

# Notley News

Issue 007  
March 2024

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# HeadteacherUpdate

As we approach the end of our Spring Term, it is fantastic to look back and see how much activity, hard work and enjoyment has been packed into such a few short weeks since the new year.

As ever, the usual calendared activities such as Year 13 exams, our regular January whole school exam session, Year 9 Options process and sports fixture programme have taken place, all involving students in key activities that enable them to progress and fulfil their potential. However, I wanted to use this Headteacher's message to highlight a number of significant events and changes that have been introduced this term, and to reflect on the impact they have had on school life and on students.

One of the most significant changes to school life has been the introduction of the 'no mobile phones' policy for Years 7 to 11. With so much media coverage of the concerns over the harm that continual access to mobile phones can have on young people, it is lovely to see the impact of introducing the policy across the school. At lunchtime and break time, there are more students interacting and talking to each other as well as participating in more activities and clubs. Mrs Howells, one of our Deputy Headteachers, recently met with the Pastoral Prefects regarding the policy and received a number of positive feedback points. The students liked the fact that there were fewer opportunities for distractions in lessons and also that at social times there were fewer incidents and a reduction in the fear of being photographed or filmed and footage being shared unkindly to others. This step forward is a reflection of the reasons that the policy was introduced. In the Summer Term I will share with you the plan for next Academic Year regarding tutor time each morning. We have recently launched our late gate system and want to remind you that the back gate is locked at 8.40am.

In response to the demand from Year 11 regarding having an indoor space available at lunchtimes, we now have a PlayStation club for Year 11 to which all year groups are allowed to watch in the theatre. During the Summer Term we will launch our first ever PlayStation league to involve all year groups. As the summer approaches, a number of students are counting down the days until they head off to Borneo, for our first World Challenge expedition this Summer. The trip will be challenging and in

preparation students and staff went on their first practice expedition walk this weekend (at the time of writing). Students and staff met at The Discovery Centre, and walked 4km down the Flitch Way, each carrying their back packs and wearing their walking boots. The journey totalled 8km and is building up students' fitness ahead of their jungle trek in Borneo, where they hope to be walking alongside orangutans and pygmy elephants. There are four more walks booked in before they fly to Borneo, and we very much look forward to hearing about their adventures when they return to school in September. Thursday 28 March was also the deadline for our second World Challenge trip to Cambodia which will take place in 2025.

Another highlight of the term took place at the end of January, when we were privileged to welcome Adam Boxer into our school to work with all of our teaching staff. Boxer is a Lead Practitioner for Science at a very successful school in London, as well as the author of a range of books designed at helping teachers in every subject to hone their craft and regular podcaster. He delivered training for our leadership team and middle leaders throughout the day, and then a session for all teaching staff after school to help us to improve and unify the experience of learners in every lesson. Whilst students may not have explicitly noticed the ideas he suggested, the staff have found the adjustments to their teaching have made a world of difference to their understanding of how every student is progressing within the classroom.

As we have continued to develop our wellbeing and mental health offer for students, we have had the privilege of welcoming a whole range of therapy dogs into Notley. Essex Therapy Dogs are a charity that pair up dogs with places such as care homes, hospitals and schools to help bring smiles and relieve tension. Nala, the Newfoundland, has been paired with the school, and she was joined by Coco the German Shephard, Clemmie the Cocker Spaniel, Rosie the Golden Retriever, Rori the Red Setter and Sam the French Bulldog across the week. Our Learning Support area welcomed many visitors who were just 'popping by' while our therapy dogs were in the vicinity! We are planning that this will be replicated in the final exam period in May and June.

Academic interventions have continued the same model as last year but with a few additions, as Period 6s have continued this term, with year 13 joining the timetabled extra sessions as well. These have now officially finished, as we offered another block of 6 weeks to match that in September and October, but some departments are continuing to run sessions up until the exams. Again, the sessions were well attended, with nearly 70% attendance each after school session. Students who were not on the original lists asked to be added, showing a great responsibility for their own learning. Students in both year 11 and 13 have been invited to some Easter revision sessions, and we anticipate they will be as well attended as last year. Certain year 11 students will also be invited to core subject Walking Talking mock exams in the first two weeks of the Summer Term in order to help with the final preparations before beginning their exams properly on 9 May. Equally, two groups of students in year 11 attended concentrated revision sessions at ARU this week in English and Maths to help them understand how to push over the line into the next grade. We hope they found it useful, and we were enormously proud of how well they responded and participated.

Within the sixth form, the final UCAS applications have been made for Year 13 students, who are gradually hearing back from their chosen universities. A particular highlight of the term was hearing that Lucy P in Year 13 has received an offer

from Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, to read Spanish and Italian. This academic achievement is wonderful to celebrate. We were also grateful to Year 12 and 13 students who hosted a number of our Year 11 students for an academic breakfast and an opportunity to discuss the transition to sixth form life. Finally, as Year 13 move towards their examination period and final days of sixth form, I would like to thank the Sixth Form prefect team and subject ambassadors for all their hard work. They have been wonderful representatives for the school at so many events and shown a tremendous amount of dedication and pride in the sixth form, their subjects and in supporting others. We wish them every success in the summer, alongside all of their peers, and in the future.

There is so much more to celebrate about school life, which you will find in the following pages. From the amazing school production, which involved truly impressive number of students in every aspect, to the sixth form participation in the challenges of the MUN and the fun and hard work of the half term ski trip, our students have shown such enthusiasm to get involved and take advantage of all our community has to offer.

I hope you will enjoy this Spring 2024 issue of The Notley News.

*Miss M Ryan, Headteacher*

## Staff Leaving

This term we say farewell to the following staff:

Mr Bryant

Mrs Spooner

Miss Nicholson

Mr Coyston

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# Headteacher Commendations

## Year 7

The Year 7 Headteacher for this term is going to Deniz SI. Deniz has epitomised what it means to be a Notley student during this term.

He has taken part in a range of activities such as the Chess Tournament and the Pi Challenge and regularly attended clubs such as Futsal.

Deniz is always complemented by students and staff alike for his attitude towards school and others around him. He is always hard working and polite and is a role model to his peers.

## Year 8

Lottie D for always working hard. She has participated in school productions and does her best each and every day.

She is always on time and does everything that is expected of her and more. She is kind and a supportive individual who is always there for those around her.

## Year 9

This term's headteacher commendation goes to Ewan A. Ewan is a conscientious student who gives his best in all that he does. He has been recognised by his tutor as someone who exemplifies 'The Notley Way' and takes great pride in the school by the way

he wears his uniform, supports his peers, helps his teachers and generally gets involved in and cares for the school environment. Ewan is a worthy winner of this award and fully deserves to be recognised for his daily endeavours.

## Year 10

Spencer H in 10.1 has been nominated for our Headteachers Commendation this term. Spencer is an all-round delightful student who puts 100% into absolutely everything he does. He has a really busy life outside school with Parkour, mountain biking and playing the piano and still makes time for extra curricular in school with badminton and running club. It was lovely to hear him playing the piano for

all assemblies recently and there's no denying how scary that it, particularly in front of your own year group! Spencer also works extremely hard at school and in every subject. He is polite, friendly, kind student who will always go above and beyond.

Well done Spencer, with your work ethic and general attitude towards life, you will go far!

## Year 11

In Year 11 the Headteachers commendation goes to Callum G. Callum has been awarded this due to his outstanding attitude to school and being involved in the local community. Callum is a conscientious student who consistently works to the best of his ability and to a high standard in all lessons. His teachers say that he is a pleasure to have in the classroom.

He is also a deputy prefect who has been involved in helping at a variety of events throughout the year, including organising and presenting an assembly to all year groups. Outside of school, Callum is also a cadet who has been involved in Remembrance Parade in Braintree. Callum is an excellent role model to others within the school community and local community.

# Governors' Update



It seems just like yesterday that it was the Autumn term, and now Spring has sprung! With the changing seasons, the loom of the formal external examinations is heavy in the air, and there certainly is a sense of importance and rigor amongst our Year 11 and Year 13 students. In order for the school to support anxiety around examinations, the school ran its second year of exam weeks and this has been pivotal in preparing our students for their future GCSE examinations. Governors have been busy in the school talking to students and looking at how the school prepares the students. Students are very complimentary about the exam week, and the Student Council was very clear about how it prepares and supports their confidence in exams. Some students even said that they were excited to sit their examinations.

As part of the Governor role, Governors come into the school and meet with those in charge of key areas and speak also to students. It has been wonderful to see such huge and dramatic improvements in behaviour and the reporting of behaviour. There is a significant decline in students using 'banter' and boisterous behaviour has been recorded by numerous visitors as being almost eradicated. The school is continuing to drive up the standards of behaviour and this is being noted visit after visit after visit. Significantly also, we have had the Grease production, which just show-cased the huge amount of talent here at Notley High School and Braintree Sixth Form. It was simply superb! The arts are also being supported through the school

working towards gaining the Artsmark accreditation – and has seen students being showcased in assemblies for the first time in years. Previously, the school has played music from YouTube and now students walk into live music of such calibre that one could believe themselves to be at an orchestral concert.

As a team of governors, we have been busy attending events, completing monitoring visits such as safeguarding, mental health and wellbeing, pupil premium, SEND and around behaviour and attitudes as well as attending local governance meetings and the schools progress is clear, which was also highlighted in the recent Ofsted report. It is an honour to be part of the school community as well as being extremely rewarding. If you have some free time why not volunteer? We currently have a vacancy on the local governors committee, so please contact the governance professional, Aishia Jeffries if you are interested, [jeffriesa@bridgeacademytrust.org](mailto:jeffriesa@bridgeacademytrust.org) who will arrange for us to have a chat.

# Year7

Our Year 7's have continued to settle in well to Notley High and are now two thirds of the way through their first year at the school. Where has that time gone?

Over the course of this half term our students have the opportunity to participate in House competitions, chess tournaments, the Year of Number tutor activities, the Grease production, Notley's Got Talent, Sports fixtures and our weekly Quizzes.

7.5 were the quiz winners for this term

The tutor group with the best attendance was 7. 1

The tutor group with the most house points were: 7. 6

Our students have also been regular attendees to lots of extra-curricular clubs and students have had the opportunity to take part in fixtures and events to represent the school.

## Spring Term highlights and achievements:

Our Year 7 football and Netball teams have had a number of district fixtures this term. Well done to all of those that have been involved in the fixtures.

A special mention must go to Deniz S. who got to the final of the school chess tournament, losing narrowly in the final to a Year 11 student. A fantastic achievement Deniz!

A huge well done must also go to all of the Year 7's that were involved in the Grease production. It was a fantastic show and was made even better with the inclusion of our Year 7 students, who performed with such enthusiasm.

There will be another reward trip at the end of the Spring term for those students that meet the criteria.

Each tutor has been asked to nominate a student of the Term, congratulations and a huge well done to the following students:

7.1 – Jessica S

7.2 – Oskar T

7.3 – Henry B

7.4 – Megan G

7.5 – Erin G

7.6 – Elizabeth H

7.7 – Jessica E



*Mr A Harrington, Year 7 Raising Standards Leader*

## Rewards trip criteria

Our rewards event this term will be running in April and will be a trip to AirHop (formerly Jump Street) in Chelmsford. More details will follow before the end of term.

- Attendance at all offered interventions
- Attendance above 95%
- Homework completed on time to a good standard
- No antisocial behaviour
- Being on time to lessons
- Fewer than 5 C3 or C4 detentions
- No Suspensions

## Parents Evening

The Year 7 Parents evening will be taking place on Thursday 18 April. We hope that as many of you as possible are able to make it and look forward to welcoming you to the evening.

I would like to wish all students and their families an enjoyable Easter break. We look forward to students returning on Monday 15 April 2024 for another successful Summer term.



# Year8

Another term has passed and year 8 are entering into the final stretch of their second year at Notley High – time really is flying by!

Students have been working incredibly hard and I have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from staff. I have had the opportunity to visit lessons this term and take on teaching a number of the year 8 classes, it is wonderful to have the opportunity to hear from and see our students incredible work and attitudes to learning.

Many of the Year 8s were involved in the Grease production which was a huge success. The next production is due to be announced soon and I would love to see more of our Year 8s getting involved with the next production.

We have had many external speakers in to year 8 assemblies this term, all have expressed how sensible and polite our students are, this really does make me proud of them. They are very much a year group who are striving to achieve the Notley Way each day.

## Students of the term

As ever tutors were asked to nominate their students of the term. These students have stood out and made a positive impression on tutors. They have gone above and beyond to be kind, helpful and supportive.

Our star students are as follows:

8.1 – Alex F

8.2 – Rachel O

8.3 – Tabitha D

8.4 – Finley H

8.5 – Oscar O

8.6 – James S

8.7 – Charlie J

## Quiz Winners

The quiz winners this term are 8.3.



*Mrs A Spencer-Damps, Year 8 Raising Standards Leader*

## Rewards trip criteria

Our rewards trip for this term will be running after the Easter holidays students who have attendance over 95%, fewer than 5 C3s and C4s, no suspensions, attended all offered interventions, completed all homework, attended all lessons on time and no anti-social behaviour/bringing the school into disrepute will be invited to attend a trip. A letter inviting students will be sent out in due course. Dates for the diary

2 May – Year 8 parents evening

14 and 16 May – HPV vaccinations

15 May – Careers Day

I would like to wish all Year 8s a restful two weeks and a Happy Easter to those who are celebrating.

