



23 October, 2026

HEADTEACHER

Family Bulletin

We may have reached the final week of the half term, but there has been no slowing down at Notley. Here are some of the highlights.....

Thank you to all Year 11 families who joined us last night for parents' evening. These conversations matter more than ever this year, as students move towards their mock examinations and final GCSEs. Thank you also to our staff for their time and the care they put into every appointment.

This week many students from each year group have been invited to a special afternoon tea. It recognised students who have earned high numbers of HEART points and those with excellent

attendance and / or improved attendance. It was a lovely way to thank students whose effort and commitment show up every day, and to end the half term on a high.

Our Black History Month assemblies were led by two Year 11 students, Josh and Micaiah. Black History Month is a time to recognise the achievements and contributions of Black people in Britain and around the world, and to reflect on history that has too often gone untold. Hearing this from students, rather than staff, made the assemblies especially powerful. Josh and Micaiah spoke with confidence and conviction, and showed how much student voice shapes the culture of our school. Thank you to them both – immensely proud.

Congratulations to our students who took part in this year's UK Senior Mathematical Challenge. Run by the UK Mathematics Trust, it is a demanding 90-minute paper of 25 problems designed to test reasoning and problem-solving rather than routine methods. Students compete with tens of thousands of others nationally. Only around a third of entrants receive a certificate, and Gold is reserved for roughly the top 10%. Our students achieved a very strong set of results, including 2Gold, 4 Silver and 7Bronze certificates. Well done to everyone involved and to Grayson and Noah on their Gold certificates. They now progress to the next stage.



Finally, well done to the Year 9 students who took part in this week's externally facilitated Year 9 Diversity Ambassador programme and to the Year 11 GCSE PE students who took part in the Rock Climbing activity.

Football Success

Mr A Harrington, Head of PE



Essex Cup Update

Our Year 11 football team took on Plume Academy in an Essex Cup fixture last week. Unfortunately, the boys bowed out of the competition.

The team played some excellent football throughout the match and, on another day, taking a few more of their chances could have led to a very different outcome. The players showed great determination, teamwork and resilience from start to finish.

A special congratulations to Thomas J, who was named Player of the Match for his outstanding display in midfield and defence.

Well done to all involved for their effort and commitment!



Year 7 County Cup Update

Last week our Year 7 boys took part in their second County Cup fixture and just their second match together as a team. Although the result didn't go our way, the boys should be incredibly proud of the effort, commitment and resilience they showed against a strong and well-organised opposition.

The team battled throughout, demonstrated great spirit and produced some excellent passages of play with impressive link-up football. With one win and one loss from their opening two matches, there have already been plenty of positives and valuable lessons to build on as this young squad continues to develop.

A special shout-out to Harrison T, who was named Player of the Match on his debut. Harrison put in an outstanding performance, making countless tackles and interceptions while showing tremendous determination, bravery and commitment throughout.

