



# SIXTH FORM

Advice, Guidance and General  
Information 2014

November 2013

Dear Student

I am very pleased that you are considering the Nobel Sixth Form for your continuing education. You should be aware by now that from 2013 students will be expected to continue in some form of education and training until they are at least 17, and by 2015 they will have to stay till they are 18. Whilst you might, technically, be able to leave at the age of 16, you need to recognise that students just a year younger than you will be leaving with higher qualifications than you if you do this. I would encourage you to see your Sixth Form education at Nobel as the next stage in a lifelong pattern of learning.

This booklet outlines the courses that are available to you. Please look through it carefully and, if you feel you need guidance on your overall choice, please contact any of the following staff: Mr Grinyer, Miss Cox, Mr Morley, Mr Hardy, the Sixth Form Team, or myself. Relevant subject staff and Year 11 Form Tutors will also be delighted to help you.

As you know, Nobel School has entered a new era of educational achievement. Our GCSE examination results, including English and Mathematics, were the highest ever last year, with Sixth Form results consistently one of the highest in Stevenage. More and more students are seeing the Sixth Form as the natural next step in their education. This has allowed us to expand the range of courses we offer to cater for a very broad range of interests and future career requirements. Indeed, if there is a subject you very much wish to take and you do not see it in this Prospectus, please tell us so that we can see if other students would also be interested.

The Sixth Form at Nobel gives students the opportunity not only to improve their academic and vocational qualifications, but also to grow into confident young adults. As the new Year 12, you will be given opportunities to take on responsibilities in the school that will add to the distinctiveness of your *Curriculum Vitae* when you come to apply for higher education or employment. In return, we ask that you enter the Sixth Form with a determination to learn and contribute to a successful, working atmosphere.

I hope you find the booklet helpful. Please ask if you would like further information.

Yours sincerely



Martyn Henson  
Headteacher

### **Important dates for the diary**

6 November	-	Post 16 Future Options evening
4 December	-	Year 11 Parents' evening
6 December	-	Initial applications to Sixth Form close
24 January	-	Mock results day
27 January	-	Year 11 individual options interviews commence
14 February	-	Sixth Form Application Deadline
21 March	-	Formal offer of places in Nobel Sixth Form made to students
May - June	-	GCSE examinations
9 July - 11 July	-	Sixth Form Induction (students in school)
21 August	-	GCSE examination results
3 September	-	New Term and Sixth Form Enrolment (TBC)

### **Choosing the right course for you**

You will choose 3 or 4 subjects to study at KS5 and it is important that you think carefully about which courses are the most appropriate. The following tips should help you come to the right decision

- consider your predicted grades when thinking about which courses you should choose;
- Talk to subject staff, they will be able to advise you whether you will be a suitable candidate, and therefore successful in the relevant subject areas;
- Talk to Sixth Formers, they are studying these courses right now and will give you good, honest advice about what is expected of students;
- Use the careers information on the VLE which provides guidance on which subjects to choose for different pathways.

### **Courses and entry criteria**

To study A/AS Level courses you will generally need an Average Points Score of 40+ for your best 6 subjects including at least a B grade in English and Mathematics. You will also need to meet the individual subject entry criteria detailed below.

Those students wishing to study Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Further Maths, Economics and English Literature will need to achieve an Average Points Score of 45+ for their best 6 subjects and meet individual subject criteria.

Guideline entry requirements are listed over the page.

<b>AS AND A2 LEVEL</b>	<b>Minimum Requirement</b>
<i>Art and Art Graphics</i>	<i>A good Grade in Art and Design at GCSE is desirable.</i>
<i>Art Textiles</i>	<i>A good grade in Art and Design or Textiles at GCSE is desirable.</i>
<i>Biology</i>	<i>GCSE Science Double or Treble Grade B (must be less than 10 marks off a Grade A)</i>
<i>Business Studies</i>	<i>GCSE English Grade B and Maths Grade C</i>
<i>Chemistry</i>	<i>GCSE Science Double or Treble Grade B (must be less than 10 marks off a Grade A)</i>
<i>Dance</i>	<i>GCSE Science CC and Dance GCSE knowledge or experience</i>
<i>Design Tech – Product Design</i>	<i>GCSE Graphics, Product Design, Resistant Materials, Engineering or Electronics Grade B</i>
<i>Design Tech – Food Tech</i>	<i>GCSE Design Technology Grade B and GCSE Science Grade C</i>
<i>Drama and Theatre Studies</i>	<i>GCSE English C and English Literature C</i>
<i>Economics</i>	<i>GCSE English B and Maths B</i>
<i>English Language and Literature</i>	<i>GCSE English B and English Literature B</i>
<i>English Literature</i>	<i>GCSE English B and English Literature B</i>
<i>French</i>	<i>GCSE French B</i>
<i>Further Mathematics</i>	<i>GCSE Maths A/A* and must be studying AS Maths</i>
<i>Geography</i>	<i>GCSE English B and Maths B</i>
<i>History</i>	<i>GCSE English B or History B</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>GCSE Maths grade A*/A</i>
<i>Mathematics (use of Maths)</i>	<i>GCSE Maths grade B</i>
<i>Media Studies</i>	<i>GCSE English C and Maths C</i>
<i>Music</i>	<i>GCSE Music C and minimum of grade 5 on first instrument.</i>
<i>Philosophy</i>	<i>GCSE English B and Religion and Ethics B</i>
<i>Physics</i>	<i>GCSE Science Double or Treble Grade B (must be less than 10 marks off Grade A) and GCSE Maths B</i>
<i>Psychology</i>	<i>GCSE English B, Maths B and Science CC</i>
<i>Sociology</i>	<i>GCSE English B</i>
<i>Spanish</i>	<i>GCSE Spanish B</i>