# Year9

And so, the Spring term comes to a close. What an eventful term it has been! Some highlights have been included below:

## Parents evening

It was great to see a large number of families attend parents evening. Feedback received was overwhelmingly positive and it was great to see so many important conversations and discussions take place about the progress, attainment, attitude and effort of their children.

I hope you found it to be insightful.

## Options evening and options choices

I was thrilled that 75% of parents/guardians attended options evening on Thursday 14th March. Feedback from the talks and the opportunity to discuss the suitability of individual subjects was very well received with so many students coming away with a better idea of what options they want to take for GCSES. We hope to be able to offer as many students as possible the options they have selected.

## Extracurricular update

There have been a number of fixtures take place throughout the Spring term including the futsal and handball tournaments, girls netball and boys football. We are proud of all of our teams' endeavours and whilst we may not have won all our matches, we have certainly been competitive in all of them. As I write this, the girls netball team have just recorded another victory in a 29-3 win over their opponents! Well done girls, and well done to all students to continue to represent the school so well.

## Rewards trip:

The reward trip for the Spring term will take place early in the summer term. As this half-term was such a short one and with lots going on it was not possible to fit into the school calendar. But students will be recognised and rewarded for their efforts and as always I would encourage as many students who have been selected to attend the reward trip because they are just great fun!



*Mr H Morbin, Year 9 Raising Standards Leader*

## Students of the term

9.1 – Josh H for his excellent attitude and behaviour in lessons and around school.

9.2 – Mae W for her commitment and contribution to the Grease production.

9.3 – Mia T for her excellent commitment and contribution to the Grease production as Sandy.

9.4 – Jamie S for her commitment and contribution to the Grease production.

9.5 – Mae H for representing the school and for consistently working hard across the school.

9.6 – Katy W for outstanding work ethic and for being a role model in the tutor group.

9.7 – William L for exemplary behaviour around the school and being helpful during tutor time.

9.8 – Jacob E for always demonstrating positive behaviour in lessons and in tutor time.

9.9 – Neve C for consistent positive attitude and commitment across the school.

I would like to wish all students and their families a wonderful Easter break and I urge students to use this time to rest and reflect on their year 9 experience so far and how they can make the most of the final term of year 9 after the Easter holidays – Summer is in sight!

# Year10

I feel like I'm writing for the newsletter all the time which just shows how quickly time goes! Although this has been a very short half term, it has still been just as busy. Several Year 10 spent February half term on the ski trip. This looks like a great success and one which the students thoroughly enjoyed, despite the lack of good snow!

We have had our first round of results following the January exams. This is not an easy time for the students, especially as these were their first experience of their GCSE subject exams. I know some of the students really struggled with this and we have had students celebrating but also some who have realised that the hard work does need to start now (despite us all telling them this, sometimes they just must learn for themselves!). As I write this, we haven't had parents evening but with this being at the end of the week, I hope this is a helpful time for you all to be able to speak to the individual subject teachers to get feedback and how improvements can be made moving forward.

We have had busy assemblies with speakers coming in to talk about what is available for our students moving forward. So far, we've had an assembly on Apprenticeships and a representative from Anglia Ruskin University. We continue with guest speakers from various pathways so that we can ensure the students are fully aware of what is available for them as options post 16.

I hope our Food Technology students enjoyed the session delivered by a butcher. Seeing firsthand how meat is prepared was a real eye opener to some!

## Students of the term

Huge congratulations to our nominated star student of the term who are listed below.

10.1 Kelsy A. Kelsy is such a conscientious student and positive in all her lesson, contributes to school life through her peer mentoring and help with the Grease production. She is always polite and respectful to all.

10.2 Amelia S. Amelia entered the school Pi competition and won!!

10.3 Holly-Louisa F. Holly-Louisa is dedicated and committed student who applies herself to all aspects of her school life.



*Miss K Murdoch, Year 10 Raising Standards Leader*

10.4 Amelie L. Amelie has worked hard this term in out of subject activities such as Jack Petchey and playing piano. Well done!

10.5 Belle H. Belle has achieved the most house points in 10.5 this half term for a variety of subjects and reasons.

10.6 Harmony B. Harmony is a great student and a lovely friend. She applies herself to all aspects of school life which is lovely to see.

10.7 Elsie M. Elsie is a committed student and shows consistent effort in all her lessons.

10.8 Matthew W. Matthew is helpful and polite and has received the most house points in the form since September!

10.9 Daisy G. Daisy is an extremely committed student who also shows great kindness and support to her peers and to staff.

I'd like to wish you all a very Happy Easter break and look forward to the start of the Summer Term, my favourite term!

## Dates for your diary for the next half term

18 April	Stansted College Assembly
25 April	Water Safety Assembly
Week begin. 29 April	Language speaking mocks

# Year11

This term, Year 11 have been working really hard towards their GCSE's. Lots of students have been attending intervention sessions during tutor time and after school. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those that have been regularly attending these, I am sure all their hard work will pay off in their exams in the summer.

Year 11 Geography students took part in trips to Walton-on-the-Naze where they got a chance to take part in fieldwork looking at long shore drift and coastal management. They also went to Stratford in London to look at urban inequality. The students worked incredibly hard and were a credit to themselves and the school.

As well as working hard towards their GCSE's lots of students have been taking part in extra-curricular activities. The Year 11 football team made it to the quarter final in the county cup against Joyce Frankland Academy. They played very well but unfortunately, they didn't make it through to the semi-finals. It is amazing how far they got though as this is not an easy competition and shows their dedication to their team. The Year 11 Futsal and Handball teams won their competitions. Well done to all those students that were involved!

Over half term several Year 11's took part in the ski trip to Flachau and Zauchensee in Austria. Speaking to those that went, they had a brilliant time with lots learning to ski for the first time or improving their skills if they have skied before.

During the first week of the Easter holidays, some students are going on the football development tour to The Netherlands. I hope they all have a great time and look forward to hearing about it when they are back.

Outside of school, our Year 11's have been involved in the local community. Some of our students played on the Great Notley Under 16's team who won the league cup final. Lots of Year 11's also went along to the final game to support them. Connie F also made it though to the final selection for the National Hockey team. Well done to all the students involved in these.



*Miss G Burton, Year 11 Raising Standards Leader*

## Students of the term

Each tutor has nominated a Student of the Term. Congratulations to the following students:

- 11.1 – Jack P for positive attitude and proactive approach to the final few weeks of Year 11
- 11.2 – Archie I for quietly getting on with things and having a good attitude to Year 11
- 11.3 – Oliver D for winning the chess championship.
- 11.4 – Jess C for having an excellent attitude to Year 11
- 11.5 – Emma J for trying really hard in lessons
- 11.6 – Emilia R for consistently meeting the school's high standards and expectations
- 11.7 – Chloe C for being an excellent role model around the school
- 11.8 – Jake C for having an excellent attitude to Year 11
- 11.9 – Callum O for having an excellent attitude to Year 11

# Years 12 & 13

This term has been a shorter term but a very busy term in the Sixth Form. It has included new content in all A level and BTEC lessons, coursework deadlines, revision, independent study, and a week of mock exams for both year 12 and year 13 students. It will not be long into the next term for the year 12s to sit their second week of exams and for the summer term exam window to begin. There will be several revision sessions over the Easter holidays and an exams skills session for year 13 in the lead up to their exams.

We had 58 university applications submitted by Year 13 students before the January UCAS deadline and students have been receiving offers and selecting their first and insurance choices. Next term will see the start of the UCAS application process for year 12 students, which will include visits to a Higher Education Fair, information about the application process and how to write personal statements. During this term we have had Apprenticeship Week and Careers week. As part of this, and part of our general guidance on progression routes following sixth form, we have had lots of information on apprenticeships and it has been lovely to welcome back several alumni giving talks about progression routes into the Police, Law firms and engineering. They spoke to our students about how they have got to where they are now, and their own experiences. It is always exciting at this point to think about what all our current students might be doing once leaving here and who will come back to share their stories to future students.

As I wrote in one of our weekly bulletins recently, I want to take the opportunity to say thank you to all the sixth form students for making the sixth form a lovely place to work. We are very proud of all our students; they are a big part of making the Sixth Form an excellent place to be. The small things on a daily basis such as the offers of help, smiling and saying hello, small gestures of appreciation and their willingness to engage help to build a friendly and warm environment to be in and to learn in.

I regularly speak to the students about the importance of making their time count and use Mr Potato Head to help emphasise the importance of taking on opportunities that are available to them. The end of this term will see the handover of the prefect roles and subject ambassador roles from our current team to a new team of year 12 students.



*Mrs A Brewis-Shephard, Head of Sixth Form*

The current year 13 prefects and subject ambassadors have been great. They have been dedicated and enthusiastic, they have led meetings, created new initiatives, and helped at many different events interacting with lower school students, prospective students, and parents/carers. We look forward to seeing how the new ambassadors will continue to progress the roles. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the prefects and subject ambassadors and we look forward to finalising the application process and welcoming the new team very shortly.

As we come to the end of this term, we hope that parents/carers and students alike will be rightly proud of what has been achieved so far, as well as seeing what needs to be focused on when we return for the next term, particularly for year 13 students as the exam season will begin.

We refer to the time in Sixth Form as being a journey; although it is a very short journey in time, it is a very important one and rarely one that goes in straight line. We value being part of each student's journey and helping them fulfil their aspirations and setting them on to their next steps, whatever that may be.



# Student Council and Prefects

The student council have met three times this term, and have discussed how to implement the new mobile phone ban and have been integral in the decisions in its implementation and also the review of how this process is going so far. All students were positive about the removal of the phones, stating that “it will stop a lot of bullying” and that it will improve the quality of teaching and learning as “students will not be on their phones, or thinking about their phones”. The council have recognised a noticeable positive change to school and have recognised the positive influence that the new mobile phone ban is having on day to day life.

The council also discussed the exam week, and the impact of the exam week on their readiness for external examinations, and there was a real sense of growing excitement around the forth coming exams as a way to practise these key skills and to showcase their current attainment and progress. After exam week, students found that the whole process had really supported them. Notably also, the students that had previously undertaken exam weeks found the shorter process must much beneficial to them, as it meant more focused revision and focus.

The council have also discussed the need for more activities to happen at break and lunch, and so there is the new PlayStation club for year 11 in Theatre every lunchtime and each year group has been purchased three coloured footballs (linking to their year group colour) which can be used by students

during these times. We are now working towards the further promotion of the many clubs that we have here at Notley High School and Braintree Sixth Form, so that every students realise the vast array of different opportunities on offer at the school. We have everything from chess to handball, to computing club and over 20 sports clubs.

During the council, we also discussed the school’s inclusion of the ‘Year of Number’ and the positive impact that this is having on the school, and the inclusion of numeracy in everyday life. Students gave the leaders of this initiative feedback to help make further improvements on its delivery and to allow further progression and understanding. Students have (each fortnight) taken part in numeracy challenges, and the overall Council feedback has been incredibly complimentary of the impact and implementation of this new innovative strategy.

*Oscar Parry and Emily Ashworth, Head Prefects*

# Sixth Form Prefect Reports

Below are the final words from our current Year 13 Prefects. At the end of this term the year 13s will finish carrying out their roles and will spend the time preparing for their final exams. The applications are now in from the current year 12 students. Head prefect interviews will take place shortly after the Easter break and the new team of Prefects and Subject Ambassadors will take over the roles and start their journeys.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the current Prefect team who have been amazing, and a special thank you to George and Emily for representing the Sixth Form so well as our Head Prefects.

Here are quotes or memories from their time in the roles...

In our roles as Head Prefects, we have greatly appreciated the opportunity to promote our school by talking to potential students who've show interest in the Sixth Form at various internal and external information events. Asides from this, our recent experience of talking to the Year 12 students who will succeed us about the responsibilities of a Head Prefect has stimulated memories of the many fun events we have been fortunate enough to partake in: reminding us of the role's benefits and how it has assisted the progression of our personal character development and wider academic journeys.

*Emily Crouchman, George Brinkley - Head Prefects*

We chose the role as we are passionate about mental health. We were able to learn about how to help people when they were feeling anxious, and how to calm people down. They enjoyed learning through their course.

*Sophie Bartlett, Sophia Ozar, Alfie Potter - Mental Health Prefects*

We have been able to interact with the lower school students. Being able to attend student council meetings made us more aware of the importance of student involvement and engagement within the school community.

*Holly Farrell, Josh Hooks - Student Council Prefects*

A favourable part of the role was being able to plan events such as setting up the open evening and being able to organise the leavers event. Being in touch with the students' opinions via forms quiz was good to allow others to express their opinions.

*Ruby-Mae Proctor, Caitlan Goodwin, Lucy Williamson - Social Prefects*

It's a great opportunity to explore new ideas and perspectives in teaching lower school students through mentoring. Subject ambassadors chose to be more involved within their subjects and spread their own knowledge. Nice to be involved.

*Lucy Williamson, Ellena Fisk - External Ambassadors*





# WorldBookDay

On 7 March, students were shocked to see many staff dressed up as their favourite characters from books to celebrate World Book Day. We had an interesting selection including characters from His Dark Materials, Alice In Wonderland, Little Miss, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, characters from Oliver and a quartet of Oompa Loompas - even two dinosaurs teaching lessons! A huge effort was made by all, the students were very entertained, and it was wonderful to have so many literary discussions with our students.

The library provided book themed activities such as writing to your favourite author, creating a book cover and a World Book Day quiz for the students to complete and win a badge.

