



French Exchange



This year 18 students from Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form are taking part in the French Exchange with College Pablo Picasso, Toulouse. This is the 6th year of the exchange and week one, 14 - 20 April, was very successful.

As always, students were nervous as they waited for the French students to arrive on Sunday morning (in some cases it was the first time I had seen them so quiet!) However, it didn't take long for them to get to know each other and bond over music, food, football, video games and more.

The French students do not wear school uniform, have assemblies or study drama so spending two days in an English school was an interesting experience for them. They attended lessons and assembly and particularly enjoyed Miss White's drama workshop.

The weather was great and all students enjoyed punting and shopping in Cambridge. On Thursday we had a sightseeing tour of London followed by more retail therapy in Covent Garden. Both nationalities showed off their moves at the disco that night (the Harlem Shake was particularly impressive) and we have been promised a repeat performance in France! In addition to school activities, students and their families organised to meet up in the evenings which allowed the French students to get together with their friends from home.

The students should be very proud of themselves for being great hosts to their French visitors, using their language skills and persevering when communication was difficult. Much has already been learnt from their experience. One student was surprised to find out that he was quite good at French! Another is proud of herself for taking part despite her nerves and is pleased at how much she has in common with her exchange partner. Several students have commented that they have made good friends with their visitors and have been keeping in contact via email and Facebook.

Many thanks to all the families who took part and to the staff who helped with the trips and activities. We are now looking forward to staying with the French students in sunny Toulouse on 18 - 25 May.

Miss Cobb
Faculty Leader - MFL

In Brief...

Here are a few diary items to note, for a full list of diary events please visit the online school calendar at http://notleyhigh.com/school-calendar

18 - 25 May
French Exchange to Toulouse

20 May
Year 9 Anglia Ruskin Trip
Year 9 Danbury Outdoors Trip

23 May
Braintree's Got Talent Auditions

27 - 31 May
Summer Half Term

5 - 7 June
SLC Trip to Skreens Park

7 - 11 July
Year 10 Normandy Trip

Contact the Newsletter

We are always happy to receive articles from parents/carers and students. If you have a piece of news you would like to be included in the newsletter, you can email it directly to the editor at:

lisa.perkins@notleyhigh.com
The deadline for submission is the Thursday prior to publication.

Student Absence/Late Lines

Year 7 01376 556347
Year 8 01376 556348
Year 9 01376 556349
Year 10 01376 556350
Year 11 01376 556351

The absence lines should be called on a daily basis to report your child late or sick.





Staff Changes

We were pleased to welcome the following new staff to the school at the beginning of the summer term.

Miss Speller

Miss Speller has recently moved into the area and joins us as a Science teacher. She is a welcome addition to the Science faculty.

Mr Clark

Mr Clark has joined the Braintree Arts Theatre staff as Technical Manager and we look forward to his input to the Theatre.

We also say farewell to the following staff this half term.

Ms Nichol

Ms Nichol leaves us to take up a promoted position at Saffron Walden County High School. We thank her for her work here and wish her success in her future career.

Miss Owens

Miss Owens has been providing temporary administration cover for the last three months, most recently in Student Services following Mrs Kouchuk’s departure at the end of last term. We would like to thank her for her help and wish her well for her new career in Finance.

Mr Williams

Mr Williams retired at the end of last academic year but returned to help us out this year. He leaves at the end of May and we wish him well for his retirement.

Mr Allen

We would like to congratulate Mr Dominick Allen for completing his Apprenticeship in Technical Theatre at Braintree Arts Theatre. He stays with us as a casual Theatre Technician.

Music Department - Vocal Workshop

The Music Department has strong links with Essex Music Services. Janette Ruocco works for them, as their Vocal and Choral Development Manager. Janette often works in both primary and secondary schools throughout Essex, developing vocal work.

We have been very fortunate to have Janette come to work with many of our Year 7 classes at the start of this term. Every class has had a one hour workshop and sang a wide variety of songs. Those Year 7 classes who have not had this opportunity as yet, will work with Janette after half term.

Please see below to read student articles following their class workshops.

Mrs Hanna
Head of Music Faculty

Year 7 Vocal Workshop with Essex Music Services

On 16 April 2013, Janette, from Essex Music Services, came to Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form to do a vocal workshop with Year 7. She introduced herself and said that today we would be learning 4 new catchy songs.

