

Notley News

Issue 009
December 2024

Clubs at Notley

Product Prototyping

Year 12 Enterprise Fair

World Challenge Borneo

...and much, much more

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HeadteacherUpdate

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Notley News. It provides a wonderful opportunity to look back on the numerous events, trips, clubs, activities and charity work that has taken place since the start of September. It is great to see the breadth and quality of opportunities on offer to our students and it is hugely encouraging to see that student participation rates continue to increase and that many students are engaging fully with our extra-curricular programme. The number of competitive sporting fixtures has increased this term and the PE department have been delighted with the participation in training sessions. Alongside this, students across the school have worked hard and many show a good appreciation of the importance of doing so. Year 11 and Year 13 have completed their mock exams and Year 11 have now received their results. There were some incredibly positive results and also some that showed the need for continual revision and preparation ahead of the examinations in the summer term. That is why we have mocks in order that students and parents can have a snapshot of where they are and what they need to do moving forward. In recognition of their hard work, Year 11 and Sixth Form students have all enjoyed their December Rewards Trips. Our Christmas lunch was also a great success, with huge thanks to Chef Secker and his team for all their hard work in preparing over 300 meals. It was also a real treat to hear the first performance of our newly formed Choir – well done to all!

We say thank you and goodbye to one member of staff this week. Mr A Cunningham, Assistant Headteacher has been at the school for two decades. Mr Cunningham started his career as teacher of PE and has been promoted several times since then. As a member of the School's Senior Leadership Team, Mr Cunningham has had various responsibilities, including all the preparation that has gone into our new 3G Pitch. Mr Cunningham has been an absolute stalwart, and we wish him well for the future as he moves to be an Assistant Headteacher in another large secondary school. With a departure comes an arrival. Mrs M Roberts joins us in January as Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for 'Narrowing the Gap'. Mrs Roberts will oversee our Pupil Premium Strategy and will teach English and Media. Since her appointment in October, Mrs Roberts has visited us three times and has already met students and parents.



Mr M Barrow, Headteacher

Finally, may I thank all those who have supported the school this year, whether that be through your kind words of support, working in partnership with teachers and our pastoral staff or by generally helping us to raise standards with the students. I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, good health and happiness throughout the coming year. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 6th January 2025 (Week B).

Mr M Barrow, Headteacher

Year7

We are so proud of Year 7 for how well they have settled into life at Notley. Starting High School is a huge adjustment for students and this year group have certainly risen to the challenge. Students have learned their way around the school, got used to following their timetables and completing homework, and are wearing their uniform smartly. I have been delighted to see the fantastic attitudes towards learning in lessons with students trying their best and meeting their new subjects with enthusiasm. It has been especially lovely to see students making new friends and supporting each other with the adjustment to life in a new school. Alongside settling in, students have been joining in with wider school life in lots of different ways...

- Open Day - We were very grateful to the large number of Year 7's who gave up their Saturday in September to help out at open day. Many Year 6 parents commented on how polite and friendly the students were, and couldn't believe how quickly they had learnt their way around the building! Particular thanks to Elliot and Nieve for delivering brilliant speeches!
- Prefect and student council teams – The prefect team have been really helpful around the school this term, organising fund raising, putting up poppy displays for Remembrance and creating our Advent Acts of Kindness. The student council have made sure that Year 7 students voice is heard.
- Sports clubs – We are delighted at the number of students who have joined a sports club this term, and are excited to follow the progress of the Year 7 football and netball teams. We have already seen some fantastic results with the Year 7 boys football team winning their first fixture 10 – 1!
- Choir – Lots of Year 7 students have joined the choir and gave a fantastic first performance for staff to help get them into the Christmas spirit. The choir are looking forward to their first concert next term.
- Entering Competitions – Students have been getting involved in competitions run by different faculties. Well done to Gian for his winning entry in the International Bake-off competition and Vandana for her winning entry in the art competition.



Mrs R Swan, Year 7 Raising Standards Leader

Students of the Term

- 7.1 – Oluwanimilo B. For having a fantastic attitude towards her learning and taking on all the activities that school has to offer, as well as being gracious and kind.
- 7.2 - Lottie C. For her consistently positive attitude and kind nature and for working hard in all areas even when it's challenging.
- 7.3 - Jessica S. For showing great resilience in her first term and being a kind and friendly student.
- 7.4 – Elliot S. For always doing his best as shown by a huge number of heart points, as well as being a polite and well-mannered student.
- 7.5 – Fay S. For her contributions to tutor time and PDT and getting fully involved in wider school life, including student council, charity collections and extra-curricular sport.
- 7.6 - Maisy K. For earning so many heart points through her active participation in all lessons, as well as being kind and helpful.
- 7.7 - Ella S. For her consistently positive attitude, hard work, kindness and always doing the right thing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their support this term and to wish all Year 7 students and parents an enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

Year8

Our Year 8 have settled back into Notley well. A huge amount of HEART points have been rewarded to the year group and I am very proud of all of them for this. They have been working hard in their lessons and demonstrated an excellent attitude to school. I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic achievements of our Year 8 students over the past months. It has been a term filled with growth, enthusiasm, and a wonderful sense of community.

The tutor group with the most HEART points this term is 8.6

The tutor group with the best attendance this term is 8.6

In September is lovely to see so many Year 8's helping out at our open morning. They provided excellent tours to Year 5/6 students and their parents as well as helping run different activities in a variety of subjects across the school.

This term, Year 8 have taken part in a few additional assemblies and workshops. This have included Home Safety where Essex Fire and Rescue came in to teach the students all about staying safe around fire at home and what to do in an emergency situation. There was also a Why go to University? assembly for students to get a better understanding of what university is like and an opportunity to start thinking about their futures and what they would like to do one day.

Year 8 have been taking part in lots of extra-curricular activities this term. Our football team and netball team have been involved several games this term, continuing through their different competitions. The school choir have been working on a number of songs and earlier this week put on a lovely concert for staff.

Students of the Term

The Year 8 tutors have been nominating a student in their tutor groups for star student. Our star students for this term are;

8.1 Darcy E for being enthusiastic, kind and thoughtful as well as working hard in lessons.

8.2 Alfie S for always offering to help and looking after the class pets.

8.3 Jayden C for being kind, punctual, well-mannered and completing work to high standard in all subjects.



Mrs G Holdaway, Year 8 Raising Standards Leader

8.4 Daisy A for being kind and thoughtful as well as getting involved in tutor time.

8.5 Chloe M for having a great attitude to lessons across all subjects and getting involved in all tutor activities.

8.6 Casey R for always being kind, respectful in every lesson and tutor time.

8.7 Ryan H for always being helpful in tutor time, being polite every day and being all round amazing.

As we look ahead to 2025, I encourage all our students to return with the same determination and positivity. I would like to wish all of our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming all the students back in January.

Year9

Firstly, I would like to express my pride in all of our students for their hard work and dedication this term. It has truly been a successful period, and the improvements in both uniform and punctuality have not gone unnoticed. These small changes reflect our commitment to presenting ourselves well and taking our studies seriously. Thank you for your support in reinforcing these values at home. I am looking forward to seeing the continued improvements.

I have also been delighted to see our form rooms beautifully decorated for Christmas. The festive spirit has made our school feel warm and inviting, I am pleased that I don't have to choose a winner as they are all fantastic! It has been heartwarming to witness students sharing thank you cards with staff. This thoughtful gesture has certainly brightened our days and reinforced the sense of community within our school.

As we move forward, I want to remind everyone that the time has come for our Year 9 students to start thinking about their GCSE options. This is an important step in their educational journey, and I encourage all students to take this process seriously. Attend the information sessions, seek advice from teachers, and discuss choices with family. The decisions made now will play a significant role in shaping their futures.

Students of the Term

In recognition of their achievements, I am pleased to announce our Students of the Term, who have consistently shown excellence in their studies and behaviour.

9.1 – Olivia B	9.2 – Wiktor C
9.3 – Freddie T	9.4 – Leah L
9.5 – Ruby B	9.6 – Harry G

A special mention goes to our top form for attendance, who have demonstrated remarkable commitment by having the highest attendance in the year group. Congratulations to 9.1!