Reading is a key determiner of academic success, and we encourage everyone to pick up a book and read.

*Mrs B Holden and Miss M Gladen, Event Organisers*



**View the Online Photo Gallery**

[www.notleyhigh.com/component/igallery/photo-galleries/2024/world-book-day-2024?Itemid=2064](http://www.notleyhigh.com/component/igallery/photo-galleries/2024/world-book-day-2024?Itemid=2064)









# Butchery Skills

Very excitingly Notley High School invited Paul, an experienced butcher and fishmonger from Buntings in Coggleshall, to demonstrate to the GCSE students how to handle raw meat and gain knowledge of the welfare of animals and the meat trade.

Each student had the opportunity to work one-to-one with Paul and build their butchering skills by deboning a chicken and making sure that none of the meat was wasted, a life skill that can support them in their GCSE practical and at home. In the following lessons they will be using all the different parts of the chicken to make some delicious meals!

*Mrs J White, Subject Leader - Food & Textiles*



# Chess Tournament

Due to the popularity of chess in our library, it was decided that we should hold a chess tournament. Back in January we had twenty-eight students sign up. The library was closed to accommodate each knockout round and on Wednesday 13th March our finalists played an incredible match whilst our many other chess enthusiasts looked on.

A huge congratulations to Oliver D who wins not only a £20 Amazon voucher and trophy, presented by Headteacher Miss Ryan, but the very first Notley High School Chess Tournament! Well done to our runner up Deniz S who also wins an Amazon voucher – he fought a valiant battle!

Special mention to Khairah A, our third place runner up. Some excellent chess has been played, all finalists and entrants should be very proud.

The librarians would also like to mention how well behaved and respectful all spectators were throughout the tournament.

At the presentation ceremony all entrants received a certificate and badge for their participation.

Watch this space for our next tournament!!

*Mrs B Holden, Library Manager*



## Borneo World Challenge - 2024

The World Challenge trip to Borneo is on its exciting final legs of preparation. This is the first time that Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form has worked with World Challenge, and this trip was offered to all current year 11 and 12 students. Mr Bridgewater is busy planning the trial expeditions, which will be three separate walks to prepare them for the expedition leg of the journey. The Borneo trip is the Pahu Trial, conservation work and then onto Sepilok and will see students undergo this life-changing 13 night expedition.



**World  
Challenge**

Photo: Dimitry B on Unsplash

Photo: Rob Hampson  
on Unsplash



# WorldChallengeBorneo

Students are not tourists, but are global citizens and must embrace the diversity and remain committed to the life long learning that this adventure will bring. When students first arrive, they will touch down in the coastal city of Kota Kinabalu. On the first morning, they will dive into expedition life, and will explore the capital of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu (known locally as KK), this city is a blend of new and old, and is a beautiful bustling city with fiery sunsets. Significant landmarks in this area include the War Memorial, Australia Place, the Jesselton Hotel and the Pillars of Sobah. Students will also experience panoramic views once they climb the 267 steps of the Signal Hill Observatory Tower. By Day 4, students will complete the Pahu Trail Trek, which will last for four days and will see students camping and cooking out in the jungle. Students will follow the river, passing rural villages and paddy fields, they'll also cross streams and hanging bridges: let's hope that they do not look down!.

By day eight, students will be on the exploring Kiulu, a beautiful valley with fruit orchards, paddy fields and thick jungle. It's named after the Tulu plant – a small bamboo that grows on the river banks. Here, students will enjoy a day of snorkelling. Once the adrenalin rush of Kiulu is over, students will then spend four days on their conservation project. They'll travel deeper into Borneo's lush landscape to a village cooperative.

For the next four days they will be living alongside the community, learning how sustainable development supports local livelihoods and protects the environment. They will help out with community-

led conservation initiatives, such as wildlife tracking, lake restoration, and tree planting in the orangutan habitats. Their work will make a meaningful contribution to long-term goals. Students get to ask questions, roll up their sleeves, and embrace every opportunity given to them. They will discover the magical life of Sabah's rainforests on a dawn safari along the Kinabatangan River. This teeming ecosystem is one of only two areas in the world that's inhabited by ten species of primate. They get to look out for proboscis monkeys, orangutans, macaques and more. This is a side of Borneo that few tourists see. Rural life can be tough, and they'll have none of the comforts they're used to back home.

Their final full day in Borneo will be in Sepilok. Nothing quite prepares you for Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre (SORC). It's one of the few places in the world where you can see orangutans in their natural habitat. These endangered great apes can only be found in the rainforests of Borneo and neighbouring Sumatra. SORC cares for injured orangutans and teaches them how to survive. Feeding time is the best chance of seeing them up close. They will also meet the experts at the pioneering sun bear sanctuary next door. Sun bears play an important role in keeping the forest healthy, but they're threatened by habitat loss and poaching. Students will learn more about the world's smallest bear and what's being done to protect them.

On their final night in Borneo, students will gather for a big team meal.

*Ms M Gladen*

# Our teacher training provider deemed ‘Outstanding’ again!

“Every aspect of the provision is of extremely high quality.” Ofsted, March 2024

Mid Essex Initial Teacher Training, based in Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, is absolutely thrilled to announce it has retained its Ofsted-Outstanding grading following an intensive four-day inspection in February.

Founded in 1994, Mid Essex ITT is based upstairs in Braintree Sixth Form and is a hive of activity throughout the academic year, sometimes training up to 60 teachers in a year, most of whom then go on to work in local Essex schools.

Mid Essex ITT was last graded Outstanding in October 2017, and this new report is absolutely a reflection of the hard work and dedication of not just the leadership team, but of all those working alongside us in partnership schools, said Mid Essex ITT Director Sophie Allchin.

“Mid Essex ITT is led by a small but dedicated Leadership Team. However, we would not be able to operate without the support of our 16 partnership schools who make up the wider Mid Essex ITT team. Candidates who train with Mid Essex ITT benefit from the support of a variety of professionals from our schools, including mentors, subject experts and trainers who are specialists in their field. Many of our mentors trained with Mid Essex ITT themselves and carry on their love of learning by training new entrants to the profession.”

The full Ofsted report can be read at:  
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/41/70086>

Mid Essex ITT trainee teachers are placed in schools all over Essex for their training ‘on the job’ with a teaching mentor, but come to Notley one day a week for their ‘Core’ training. Most will train full time for a year, but the provider does offer a flexible, part-time course too, with trainees doing just two days a week in their school and one day Core training at Notley. This course takes up to two years to complete.





“The provider is highly ambitious for all trainees. It takes its responsibility to provide the area with teachers of the highest quality seriously.”

Ofsted March 2024

To be eligible to train, all candidates must have a GCSE in Maths and English (or equivalent qualification) and a degree, too. But you do not have to teach the same subject as your degree. You just have to be passionate about your teaching subject and believe that you could be an inspiring role model for the next generation.

If you, or someone you know could be an amazing teacher, visit our website

[www.midessexteachertraining.com](http://www.midessexteachertraining.com)

for further information, or give our friendly office a call on 01376 556 398.



View the Online Photo Gallery

[www.notleyhigh.com/component/igallery/photo-galleries/2024/grease?Itemid=2064](http://www.notleyhigh.com/component/igallery/photo-galleries/2024/grease?Itemid=2064)

In the summer term of 2023, we auditioned for our production of Grease. After the buzz of Matilda, it was wonderful to see former cast members, as well as lots of new faces. Roles were cast before the summer holidays and scripts were taken home to learn, with American accents in full swing! In September, we hit the ground running with rehearsals, the commitment and enthusiasm from the cast was fantastic, all working hard to develop their roles, learn choreography and lyrics. In October, the cast excitedly headed down to London to watch the West end stage version of the show and although there was some disappointment from staff members that Peter Andre wasn't performing that night, a wonderful time was had by all!

February and show week soon arrived! We welcomed 3 different primary schools to come and

watch our final rehearsals, lights, costume and make up all in place. We have received so many thank you letters from the primary school children and it has been fantastic to read about their favourite characters and parts of the show. It has been incredible watching the cast blossom in talent and confidence over the course of this process and to see friendships across year groups develop. We can't wait to see the talent at Notley High School develop even further in the coming year, with our next production... watch this space!

A huge thank you to all staff involved and to all who made a charitable donation to BASICS Essex. I was overwhelmed to have raised £604 for a charity that means so much, thank you.

*Miss White*

"Being in Grease was one of the most amazing experiences. Even on the audition day there was a family environment. Then rehearsals happened, they were exciting and fun and flew by and it just felt like you were one big family. As a year 11 going in, I've made so many friends from other years and watching them alongside myself was an absolute joy. Every single one you shined on stage and I've loved every single minute of it. Caitlin M (Jan)

"One of the funniest things I've ever been a part of" Jack M (Kenickie)

"It really was about the friends you make along the way" Taylor P (Roger)

"Jolly good fun" Danika M (Mrs Lynch)

"It was really good first experience to do and very fun" Harry W (Vince Fontaine)

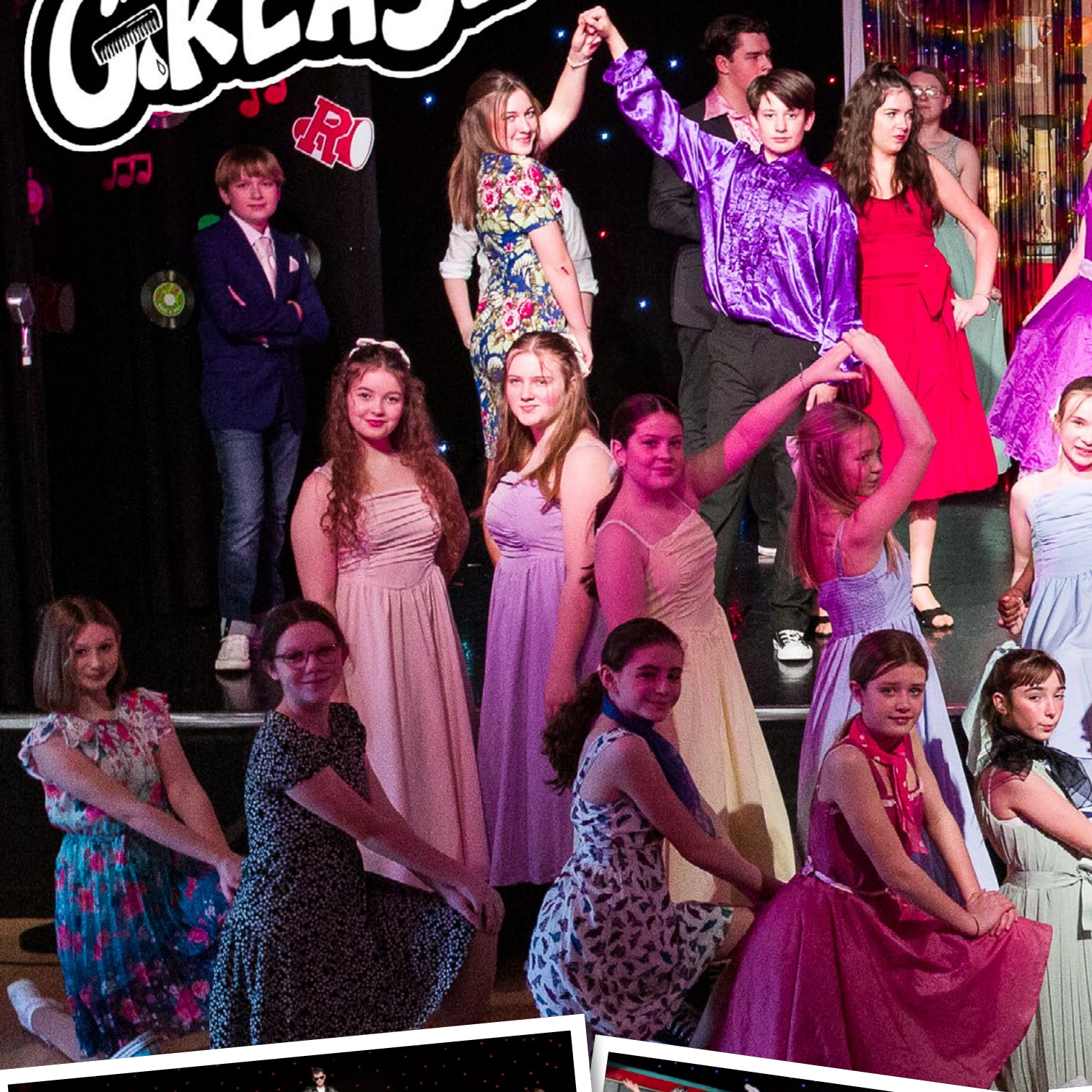
"I loved getting to know a lot of the people in cast and being a part of something that felt larger than anything I've been a part of before" Matthew C (Eugene)

"It was really nice to see the coming together of Grease and I was so, so proud of the cast" Sophie C (Ast Director)