The first song she taught us was a fun, active, up-tempo tune. It included finger clicking, thigh slapping, foot stamping and majestic movements. After we got used to the song, we decided to mix it up a bit by singing in a round. To create a round we had to split into 2 groups, then one of the groups would start singing and after they were a few lines in, the next group would start singing and carry on until both groups had finished, it was awesome!

The second song that Janette taught us was called "Three White Horses." This consisted of jazzy hand actions to express the song even more. It was a bit of a random song, because it was never very clear what the song was actually about. In the first line it mentioned three white horses on the river, when we sang this we would make one hand do 'jazz hand' horizontally from right to left. It was great! Further on in the song we were singing about shadow play and how much fun it was.

The third song was very special because Janette learnt this in Africa. It was a bit strange to start off with, because there were no words. Instead of words we used a variety of different sounds made by our mouths. After we got the hang of it we were also doing this song in rounds, it was quite hard because of the other group making the same sounds as you but at a different time.

This fourth song that Janette taught us had a fast swinging rhythm to it. It was all about a member of a jazz band who



was new and brought a nice sound to the band. It included rhythmic lines like, "with his trombone and his saxophone..." which is extremely catchy. There were also actions too which we expressed while singing the song, they were mimicking the movements of playing the saxophone and trombone.

We conclude that the visit by Janette was a complete success and we would definitely recommend this opportunity to anybody else who was interested, because it was an amazing experience for us all. We would like to say a big thank you to Janette for giving up her time to allow us to have an amazing experience and to learn more.

Michael Tomalin and Ethan Mercer 7O

Vocal Workshop

On Tuesday 16 April, we were happy to be joined by Janette who came from Essex Music Services.

She gave Year 7 students an opportunity to take part in vocal activities. These sessions took part in some of Year 7's usual music lessons.

Janette taught the classes many things. One of them was the correct posture to use whilst singing. Also she gave us a harmonising exercise which sounded very good. Also Janette included actions which went along with the lyrics so that the lyrics were easier to remember.

In addition to the sessions she ran in class, Janette came along to the school choir rehearsal. She taught us a new song which included a lot of harmonising in it.

Janette's visit was very enjoyable, worth-while and effective. The session was a great opportunity to learn new things.

Isobel Parkes and Zoe Wood 7T

Parent Portal



We are trying to give parents/carers a greater insight into student performance and to provide more live information. The Portal includes information on attendance, school reports, rewards and behaviour comments, among a host of other information.

The original Parent Portal log-in will allow you to access the site. Simply select the Parent Portal icon on the home page of the website and follow the instructions. Pressing the icon will also allow you to request your password if you have forgotten it, or you can e-mail itsupport@notleyhigh.com

Mr M Fuller
IT Network Manager

Jack Petchey Award



Jamie Lee Bamford has been nominated for the Jack Petchey award for February by Miss Smith, her head of year, for her really hard work in raising money for a project.

Jamie Lee has designed and raised money for a new BMX track for Rayne, on the land off Oak Meadow. She asked the parish council for a new track after the old track next the Flich Way was closed as it was unsafe. They asked her to go away and do some research, which she did, and then presented it to them at a public session meeting. The council were so impressed

with Jamie that they have set about securing grants to raise the money to build the new BMX track, and have been offered £6500 by Essex County Council towards the project. Jamie has raised some money herself towards the project by doing a charity bike ride.

Building work will hopefully start in March, subject to planning permission and paperwork being signed off.

We are really impressed with Jamie's persistence, which has really paid off. Well done!

Our March Winner of the Jack Petchey award is Rebecca Calder in Year 11. She was nominated for the award for her dedication to helping out with 3rd Black Notley Brownies.

Rebecca has been helping for over a year and has been a real asset to the pack, helping weekly with meetings as well as at sleepovers and other activities. Rebecca also works incredibly hard at school to complete her work to the best of her ability. She is kind, thoughtful and a joy to teach. We wish Rebecca well as she completes her exams and moves on to Sixth Form. Well done, Rebecca!



Student Achievement

Samantha Dawson, 11E, achieved her solo flight in a Cessna 152 on Easter Sunday just 2 weeks after turning 16. Samantha has been learning to fly since she was 14 at Andrewsfield Aviation in Saling, Braintree, with the ultimate goal of becoming a pilot.