Additionally, the form that has amassed the most heart points will be celebrated for their outstanding contributions to our school community. Congratulations to 9.5!



Mrs A Spencer-Damps, Year 9 Raising Standards Leader

Key Dates for Year 9

Monday 6th January 2025 – Spring term starts

Thursday 27th February 2025 – Year 9 Parents/Carers Evening

Thursday 13th March 2025 – Year 9 Options Evening

Thank you once again for your ongoing support throughout the term. I wish you and your family a restful time over the Christmas break.

Year10

As the days draw darker earlier and the evenings turn colder we say goodbye to the first term of Year 10. It wouldn't be a Notley Newsletter without me saying it has been a busy term, but that it has been! Here are just some of the highlights below:

GCSE Options

The vast majority of students have made a really positive start to their studies in year 10 and the feedback from the sample of students and staff I have spoken to is that students are enjoying the subjects they have chosen to study. There have been many fantastic examples of work completed so far in the first term alone.

Mock Interviews

On Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December, Year 10 students took part in mock interviews with a number of different employers locally and further afield. It was amazing to see students so engaged in these conversations and really making the most of the opportunity and taking on board feedback. I hope this gave them confidence and a taste of what to expect from future interviews.

Extracurricular Updates

On Monday 11th November our Year 10 netball team played their first Braintree District netball match against Alec Hunter. The girls were on form straight from the start and were relentless in their performance winning the match 40-8!

Our U16 netball team - consisting mostly of Year 10s - played their first-round Essex Cup netball match on Thursday 14th November against Westcliff High School for Girls. Our girls were brilliant on the day and came away winning 27-20.

Our Year 10 boys football team have played two matches this year so far. The first was an incredibly tough match in the Essex Cup in which our boys battled really hard and were unfortunate to lose in the last minute of the match after getting themselves back into the game. However, they used this as fuel for their second match, this time a Braintree District league match against Hedingham School, in which they played some really good football and won 4-0.



Mr H Morbin, Year 10 Raising Standards Leader

Students of the Term

- 10.1 Grayson.H - for his commitment in lessons and his polite and respectful attitude.
- 10.2 Nadin.P – for winning the Jack Petchey award and for her amazing teamwork in tutor time.
- 10.3 Mia.T – for continued effort and hard work across all her subjects .
- 10.4 Mario.I – for an excellent first term at Notley, and being friendly and polite and hardworking.
- 10.5 Lily.R – for excellent effort and putting herself forward for the Essex young assembly.
- 10.6 Rozaliia.H – for outstanding participation in science and maths all year.
- 10.7 Archie.H for getting involved in school activities and working hard in lessons
- 10.8 Isabella.C - for working very hard in all her lessons and in her cheerleading.

A huge well done to all these students.

I would like to thank all parents who have been supportive of the staff and school again throughout the term. Your support and engagement over the festive period will be equally as essential in ensuring that your child revises for their upcoming mock exams the first week back. I wish all parents and students a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year11

Year 11 have had another very busy half term and again, their good attitudes are pleasing to see. This year in registration, students have been completing intervention work in English, Maths or Science. I have been pleased to see the maturity and effort in these sessions.

In PDT, students have been working on next steps - post 16 and healthy relationships. I will be catching up with all students in the new year and discussing where they have applied to study next year. I encourage all students to apply to more than one college, sixth form or training scheme. Please do discuss this with them over the holidays.

The students have had their first set of Mock exams and have behaved impeccably throughout the process. As I write this, we are preparing for a results assembly. Students will receive their mock results presented like a real results day. In assembly I have asked students to reflect on their exam outcomes. If they are good, keep going, doing what you are doing. If, however, they are below their expectations, keep going, put more in to get more out. There is still time to make a difference, all teachers are here to support them.

Students of the Term

As always, our tutors have nominated a student of the term. Huge congratulations to all students. I always like seeing the different reasons they have been nominated.

11.1 Olivia A

Kind, polite, helpful. A lovely member of the form!

11.2 Spencer H

Great punctuality, respectful, helpful and positive engagement during intervention.

11.3 Daisy G

11.4 Bianka B

Being super organised in planning her future at college.

11.5 Finley Morrison

Always arriving on time, in the correct uniform and getting on with everything that is asked of him.



Mr J Burge, Year 11 Raising Standards Leader

11.6 Aidan Coe

Working very hard to prepare for his examinations and has taken a very proactive attitude to his own studies. In class he is always willing to answer questions or ask for support where he needs it.

11.7 Kezia A

Very kind and helpful, Great punctuality

11.8 Joshua P

Setting a fine behavioural and academic example to peers

11.9 Belle H

Being polite and respectful and always working hard.

I wish you all a very Happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and am looking forward to seeing what 2025 brings for us all.

Years 12 & 13

As we near the end of the first term, it gives me the opportunity to reflect back on what has been a busy but productive and enjoyable term.

Year 12 have now completed the first term of their post-16 studies and the sixth form team have been very impressed by their engagement and enthusiasm towards their academic studies as well as how they have always been willing to put themselves forward for opportunities when they arise. We have a number of Year 12 students supporting students in the main school, either as a Reading Buddy, an Academic Mentor or as a Student Teaching Assistant in the classroom. For some of our main school students, the impact the sixth former is having on their learning experience is vital and incredibly positive, and therefore we want to take this opportunity to thank all of those students that are in these positions. Staff have also been nominating students in Year 12 as Subject Ambassadors and these have been celebrated in our end of term assembly. Students have all been assigned their first academic reading book which supports their subject choices and many have been reading these with earnest. Academic reading is linked to the development of critical thinking, an important skill in many of the subjects studied in the sixth form.

Year 12 have also all had their mock interviews this term with outside employers and prepared for this by writing a letter of application. The interviews were incredibly successful and some students impressed employers so much, they have been asked to complete work experience with them.

Year 13 students have started the year by setting their sights on the summer exams and what they need to achieve to take their next steps beyond the sixth form. UCAS applications are currently being submitted and the students have been visiting universities and considering different courses in order to ensure this process is successful. Many have already started receiving unconditional and conditional offers back from their chosen university courses. The mock exams will be returned in January and will give the students more information about what they need to do to ensure they achieve the grade they have the potential for and beyond. Support for apprenticeships will begin in the new year as live applications become available.



Mrs S Howells, Head of Sixth Form

The Notley High School Sixth Form open evening was a great success and many of the students gave up their time to talk to parents about the subjects they are taking. It is really fantastic to be told how enthusiastic, engaging and articulate they are, and we are extremely grateful that they are always willing to give up their time to represent us.

One of our final events this term was the Year 12 Enterprise Fair, an annual event we have been running since the sixth form opened. The Year 12 students set up small businesses and marketed their products to Year 7 in a lovely festive event. This year, there was a really wide range of activities and products offered and the event had a real buzz about it.

Next term starts with the Year 12 mock examinations as well as continuing the applications for post-18 for Year 13 so it is important that the students have some opportunity to reflect on the year so far and return refreshed and energised. We hope that all students and their families enjoy the festive break – Happy Christmas to you all.

Student Council

At Notley High School and Sixth Form, the Student Council plays a crucial role in shaping the direction of our school community. Meeting once a month, the Council works together to discuss and implement ideas that improve student life, foster a sense of inclusivity, and enhance the overall experience at school. Their hard work and dedication are truly making a difference!

The Student Council is a dynamic group of students who represent the voice of their peers, and each member brings unique perspectives and ideas to the table. They work collaboratively to identify areas of school life that could be improved, whether it's tackling issues such as school facilities or student wellbeing. Every month, the Council members come together to brainstorm, discuss feedback from students, and develop actionable plans.

At the heart of the Student Council's work is the aim to create a stronger, more connected school community. Their contributions have helped create

an environment where students feel valued and heard, ensuring that all voices are considered in school decisions. The Council's work also plays a pivotal role in fostering school spirit and unity.