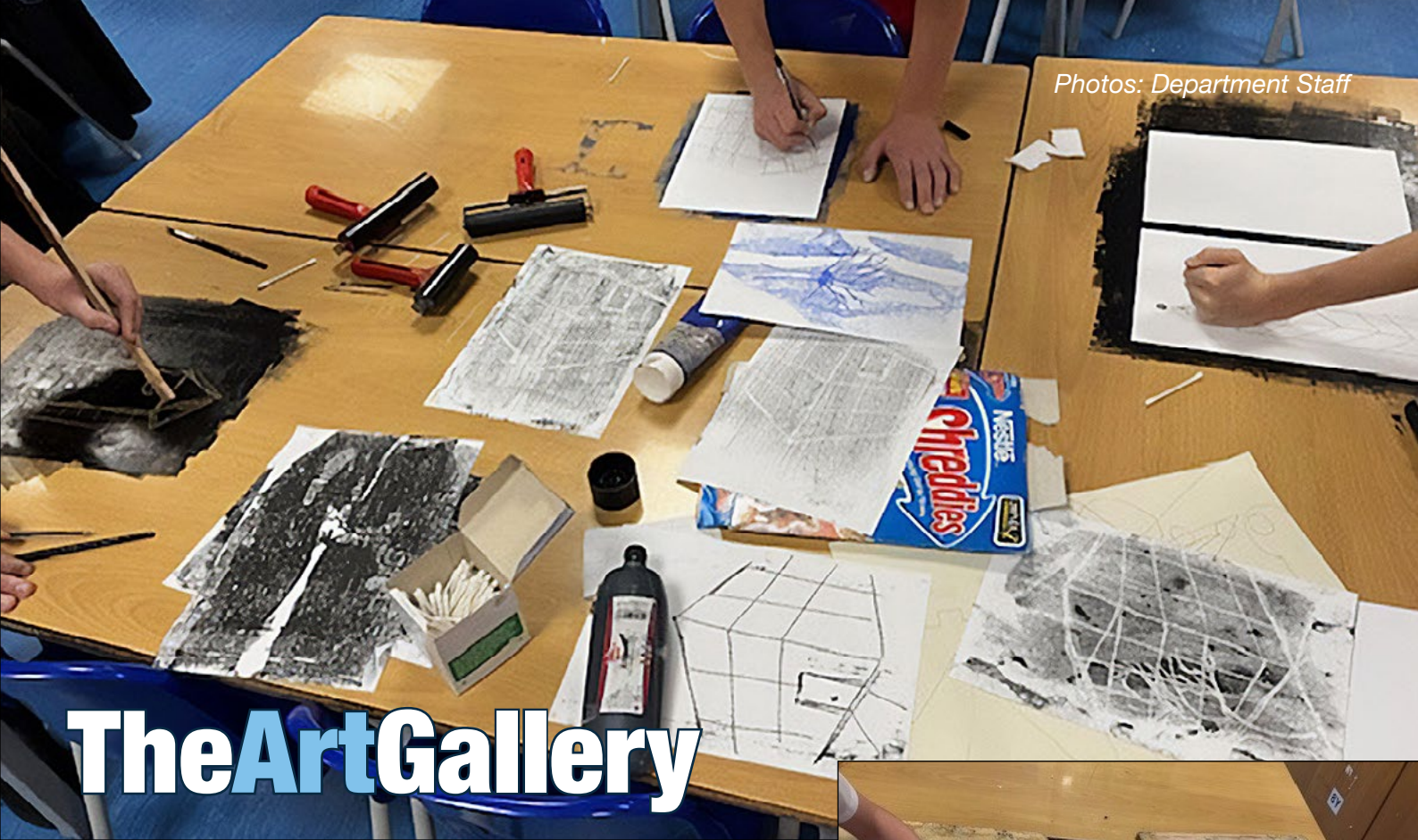


# GREASE









# The Art Gallery

## AGT Art Club

Last term the Art department invited enthusiastic, talented and able Year 8 and 9 Art students to attend seven extra lessons to support, stretch and challenge their art skills. Students were provided with more complex themes to explore and were encouraged to develop a wider variety of media and materials. Students demonstrating a high level of flair were guided to study more detailed topics and taught how to use finer skills in drawing, media and design work.

Some of the topics were looked at were reportage art and the artist George Butler, mixed media and artists such as Ian Murphy and students were introduced to a variety of new skills such as dry point etching and printmaking techniques.





## Year 7

### Abstract Art Project

Last half terms year 7 art students were working on their final pieces from their abstract project. Students were inspired by the artist Kandinsky to create a piece of art work by listening to music and creating patterns and shapes from sound.

Students created these using paint, oil pastels and fineliners. Students were able to create amazing outcomes with their own artistic style.

### Pattern Project

Year 7 art students are currently working on a pattern project and looking at natural patterns within sea life.

Students have been exploring the use of wax resist, salt technique and use of ink watercolours to create these beautiful sea inspired jellyfish paintings.

They are all incredible. Well done Year 7!





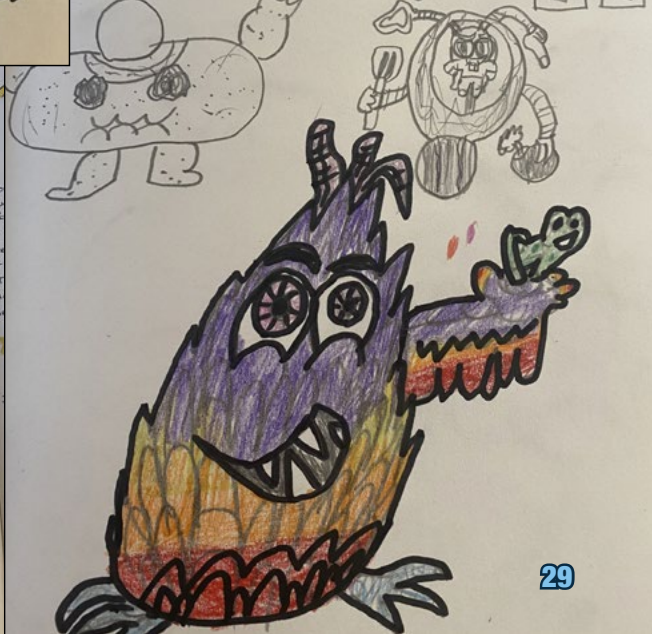
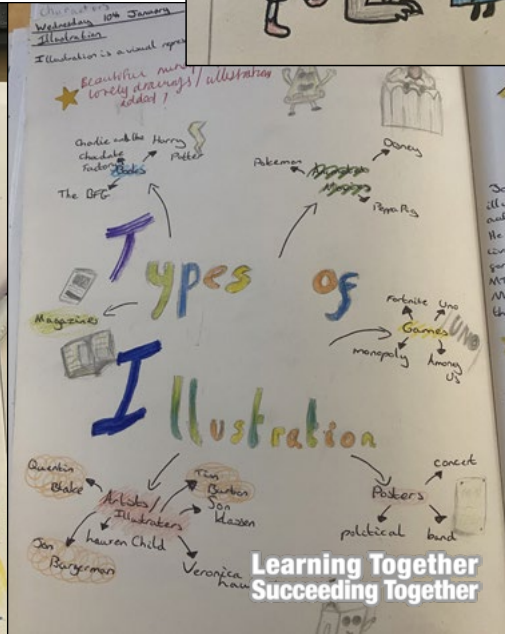
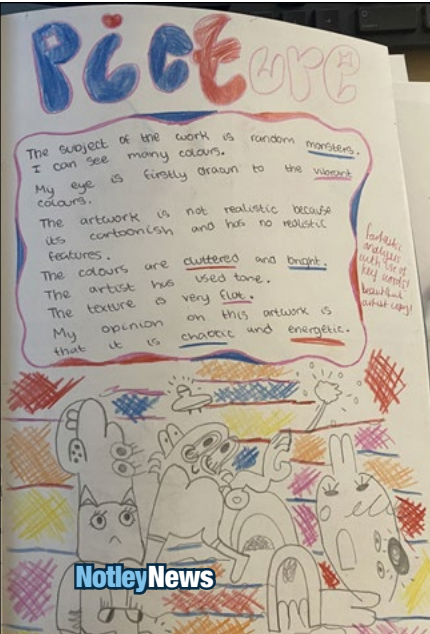
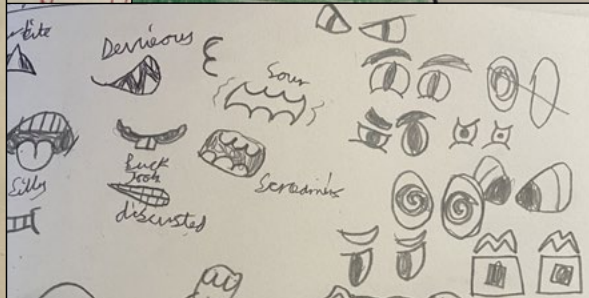
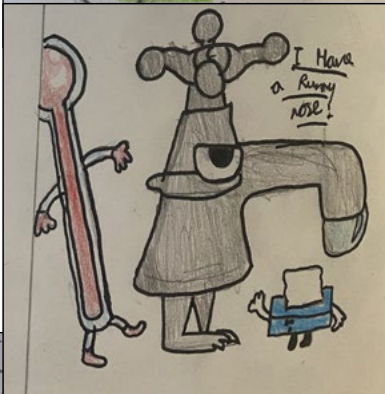
## Year 8

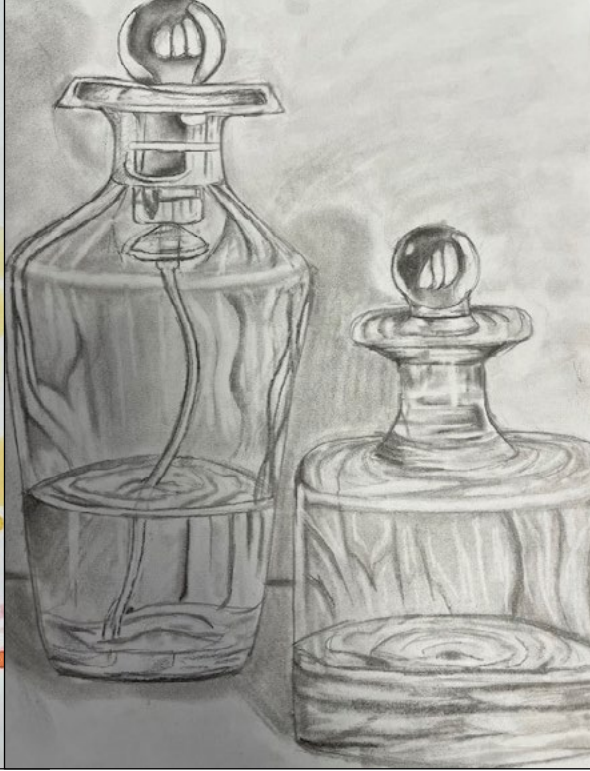
### Illustration project

Year 8 art students are working on an illustration project studying the work of Jon Burgerman.

Students have been exploring the artist's style of work, through artist study pages and working in the style of the artists. Students have been developing their skills through development of an idea from an object and facial expressions into a character design.

All students have been very creative and imaginative in their art work to create their own cartoon styled characters.