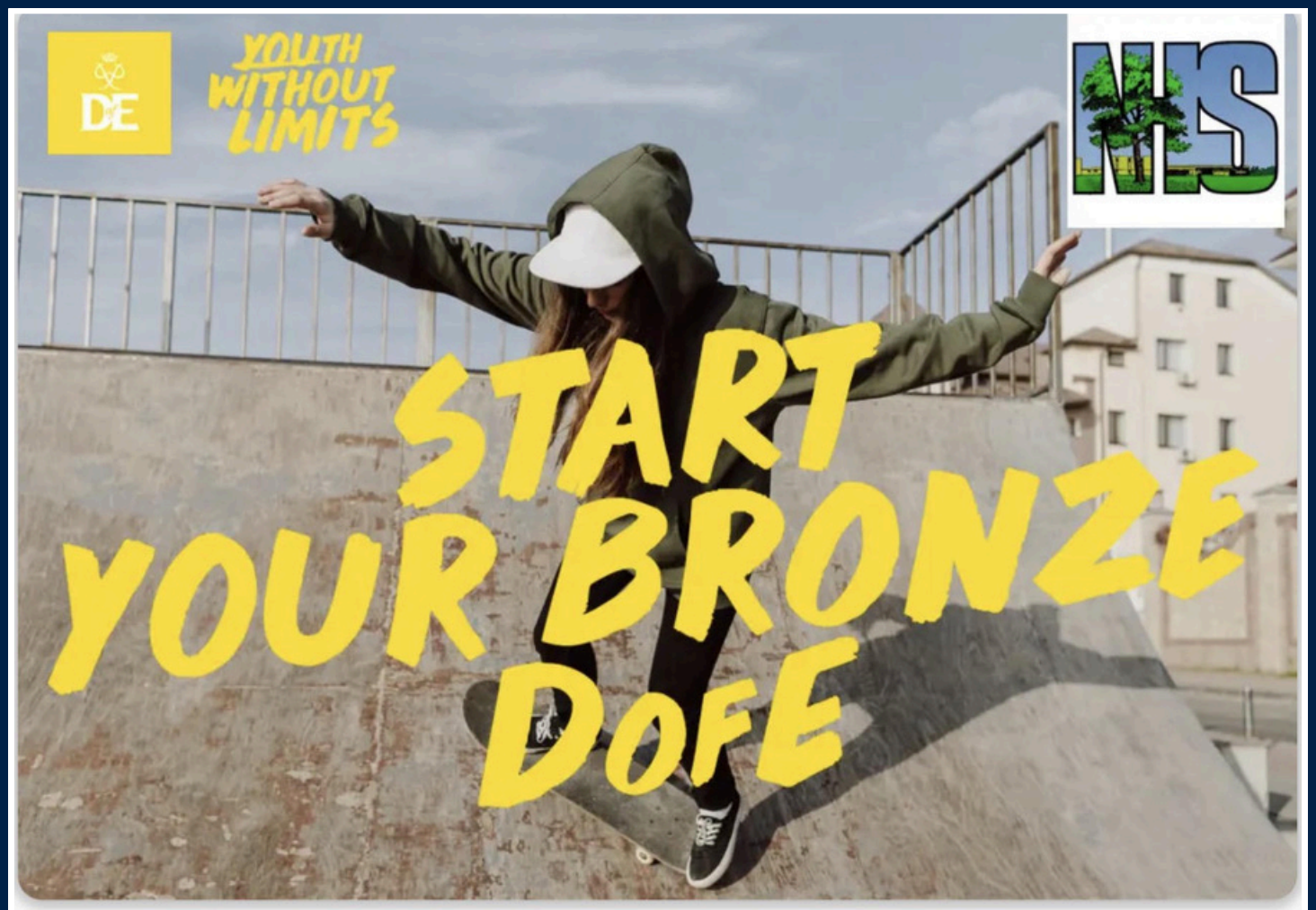


**Duke of Edinburgh's Award:
Registration Now Open
Miss C Thomas,
Duke Of Edinburgh Co-Ordinator**



Year 9 students can now register for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The DofE is one of the most respected youth programmes in the UK. Over the Bronze Award, students volunteer in their community, take up a physical activity, develop a new skill, and plan and complete an expedition. Along the way they build independence, resilience and teamwork, and gain an award valued by colleges, universities and employers.

To get started, please complete the application form being sent home, or collect one from the PE office. Return it to Miss Thomas by Wednesday 4 November.



Year 9 & 10 What is the DofE?

The DofE is a life-changing adventure.

You make it: The DofE is as unique as you are

Many of our students at Notley have completed their Bronze DofE.

Millions of young people in the UK have already done their DofE.

Now it's your turn!!



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**



Getting started

Are you ready to start an adventure you'll never forget?

To get started with your DofE:

Complete the application form that will be sent home to parents/guardians or collect one from the PE office and return to Miss. Thomas by Wednesday 4th November.



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**



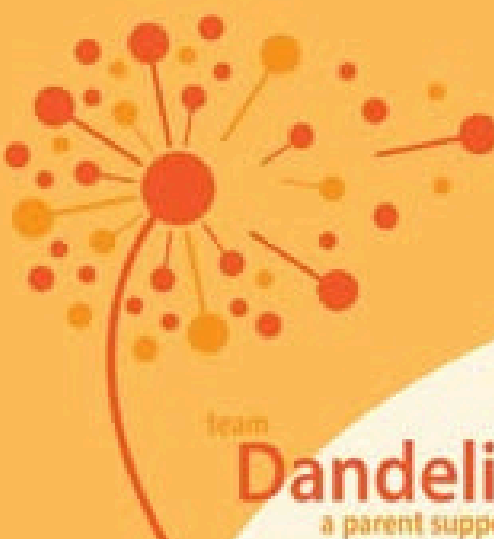
On completion of all sections, you will receive a certificate and badge.

This looks great on your college/Uni and job applications!!!!

Thank you for your continued support this half term. I hope you all have a restful break, and we look forward to welcoming students back on 2nd November.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Mr M Barrow', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr M Barrow, Headteacher



team

Dandelion

a parent support hub

ANXIETY WORKSHOP FREE TO ATTEND

presented by SPACE
Book tickets on EVENTBRITE

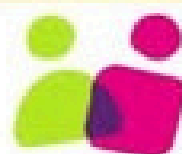


17th November
1-2.30pm

Braintree Baptist Church
Swan Side Braintree
CM7 3DA



**An open and supportive
session looking at
strategies to help
manage anxiety for
children and young
people with SEN**



SPACE

www.eventbrite.com/e/anxiety-workshop-free-to-attend-tickets-2002950533965

SIXTH FORM AT NOTLEY HIGH SCHOOL

In the sixth form at Notley High School we welcome students from across Braintree and further afield to join our Post 16 courses. In 2025, we had applications from students attending over 40 different secondary schools.

As a sixth form we pride ourselves on strong pastoral care and high academic expectations. We want every student to leave with the tools, skills and confidence to pursue their dreams. We provide opportunities throughout the two years to develop these, ready to head on to University, an Apprenticeship or the workplace.

Study Local, Aim High

Students studying in our sixth form are challenged to be ambitious for themselves and achieve at their best. We pair high academic expectations with constant pastoral support and a personal development programme to give students the tools to succeed. We also encourage students to take on leadership roles within the school community.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our open evening provides an excellent opportunity for applicants to see our sixth form facilities as well as finding out more about the range of courses we have on offer.

The Sixth Form Open Evening is on:

Thursday 19th November 2026
17:30 - 19:30

Sign up via our website or use the QR code below.



COURSES

A Level

Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Drama & Theatre Studies
Economics
English Literature
French
Further Maths
Geography
History
Law
Maths
Media Studies
Music
Philosophy, Ethics & Religion
Physics
Physical Education
Politics
Product Design
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish

Vocational

Criminology
Food Science & Nutrition
Health & Social Care
Performing Arts
Sport



Subject Specific
Entry Requirements



Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to meet the sixth form entry requirements in addition to the subject specific requirements for each subject they wish to study.

The sixth form entry requirements depend on which pathway is being applied for:

- A Level Only Pathway - 5 GCSE Grades at Grade 5 and above
- Combined Vocational & A Level Pathway - 5 GCSE Grades at Grade 4 and above