As the Student Council continues to meet and work on their goals, there are exciting projects in the pipeline, with ideas being discussed to make the school even more vibrant and supportive for all students. Their ability to bring positive change, combined with their enthusiasm and commitment, ensures that Notley High School and Sixth Form will continue to thrive as a school where students can truly enjoy, enrich, and achieve.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the members of the Student Council for their hard work, dedication, and passion for making our school a better place for everyone. Their ongoing efforts have a lasting impact, and we are excited to see what they will continue to achieve in the future!

Prefect Team

At Notley High School and Sixth Form, our Prefect Team is the embodiment of our core character values: Enjoy, Enrich, and Achieve. Through their dedication, creativity, and teamwork, the Prefects have made a remarkable impact on our school community, proving themselves to be exceptional role models.

The Prefects meet weekly to collaborate on projects and initiatives that enhance school life. Their commitment to teamwork and community spirit was evident in their recent litter pick, where they worked together to keep our school grounds clean and welcoming. This activity not only fostered teamwork but also reinforced the importance of caring for our shared environment.

Charity work is a cornerstone of the Prefects' mission, and this term, they took on the challenge of raising funds for Essex Air Ambulance. Their efforts included organising a thrilling staff vs. student netball match (staff won), which showcased sportsmanship and school pride, and a creative pumpkin-throwing competition. Together, these events raised an impressive £272 for this vital cause.

The Prefects have also been at the heart of spreading joy during the festive season. They spearheaded the creation of this year's Christmas cards, beautifully designed by students, which will be sent to local care homes to brighten the holidays for our elderly community members. Additionally, they crafted thoughtful Thank You cards for students to express their gratitude to staff, fostering an atmosphere of appreciation and kindness throughout the school.

December has been made even more meaningful with the launch of the Notley Acts of Kindness, an initiative designed by the Prefects to encourage students and staff to complete key acts of kindness throughout the month. These small yet impactful gestures have helped to create a culture of care and compassion within our school.

We are incredibly proud of the Prefect Team and all that they do for the school. Their hard work, creativity, and dedication exemplify the values we strive to uphold as a school community. Thank you to our Prefects for their outstanding contributions — you truly make a difference!

Governors' Update



The Governing Committee, with the Headteacher and broader Bridge Academy Trust, has overall responsibility for the running of the school. Our core strategic functions are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, of the School, including within the Trust and to,
- Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.

And we achieve these things through regular meetings with school leaders, review of the policies and procedures that underpin the schools work, listening to stakeholders (parents, carers, the local community and of course, students!) and through frequent visits to school where we see the school in action.

For this addition of Notley News, we thought we would tell you a little more about who we are, our collective experience and why we became volunteer governors.

As ever, if you would like to get in touch with us, to either find out more about what we do, or to discuss anything else, please contact clerk@bridgeacademytrust.org

Claire Hooks - Chair of Governors and Sixth Form Link

I have been a school governor since 2008 starting at a local primary school and then joining Notley High in 2018, as a parent governor and becoming Chair in 2021.

I have worked for many years both in and with the NHS and in Higher Education (university). Notley is a really welcoming and vibrant community of wonderful young people and passionate, dedicated staff, and both of my children, who have been to Notley High and Sixth Form have experienced and benefitted from being a part of this. That's not to say it's perfect, but for me, becoming a governor meant I could draw on my experiences, both as a parent and educator along with my drive for social justice and effect change for the benefit of EVERY child that attends Notley.



Nichola Goodwin - Vice-Chair of Governors (Stakeholder Engagement lead)

I have been a governor at Notley High & Sixth Form since 2018.

I wanted to join the governing board, as I have experience within education, and I wanted to give something back to the local community following the completion of a Diploma in School Business management. More recently I have also completed a qualification as a senior mental health lead at my school, which will hopefully prove useful to Notley High School. Having two children attend the school it's great to see the school from both viewpoints.

I love being a governor, it's a privilege to be engaged with the school community and I hope my knowledge and experience will help to support and contribute to the ongoing improvement and development.



Non-Elected Governors

Ken Yap (Staff and Governor CPD and training lead)

I volunteered to become a governor in 2010 having had various communication issues with the school at that time.

I have worked in many areas in IT and currently a director of a small IT Support & consultancy company. I thought my IT skills and experience could help NHS & BSF to improve its processes. Both my sons attended and have left NHS & BSF some years ago now.

Outside work, I am involved in various voluntary organisations including the President of the Notley Green Community Association (NGCA) and the Ofsted Nominated person of the NGCA Ducklings Pre-school. During the pandemic, I volunteered to provide shopping support and in non-medical roles at several mass vaccination centres. I was pleased to have won the BDC Volunteer of the year award in 2022.



Matt Ager – Safeguarding Lead

I started governor life in 2007 at a local primary school, joining Notley High School & Sixth Form in 2016 with particular responsibility for Safeguarding. In that time there have been a lot of changes, all intended to benefit our students.

With Mr Barrow now at the helm, we find ourselves in a particularly exciting new season which we are delighted to be a part of. My two youngest kids are in their final months of Years 11 & 13 at Notley and it has been a joy to see how much the school has helped shape and embrace their character, confidence, belief and gifting.

To help play a small part in the development and successes of all students at Notley is a privilege, one that is shared by us all as governors. We are always keen to receive feedback from students, their families and the local community, so please accept the invitation and help us do all we can to support the school and its amazing young people in this new season.



COULD YOU ? SPARE SOME TIME ?



Do you have some spare time each month?

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Abbey Hartshorne-Abbott – Pupil Premium Grant and Disadvantaged Children Lead

Having been a governor since 2022, I'm dedicated to being part of a team that helps continuous growth at Notley High School. I have nearly 20 years of working in education as a teacher, more recently with a well-being focus. I'm also a mother of two teenage sons, so I have experienced first-hand the trials and tribulations of children and education. I believe that every child deserves to reach their potential; every decision and question that is asked is always focused on the child's experience.

Chris Ingate – SEND Lead Governor

I am an experienced school leader – having stepped away from school leadership, I now work for ASCL, who are the lead Trade Union for Secondary School Leaders. I live locally to Notley High School and my children went here and did very well. I am aware that the school has been through some turbulence and I am keen to work and assist the Local Governing Body and School Leaders at Notley to help it continue to gain momentum and improve further. I have also worked as an Ofsted Inspector and School Improvement Partner.

Elected Parent Governors

Jacky Foster – Attendance Lead

I am a newly appointed parent governor. I have one child at the school, and another who has gone through the school and 6th Form and is now studying at university. In normal life I am an accountant and run an accountancy practice together with my husband. I hope to bring experience in people management and finance. I became a governor to help and support the school where I can, and to make sure there is a parent perspective that can be heard.

Dan Hodgson – Careers and PDT lead

My professional background is in the IT and Financial sector. The last ten years have been spent in oversight and leadership positions, maturing a keen analyse and challenge approach, ensuring situations and causal factors are clearly understood, solutions effectively appraised and outcomes defined, monitored and achieved. I joined the governing committee because I wanted to actively contribute and use my professional experience to ensure that by working in partnership with the school and Trust, all of our children and those that follow, have a positive and productive educational experience.

Staff Governors

Alongside our parent and non-elected roles on the Local Governing Committee, we also have a fantastic staff governor, Laura Cosway (who teaches English). Laura is also a parent to 2 children at Notley, one in Y8 and one in the Sixth Form, and therefore has a position of experiencing Notley not only as a Head of Faculty for a core subject but as a parent supporting her children through their own educational journey across the school. As a member of staff, she brings a totally different perspective to our meetings from within the school, giving staff voice, which is invaluable.





The Great International Bake Off

On 26 September 2024, the Modern Foreign Languages department celebrated European Day of Languages by hosting the Great International Bake Off. We were overwhelmed by the standard of the entries. We had some amazing cakes including entries for Italy, Spain, the EU, several entries for France, a cake in the shape of a Greek Temple, a traditional Portuguese cake and focaccia bread in Italian colours. In addition to the we had several countries represented such as Australia, Mexico, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

At break, students, staff from the MFL department and the library and Mr Barrow came to the library to vote for their favourite cakes. A special thanks to Miss Green for also helping with the votes.

