring start to the game by Miller F put the boys comfortably in the lead by the end of the first quarter. Whilst The Priory did start to work their way back in, the game ended in a comfortable win to Nobel, 16-8.

Most Valuable Player (MVP): Nobel vs Thomas Alleyne - Max S. Nobel vs The Priory - Miller F.

If you fancy joining Year 7 basketball club, please come along each Monday after school.

Year 12 Sports Leaders Prepare for Exciting Opportunities

Our Year 12 Sports Leaders are currently putting the finishing touches on their leadership training as they prepare to take part in a number of exciting upcoming events. These students have been working hard to develop the skills needed to be confident, effective leaders, and they are now ready to put those skills into practice.

Over the coming weeks, our Sports Leaders will be working at Lonsdale School in Stevenage to support a table cricket festival, coaching Year 3 pupils at Lodge Farm, and running a festival at Gosling inspired by the Commonwealth Games. These opportunities will allow them to gain valuable hands-on experience while making a positive impact on younger children.



Throughout their training, students have developed a wide range of leadership skills, including effective communication, motivation techniques, behaviour management, and the use of both verbal and non-verbal signals. They have also learnt how to plan and deliver a full lesson, incorporating warm-ups, drills, games, and cool-downs.

The group are incredibly excited to get out and lead sessions, and I am confident they will do an amazing job representing themselves and the school. We are all very excited about what the next few months have in store.

Mrs J Saville
Head of Year 12 and Sports Leaders Teacher



Student Sporting Success

On the 4th February Nobel students Harry Spencer (Year 10) and Joshua Spencer (Year 7) participated in the National Finals of the British Shooting Schools Championships in Cannock, Staffordshire.

We are pleased to report that Joshua achieved 16th place Junior section Sporter class in his first ever entry into a National Final of any competition which is an incredible achievement.

Harry, who is becoming a seasoned competitor achieved 2nd place Intermediate section Sporter class winning a silver medal in the National Final.

Both boys have shown incredible character in developing the skills of self-discipline, composure, and organisation embodying the spirit of a Nobelian in their participation in such a high level sport.



We look forward to seeing how both boys continue to progress and develop in this field.

Mr D Galvin and Mr M Jones
Head of Yr 7 and Head of Yr 10



Huge congratulations to Will Allardyce in Year 9 who competed in the Hertfordshire Schools Cross Country Championships on Saturday 31 January 2026. Will placed 22nd out of 105 competitors on the day. The course was quite challenging with lots of tricky hills and rather a lot of mud.

Well done Will on a fantastic achievement!



Mrs E Camp
Head of PE

District Indoor Athletics



On Tuesday 3 February, 15 Year 7 students represented The Nobel School in the annual District Indoor Athletics meet. In our first week back from the Christmas break, Year 7 students had the chance to try out a variety of indoor athletics events in PE. From this try out, 40 students were shortlisted to take part in two



further trials in order to have the chance to be selected for the final team of 15.



In total, six schools from Stevenage and the surrounding area attended this meet, with each school having a boys' and girls' team. Students competed across a variety of modified indoor athletics events including a variety of running and relay races, long jump, triple jump, speed bounce, vertical jump and many more. Each athlete could do a maximum of 5 events, with their results being recorded individually and also as a part of the wider team score.

When the final results were announced, the Year 7 Nobel girls team finished in 1st place and the Year 7 Nobel boys team finished in 2nd place. When taken

together, this made **The Nobel School the District Indoor Athletics champions.**

This is our best result we have achieved as a school in this competition, so congratulations to all students involved in this event. Should your son or daughter want to become involved in athletics, our summer season will begin the first week we return from the Easter break with a weekly club and a variety of competitions scheduled for then.



**Mr J Ferguson and
Mr V Lwanga
Teachers of PE**



Yr 7 Netball

The Year 7 netball team played two games on Wednesday 11 February. They faced John Henry Newman and Marriotts school. The girls were so excited to be finally playing some league games and in some sunshine!