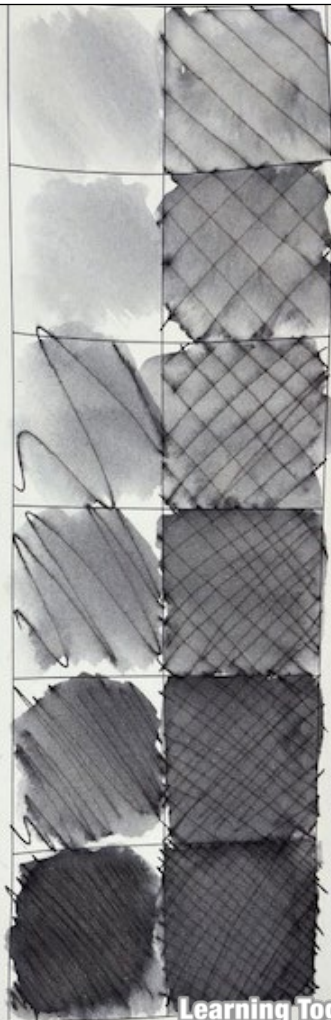


## Year 9

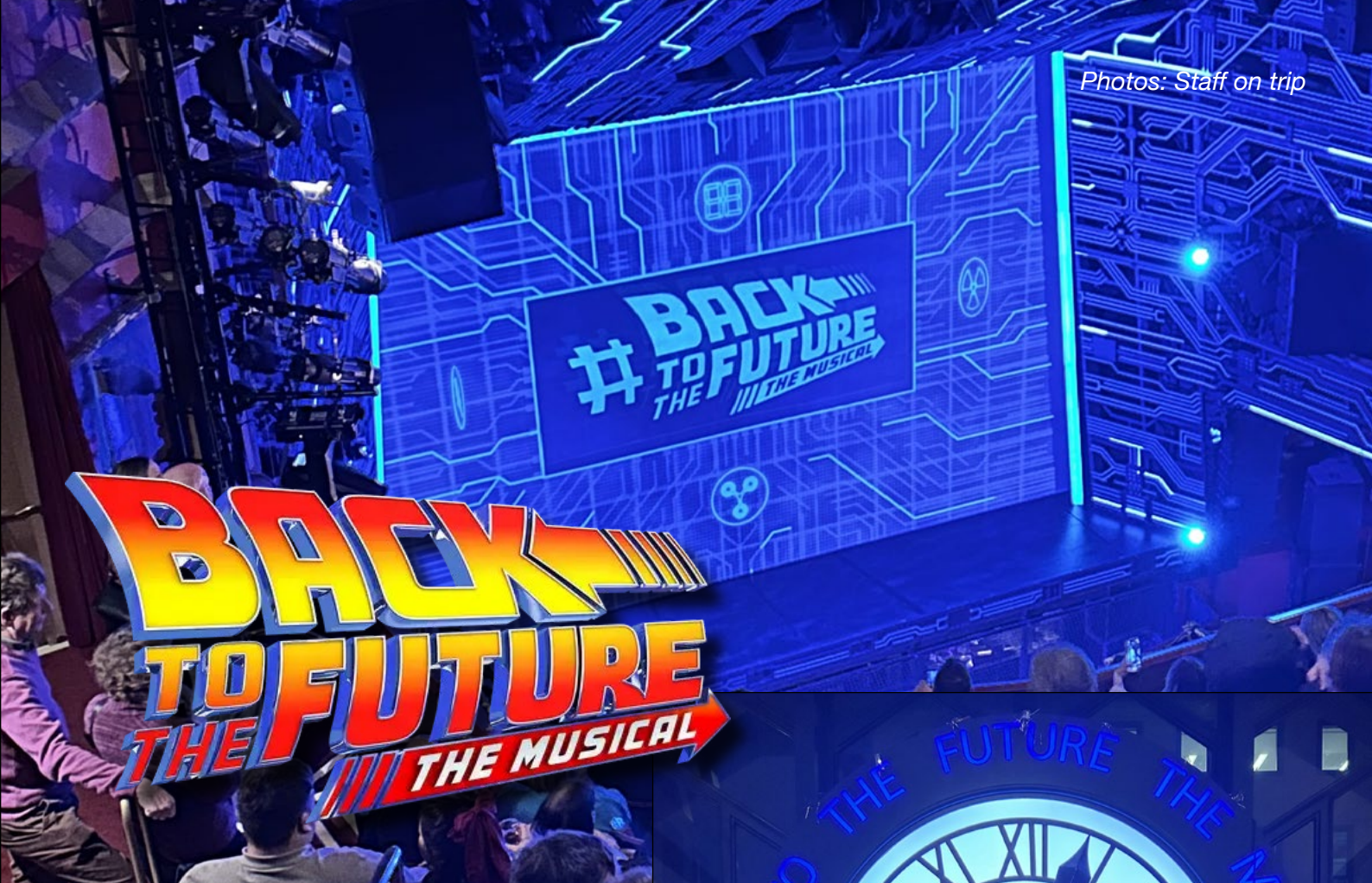
### Reflections project

Year 9 art students are currently working on a Mini GCSE style Reflections project looking primarily at perfume bottles and glass.

Students have been looking at improving their observational and drawing skills looking at Line, shape, Form and Tone and have experimented with variety of new and exciting techniques.







# BACK TO FUTURE THE MUSICAL

On Thursday 11th January, Year 10 and 11 drama students took a trip to the Adelphi Theatre, London to see Back To The Future The Musical. It was an incredible take on the 1985 classic with musical numbers throughout, recreating every scene down to a T, using songs from the film also. As the students took their seats, they were immediately captivated by the perfectly designed set, with fantastic lighting features and terrific sound effects.

The entire performance was wonderful, exceeding expectations of several students. All cast members play their roles to perfection and resembled their characters entirely. The set design and props were phenomenal, and all students enjoyed themselves. "The play was funny and exciting, there was never a dull moment", "It was the best thing I've seen on the stage; I want to see it again already!" These were some of the opinions of students on the trip and I think we can say with confidence, they had a wonderful time.

This performance was a great opportunity to help the students with their GCSEs, developing their creative ideas and introducing them to a new onlook of theatre.

Jaya P, Year 10 Student





# SkiNotley2024

After a forced hiatus on 4 years thanks to COVID (we had just returned in 2020 when reports of a new mystery virus started circulating), Ski Notley returned to the slopes of Austria in half-term 2024. Only one student had ever been with us before, and she had been in Year 7 in 2020, and one of our instructors had been in Year 11, so this really did feel like Ski Notley: The Next Generation. Ok then – make it so!

The trip started at 2pm on Friday 16 February, when thirty-eight nervous but obviously excited students, four members of staff and two ski instructors were loaded aboard the coach at Notley. After a lot of reorganising the luggage (coach drivers must be amazing at Tetris!), playing musical seats and counting, recounting and re-recounting the students, we waved all the parents and carers goodbye and set off for Dover.

Two hours later the sea appeared, and after stopping to pick up James and Jamie, our two drivers for the week we rolled into the port. The DFDS app made UK border control was a breeze, but we still had to march everyone through French border control. After

the final “Merci” we were back on board the coach just in time to catch the ferry to Dunkirk – in fact we were the last vehicle on. One unexpected bonus was the free DFDS meal voucher we all received, so that did save a few pounds from everyone’s journey fund. Which one student who shall remain nameless (but forever infamous in Ski Notley lore) promptly used to help buy a drone. Yes, on the way to Austria. It had to be explained to them why unboxing the thing on board the ferry might not be the greatest plan. You just can’t make these things up.

Anyway, after a couple of hours our coach rolled off the ferry and into France, bound for Austria via Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. The coach journeys are always the low-points of the trip - long, boring and not especially comfortable. Even with a good coach and great drivers (both of which we had this year) there’s a limit to how enjoyable they can be made. Playing the traditional DVD of Chalet Girl may or may not have helped. Still, this was one of the better trips, with the only real traffic issues being around Munich (moderate) and then just a few miles away from our destination at Golling (biblical!).





Port to hotel took about 13 hours, which is about as good as it is ever going to get.

Once at the hotel we emptied the coach of our main luggage, in preparation for picking up our skis, boots and poles from SkiFit at Flachau. Only to be told by the company that due to how busy their shop was, they would be bringing the equipment to us later. Ok, fair enough...but we still went to Flachau anyway to pick up the lift passes for the next day to save time.

Normally the car park in Flachau is covered in snow. This year...nothing. (Spoiler alert!) After getting back, there was the usual three-ring-circus of getting all the students and their luggage into the correct rooms, then everyone had a much-needed shower...followed by playing in the snow and having a massive Dodge(snow)ball game. Not sure they got that in the right order. Oh well, everyone enjoyed themselves, including Lucy the hotel's dog, who was a massive hit with everyone. Braves Mädchen Lucy!

All this was followed by tea, instructions for the next day (up at 7am and down from breakfast at 7:30am!) and a relatively early bed.



*Photos: Staff on trip*





Day 1 of skiing and amazingly everyone was up on time. After breakfast we loaded our boots onto the coach and headed off for Zauchensee. We usually ski there as it's higher than Flachau and has better facilities for beginners. This year, with 30 students new to the mountains, we really needed them. Once we'd met up with Nicolas, our one local ski guide for the week, we got everyone over to the beginners' slopes so that the (small) group of more experienced skiers could have a warm up before heading up the mountain, and everyone else could get down to finding their ski legs.

Most had had some lessons before coming out, but it's still daunting to be faced skiing down real pistes. By lunchtime most of the group were able to use the "magic carpet" to get to the top of the nursery slope, which is so much easier on the legs than having to side-step up all the time.





In previous years we might have taken about half the beginners' group up to the top of the cruzezy blue for at least one run, but the snow condition wasn't great and the common run that brings everyone back to the base again was in terrible condition by late morning, so we confined ourselves to practising technique for the remainder of the day.

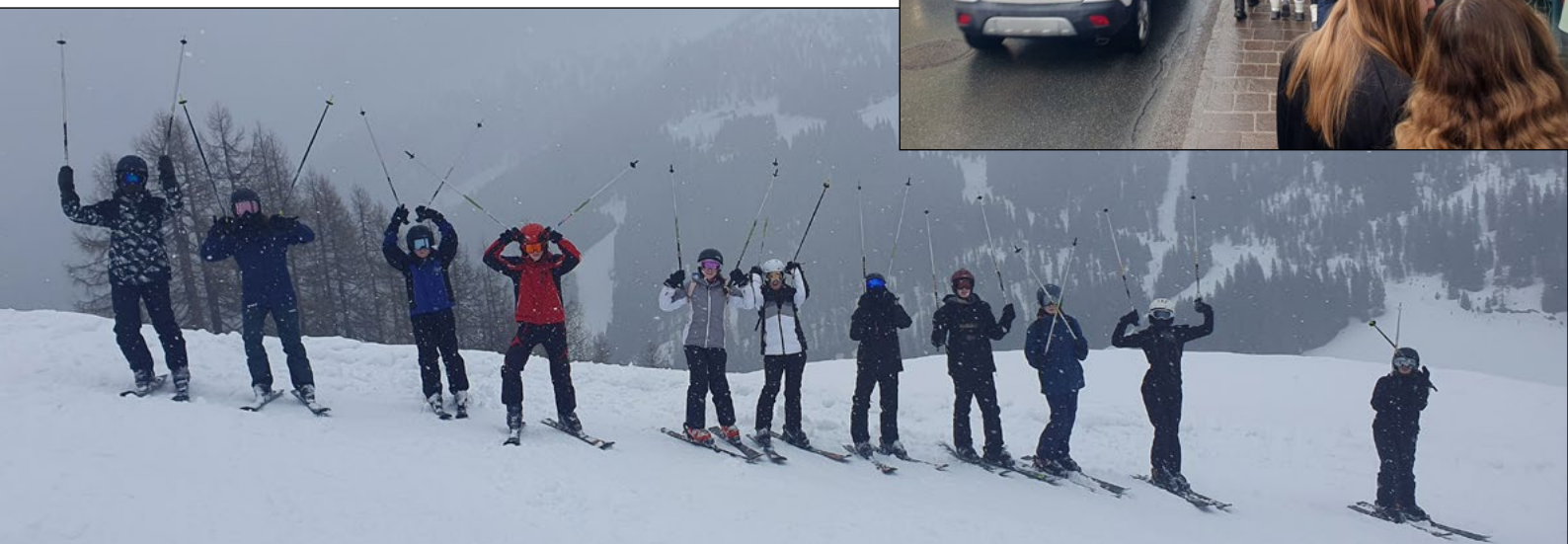
After our evening meal, it was off to Therme Amadé for a couple of hours of swimming. Always popular at the end of the first day to help with tired muscles. We got really lucky this trip, as not only was there just one other school using the pool, the laser show ran during our visit. There's definitely something a bit weird about bobbing about in the water with banging pop music playing and lasers drawing patterns everywhere, but it's thoroughly recommended. This year was also memorable for Miss Marboeuf getting stuck in one of the flumes and having to be rescued through a hatch. First Wally nomination of 2024 then!





Day 2 dawned cold and with the possibility of snow (finally!), so once on the slopes we got the new group one, which now included some of the most improved skiers from the beginners' groups, up the mountain and the rest over to the nursery slopes to work more on their technique. There were still too many that we thought might struggle with parts of the main runs, especially the final common run-in, to take a full group up as it would have left too large a group with the remaining instructor. Nicolas did ask his boss if anyone else was available, but with so many school groups out at the same time from several different countries, there was nobody. By late morning the snow was absolutely chucking it down (great for the resort, not great to ski through) so although the top group were able to manage the mountain, including a timed slalom run, the visibility was terrible, the snow was slushy and the common run was a mogul field, so we kept groups 2 and 3 at the bottom. Not ideal but better than having their first run be a disaster and knocking their confidence.

Once we got back to the hotel after shopping in Altenmarkt (leaving the local Spar depleted of Haribo and e-numbers), we decided that evening to change venues and go to Flachauwinkle for Day 3, since the conditions were constantly ruling out our usual Cruzey Blue introductory run.





Flachauwinkle did turn out to be a good choice, since there was a long nursery slope with a drag lift to do warm ups, and then a “family run” that snaked down the mountain from top to bottom through the woods. Not necessarily great for experienced skiers as it did involve a lot of snowploughing, but it worked really well for the beginners’ groups to get their first taste of real pistes.

By the end of the day, despite some rather variable weather, everyone had completed several runs down, and were definitely ready for an area with a greater variety of challenges.

So...Flachau for Days 4-6 then.



Day 4 saw a very tired mixture of tutus, bananas, witches, prison escapees and many more heading up to the slopes. Good effort people! The bright green alien abducting Jo our instructor especially caused no end of laughs and camera clicks from other skiers – also very helpful to spot your group on the slopes! Thankfully the weather behaved itself and everyone had a really productive day, skiing around all the different slopes Flachau has to offer, including the infamous path leading from the café onto the main slope. The beginner's groups even took on some red slopes without there being carnage, so well done them and their instructors. As a result of the high temperatures, the bottom of the mountain was basically one big Slush Puppy, but we kept everyone running top to middle, rinse and repeat. You can see from the panorama photo that the valley is basically a sea of green with small strips of white where the ski resorts have manufactured snow. Some resorts across Europe were completely shut due to lack of snow and temperatures too high to run snow canons, so we couldn't complain too much. There were long queues to get the gondola down though – few people wanted to ski to bottom.

We were back at Flachau in the evening for the ever popular Lucky Flitzer – the alpine rollercoaster. Students could see the bottom part of it from the gondola, but going by their screams they hadn't realised just how far up the mountain, and just how fast, it goes. Everyone was eager for their second go however, and the feedback we got was that it was one of the highlights of the trip.

Days 5 and 6 were basically more skiing around Flachau, without the costumes but with increasing degrees of skill and confidence. Day 6 did however win the competition for "how much snow can one resort get in a day". It literally didn't stop for a second during the day or night, and certainly made the made the beginning of the journey home "fun!"

We would just like to thank everyone once again for making Ski Notley 2024 what we hope was a success. The ski company SET, the coach company and their drivers, the hotel staff, our wonderful instructors (especially Lily Brown who stepped in as Head Ski Guide at the last minute and did an exemplary job), and our amazing school staff and their partners who generously allowed them to come, all the parents and carers...and most of all the students.