First place: Spaghetti and meatballs by Gian D'A

Joint second Place: The EU by Paola D'A

Third place: France by Olivia S and Amelia McD

All the students that entered will receive 5 heart points each and a postcard home. We are so proud of all the students that entered and are astounded by their baking talents and their creativity. We would like to thank every student for entering and helping us to celebrate such an important day for the languages department. We can't wait to see what you come up with next year!!





View the Online Photo Gallery

<https://www.notleyhigh.com/component/gallery/photo-galleries/2024/mfi-cake-competition-2024?Itemid=287>





At Notley High School and Sixth Form, we pride ourselves on offering a rich and diverse range of extracurricular activities to inspire, challenge, and bring joy to our students. With over 63 clubs on offer, there truly is something for everyone—whether you're passionate about Darts, Dance, Food, Textiles, Art, Drama, Manga, or something in between.

These clubs are not just activities; they are spaces for students to grow, connect, and explore their talents. Every session brings new opportunities for creativity, skill-building, and camaraderie.

The feedback from our students highlights the incredible impact these clubs have:

"Thanks for being motivating and putting your time and effort into making our day even better."

"Thank you for encouraging me to pursue my dreams."

"It helped me improve in my skills of tech and I could communicate with my friends and others!"

"They are always making the clubs interesting."

Whether it's perfecting a recipe in Food Club, creating stunning pieces in Art Club, crafting unique





designs in Textiles, or stepping into the spotlight in Drama and Dance, our students are embracing these opportunities to learn and grow.

They bring enjoyment to the school day, enrich the educational experience beyond the classroom, and help students achieve personal milestones that build confidence and character.

A massive thank you goes out to the dedicated staff members who run these clubs, investing their time

and passion to inspire our students. Your efforts truly make a difference, and the enthusiasm of our students is a testament to your hard work.

To all our students who participate, well done for embracing these opportunities and making the most of what our school has to offer. With such vibrant clubs, the possibilities for growth and discovery are endless!

Ms M Gladen, Assistant Headteacher



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“Every aspect of the provision is of extremely high quality.”

Ofsted, March 2024

Mid Essex Initial Teacher Training is a secondary school teacher training specialist based in Notley High School and Sixth Form.

Earlier this year, it was thrilled to announce it had retained its Ofsted-Outstanding grading following an intensive four-day inspection.

Founded in 1994, Mid Essex ITT is based upstairs in the sixth form and is a hive of activity throughout the academic year. Sometimes the team 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 latest 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 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.

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

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



Mock Interviews

This half-term, students in Years 10 and 12 participated in a mock interview with an employer, providing them with a unique and valuable experience. As part of the process, each student prepared a letter of application for their dream job, which allowed them to practice and refine their writing and communication skills. This task also provided an opportunity for students to think critically about their career aspirations and present themselves professionally.

The mock interviews themselves gave students first-hand insight into the dynamics of a real job interview. They were able to experience the importance of preparation, confidence, and how to handle questions effectively. Although some students were understandably nervous, they approached the interviews with a positive attitude and professionalism, showing a remarkable level of maturity for their age. This experience helped them develop key skills such as thinking on their feet, answering questions clearly, and making a strong first impression—skills that will prove essential as they progress in their academic and professional lives.

Employers who conducted the interviews were highly impressed with the students' performance, praising their conduct, communication, and ability to articulate their thoughts clearly. Many employers commented on the students' maturity and professionalism, noting how well they handled the interview process. The mock interview experience not only deepened students' understanding of what to expect in the workplace but also significantly

boosted their confidence and preparedness for future job opportunities. All students involved should be incredibly proud of their achievements and the skills they gained throughout this valuable experience.

I would like to thank all the employers who generously volunteered their time to provide our students with this incredible opportunity. We truly appreciate your contribution to their learning and growth! Your support has made a lasting impact on their development.

Mrs Robb, Head of Careers



An Inspector Calls

During the last week of November 2024, the English Department provided Year 11 students with a fantastic opportunity to deepen their understanding and appreciation of one of their GCSE plays by arranging a trip to see *An Inspector Calls* at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury.

J.B. Priestley's masterpiece, *An Inspector Calls*, is celebrated for its gripping narrative and powerful exploration of social responsibility, exposing the dangers of complacency, cruelty, and hypocrisy in capitalist societies. The play remains as relevant today as when it was first performed, offering audiences a thought-provoking experience that resonates on many levels.

Directed by the acclaimed Stephen Daldry, whose work includes the renowned *Billy Elliot*, this production brought the text vividly to life. The students were captivated by the stunning performances, intricate staging, and atmospheric

design that made Priestley's themes more impactful. The production had moving sets; a rain machine; contextually accurate costumes and pyrotechnics which made it a truly immersive experience for them.

Experiencing the play in performance provided invaluable insight for students, enhancing their enjoyment of the text while preparing them for their upcoming GCSE examinations. A memorable trip, it undoubtedly deepened their connection to the subject and left a lasting impression. Mrs Bird, Second in English, commented that the students, "Were a credit to our school and have received 'teamwork' heart points in recognition of this" what's more, members of the public even expressed to Mr Leeke how well our students conducted themselves.

Thank you to the English Department for organising such a rewarding and enriching experience!

Ms M Gladen, Assistant Headteacher



CPRSmartChampions



View the Online Photo Gallery

<https://www.braintree-sixthform.com/news/photo-galleries/cpr-champions>



On 11 September 2024, some of our Year 13 Sixth Form students and staff undertook CPR training with Essex Air Ambulance, as part of their CPR Smart Champion programme which empowers teachers and students to be able to save lives. Every year, over 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the UK, with survival rates under 10%. The importance of timely CPR is critical: every minute without intervention reduces the chance of survival by 10%.



We at Notley High School and Sixth form will now be using these skills to train every student and member of staff, through out Year 13 CPR Champions to become a CPR Smart school.



A woman with braided hair, wearing a pink hoodie, is leaning over a mannequin lying on a blue mat. She has her hands on the mannequin's chest, practicing CPR. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a room.

A Shocking Statistic

Women are currently **27% less likely** to have CPR done on them, and **15% less likely** to survive safe use of an AED, as compared to men, simply because their bra was not removed when using a defibrillator.

The simple act of removing the bra when using a defibrillator can save a life and ensures the safe use during lifesaving emergencies.

For more information please visit www.braoffdefibon.co.uk



ForestSchool

Congratulations to Mrs Isik for completing the Level 3 Forest School Qualification, students can now enjoy lots of fun activities. Mrs Isik has a real passion for gardening which is being passed on to our students

We are so pleased that she has now extended this to include many more outdoor skills with her Forest School lessons

Mr M Barrow, Headteacher.



Christmas Break

We wish all students and families a relaxing Christmas break.

We will return to school on

6 Jan 2024

Boulogne Trip



On Friday 27 September 2024, five staff from MFL, PE, Governors and Learning support took 47 students to Boulogne. The purpose of our trip was to visit the main attractions, practice speaking, listening to, and reading the French language.

Our trip started at the school, bright and early where we met our lovely coach drivers, Dave and Ben. We took the train to Calais and then made our way into Boulogne to a huge hypermarket called Auchan. The students wandered around and were impressed to see the amount of fresh fish and meat that you could buy. After they had done some shopping, we headed back on to the coach to a pretty Boulangerie in Escoeuilles. We were met by the baker who then took the students into the room where the bread is made and demonstrated how to make French baguettes. The explanations were completely in French and our students did well to understand the explanations and explain back what they had been told. They then had the opportunity to roll the dough to make baguettes of their own. Back in the bakery, the students were given pain au chocolat and practiced their French some more by ordering some baguettes, drinks and cakes of their own.