The first game against John Henry Newman was fast paced and challenging at times but the girls worked hard and well as a team. The result was 18-1 to JHN.

Despite the loss in their first game, the girls came alive against Marriotts and were ready to bounce back. They communicated well on court and their movement was so much better this all resulted in a 6-4 win for Nobel!



Well done to all who played and a special shout out to J. Gilbert (GA) who was awarded players player in both games by the opposition schools.

Mrs E Camp
Head of PE

Impressive success for Zara Barringer!

We were delighted to hear just before half term how our ex Nobelian, Zara Barringer, had been selected for the England U18 Women's Rugby Training Camp at Bisham Abbey.

Zara left Nobel last year after completing her GCSE's to pursue her rugby dream and career at Hartpury College, Gloucester. We couldn't be any prouder and we are all right behind her – Go Zara !

Miss N Chalkright
Teacher of PE



Year 12 Sports Leaders Support Hertfordshire Table Cricket Event

On Monday 9 February, our Year 12 Sports Leaders were invited to Lonsdale School to support Hertfordshire Cricket Club in delivering their annual Table Cricket event. Five other schools from across Hertfordshire attended, making it a fantastic inclusive sporting occasion.

Our leaders were warmly welcomed by the Hertfordshire Cricket Club coaches, who explained the rules of the game, scoring system, and the roles and responsibilities involved. The Sports Leaders then split into three groups, working brilliantly as a team to manage scoring, support students who needed extra help, ensure everyone was fully engaged, and most importantly, make sure all participants were enjoying themselves.

The atmosphere throughout the event was amazing, with big smiles on the faces of both the students and our leaders. Some of our leaders particularly enjoyed the fast-paced 6/7 game, building strong relationships with students from other schools as the day progressed.

At the end of the event, Lonsdale School were crowned overall winners, but all participants received certificates in recognition of their involvement. Our Sports Leaders achieved a great deal during the day, developing valuable skills linked to inclusive sporting events. They were also awarded certificates from Hertfordshire Cricket Club for their leadership and contribution.

Teachers from all the attending schools were extremely complimentary about our leaders and expressed how much they would love to see them return for the softball competition in May.

A huge thank you from Mrs Saville to all the Sports Leaders — you were outstanding on the day and truly did Nobel proud.

Mrs Saville
PE teacher and lead for Sports Leaders



District Swimming Gala

On Thursday 29 January, some of our students competed in the annual District Swimming Gala, held at Hitchin swimming pool. All students were fantastic and we were incredibly proud of how they performed on the night and how they represented both themselves and the school. A huge congratulations to all involved:

Junior swimmers: Millie Waters, Daisy Horwood, Leo Tsang and Samuel Froude

Intermediate swimmers: Lilianna Nowak, Ruby Whitby, Chloe Barber, Samuel Mullaney and Matthew Jackson.

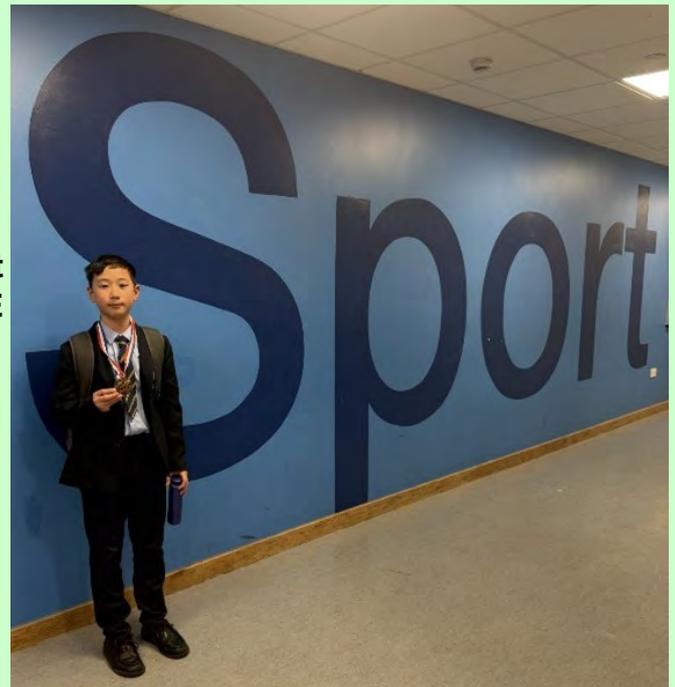
We would also like to extend our congratulations to the following students who placed in the top three within their events:

Chloe Barber – 1st place in the Girls' Intermediate 50m Backstroke

Samuel Mullaney – 2nd place in the Boys' Intermediate 50m Backstroke

Leo Tsang – 3rd place in the Boys' Junior 25m Butterfly

Miss N Chalkright
Teacher of PE



Year 8 Girls District Football Tournament



Our year 8 girls football team represented the school in our most recent tournament on Thursday 26 February. Although our first match resulted in a 2-0 loss against Barclay, we showed resilience in our second game against Priory. Layla scored three goals and Rebecca scored one goal completing their 4-1 win .

The following game was a competitive 2-2 draw against Highfield with Rebecca and Layla both scoring once again after being 2-0 down and bringing it to 2-2 by the final whistle.

In our final match , we faced Marriots and were unfortunately defeated 2-0 meaning we did not progress to the knockout stages. Despite this, our team (Layla, Rebecca, Molly, Ivy , Alana, Elise and Evie) demonstrated excellent teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Match report written by Layla Chumbley - Year 8

FONS News

An Email has now been sent out regarding our year 7/8 disco taking place on 13 March. FONS will again be selling drinks and sweets. We look forward to seeing you there.

We are excited to share more information about our Quizine night on 15 May. This time our food theme will be fish and chips.

Alongside our quiz there will be heads and tails and a raffle. We would be very grateful if you have any new/unused and in date items to donate for our raffle on the night. These can be dropped off at reception for the attention of FONS. See the poster for more information about how you can take part on the night. We hope you can join us.

Please see the picture opposite of a recent purchase that FONS supported which was the Year 7 House Points trophy.

For information on FONS please email Kym - kymarthur@btinternet.com

For information on our 100 club contact Jodie - jlaingseattle@gmail.com

Upcoming dates

Friday 13 March - Year 7/8 disco 7pm till 9pm
Monday 27 April - FONS meeting 7pm (library)
Friday 15 May - Quizine 7pm till 10pm
Tuesday 16 June - FONS meeting 7pm (library)
Monday 6 July - FONS meeting 7pm (library)

Kind Regards
FONS Committee

Yr 7/8 Disco Update

Dear parents

As stated in the circulated letter and advertising for the upcoming disco, we have limited numbers to ensure safety of students due to available staffing. Students have also been reminded of this during form time.

As the total of admissions has been met, there will be no further sales and no sales on the door.

Kind regards
FONS





'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'!

+

Fish&Chips:

'Chef Darren's' seaside menu with loads of extras!

= 'Quizine'

Friday 15th May

6.30 – 10.00 pm

Just

£12.50 per person!

(Bring own booze)

Please note.....

THIS EVENT WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT FUNDS TOWARDS EXTRA EQUIPMENT FOR SUBJECTS.

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

BOOKING DEADLINE: Friday 8th May



QUIZINE - BOOKING FORM

Friday 15th May 2026 @ 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 MINIBUS.

Tables bookable via:

Email-Simply fill in the form below and return to 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

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 **** Deadline 8th May (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 change/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)

(all served with chips, mushy peas, curry sauce, crusty roll, pickled onions and gherkins!)

Fish	Saveloy	Battered Vegan Sausage

Team Leader must sign to take responsibility for allergy notification. Sign below

My team has **no** 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: 8-5-26 (Bring your own booze!)

Developing Character

Dear Students and Parent/Carers

For the two weeks between 09/03/26 and 20/03/26 the character focus is on the Nobelian virtue of being **RELIABLE**.