They really were an absolute credit to themselves, the school and their families. Everyone connected with them should be bursting with pride. We would be honoured to take them up a hill and throw them off on sticks again in a heartbeat.

*Mr Rowe (Geek) and the team*







View the Online Photo Gallery  
<https://www.skinotley.co.uk/photos/austria-2024>



# Our Friend, Will Myers

On the Sunday after we returned from the 2024 Ski Trip, we received the devastating news that our friend and long-term Ski Notley instructor Will Myers had passed away after a short illness. Will was a huge part of Ski Notley over the best part of the last decade. Anyone who knew him and were taught by him will know just how big.

In 2015, Dave and Jen, our other long-term ski guides, were looking for another person to help with our annual school trip, and recommended their colleague Will. “Are you sure he will fit in?” we asked. “Absolutely” was the reply. So...Will came on board. Right from the off, he was the missing jigsaw piece for our puzzle.

Will knew more about skiing than most of us will ever learn. More importantly, he knew how to pass his knowledge on to our students. That’s not a given. Plenty of top-class skiers have no clue how to teach. Will had that gift. Well over a hundred of our students owe their “ski legs” to Will.

He should have been skiing with us this year. He should have been coaching the beginners in their initial tentative runs, and watching them blossom over the week into confident, proficient skiers through his advice and guidance. Like he always did. He was an awesome coach. And I don’t use that word lightly. But the universe intervened. We learned that he had pulled out from the trip just a few short days before we were supposed to leave. We knew he must have been ill to not come with us – he had been asking me about the trip for almost a year – but we didn’t know how ill.

Will passed away while we were on the trip.

Personally, I will miss his presence. I will miss him skiing past my camera, asking to see the photos, and then bemoaning his own technique. It was always great. It was never good enough for him. I genuinely hope that wherever he is, the powder is deep, the pistes are freshly prepared, and he has all the time he needs to get his knees that little bit closer to the floor in the turns. Just one more run...

With the blessing of his family, we have instituted the Will Myers Award in his memory, to be given to the most outstanding student on each ski trip. That can mean anything – skiing ability, progress, resilience, kindness – whatever makes them really stand out.

This year, the award is presented to Rhiannon Foster in Year 11. Miss Trafford said it best. “She is wonderfully kind, helping people throughout the trip, both on the slopes and off them. She was in the top group but was never cocky or arrogant about it and was always supportive of others.” That sums up perfectly what Will was like as an instructor. Kind, helpful, supportive, skilful but never arrogant. And by coincidence Rhiannon was taught by Will in 2020.

From Lily, our Head Ski Guide “I was really impressed with her skiing when I skied with top group. You would never think she had only had 1 week on snow before! Will did good”. He did. He always did.

We hope he would approve.

*Chris Rowe (Geek), Trip Leader*

Dearest Rhiannon,

We are so honoured for you to receive this first ever Will Myers Award.

We will always be sad that Will did not get to teach you and the other Notley students on your 2024 trip, but we are so pleased that he first taught you as a beginner back in 2020.

We know that Will would have been so proud of the progress that you have made since then, not just as a skier but also in your care and support for others.

Thank you for embodying the values that Will believed in and may you continue to take these forward with you.

With best wishes

From the Myers family



*Will and Rhiannon in 2020*

# Cambodia2025

Cambodia is our second World Challenge adventure, and this has been offered our current year 9 and 10 students. This is a thirteen night expedition, and students will contribute to elephant conservation, explore Kulen Mountain and experience Angkor Wat. Students will touch down in the cultural city of Phnom Penh. They've made it to Cambodia! Cambodia is the home of the historic Khmer Empire and the mighty Mekong River.

After their arrival students will wake up to the bright colours of Phnom Penh and jump into expedition life. They will meet the ground team, get to grips with the currency (Cambodian riel) and head out to buy a SIM card for the team phone.

Once these initial jobs are completed, it will be time to explore. The team will navigate the buzzing streets and grab their first glimpses of the city's French colonial architecture and ornate temples. They will also seek out some tasty Khmer cuisine – think fish curry, beef stir fry and mango salad. Students will find out about the Khmer Rouge regime and Cambodia's tragic history – it's a disturbing but important story and will visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum – this former school was a torture centre, where more than 20,000 people were held. They will then continue to the Choeung Ek Memorial, where the stupa contains thousands of human skulls. This is the site of the killing fields.

On day three, students will take a day trip south of the city (a 90-minute drive) to a special sanctuary for endangered sun bears, saved from the illegal wildlife trade. They will meet the keepers and help out with conservation work – this could involve anything from cleaning the bear dens to preparing food. They'll also see gibbons swinging through the trees and meet other protected animals. This is a rare chance to get up close with Cambodian wildlife.

Unlike Borneo, the Cambodia expedition completes their project before their trek and their project is at an elephant conservation centre.

Photo by Wei Gao on Unsplash



# World Challenge

First, they'll travel to the capital of Mondulkhiri province. After a night in the town, it's a short trip to the sanctuary (30mins). The first of its kind in Cambodia, the sanctuary rescues elephants from harmful tourist activities, like elephant riding, and helps to rehabilitate them. Students will meet the conservation experts, learn about the elephants' stories and find out how they're nursed back to health. Students will then follow their guide into the forest and look for the herd – who should be grazing in the clearing. Students will observe the elephants, and follow them on foot and learn more about their forest home. Next, they'll join the staff to help keep the sanctuary running – lend a hand with reforestation, have a go at banana harvesting and help out with maintenance work at the basecamp.

Students will then, for the next two days, travel to the cultural city of Siem Reap. They will have a whole day to explore Cambodia's coolest little city. Siem Reap is the gateway to Angkor Wat, but there's loads more to discover here. You could start by exploring the town's riverside walkways, then hit the markets for souvenirs and noodle salads. Another option is to book a boat or kayak trip on Tonle Sap Lake – the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia.

The explorers will then partake in a beautiful trek, which will last over three days. They will tackle Cambodia's most sacred mountain range, where Jayavarman II is said to have founded the Khmer

Empire. The team will also meet with their local guides and cooks. They're insanely experienced, and students will listen to their stories and learn everything you can from these mountain masters. They will travel to the start point at the base of Kulen Mountain and set off past villages, waterfalls and bat-filled caves. Each student will take a turn in leading trek and they explore deeper into the forest. Along the way, they'll discover the Beng Mealea temple ruin, the Sras Damrei elephant shrine, and a huge reclining Buddha. At night, students will pitch their tents, chat with their guides and help out with the cooking. After three days of trekking, they will most probably crash out on the journey back to Siem Reap.

On the final day, they will be in Angkor Wat. Students will 'time-travel' to the greatest city of the Khmer Empire. Siem Reap sits right next to the famous Angkor temples – and will get to watch the sun rise over this mind-blowing complex. Angkor Wat is just incredible, and you may recognise Ta Prohm temple from the Tomb Raider movie. There's also the Terrace of the Elephants, Palace of the Leper Kings and 54 towers of the Bayon Temple to discover. On their final night in Cambodia, they will have a celebratory meal. They will tuck into their favourite Khmer cuisine, share their best memories and set their friendships in stone.

*Ms M Gladen*



# Jack Petchey

We have had three winners so far this academic year: David S, Abbie S and Harrison B. These students were nominated by staff, and it was the Pastoral prefects that chose these winners. It does not need to just be staff that nominate though, if you believe that a child goes above and beyond (in any aspect of life) then please go to our school website, and nominate a student (look for the Jack Petchey section) or email your nomination into your nominees RSL. We have many students nominated for each window, and they are all so well deserving, but we can only have a set number of winners.

## Harrison B

He is a very active member of DT club. He is also very supportive of the DT department, supporting staff with lesson preparation. He helped me set-up and train other students on the badge making machine on open day. He stayed late to help clear-up and get workshops ready for lessons on Monday when we had no technician

## David S

Winner because: regularly goes above and beyond expectations in both his technology lessons and in construction club and D&T club. He seeks to make new and innovative projects, he shows ambition and drive for the subject. He has helped at open days, supported pupils in lessons to achieve their potential and promoted our school.



## Abbie

Abbie was an emotional school based avoider in year 8, barely attending school. Since she returned in year 9 she has completed a full school day every day bar 1 for illness.

Abbie has shown great resilience and personal strength to overcome her anxieties and I'm really proud of her.



## Jack Petchey Awards Evening

Jack Petchey runs on a different calendar to the academic calendar, and as such there is a November window (three winners) and a June window (six winners). And, it was the November 2023 winners, who joined the June 2023 winners in the Jack Petchey award ceremony, along with Mrs Fouche, who won our leader award. The ceremony really is a grand affair and celebrates everything great about the young people of today. The event started with a short film about the Jack Petchey Foundation, followed by live performances from different award winners from across the regional schools.

All of our winners were invited onto the stage greeted by huge cheers and clapping from friends and family. They collected their award and had their photograph taken. Mr Burge, who went to cheer on the winners from the DT club said that: "It was a lovely event. It was genuinely heartwarming to see the schools high fiving and celebrating the achievements of the award winners".

We really hope that our winners had a lovely evening, and we look forward to celebrating the June 2024 and Nov 2025 winners at the next event.

### About Sir Jack Petchey CBE

Jack Sir Jack is an incredible inspiration to everyone who works at the Foundation. Even at 98 he takes an active interest in the running of the charity, as do the rest of his family who share his vision.

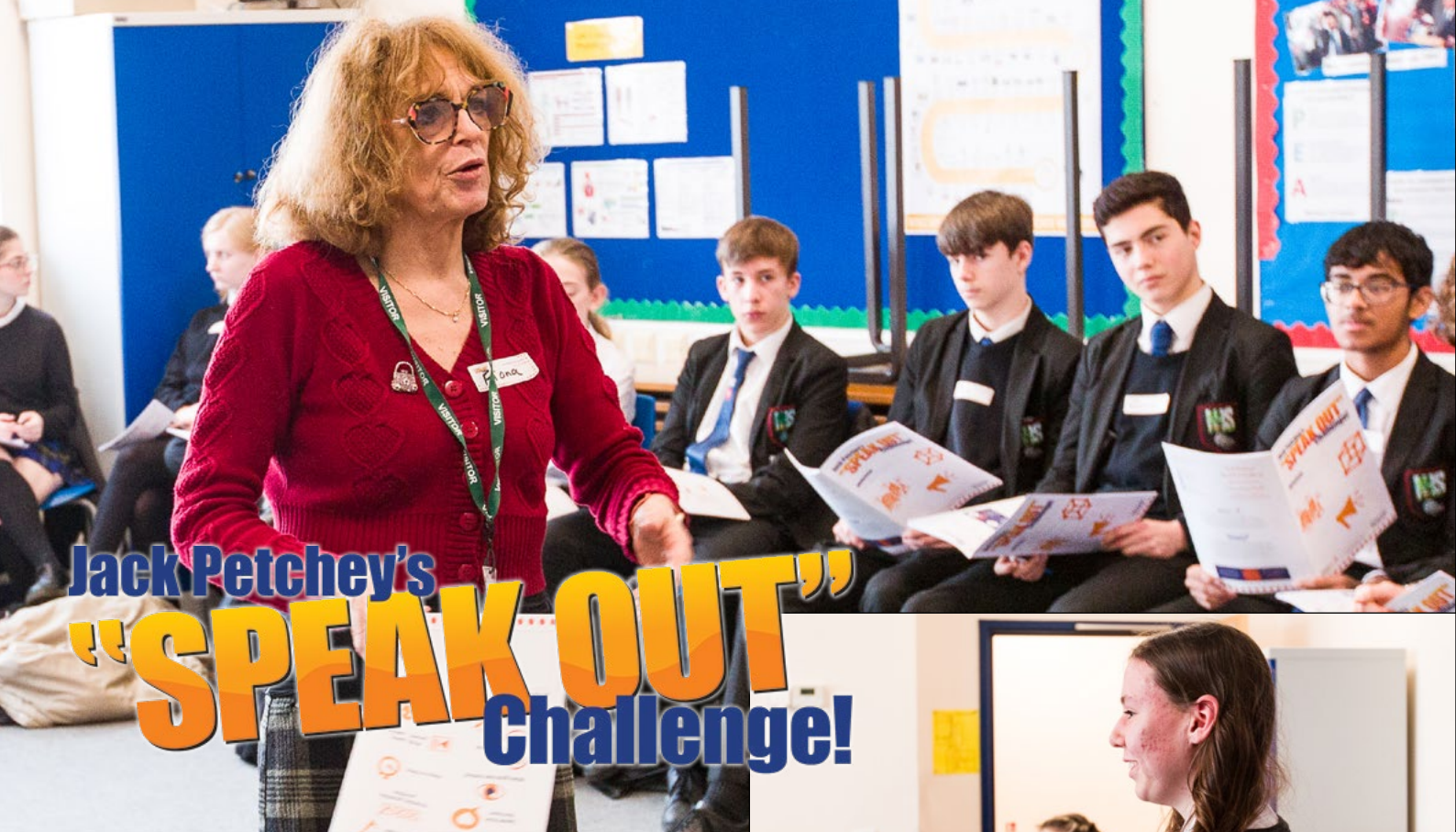
He was born into a working class family in the East End in 1925, left school at 13 and then joined the Navy in 1943. After leaving the Navy, he began working as a clerk for a solicitor's firm. He applied for management training but was told he would never make a businessman.