Feedback from the students:

'I really enjoyed the shops as I got to test my French skills independently' *Lexi W*

'The best part was the sea life centre' *Nathan C and Louie H*

'The hypermarket was great' *Taylor E and Finley F*

'I enjoyed watching and learning how to make bread' *Michelle S*

'I liked the baker who showed us how to make a baguette and said 'pleut, pleut, pleut' *Anon*

'It was the best day' *Tor E*

'I really enjoyed going to the aquarium and looking around all the shops'. *Harry L*

I really enjoyed looking around the shops and speaking to people in French. It was fun to see what another country is like.' *Harrison S*

'The French trip was pretty good. We went to the aquarium, a bakery and my favourite part, a massive shopping centre' *Jayden H-C*

'I really enjoyed making the pasties at the bakery. I really liked the aquarium and seeing different types of fish.' *Rudi S*





We then got back on the coach and continued on our journey to Boulogne sea front. Unfortunately, the rain was too heavy to walk through Boulogne Centre so the coach dropped us at Nausica, the aquarium that is situated on the beach. Students had a lovely time wandering around with their teachers, looking at the sharks and other fish. After a quick visit to the penguins and the gift shop, Mrs Coxon was desperate to see the Sea Lions so we battled against the wind and headed outside, where we could see

them through the window and as an extra treat they were feeding them as part of a show. We took some lovely group photos in front of the window and then got back on the coach to venture back to the port for some hot food and a rest. We all had a lovely time; the students were extremely well behaved and were a credit to the school. I would like to thank Mrs Weiland, Mr Harrington, Mrs Robbins and Mr Yap for giving up their time to make this trip possible

Mrs Z Coxon, Head of Modern Foreign Languages





[View the Online Photo Gallery](https://www.notleyhigh.com/component/igallery/photo-galleries/2024/boulogne-trip-2024?Itemid=287)

www.notleyhigh.com/component/igallery/photo-galleries/2024/boulogne-trip-2024?Itemid=287

This outstanding image of the moon was taken by a Year 9 student using her telescope.



Astronomy Club



Notley High School's young astronomers were tasked with taking a picture of the Harvest Moon on 17 September 2024, drawing it and labelling on the maria, impact craters and mountain ranges. Night fell and a blanket of cloud blocked out the moon. Not to be foiled by weather some students took their pictures the day before in clear skies, others got their friends in other parts of the country to take the images, and some just waited patiently for a gap in the cloud cover.

Very well done to all our young astronomers (and Bobby).

Mrs K Johnson, Science Teacher



On the 10th of December, 17 year 11 students were been rewarded with a trip to the Winter Wonderland of Lakeside. Everyone enjoyed the attractions, ice rink and the arcades. The sugar rush definitely kicked in as they all were enjoying their well deserved rewards.

Miss Thomas, Miss Marboeuf and Mr Galvin were incredibly impressed by their behaviour and politeness. We are glad they had the time of their life, enjoying ride after ride after ride...

Miss Marboeuf, MFL Teacher



Winter Wonderland

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Teacher
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Working in partnership with schools across Essex

Foodbank Donations



Towards the end of November 2024, our Notley High School and Sixth Form staff and students donated to our local Foodbank. As a school community, we managed to collect 600 items, including tinned food and dried goods, as well as personal and feminine hygiene products. Our local collection point staff were incredibly grateful for your generous gifts.

Thank you to all those who donated to help support those in their this community; our donations will make a huge impact in the lives of those struggling in Braintree.

Mrs A Hook, Humanites Department



Photos: Humanities Department

 Braintree Area
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

About the Braintree Area Foodbank

“The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline.”

We do not think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

For more information please visit:

<https://braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/>



The Spirit of Remembrance

At Notley High School and Sixth Form, the significance of Remembrance is not just an event marked on the calendar; it is a deeply ingrained tradition that brings together our entire school community. Each year, our students and staff come together to honour the sacrifices of those who served, while also reflecting on the importance of peace and unity in our world today.

One of the most poignant traditions is our annual poppy display. In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day, students take the time to write personal messages of reflection and gratitude on individual poppies. These messages range from honouring family members who served to broader hopes for a peaceful future. These poppies are then transformed into a creative visual display that changes each year, adorning our school with a powerful reminder of the significance of Remembrance.

The process of supporting the Royal British Legion is itself a heartfelt endeavour. Each morning, our dedicated Prefects visited Form groups to sell poppies, raising vital funds for the charity.

Their efforts not only help support the invaluable work of the Legion but also encourage conversations among students about why we remember and the ongoing impact of conflict on communities worldwide.

The culmination of our commemorations is our participation in the Braintree Remembrance Service at Bocking. Representing our school, Prefects and staff members take part in the solemn laying of our school wreath. This act of respect and solidarity allows Notley High School and Sixth Form to stand shoulder to shoulder with our local community in honouring the memory of those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Through these traditions, our school continues to foster a deep understanding of the sacrifices made by past generations. By engaging students in meaningful acts of remembrance, we ensure that the lessons of history are not forgotten and that the values of respect, unity, and hope remain at the heart of our community.

Ms M Gladen, Assistant Headteacher





World Challenge Borneo

An Unforgettable Adventure

Notley High School and Sixth Form students embarked on an extraordinary World Challenge expedition to Borneo over the Summer, a journey that not only tested their resilience but also created lasting memories and strong bonds.

Over 12 days, the team immersed themselves in the vibrant culture, breathtaking landscapes, and unique challenges of the Malaysian jungle.

The adventure began in Kota Kinabalu, where students explored the city's rich history, local cuisine, and stunning harbour. Highlights included trying local delicacies like roti Milo and snorkelling around the vibrant coral reefs of Gaya Island.

Students were thrilled to spot starfish, pufferfish, and even a shark during their underwater adventure.

The Trek: A Journey of Resilience and Unity

The trekking portion of the trip pushed students to their limits, both physically and mentally. Carrying their own supplies, they braved sweltering heat, steep inclines, and rugged jungle terrain. Dubbed "Crying Hill," one particularly gruelling ascent tested their endurance, but the team supported each other with encouragement and shared laughs, exemplifying the spirit of teamwork.





Campsites offered a glimpse into rural life, complete with bamboo huts and refreshing dips in rivers. Students also bonded with local children through games of football, proving that some connections transcend language barriers. Evenings were spent reflecting on the day's accomplishments, playing cards, and enjoying home-cooked meals of local delicacies like pineapple salad and bananas fresh from the jungle.

Environmental Conservation: Making a Difference

The group contributed to vital conservation efforts by planting over one hundred trees to support the diminishing orangutan habitats. Armed with machetes, they cleared land and prepared soil for planting, taking pride in their contribution to environmental preservation. The team's efforts were further rewarded with a surprise upgrade to a hostel, a well-deserved break after days of rustic camping.