The Character Conundrum for the fortnight 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 12 – RELIABLE

Josh has a teacher at school who always sets homework each week but then gives the students extra time if they do not complete it by the due date. The students in the class know this and often half the class or more don't do it and give all manner of excuses. One week Josh hasn't done the homework citing that his dog ate it and is given till the next day. This day comes and again he fobs off the teacher with an excuse. After that, she stops asking. What should he do?

Support

One key point here is about what the point of homework is? Is it valuable to the students' learning and does it really matter if it is completed or not? Homework is used to check understanding and see how the students can do when the support of the teacher or peers is removed. Most students reading this conundrum would consider that, if there is no likely sanction, then what is point? But it is in fact that they are missing the point themselves; homework supports their learning in school and can highlight gaps in their understanding. Ultimately though, if you are asked to do something, a student with good character can be relied upon to complete the task.

Questions

- Can you identify the moral dilemma in this situation?
- Is the teacher's kindness really a weakness?

- Do you respect teachers who are firmer with their expectations?
- Does there need to be a sanction to convince you to complete homework?
- Can the school reasonably expect students to understand the benefits of homework, and should students be reliable enough to complete it?



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 has 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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Developing Character

For the two weeks between 23/03/26 and 17/04/26 the character focus is our Nobelian virtue of being **CONSCIENTIOUS**.

The Character Conundrum for the fortnight 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 – CONSCIENTIOUS

Chloe must do a geography project in a group of 4 with two of her friends and another student called Tina. Tina is the class brain and always scores top marks in the tests. They have to complete a 5000-word essay between them over the weekend, but Chloe's two friends have said they are going to skip it and go to the cinema instead – they are sure Tina will no doubt do it all for them. Chloe wants to go to see the film too and spend time with her friends but is it fair to leave Tina to do all the work? What should she do?

Support

This conundrum has a lot to unpick; does it matter whether Tina is bothered about doing all the work? What about if you know she wouldn't say anything? Students must consider what the proper thing to do is. It doesn't matter whether there would be any come back from this decision, allowing one person to do all the work while others take credit is morally wrong. Students need to consider how they would feel if roles were reversed, and the inevitable feeling of injustice that they would undoubtedly feel.

Questions

- Can you identify the moral dilemma in this situation?
- Hand on heart, would you help Tina or go to the cinema?
- If you did go to the cinema and Tina did all the work, would she be justified in telling the teacher what had happened?
- Have you ever allowed someone to do more than their fair share so that you can do less?

- Would it make a difference if you knew that Tina wouldn't say anything to the teacher?
- If the two friends are happy to let Tina do all the work, do you think they might do the same to Chloe in the future?

Warm regards

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
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

Library News



Well done and thank you to everyone who has made a start on our library reading challenge.



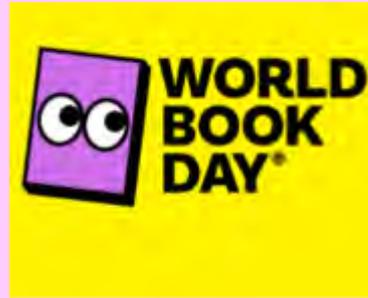
Some great books are being read and reviewed so if you would like some inspiration for your next read, take a look at the Book Review display. New reviews are being added regularly.

In addition, we now have a 'Yellow' display if you would like to read this colour next.

World Book Day Thursday 5 March.

Form tutors have handed out World Book Day tokens for students but if you haven't received one and would like one, please pop into the library.

The tokens are valid from Thursday 12 February to 15 March. Remember the vouchers can be exchanged for a World Book Day book or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more from participating booksellers only.



Excelsior Awards 2026

We are currently very excited to be promoting graphic novels in the library by participating in the Excelsior Awards this year. The award is totally independent and now regularly attracts over two hundred schools from all over the UK and Ireland.



The overall goal of this initiative is to encourage reading, with its secondary aim to raise the profile of graphic novels and manga in general.