The entry criteria outlined above will be applied to the majority of applications; however, under exceptional circumstances students may be accepted despite failing to gain the grades required.

### **Level 3 BTEC Courses**

To study Level 3 BTEC courses you will generally need an Average Points Score of 35+ for your best 6 subjects including at least a C grade in English and Mathematics.

<i>Applied Science Level 3 BTEC</i>	
<i>Business Level 3 BTEC</i>	
<i>Health &amp; Social Care Level 3 BTEC</i>	
<i>Information Technology (IT) Level 3</i>	<i>Level 2 IT BTEC</i>
<i>Outdoor Education Level 3 BTEC</i>	
<i>Public Services Level 3 BTEC</i>	
<i>Sports Studies Level 3 BTEC</i>	<i>Science Grades CC</i>
<i>Travel &amp; Tourism Level 3 BTEC</i>	
<i>Performing Arts (Dance)</i>	

The entry criteria outlined above will be applied to the majority of applications; however, under exceptional circumstances students may be accepted despite failing to gain the grades required.

## **A LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

On joining the Sixth Form, students are asked to agree and sign a 'Code of Conduct' which is outlined below. This agreement outlines what the school will deliver and what we expect of our Sixth Form Students. Although there is no uniform in the Sixth Form students will be expected to dress smartly, in a manner suitable for a working environment.

### **At Nobel we offer:**

- a wide range of courses;
- a purposeful atmosphere conducive to work with careful monitoring of each student's progress;
- an environment which develops independence in our students;
- a familiar environment where students are known to their teachers, know their fellow students well and where they can feel confident;
- help, advice and support from a team of committed and experienced form tutors and subject tutors.

### ***We aim to:***

- encourage success and achievement and develop the academic potential of all our students;
- provide an environment in which all students can enjoy their post-16 education;
- develop in students skills which will equip them to become independent and life-long learners;
- maintain a positive partnership between sixth form students and the rest of the school and the community.

### ***We expect students to:***

- take pride in the school and abide by its rules;
- take responsibility for their learning by attending regularly and punctually, working hard at their studies and meeting course deadlines;
- co-operate with tutors and staff and seek help if it is needed;
- make active use of the library, the study rooms and other learning facilities;
- treat everyone with respect;
- take an active role in the wider school community.

## **ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT NOBEL**

Sixth form students have different timetables depending on their choice of courses. In addition to taught lessons, students have a number of study periods in which they are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. During these periods the library can be used or students may choose to work in the dedicated Sixth Form study area.

Sixth Formers should also be expected to take full advantage of the opportunities offered to broaden their interests. Such opportunities include work experience, business conferences, visits to universities and the chance to listen to visiting speakers.

There are also a wide range of additional opportunities available to students which allow them to develop their confidence and leadership skills and build portfolios of evidence for University and job applications. They are also a lot of fun!

### **Prefects**

Prefects are expected to model the values and ethos at Nobel to students and the community. Being a Prefect demonstrates that students are responsible, trustworthy and can work as part of a team and provides them with the opportunity to make a positive contribution to our school and the Community. Any Sixth Form student can apply to become a prefect with interviews taking place early in September.

### **World Challenge**

“Participating in the World Challenge trip to Morocco was by far the most motivational and life changing experience I have ever had. I never knew that climbing to the highest peak in North Africa could be so much fun yet such hard work. The sense of accomplishment at the top was just incredible, the views were absolutely stunning and the support from other members in the group to make it to the top was inspiring. The project phrase involved renovating a school; this gave me a great personal satisfaction knowing that I was able to do something for such a deprived area. Being in Morocco made me realise how lucky we actually are, the things we have and everything we take for granted. For example: phones, laptops, TVs, a proper bed and a warm shower just to name a few. You would think that the language and culture would have been a barrier; however by going on this trip it has made me want to grab a bag and travel. Morocco showed me a whole new way of living, I have made the best memories and friendships and I would recommend this trip to anyone. The fundraising is such hard work but the trip is worth every penny.” *Ellie Laverty – student*

### **Three Peaks Challenge**

The Three Peaks Challenge is an annual event open to all Sixth Formers and last year saw a team of eleven Sixth Form students and four members of Nobel staff climb the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in 'one go'. These peaks are Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, completed in that order. The students maintained a positive attitude throughout the weekend and completed the challenge in 26 hours. They faced snow at the top of Ben Nevis, climbed Scafell Pike in the dark and endured horizontal rain and gale force wind on the summit of Snowdon. At all times the Nobel spirit was evident and Official Mountain leaders reported that “they were impressed by the determination, commitment and motivation of such young people attempting this very challenging event”.