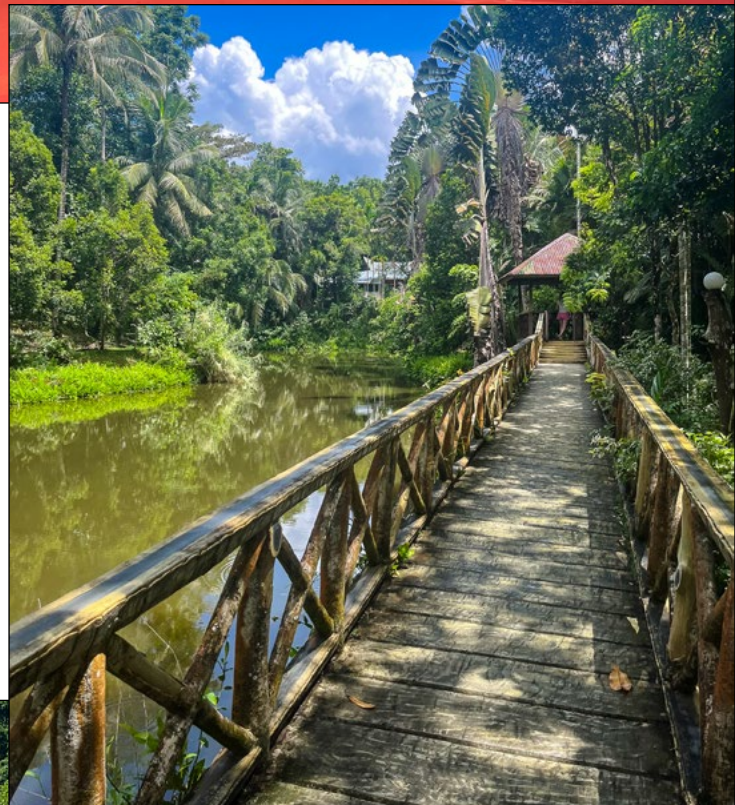


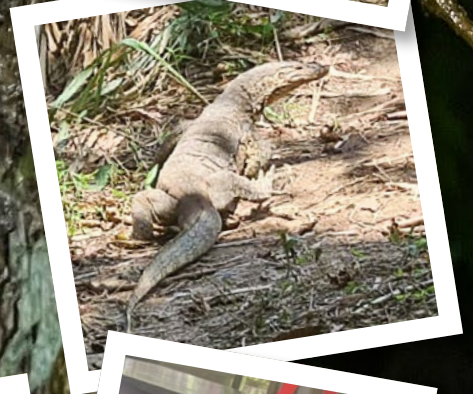


Wildlife and Culture: Unforgettable Experiences

Exploring Borneo's rich biodiversity, the students marvelled at cheeky monkeys, crocodiles, and a giant monitor lizard. A visit to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre highlighted the importance of wildlife preservation, leaving a lasting impact on the students.

Evenings brought cultural exchanges, including a traditional Malaysian dance performance, where the students returned the gesture with their rendition of the Cha-Cha Slide.







The trip culminated with an emotional awards ceremony celebrating individual achievements. From overcoming fears to boosting team morale, each student demonstrated remarkable growth. Ethan transformed from a quiet participant to a lively morale booster, while Liv tackled challenges head-on, inspiring her peers.

As the expedition drew to a close, students reflected on their journey with mixed emotions—eager to reunite with their families but reluctant to leave behind the friendships and experiences that shaped their adventure.





View the Online Photo Gallery
<https://www.notleyhigh.com/component/igallery/photo-galleries/2024/borneo-trip?Itemid=287>

World Challenge in Borneo was more than just a trip; it was a transformative journey. Students returned with newfound confidence, resilience, and an appreciation for the world beyond their comfort zones. They tackled challenges, embraced a new culture, and left a positive impact on the communities they visited. Our students achieved

something remarkable, and the memories they've made will stay with them forever.

From the depths of the jungle to the warmth of local hospitality, this adventure truly lived up to its name: a World Challenge.

Miss Marboeuf and Mr Bridgwater, Trip Leads





Southwold Geography Trip

Geography A level students have been focusing on the NEA which is worth 20% of their A level grade. They need to plan and independently complete a geographical investigation on an area of the course which they have an interest in. Apart from staff choosing the area in which the investigation will take place (Southwold) every other aspect is down to student choice and personal preference.

On Thursday 12 September 2024 and returning on Friday 13 September 2024 students had a chance to explore the coastal town of Southwold led by the Geography fieldwork academy. During the 2 days students were introduced to a range of human and physical issues that Southwold faces and had the opportunity to work in small groups to trial a range of data collection techniques, many of which they had no experience with. While the weather was nice (which couldn't be guaranteed for our return

trip) students took the opportunity to collect some primary data from the provided drone photos which they could use and annotate in their investigations should they choose.

Once back in sixth form the students worked hard to complete the planning of their independent investigations, write the introduction sections and have all data collection tables and questionnaires ready for our return to Southwold.

Thursday 3rd to Friday 4th October saw the students return to Southwold with the sole aim of collecting all of their planned data for their individual investigations. Fortunately, the weather was on our side and despite the fact that it was a little cooler (and windier) than our previous visit, the rain stayed away. Although students split into 2 groups (human and physical) for safety reasons, all students had to





follow their plans and ensure that enough data was collected over the 2 days, with some tests needing to be completed across both days, to ensure they could answer their investigation title with confidence.

Since returning students have been working to complete their NEAs ready to hand in on the deadline before the Christmas break.

Miss K Wilcox, Head of Geography





Celebrating Excellence

The Jack Petchey Award is a prestigious recognition that celebrates the achievements and positive contributions of young people across the UK. At Notley High School and Sixth Form, this award holds a fundamental importance. It highlights the exceptional commitment, talent, and leadership of our students, inspiring others to strive for their best. This year, we are proud to honour three outstanding recipients: Neve Christian, Annalese Palmer, and Renn Davison.

Renn Davison

Renn is an inspirational figure within Notley High School and Sixth Form. They consistently achieve excellence in their studies while dedicating themselves to supporting their peers. Renn's kindness and inclusivity create a welcoming and positive environment for all, reflecting a genuine commitment to fostering community spirit. Their advocacy for equality and their ability to lead by example have had a lasting impact on our Sixth Form. Renn's resilience, leadership, and compassion truly encapsulate the values of the

Jack Petchey Award, and their contributions to our school community are both significant and deeply appreciated.

The achievements of Neve, Annalese, and Renn showcase the diverse talents and inspiring qualities of our students. By receiving the Jack Petchey Award, they remind us all of the power of hard work, leadership, and community spirit. We congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to seeing their continued success.

About the Jack Petchey Foundation

The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up to inspire and motivate young people across London and Essex by providing exciting projects and programmes for them to get involved in. They also recognise the outstanding achievements of today's young people by awarding them for their hard work and positive impact in their community.



Neve Christian

Neve Christian

Neve is a shining example of dedication and leadership in sport. Over the past two years, she has captained the school netball team, consistently demonstrating skill, teamwork, and mentorship. Beyond the court, Neve has devoted her time to coaching, umpiring, and supporting the Year 7, 8, and 9 netball teams, making a significant impact on younger students. Her achievements extend beyond school as she has been selected to play in the prestigious London Pulse Netball Development Squad — an incredible accomplishment. Neve’s willingness to help and mentor those who are struggling is a testament to her character, making her a fantastic role model for her peers.

Annalese Palmer

Annalese embodies the qualities of an exceptional mentor and role model. Currently in Year 11, she balances her academic commitments with an impressive dedication to coaching Artistic Gymnastics at Gyrus Olympic Gymnastics Club, spending at least eight hours a week working with younger athletes. Annalese’s expertise as a qualified women’s artistic gymnastics judge and coach is matched by her kindness and nurturing approach, enabling her students to reach their full potential.

Alongside mentoring, Annalese excels in her own gymnastics journey, competing in the British Gymnastics WAG National Development Pathway. Her confidence, work ethic, and passion for the sport make her a truly deserving Jack Petchey Award winner.



Annalese Palmer



OnattiFrenchPlay

I am pleased to say on Monday we welcome Onatti production who came to Notley to present a play to 60 of our students. The students were fantastic and enjoyed the play which was completely in French. The audience participation was out of their comfort zone but they gave it a good go.

A massive well done..or should I say Bravo!

Miss Marboeuf, Modern Foreign Languages Teacher





View the Online Photo Gallery

<https://www.notleyhigh.com/component/igallery/photo-galleries/2024/onatti-french-play?Itemid=2064>





Tottenham Hotspur Football Development Programme

Students involved with the Braintree Sixth Form football development programme have been busy this term. The new Y12 cohort has settled in well, and the Y13 students have adapted well to the new players and the new system/style of play.

We were pleased to be involved with the Tottenham Hotspur Education Partner Cup in October, where

eight students competed against other colleges & sixth forms at the Tottenham Hotspur Training Centre. The boys did superbly & improved as the tournament went on. BSF goalkeeper Taye went on to pick up the Goal of the Tournament!

It has been an exciting & productive Autumn term & we look forward to resuming the hard work in 2025!





U14 Girls Football Team

The U14 Girls (above) have only had one Essex Cup fixture this year and lost to a very strong team. The girl's commitment and perseverance was admirable with some strong performances from throughout. The girls will have more fixtures to follow this year.



U16 Girls Football Team

The U16 Girls (right) have played 2 games in the Essex Cup so far, winning both games on penalties! The girls are now through to the quarter finals. We are awaiting on their opponents currently.