A shortlist of 5 graphic novels and manga are available for the students to read. They are then invited to complete a simple Ratings Form, whereby they are asked to rate the story, artwork, characters and dialogue on a scale of 1 to 5. Students therefore have their say in which graphic novel they think should win the overall award.



Mrs A Hawke
Librarian

Each week we have a
Genre focus
This week is Adventure:



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

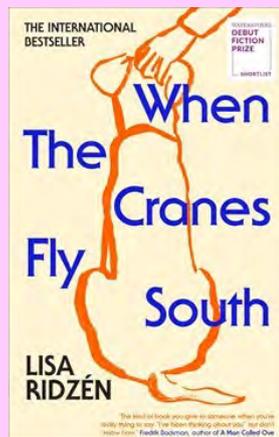
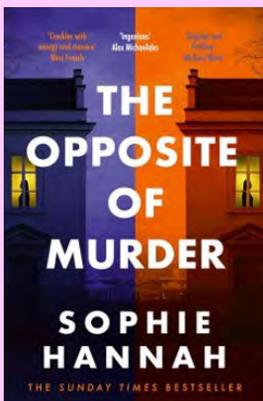
Sparx Reader

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 21st April 2026.

The books to read are:



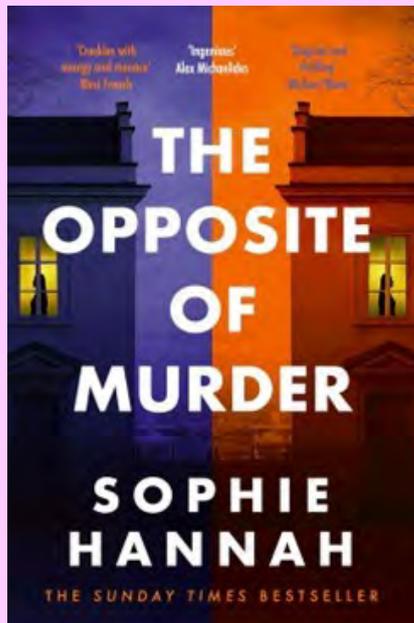
Read all or part of the book and discuss it in a
friendly informal group

Contact: Amanda Hawke:

01438 222600

A word
after a word
after a word
is power.
Margaret Atwood

David's Bookshop Crime Night!



In January, the Book Group attended an insightful and intriguing talk by Sophie Hannah, the best-selling and award-winning poet and author. Her latest book 'The Opposite of Murder' explores the destructive relationship between Jemma and her stepmother Marianne. Does it end in murder? If so, how? A hugely entertaining evening. Lots to talk about in one of our lively and enjoyable discussions.

Colette Brewty
Nobel Book Group

Haiku Competition

Each year the Japan Society (based in London) run a competition with prizes for under 14 year olds to write a haiku and draw a picture to accompany the haiku.

This year's theme was sound.

The MFL department invited all KS3 students to participate in this wonderful poetry competition and will be submitting all entries received.



Well done to **Fiza Askri 7C TRE** for our highlight entry.

Miss M Perez-Lotcho
Head of Spanish

Join us for Evening Multi-Sport Sessions



All ages are
welcome!



Sports Hall



On Tuesdays



3.15pm-4.15pm

Scan me
to register



gloria@dallaglorugbyworks.com



www.dallaglorugbyworks.com

DSPL2

Delivering Special
Provision Locally

DSPL2 Family Newsletter – Edition 8

We hope you are finding our DSPL2 Family Newsletter helpful. If you have any feedback please do get in touch at: DSPL2@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk.



Calling all Parents

Do you have a child with SEND?