Instead of giving up, Sir Jack used the £39 he was given from the Navy to buy a second hand

car and started a taxi business. Through hard work and innovative thinking, he proved them wrong and built a multi-million-pound empire.

Sir Jack's experiences led to his passion to increase young peoples' aspirations by rewarding their achievements. In 2016, Sir Jack received his knighthood in recognition of his many years of charitable work.

**If you think you can,  
you can!**



On Friday 2 February and Monday 6 February, sixty Year 10 students were offered the opportunity to take part in Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out' Challenge. As part of the workshop, students worked with professional speaker Fiona Whytehead to improve their delivery, writing and presentation skills, culminating in a performance of their speeches at the end of day. It was an emotional day and the students showed a real sense of resilience as well as fun. Fiona, the speaker, was incredibly complimentary about the students and as a member of the English department I was extremely proud of everyone who took part.

As a result, the following students were chosen to go through to the next round: Amelie S, Rebecca W, Emmanuel C, Bobby L, Lola N-W and Thomas I. From here they competed again for the chance to represent the school at Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out' North Essex Regional Final. Performing for a group of Year 8 students, the finalists shared their improved speeches with confidence and passion. The Year 8s were very impressed and after a lengthy discussion of each speech, two students successfully received a place in the Regional Final. A huge congratulations to Emmanuel C 10.5 with his speech "Suffering in Silence" and Bobby L 10.3 with his speech "Short Struggles and Successes" who will both now be representing Notley High School at The Ramsey Academy on the 17th of April. The winner of the Regional Final will then have a chance to represent the school at the Grand Final later this year.



Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out' Challenge is the largest speaking competition for young people in the world and students have the opportunity to talk openly and honestly on any subject they feel strongly about. Here at Notley High School we are proud of our history with the 'Speak Out' challenge. As recently as 2022, Evie Daly, a former student, reached the Grand Final stage of the competition with a speech entitled "My Strange Addiction". We wish Emmanuel and Bobby all the best for the next stage of the competition!

*Mrs S Wilson, English Teacher*





# The Doctors Show

On 14 February 2024, close to one hundred students from year 10 had an excellent morning watching “The Doctors Show” at the Lakeside Theatre, Colchester.

The show was designed for students studying medicine through time for their GCSE History exam. It gave a detailed overview of medicine, starting with the Medieval period up to the 21st century. This gave students an insight into the different beliefs around medicine and the role that different individuals played throughout History. The show also featured a GCSE examiner, talking the students through the exam skills they will need to answer the questions in the exam.

Our students engaged well with the show and contributed during periods of audience participation with enthusiasm and engagement. Oliver F said ‘The trip was great. I learnt a lot and it was very enjoyable’. This was echoed from other students. The students were a credit to the school and a member of the public commented “We don’t often see such well-behaved students”.

The production helped reinforce the knowledge and skills that the students have gained in the classroom in an interesting and informative way.

*Mrs C Cheung*



Photos: [www.schoolhistoryscene.co.uk/](http://www.schoolhistoryscene.co.uk/)

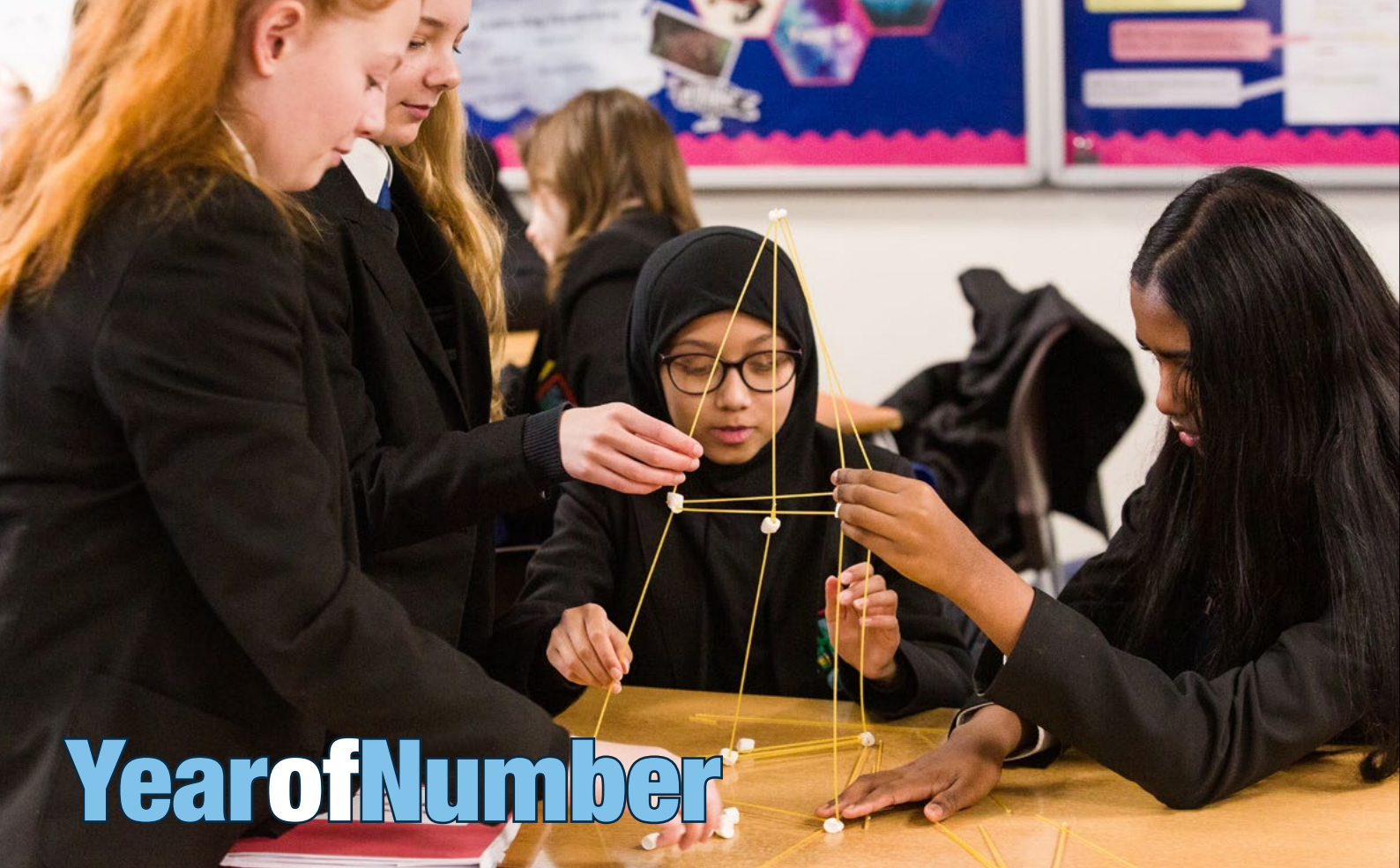
## Easter Break

**We wish all students and families a relaxing Easter break.**

**We will return to school on**

**15 April 2024**

Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash



## Year of Number

This academic year, Notley High School is celebrating the 'Year of Number', and students are completing challenges related to number in their form groups. The Autumn term was very successful, please see some quotes from students.

*"I'm finding year of number activities this year very fun and enjoyable"*

*"I find it fun and useful when we measure out things,*

*"Really fun and different every time"*

*"There have been a range of them one of my favourite ones was the codebreaking"*

This term they have been completing more 'Year of Number' challenges. They started the term with a sports analysis challenge to compete where they had to calculate the number of throw-ins, number of corners, number of completed passes and number of non-completed passes from four football clips. Then they had to calculate what would be the best mobile phone deal to enable them to purchase a new phone with a package of texts, minutes and data, this was then followed with a number quiz where they had to answer every question with a number.

More recently, they had a STEM challenge to complete. In this activity, students had to use marshmallows and spaghetti to build a tower, this

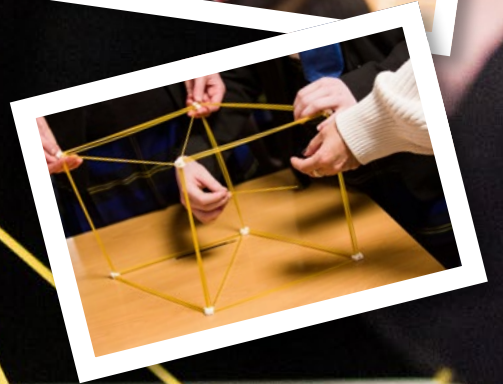
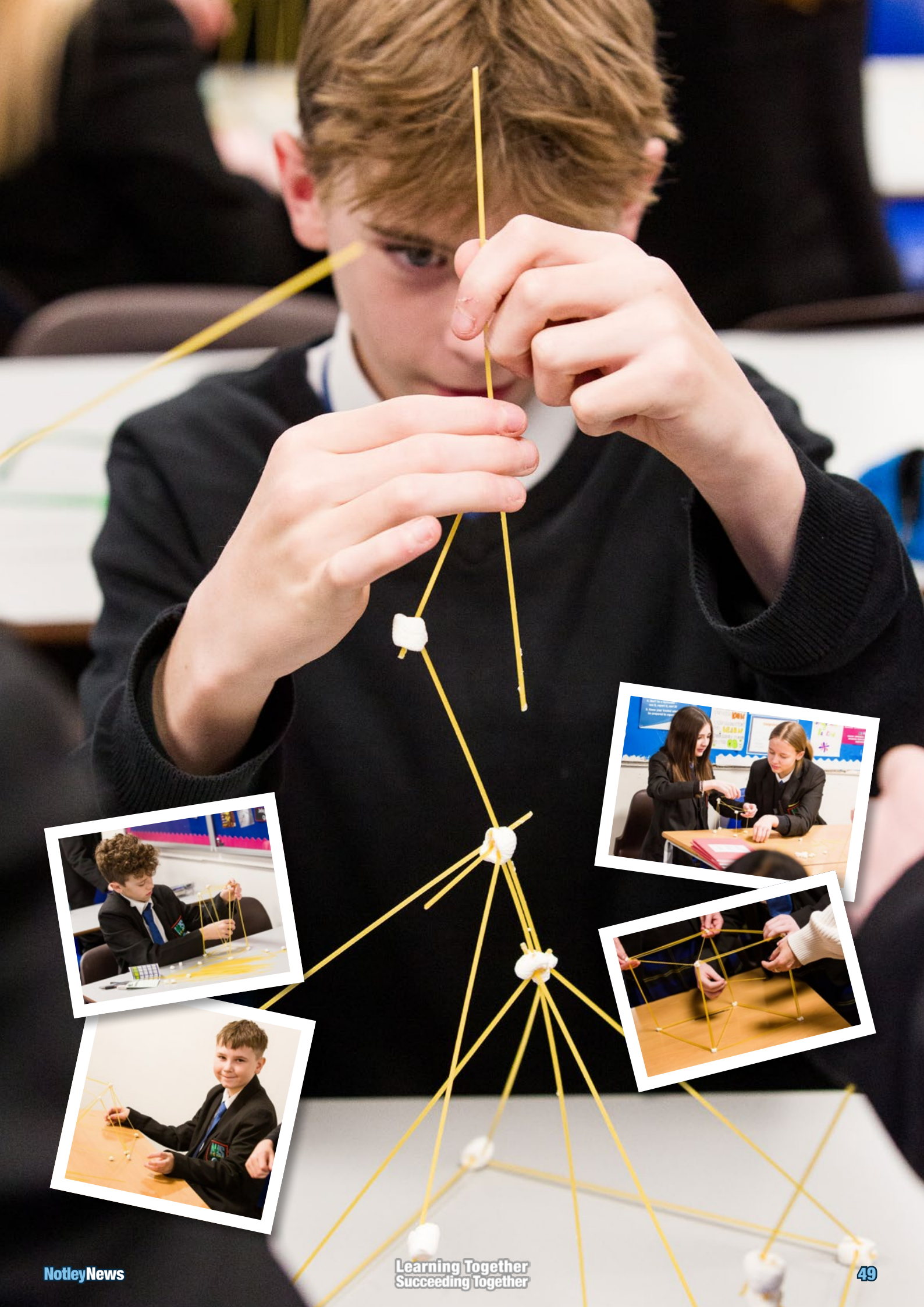
tower had to have 2 pens which could rest on it, and the tallest tower would win, this also linked number with Engineering, Science and Technology.

And finally, they celebrated Pi week, as in March we have Pi day. The date on a Thursday is 14 March. March is the 3rd Month. We write this as 14/3 however in the United States and a few other countries around the world it is written as 3/14.

3.14 is a very important number in mathematics. The student's challenge was to see how many numbers of Pi they could recall. They had to write them down on a Post-it note and start practising in tutor time ready for a competition in the maths department later in the week to see who could recall the most numbers in each year group and across the school.

Students have been working well together in their tutor groups to complete the challenges and have been very competitive in trying to be the form that completes challenges the fastest for house points or prizes.

*Miss Trowbridge and Mrs Pett  
Maths and Science Excellence Leads*



# Model United Nations



On Sunday the 3rd and Monday the 4th of March, some Year 12 students attended Felsted School's annual Model United Nations Conference. The event is a chance for schools, colleges and sixth forms across the whole county to come together and use their debating, critical thinking, and persuasion skills to draft policies that, if real, could change the world!

The conference started with an opening ceremony, where delegations gathered together and were welcomed onto a replica of the stage of world politics. After that, delegates went to their individual committee meetings to start discussion of the fast-track resolutions – resolutions that had been preselected by the Chairs to start the conference off to a swift start. This continued throughout the first day, with delegates voting on resolutions and to amend and add their own clauses to policies.