The girls have played really well together with some strong performances and commitment, especially as we came from behind to win in both games.

Well done girls - amazing start!!

Cross Country

In November, we took a lot of students to the district cross country championships (below). The team performed really well with some outstanding performances. Amelie T in Year 8 came 1st; Sienna S in Year 7 came 4th and Cory M in Year 10 came 6th. These 3 students have been invited to the County Cross Country Tournament. Well done!

Congratulations also to everyone who took part - you all did Notley proud!





Year 9 Football

The Year 9 football team have played two matches so far this year. Losing their Essex Cup game to Burnt Mill in difficult conditions and defeated Hedingham in their recent District game. There were some good performances from Zane, who scored a hat-trick against Hedingham, as well as Ferhad, Joe and Dextor. There will be more games coming up throughout the rest of this Academic year.

Year 8 Football

The Year 8 football team have played two games so far, this academic year, one in the Essex Cup and one district game. Unfortunately losing both. However, the team has a strong work ethic and never gave up during their games. Some strong performances came from Jenson, Rudi, Harry and Tor. We have more matches coming up and the boys have been training well throughout this academic year.



U16 Netball

Our U16 netball team have played their second round Essex Cup Competition game, beating Westcliffe County High School for girls, in a fantastic display of grit and determination. We are now waiting to see who they will play in the second round. They also played their first district game against Alec Hunter, winning the game comfortably. We are looking forward to further games in the new year.

Year 7 Netball

Our year 7 netball team have had a fantastic season so far competing in the Essex Cup Competition.

They have topped their group for the mini-league fixtures, and we are now waiting to see who we play in the first knock-out round. They won every game comfortably showing fantastic teamwork and skill through their dedication to training.



BebrasChallenge

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students in this year's Bebras Computing Challenge, a global competition designed to develop and test computational thinking skills. This exciting challenge invites students to solve thought-provoking problems that require logical reasoning, problem-solving, and the ability to think creatively—all essential skills in today's digital age.

This year, our students have outdone themselves, achieving an extraordinary increase in top-level awards compared to last year. An impressive 140 students earned the equivalent of a Gold Award. Even more remarkably, 11 students attained the new highest award level, also named Gold, which marks an incredible milestone for our school and showcases the exceptional talent of our students.

The Bebras Challenge is designed to engage students in fun, interactive tasks that simulate real-world computational problems. It encourages participants to think outside the box and apply logic and reasoning to challenges that range from identifying patterns to devising strategies to solve puzzles. It's a fantastic way for students to explore their interest in technology while building critical problem-solving skills.

These achievements are a testament to our students' hard work and determination, as well as the unwavering support from their teacher.

Looking to the future, we are excited to announce our participation in the Coding Challenge this March. This next stage for UK Bebras participants offers a 45-minute opportunity to apply computational thinking to coding problems. It will build confidence and inspire students to develop programmed solutions to a variety of challenges. Resources and practice materials will be shared closer to the event to help students prepare for this exciting opportunity.

Congratulations to all our students on their outstanding success, and here's to even greater accomplishments in the future!

GOLD Certificate Awards

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 7L/Cm - Elliot S | 7O/Cm - Monty E |
| 7Y/Cm - Hollie P | 8E/Cm - Deniz S |
| 9E/Cm - Oliver R | 9N/Cm - Tiffany C |
| 9O/Cm - Alexander F | 9O/Cm - Charlie O |
| 11B/Cs - Joshua R | 11B/Cs - Oliver Fearis |

Mr A Lee - Computing Teacher



Product Prototyping

GCSE Product Design Prototyping Day

Students doing product design spent two days in December prototyping their products. There was a real buzz and excitement as students' sketched theoretical designs started to become reality. Students spent the day materials testing, using our 4 3D printers, and Rapid Prototyping using our two laser cutters.

All the students have come up with very diverse design solutions made from equally diverse materials. Interventions such as these allow for technician support from other design teachers. Having both IT and workshop capabilities at the same time. The students were engaged, and most demonstrated exemplary creative problem-solving skills throughout the two days. All the students are well placed and on schedule to compete their final products as a result.

GCSE Product Design remains 50% coursework and these interventions are vital to speed the design process along so that once submitted the remaining time can be spend revising for the exam.

Mr T Ross, Design & Technology Teacher







Talk the Talk Oracy Workshop

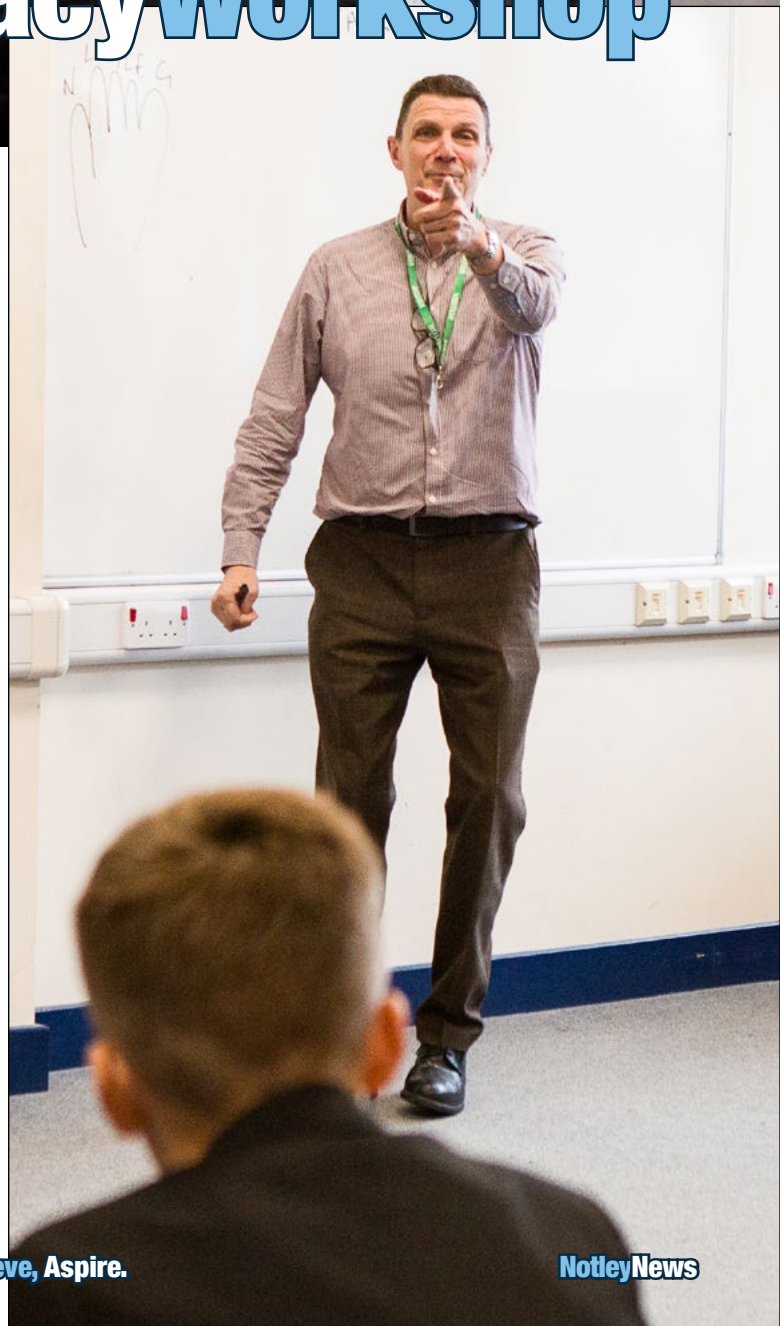
Notley High School and Sixth Form is proud to celebrate the incredible success of our Year 7 students, who recently took part in the Talk the Talk: Confident Communication for Life workshop, sponsored by the Jack Petchey Foundation. The day was dedicated to developing essential oracy and communication skills, and the enthusiasm and dedication shown by our students were nothing short of outstanding.