FREE DROP IN SESSION



Come along to meet other parents, have a coffee/tea and hear about support and advice available in the SEND world

no booking or appointment needed

- Find out about local services
- Meet other families
- Advice and support

SERVICES ATTENDING:

Herts MIND	Messy Minds
Supporting Links	Tracks
Step2Skills	Landing Space
Phoenix	Home Start
Angels	SET Family Support
ADAdvance	Well Being Junction
Family Centre	Herts Parent Carer Involvement

DATES & VENUE:
17th March 2026, 10am-12pm, Moss Bury School, Stevenage SG1 5PA
18th June 2026, 10am - 12pm, Pear Tree School, Stevenage SG2 9GG
Tel: 01438 233900 | Email: dspl2@peartreesprings.herts.ac.uk



Delivering Special Provision Locally



DSPL2 Family Newsletter February 2026

DSPL2

Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL2

**DSPL2
Year 6/7 Transition
Parent/Carer
Workshops**

Parents and carers from Stevenage Primary Schools are invited to join the DSPL2 transition team who will be sharing ideas to support young people's transition from primary to secondary school.



Aims of the session:

- Thinking about change and worries
- Practical ideas for a smooth transition
- Our secondary schools: structure and expectations

Choose from the following dates - Booking via DSPL2 Eventbrite

- 10th March 2026 - 4:00-5:30 at Peartree Spring Primary school
- 12th March 2026 - 9:15 - 10:30 at The Leys Primary School
- 13th March 2026 - 9:30 - 11:00 at Peartree Spring Primary School
- 17th March 2026 - 3:30 - 4:45 at The Leys Primary School

Contact Us

Phone Number 01438 233900 Website Email dspl2@stevenageprimaryschools.org.uk

To book your space visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/dspl2-53412326273>

DSPL2

Delivering Special
Provision Locally

DSPL2

Delivering Special
Provision Locally



Family support surgery

These are face to face, or online appointment sessions, where families can receive guidance, support and signposting on various SEN topics: navigating school issues/accessing community activities and resources.

When:

Thursday 26th March 2026

45 minute appointment slots will be available
between 9:15am-12:00pm

[Book via DSPL2 Eventbrite](#)

If you have any questions email: dspl2@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk

Face to face appointments will be held at
The Oak Suite, Peartree Spring Primary School,
Hydean way,
Stevenage,
SG2 9GG

These sessions are open to any parents, carers or wider family members who would like some advice on how to support their family.

DSPL2 Family Newsletter February 2026



Delivering Special Provision Locally



Charity no: 1217058

Weekly online Workshop and Support: Every Tuesday 10am-12pm during term time.



Each week there will be an hour long workshop on a specific topic that you can listen to and ask questions. Following this there will be an hour where we open to discussions/chats about **any topic or concern** and can offer help support and guidance.

Weekly topics are detailed on our programme.

Monthly in person support Letchworth and Stevenage:
Will be running on a Wednesday see programme for dates



Our podcasts series "Neurodiversity Chats" cover a wide range of topics, search "Neurodiversity Chats" on Spotify or Apple Podcasts or listen on our website: <https://angelssupportgroup.org.uk/odcasts/>

Follow us on social media for updates:



www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk

WEEKLY ONLINE WORKSHOP AND SUPPORT

10AM-12PM EVERY TUESDAY DURING TERM TIME

FREE Workshop topic presentation opening to online support on any topic

Topic List:

- 3 Feb - Emotionally Based School Absence (EBSA)
- 10 Feb - Understanding Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)
- 24 Feb - Paul Chambers Poets In - Wellbeing Session
- 3 March - Nice2Meetya Rejection Sensitive Dysphoria (RSD)
- 10 March - SEN Support: Ordinary Available Provision (OAP) The Graduated Response and EHCPs
- 17 March - Helping to reduce meltdowns
- 24 March - Supporting Sensory Needs

Scan this QR code to access our support and zoom links

www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk




ADD-vance
The ADHD and Autism Trust




SUPPORT GROUPS

FREE ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR HERTS PARENTS/CARERS

ABOUT THE GROUPS

ADD-vance runs regular support groups which provide an opportunity for you to meet other local parents and discuss individual concerns with two specialist ADD-vance coaches. We welcome parents and carers who have a formal diagnosis for their child, as well as those who do not have a formal diagnosis but would like to learn more about neurodivergence.