Students use the challenge to work together to organise events to fundraise for their chosen charities with this year's group raising in excess of £1,300 for Keech Cottage and Cancer Research.

## **YMCA Sleep-easy**

Last year Sixth Form students were given the opportunity to participate in the YMCA Sleep-easy to raise funds for the YMCA (Central Herts). The Sleep-easy is an annual event that challenges people over the age of 16, to sleep in a cardboard box for one night and get sponsored for their efforts. 23 Year 12 students and several members of Staff volunteered to give up their beds for the evening to 'sleep rough so others don't have to'. This will now become an annual event which will be running at the end of the Spring Term.

## **WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY ABOUT US**

*I am interested in studying A levels at Nobel because I am comfortable in the school and with the way we are taught, and happy with my results so far. I also think that Nobel has good facilities and offers a range of subjects I am interested in. I plan to study science based subjects mainly, Maths, Chemistry and Biology, possibly Further Maths or History at AS. I am currently interested in veterinary medicine at university, as sciences are my strength.*

*Clare Holtham – Y11 Student*

*I chose to come to Sixth Form because it is the next step up from GCSEs and the step before university, offering the preparation I need for a degree. I am studying English Literature, Philosophy, Psychology and Sociology and after Sixth Form I am hoping to go to university to do a joint honours degree in English Literature and Philosophy. I am looking to become a teacher myself in English or Philosophy. I feel like Nobel gives me a lot of support and opportunities and it is well equipped for a good education. I have applied to be a Prefect, Reading Leader and a form representative as at Nobel we work together as one big community to help each other through our time at school.*

*Shaye Gould – Year 12 student*

*I opted to join the Sixth Form at Nobel due to the amazing opportunities it could offer me. The Nobel Sixth Form was the best path to choose as it opens the doors to higher education/ university, which I aim to go to after I complete my A2 studies. There was a huge range of subjects to select from, but I eventually chose for my AS; Geography, History, Economics and Psychology. Each subject seemed fascinating and offered me something different; whether analysing data in economics or discovering past societies in history. The extra-curricular choice is considerable at Nobel. I have been appointed a school prefect, form helper and now enjoy the challenge of being a senior prefect and a member of the Senior Student Team. Not only this, there is the choice to do many sports and various other extra-curricular activities, including 'sleeping out' for the charity YMCA. My plans for the future are to go to university to study ancient history. The Nobel Sixth Form team have offered me masses of guidance for my UCAS application and personal statement and, with their help and supervision, I am sure I can achieve this goal.*

*Ben Marshall – Year 13 student*

*I had a clear goal in mind when I decided to transfer from my current secondary school and applied for Sixth Form. It was clear from the induction week that Nobel was the right place*

*for me. Not only is it a specialist sciences and art school, it has the new building, with brand new equipment and open labs, friendly teachers who really make students feel welcome, and Costa coffee! I knew what I wanted from sixth form and I knew what Nobel wanted from me. I enjoyed the induction week taster lessons; I was confident that I knew which subjects to pick, and this really cemented my choice to study the three sciences and maths. There are plenty of volunteering options here, something that is crucial for UCAS applications and job applications; so whatever you're doing, Nobel will support you. I have been lucky in that there were several opportunities for me to go to Nottingham university and Cambridge university to grasp what studying Veterinary Medicine would really be like. The school has been extremely helpful, even helping to cover the costs of some events. Overall, Nobel is an enjoyable place to learn and I would wholly recommend studying at Sixth Form here.*

*Rebecca Tremlett – Year 13 student*

### **HOW TO APPLY**

If you are currently a Year 11 student at Nobel you will work through the following process:

1. Submit an initial application to Sixth Form by 6<sup>th</sup> December
2. Attend an interview with your parents to discuss your options - 27 January to 7 February
3. Submit a final application by 14 February

You will then receive a formal offer letter by 21 March

If you are not currently a student at the Nobel School, please contact Anita Cranwell [anitacranwell@nobel.herts.sch.uk](mailto:anitacranwell@nobel.herts.sch.uk) who will be happy to arrange a personal interview for you so that we can take you through the application process.

### **Essential Contacts**

We welcome enquiries from parents/guardians and are pleased to answer any questions.

Please contact:

Mr Matthew Grinyer (Assistant Head Teacher KS5)  
Mrs Jackie Saville (Sixth Form Head of Year)  
Mrs Mia Newbitt (Sixth Form Head of Year)  
Mrs Una Bright (Assistant Head of Sixth Form)  
Mr Andrew Hardy (Head of Year 11)  
Mrs Julia Marshall (Transition Coordinator)

Telephone: 01438 222600