The Talk the Talk trainers were effusive in their praise for the Year 7 students:

“This particular cohort of Year 7s were great. They were lively, excitable, and knew how to channel it at the right time. They worked hard as individuals and in teams, and their speeches were great.”

“I was especially impressed by how many students stepped forward to introduce their new friends without stress or drama. They grew in courage and confidence throughout the day.”

The trainers highlighted the development of key soft skills such as active listening, eye contact, and speaking in a professional manner, noting that students demonstrated effective results in group discussions about their experiences transitioning to secondary school.





View the Online Photo Gallery

<https://www.notleyhigh.com/component/gallery/photo-galleries/2024/oracy-workshop?Itemid=287>

Another trainer observed the students' creativity and engagement:

"The spoken activities went well, with students expressing themselves confidently. Some groups even added drama to their presentations, and everyone loved the 'Better or Worse' activity."

Our Year 7 students also shared their reflections on the day, with many noting how much they gained from the experience:

"I learned that being nervous is a good thing because when you overcome that fear, you feel like you have succeeded in something."

"The workshop helped me be more confident in myself. The trainer encouraged us to try new things, and I feel more comfortable speaking to a crowd."

"I enjoyed getting to know people better, learning about their hobbies and activities."

"The trainers were funny and encouraging. They made me want to step out of the shadows and follow my dreams."

Many students remarked on how the workshop brought them closer to classmates they hadn't spoken to before, fostering a sense of community and support.

From learning to project their voices to mastering the art of public speaking without notes, the workshop has equipped Year 7 students with skills they will carry with them for life. Beyond technical abilities, the day was about fostering courage, self-expression, and mutual respect—a true embodiment of our school's core values.

As one student beautifully summed up:

"I loved the Talk the Talk workshop because I found I improved my confidence and learned new things about so many different people."

Congratulations to Year 7 on this fantastic achievement! We look forward to seeing how these newly honed skills help our students thrive in the classroom and beyond.

Mrs S Wilson, English Teacher





Acts of Kindness

At Notley High School and Sixth Form, kindness is more than just a value—it's a way of life.

This December, the school has embraced the Notley Acts of Kindness, a heartwarming initiative designed to spread joy and positivity throughout our school and local community. These acts not only highlight the importance of compassion but also reflect our school's core character values:

Enjoy, Enrich, Achieve, Aspire.

The Notley Acts of Kindness encourage students and staff to take small, meaningful steps to make a difference. Each act is simple yet impactful, reminding us that even the smallest gestures can create ripples of happiness. Whether it's saying goodbye to teachers at the end of the lesson or smiling at someone in the corridor, these actions foster a sense of connection and warmth in our school.

Gratitude is a cornerstone of kindness, and this year, students have been encouraged to show appreciation in thoughtful ways. Prefect-designed thank-you cards have been filled out by students

and sent to staff members, recognising their hard work and dedication. Students are also making a deliberate effort to thank our support staff, whose behind-the-scenes contributions are vital to our school's success.

The festive season has provided plenty of opportunities for giving back. Students have been writing Christmas cards—designed by our talented Prefect team—for residents of local care homes, bringing a touch of holiday spirit to those who may feel isolated. Candy canes have been exchanged between friends, with small donations raising funds for good causes, and Christmas jumper day has encouraged everyone to get into the holiday spirit while raising money for charity.

These acts of kindness extend beyond individual actions to strengthen our sense of community. From decorating Form rooms together to enjoying Form celebrations, students are embracing opportunities to connect, collaborate, and celebrate.

Compliments are flying across the school, with students challenging themselves to share at least ten genuine compliments in a day.



At home, students are also encouraged to support their families by helping with jobs around the house, showing that kindness begins wherever we are.

The Notley Acts of Kindness beautifully embody our school's character values:

- **Enjoy:** Smiling at others, sharing compliments, and participating in festive activities bring happiness to everyone involved.
- **Enrich:** Acts like writing Christmas cards to care homes or thanking support staff enrich our community and remind us of the power of thoughtfulness.
- **Achieve:** Together, we've achieved a stronger sense of unity, compassion, and purpose as we work towards making our school and community better places.
- **Aspire:** directing our community's hopes towards achieving kindness.

While these acts of kindness are part of the festive season, they remind us of the importance of kindness all year round. The Notley Acts of Kindness challenge us to continue creating a culture where everyone feels valued, respected, and supported.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in making this initiative a success. Let's keep the kindness going and carry the spirit of the season into everything we do!

Ms M Gladen, Assistant Headteacher





Year 12 Enterprise Fair

This half term, our Year 12 students have been working on an Enterprise project, where they had to set up a business and market a product or service to Year 7 students. This teaches them a variety of skills that will be valued by employers and universities when they leave us such as creativity, teamwork, communication, numeracy, and problem solving. On 10th December, the businesses were launched at our annual Enterprise Fair.

The Year 7 students came over in tutor time and this year were able to buy a huge variety of sweet treats, hot chocolate, sweets, bracelets, photo booth and

low-cost toys as well as participating in games and activities, such as throwing wet sponges at sixth form students, FIFA and lucky dips. There was a lovely, festive atmosphere.

The Year 12 students did an amazing job with their ideas and products and at welcoming and interacting with the younger students. Between all the companies they raised an impressive £654.79, with four companies making over £50 profit.

Well done and thank you to you all.

Ms A Shephard, Deputy Head of Sixth Form



View the Online Photo Gallery

<https://www.notleyhigh.com/component/gallery/photo-galleries/2024/year-12-enterprise-fair-2024?Itemid=2064>







Careers Fair

Year 11 Students Attend Chelmsford Racecourse Careers Fair

On a recent trip to Chelmsford Racecourse, our Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend a careers' fair that proved to be both insightful and inspiring.

The event gathered a wide range of businesses, universities, and vocational training providers, offering our students a chance to explore a variety of career paths and educational opportunities.

For many students, the careers fair was an eye-opening experience, allowing them to ask questions directly to professionals from diverse industries. Representatives from fields such as engineering, healthcare, business, and the creative arts shared valuable insights, helping students gain a deeper understanding of the qualifications and skills required for different careers.

One of the key highlights was the opportunity for students to interact with professionals in fields they may not have previously considered. The event also provided information on apprenticeships, university courses, and vocational qualifications, giving students a broader view of their options after Year 11.

Many students found the fair to be an invaluable experience, helping them to make more informed

decisions about their future. One Year 11 student said, "It was really helpful to speak to professionals and learn about different career options. It made me think much more about the path I want to take after I leave school."

Mrs Robb, who organised the trip noted the positive impact the event had. "The careers fair allowed our students to see the real-world applications of their studies and think seriously about their futures. The variety of options available showed that there is no one-size-fits-all path, and it encouraged the students to explore and find what truly interests them."

The trip to Chelmsford Racecourse was not just about discovering career opportunities but also about inspiring students to take charge of their futures, make informed decisions, and pursue their ambitions with confidence.

It was a truly enriching experience, and we look forward to supporting our Year 11 students as they take their next steps beyond Notley High School.

Mrs Robb, Head of Careers

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.

HEARTPoints

We believe in encouraging and rewarding effort and achievement. Students earn HEART points which focus on positive behaviours for learning and the development of each and every student's character. These are the running totals for the year.

28916

Year 7

25394

Year 8

19345

Year 9

22096

Year 10

8722

Year 11

Term Dates

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
						1	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30																					30	31					
January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025						
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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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
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May 2025							June 2025							July 2025							August 2025						
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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

Essex County Council School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools - Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025							
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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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					
29	30																											
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026							
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	
			1	2	3	4							1							1			1	2	3	4	5	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				
														30	31													
May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026							
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	
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5							1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
																					31							

- = Schooldays
- = School holidays
- = Bank holidays
- = Weekends
- = INSET days

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


Autumn Term:	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 <i>Half Term 27 October – 31 October</i>	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 <i>Half Term 16 February - 20 February</i>	55 days
Summer Term:	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026 <i>Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May</i>	65 days
		195 days




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 **enquiries@notleyhigh.com**