TIME AND PLACE

Sleep Support
Tue 24th February 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

PDA Support
Tue 3rd March 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

Parents/Carers of 16 to 25 yr olds
Tue 10th March 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

General Primary Aged Children
Tue 17th March 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

General Secondary Aged Children
Tue 24th March 2026 - 7.30-8.30 pm

ALL ONLINE VIA ZOOM

01727 823963 | info@add-vance.org | <http://www.add-vance.org>

Book your **FREE** ticket on <http://add-vance.eventbrite.com/> or visit our website <http://www.add-vance.org/>

Some groups may open to schools or Herfordshire only.

DSPL2

FAMILY NETWORK EVENTS



10–12pm Tuesday 25th November 2025

Peartree Spring Primary School

10–12pm Tuesday 17th March 2026

Moss Bury Primary School

10–12pm Tuesday 16th June 2026

Peartree Spring primary School

No booking required

Find out about
local services

Meet other
families

Advice and
support

Herts Mind
Supporting Links
Step 2 Skills
Phoenix
Angels
ADDvance
Family Centre
Messy Minds
Tracks
Lending Space
Home Start
SET Family Support Workers
Well Being Junction
Herts Parent Carer Involvement



 01438 233900

 dspl2@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk

UNDERSTANDING MY AUTISM AND ADHD

A 6-week programme tailored to help **young people** learn more about neurodiversity and their own experiences.

Through interactive sessions

young people can discuss their strengths, challenges, and strategies for navigating daily life. By the end of the programme, it is hoped that the young people will leave with a stronger sense of empowerment in embracing their neurodiversity.

The activities and discussions aim to enhance self-awareness, boost self-esteem, and improve confidence.

Courses are tailored to different age groups and we run sessions for school years 3-6, 7-9 and 10-11 throughout the year.

6 week online and in-person
courses starting in
January and February

Jan

6

School Years
10-11 (in-person)

Jan

6

School Years
7-9 (in-person)

Feb

24

School Years
7-9 (online)

Feb

26

School Years
10-11 (in-person)

Understanding my
autism and ADHD

Scan to book



Autism | ADHD
Neurodiverse Conditions

For more details on other course or workshops SPACE offer visit <https://spaceherts.org.uk/>

Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and Professionals in Hertfordshire

We can offer support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things including but not limited to:

No
Diagnosis
Required

- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
- Anxiety
- School

The phones are answered by our team of parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people

Are you a
Parent, Carer
or
Professional?



01727 833963

We Can't
- Give updates/
fast track places
on waiting lists
- Recommend
specific private
assessors

supporthub@add-vance.org

Term Time Opening Hours

9AM - 1PM - Monday, Wednesday & Friday

9AM - 3PM - Tuesday & Thursday

7PM - 9PM - Wednesday (By Appt)

9AM - 1PM - During School Holidays



Here to support, reach out for a listening ear



Family Lives Online Programme Spring 2026



Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks)

 **Friday 23rd January to 6th March, 9.45am to 11.45am**

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our online group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.



**Tuesday 20th January to 3rd March, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
or
Monday 9th February to 23rd March, 9.30am to 11.30am**

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

**Less
Shouting,
More
Cooperation
(6 weeks)**

Dads Together (6 weeks)



Wednesday 4th February to 18th March, 7pm to 9pm

Calling all Dads - join our free online group, come along and receive support from other dads and learn how to change the way you communicate with your child, respond better and feel more in control.



Tuesday 3rd February to 17th March, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Is your teen feeling anxious or isolated? Are you concerned about their mental health and struggling to get help? You may have an FFA, CIN, or CP in place and need more support. Learn how parents can best emotionally support their teen and feel confident and prepared for whatever challenges might arise.

**Getting on
with Your
Pre-teen or
Teenager
(6 weeks)**

For more information, call **0204 522 8700/8701**, email **services@familylives.org.uk** or scan the **QR code** for our online form.