The second day was where committees started to join, to have an ad-hoc debate, where the congregation constructed a resolution, clause after clause, different to before where the resolutions had already been drafted. Countries worked together to tackle world pressing issues, such as vaccination and child health.

Some of our students representing New Zealand formed alliances between them, the UK and Canada, imitating the proposed CANZUK alliance in the real world too and those representing Sri Lanka were valuable cosigners on resolutions.

Our students also made resolutions and amendments of their own, and then had to defend them in front of the whole committee. Although it was a daunting task at the start, by the end of the conference students had gained confidence and were able to advocate for their clauses.



Then, a crisis was introduced. The scenario was that China had launched cyber-attacks on Taiwan. Delegations scrambled over a working lunch to draft more resolutions to combat this issue – with a collaborative spirit to resolve what could have been a severe problem if it were real. After a heated session, the conference was over. Following the closing ceremony we reflected on the events on the two days, and the charity being supported over the conference, Magic Bus, which enhances education for children that are most in need.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and students are looking forward to next year, if the opportunity arises again! Thank you to Mr Buttle and Mrs Townsend for going with us and facilitating the whole trip!

*Keith S and Max N, Year 12 Students*

*Editor's note: Keith and Max were awarded commendations at the end of the conference for being highly effective delegates – Well Done!*

# Therapy Dogs

This term, we have had the privilege of welcoming a whole range of therapy dogs into Notley. Essex Therapy Dogs are a charity that pair up dogs with places such as care homes, hospitals and schools to help bring smiles and relieve tension.

Nala, the Newfoundland, has been paired with the school. She has been coming in once a fortnight to work with small groups of students and has proven to be a big hit with everyone. Despite the fact she looks like a bear, she is actually one of the most docile and gentle dogs anyone has ever met – perhaps in part because she has enjoyed visiting to get a rest from her eight 8 week old puppies!

During the March mock exam period, we were delighted to welcome a whole range of dogs before each exam to help calm Year 11 before they sat down to write. Coco the German Shephard, Clemmie the Cocker Spaniel, Rosie the Golden Retriever, Rori the Red Setter and Sam the French Bulldog joined Nala across the week. They spread real joy, and we cannot thank them (and their owners) enough for the help they offered to us. We are hoping that this will be replicated in the real exams in May and June to help ensure our GCSE and A Level students are in the right frame of mind to achieve really highly.



# Passion Projects



## Year 7 & 8 Passion Projects

Since November, students in year 7 and 8 have been working on their 'Passion Project for Independent Reading' within their library lessons. It was a project that not only promoted, supported, and challenged students to read for pleasure, but it also reflected other things that bring them happiness.

The key was to read their chosen book and respond creatively to anything they found thought-provoking or interesting within it. It could have been the plot, conflicts, characters, themes, or settings which sparked the imagination. In response, both year groups rose to the challenge and immersed

themselves in the worlds of their books. As a result of this, we had examples of fact-files, models, sculptures, cakes and stop-motion videos amongst many other very imaginative and thought-provoking creations. We have included some images of the student projects in progress as well as some of their finished projects:

The response from students has been very positive and, in their last 'Passion Project' lesson, were encouraged to reflect on their experiences and give feedback on each other's creations.





Passion Project 7X1

I want to thank all of the students and their teachers for getting involved and working hard to make the 'Passion Project for Independent Reading' a success. I also want to thank our librarians, Mrs Holden and Mrs Millbank, for all of their efforts during this project, they have worked tirelessly to provide students with support, materials and advice during their library lessons to ensure the projects come to life. They are also hard at work displaying each class groups' projects along the shelves in the library for all to see. Finally, I also want to thank parents/carers for all the materials provided from home and the support you have given to the students' reading and their passion projects over the last few months.

Mrs Bird, RAP KS3 English

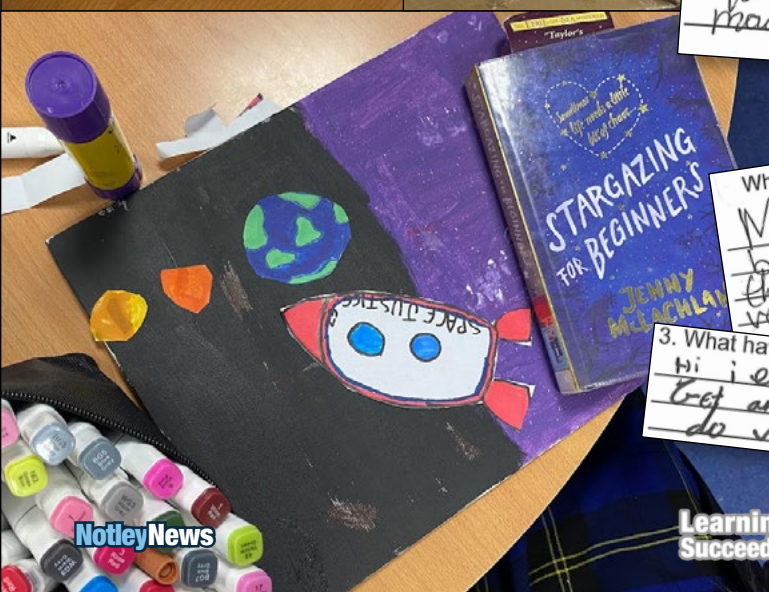


2. What was your favourite passion project and why?  
 - I's passion project because he is fascinating details of how he made the stop motion animation that was based on football and he created a interesting and fantastic animation.

What did you learn from your independent reading project? Use at least two specific details from your project to support your response.  
 I've learnt that reading is actually quite calming and imaginative because it made me very happy.

What was your favourite passion project and why?  
 My favourite was the drone racer because it looked exactly the same as the books front cover. It was very creative.

3. What have you enjoyed most about this topic and why?  
 Hi i enjoyed the creativity and freedom you get and there was so much freedom and you can do whatever you want about your book



Prof Dave Cliff



Dr Helen Czerski



Portrait photos, clockwise from top left: Tantamount2, Jan Ainali, Andy Miah (Wikipedia, CC)

# GCSE Science Live!

On Wednesday 7th February, a group of year 10 triple science students visited Cambridge to attend 'GCSE Science Live!' – an exciting opportunity to watch lectures delivered by prominent industry professionals.

The experience offered pupils the chance to engage with five of Britain's top scientists, gather exam tips from an experienced science examiner and discover more about the successful careers available out there for those with a Science GCSE and beyond.

Lecturers included scientists from a variety of different backgrounds and specialisms, including; Prof Dave Cliff who delivered a talk entitled 'Computer Whizz: the best is yet to come' and representing women in STEM, scientist Dr Helen Czerski, a physicist and broadcaster, currently based at University College London.

With such a diverse and varied skill set, the guest speakers were certain to appeal to many in the audience, including our Notley High School pupils who had some wonderful feedback from the day:

"Really nice atmosphere"

"Impressed by the scientist who swam the English Channel"

"Very interesting and makes me think more about a career in science"



Prof Robert Winston



Photos: Staff at event



gcse science  
**live!**





With the season drawing to a close, Braintree Basketball Club are pleased to announce the success of our U16 Boys team winning the Cambridge CVL competition across the 2023-24 season. Training will continue throughout term time.

The U16 members who are seeking to continue in their studies at college are fully supported by the club with letters of recommendation completed by Mr Musson. One of the team members Aston Nankivell has been accepted into Oaklands Sports Academy based in St Albans which is renowned for its excellent facilities and opportunities for players to proceed to NBL, BBL, and international leagues. The club wish Aston all the best for his future.

The club has begun offering school holiday basketball camps 10am-3pm, open for members @£20 per day & non-members @£30 per day. Next camp dates are Tues 2nd April – Thursday 4th April & Tuesday 9th April-Thursday 11th April. If you are interested, please contact the below email address.

The club had its AGM on the 13th of March and is actively seeking volunteers to help with the clubs' activities for next season. This is not exclusive to members of the club, and we welcome anyone who would like to get involved with some voluntary work.

For more information, please contact Mr Musson or email [bbdbasketball@live.co.uk](mailto:bbdbasketball@live.co.uk)



Photos: Jason Leung on Unsplash (top), and Braintree Blue Devils

# THFC Football Development

Braintree Sixth Form's Tottenham Hotspur Football Development Programme has flourished this term. Our male and female students have benefited from continued weekly training sessions (both timetabled and extra-curricular), with our boys competing in the Essex Colleges Leagues.

We attended our 2nd education recruitment event at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium early in the new year. It was great to meet so many prospective students, talking about the sixth form and the football development programme.

We also saw many trialists during the half-term break, which we hope to see become Braintree Sixth Form students for the 2024/25 academic year.

Our Y12 & Y13 students have integrated well since the start of the academic year and have developed a positive, attacking style of football. The players will look to maintain a strong run of form, heading toward the last fixtures of the Essex Leagues.

This term saw Y12 students Archie & Emily continue their Coaching Development Programme journey with Tottenham Hotspur. These students have supported extra-curricular clubs and events within the high school and supported player development programmes during the half-term with Tottenham Hotspur. Well done to these students; keep up the great work!

Our full-time Y12 students visited the Tottenham Hotspur Training Centre, where they had the unique opportunity to be coached by club/academy coaches. This visit was a fantastic opportunity for the players and an experience they will never forget!

Tottenham Hotspur coaches have again thoroughly enjoyed working with the sixth formers this term, with a target focus on tactical understanding and technical refining. We look forward to working with the students in the Summer Term as they continue their positive football development!

*Alfie Babb, Programme Coordinator, Tottenham Hotspur.*







*Photos: Staff at events*

## Year 9 Boys Football & Futsal

The Year 9 boys football team will be playing their next match at home to HRS before the end of the term. They will be hoping to build on their victory from last time out when they played Forest Hall. Our Year 9 boys futsal team failed to retain their District title this year, with lots of players missing due to other commitments.

Huge credit to those who stepped up late in the day to represent the school, managing to reach the semi-final before being knocked out by the eventual winners.

## Year 10 football & futsal.

Year 10 have only had the one district fixture this term, where we narrowly lost 2-1 away to HRS. I felt that we had the better of the opportunities and controlled possession for much of the game, however HRS were clinical in front of goal which was the difference this time.

Dylan P scored our goal with a thunderous strike from 25 yards out which left the opposing goalkeeper with no hope. Player of the match for this game was Manny C, whose commitment and tenacity is vital to the teams performances when out of possession.



The Year 10 boys were victorious in the District Futsal tournament, hosted here at Notley. The boys went undefeated throughout the tournament on their way to winning, they also managed to play the entire tournament without conceding.

Our futsal side has a lot of pedigree, with a lot of the players having represented clubs in regional and international competitions, so the boys certainly lived up to expectations.

Our player of the tournament went to Jack A, who scored 7 goals and regularly made a great impact when on the court.



## Year 9 Girls Handball

The Year 9 girls have trained incredibly hard and that definitely paid off as they are district champions!!

They played brilliantly drawing one game and being victorious in all the others. The girls worked really well as a team, but a special mention must go to Neve C and Ruby E as the players of the tournament.

## Year 9 Boys Handball

The Year 9 Handball team were victorious in their district tournament where they were unbeaten on the way to the title. Handball is an extremely strong sport at Notley High School with many of our students choosing to use it as one of their GCSE PE sports.

A special mention must go to Josh A, who was the only Year 8 to be selected in the team and performed admirably against older opposition. Another special mention to Charlie M who volunteered to go in goal for the team and made multiple fantastic saves.

# SocialMedia

Below are the official social media sites for Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form. Please be aware that any other social media sites are not related to the school.

## Notley High School

### Facebook:

- Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form
- Ski Notley
- Prom Notley

### Twitter:

- Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

### Instagram:

- NotleyHighSchool

## Braintree Sixth Form

### Facebook:

- Braintree Sixth Form

### Twitter:

- Braintree Sixth Form

### Instagram:

- Braintree Sixth Form

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form is not responsible for the content of any social media accounts used by people following our official accounts.

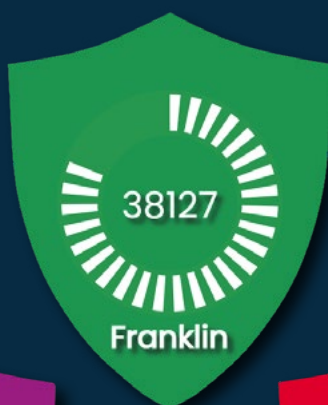
# HousePoints

Notley's house competition runs across the entire academic year, with students earning points from a wide range of activities and achievements. These are the running totals for the year.



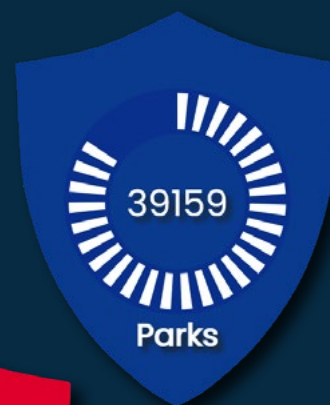
42441

Cavell



38127

Franklin



39159

Parks



37287

Turing



46352

Winton

# Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

## Academic Year 2024-2025

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025						
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30																				

	= School days
	= school holidays
	= Bank Holidays
	= Weekends
	= Non-Student days
	= Open day for year 6s

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.




**Notley High School  
& Braithree Sixth Form**

**Notley Road  
Braithree  
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