We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk

 @familyliveshertsandbeds



Funded by
Hertfordshire
County Council



Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No.1077722.
Registered address: The Annex York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5AD

ESMA Newsletter

February 2026
Connected-Included-Supported

Spring term

As we approach the end of Spring term 1 we want to thank you for your engagement with our service. We have asked students in the lessons to complete some student feedback and we are asking for parents to also do the same. We love to hear your feedback, our staff working incredibly hard to support the students so any positive feedback for them is always well received. Equally if there is an area you feel we could improve we also want to hear about this. We are always looking to develop the service to support our pupils. In the last year we have increased direct teaching hours and introduced our Reintegration Education Officers and our Thrive and Music workshops. So please take the time to fill out our google polls.

Reintegration Education Officers

Our Reintegration Education Officers (REOs) are non teaching Members of staff who work with our young people to help support reintegration back to school. They hold weekly meetings with each student to understand their barriers to accessing school and then help to work to develop a holistic support plan with the school to gradually return them back to their school setting at a pace guided by the medical professionals. They work with the young people to develop resilience, confidence and self esteem.

Thrive and Music Workshops

Our service runs county wide and we have 2 face to face venues where we are able to offer 2 new and exciting offers that are new this academic year.

Weekly music workshops ran by Herts for Music. These sessions are fun sessions that require no experience at all. They focus on playing instruments, creating rhythms and composing original pieces whilst encouraging creativity and self expression.

Thrive social group also runs weekly and offers a range of enjoyable activities like slime making, board games, cooking and sports. This allows the young people to connect with other young people, build confidence and develop teamwork and communication skills.

PHSE

Our PHSE sessions are held weekly on a Thursday afternoon at 2.30pm. During these assemblies the students will cover PHSE and Character development topics. This is part of the ESMA offer for all students to attend and they will have access via the Assembly class on their Google Classroom. We are expecting all pupils accessing the service to attend these unless they are accessing their school in the afternoons.

Pupil Voice

When attending a planning or a review meeting it is really important that the pupil is present.

Our holistic plan means we need our young people to be involved in their planning so they are able to be successful in achieving their targets and reintegrating back in to the school environment.

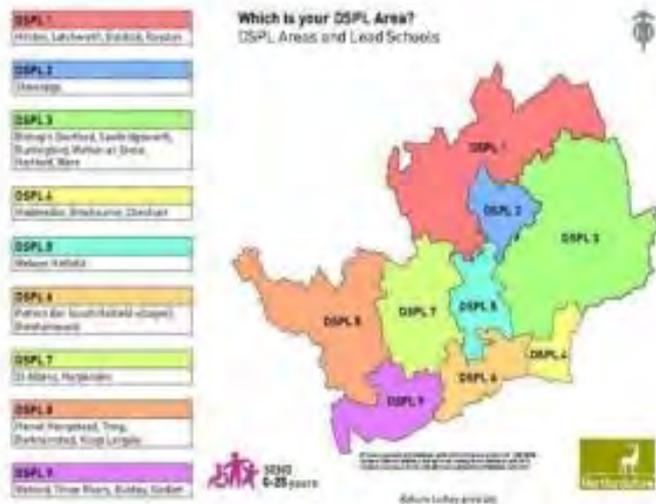
If they are finding it challenging to speak they can send notes prior to the meeting or speak to someone at school/home to share on their behalf.

Support for Pupils and Parents

Support DSPL support for Families and Students

DSPL teams around Hertfordshire are running support groups and learning opportunities for families. The map on the left shows which team support your area. Search today to find if they can help you.

[Delivering Special Provision Locally \(DSPL\) \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](http://hertfordshire.gov.uk)



Signpost for parents and pupil support

Sandbox - [Award-Winning Digital Mental Health Support For Young People | The Sandbox](#)

Luminova - [Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage](#)

Shout - [Shout: The UK's free, confidential, 24/7 mental health text service | Shout 85258](#)

SENDIASS - [The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer](#)

MIND home page - [We're Mind, the mental health charity | Mind](#)

MIND Support page - [Guides to mental health support and services](#)

Hub of Hope - [Mental Health Support Network provided by Chasing the Stigma | Hub of hope](#)