Her parents, brother, grandparents and great-grandparents watched nervously as she performed a smooth take-off and brilliant landing. Her instructor Paul Slater was very happy with her achievement and Samantha couldn't stop smiling.

What a fantastic achievement, congratulations Samantha from all the staff at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form.



TANGO

Working in partnership with the Braintree primary and secondary schools

The TANGO partnership are a group of teachers from primary and secondary schools who aim to provide extension and enrichment activities for our most able and talented students within the Braintree area. Every term we run a variety of masterclasses giving students the opportunity to extend their knowledge beyond what is learnt in the classroom. Below are some examples of the activities that have taken place during the spring term.

Maths Challenge

On Thursday 25 April, 10 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 were invited to participate in a Maths Day at New Rickstones Academy in Witham, organised by The Millennium Project.

The day consisted of lateral thinking and mathematical challenges which developed team building, logical reasoning and skills in thinking and communicating mathematical ideas.

Students were divided into teams of five and completed various challenges throughout the morning against teams from New Rickstones Academy and Maltings Academy. We ended the day with a maths quiz and I am very proud to announce that our Team 1 were the winners, receiving a cup and Team 2 were first runners up receiving individual medals.

A big well done to Oliver Claxton, James Knock, Jake Whiteside, Tilly Kilkelly, Alice Thurston, Jordan Rudge, Keerthy Vijendran, Lorna Upton, Ben Turley and Tom Sewell.

It was a very enjoyable day and our students' behaviour was outstanding. Thank you to all of the participants and to New Rickstones Academy for making us welcome.

Miss Clifton-Ward



TANGO Saturday Morning Workshop

Students from Alec Hunter Humanities College and Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form took part in a Saturday morning textiles workshop. The mini project was to customise t-shirts by changing the styling and using printing and embellishment to add colour and texture. The students gathered images to research existing t-shirt styles and designs, they then generated initial design ideas and came up with a final t-shirt design. Students were able to use flocking, mola, applique, fabric crayons and fabric paints to create their final design. Many also amended the styling by cutting and sewing using scrap fabric and trims.

Ms O'Neill



Meet the Braintree Book Worms!



Students from Year 7 have been selected to take part in the Carnegie Shadow Reading Scheme. They are:

Erin Rouse, James Knock, Emily Hynes, Ben Coulson, Emily Sayers, Emily Neate, Jake Whiteside, Katie Lane, Alex Deith, Isobel Parks and Oliver Caxton and Connie

Saunders. We hope you enjoy reading our reviews!

All of the students and the Library staff, Mrs Simkins and Mrs Osborn, will be reading all 8 titles that have been short listed for the prestigious Carnegie Book Award. They will be reviewing and discussing the books at a weekly meeting. Activities so far have included "Book Speed Dating" and "Carnegie Character Top Trumps". Our shadow group will try to predict which book will be awarded the Carnegie Medal for 2013. Will they chose the winner? We will have to wait until 19 June to find out!

You can follow our progress and read our group reviews by logging onto the Carnegie Shadow group page. Log onto www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk, select Shadowing Site and then select Notley High School from the reading group list. All the titles from the Carnegie Book Award will be available in the Library after 19 June – come along and read one of the shortlisted titles!

Mrs Osborn
Librarian



Year 10 Macbeth Workshop

We were delighted to welcome the Young Shakespeare Company to Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form at the end of last term, to launch Year 10 students' study of 'Macbeth' with a workshop for the whole year group.

Our student reviewer gives her verdict:

On 26 March I was sitting in the second row in the Braintree Arts Theatre, waiting for the production of Shakespeare to start. I was expecting it to be rather dull, since 'Macbeth' is an old play. However, when the production started, I was positively surprised by the inventive, engaging way in which the drama group presented it.

Once the drama group had introduced themselves, they informed us how the workshop was going to work. They showed us various ways of how the play could be adapted to suit the actors' ideas and the modern world, for example instead of a war in Scotland, it could be set in modern day Afghanistan; as long as the lines and storyline remained the same, anything else could be modified. This concept was then demonstrated when the audience got to choose the traits of the characters, resulting in a Superman Macbeth and an orphan-baby murderer Lady Macbeth!

The key message, however, was that the audience must be able to follow and understand the play; if not, they'll end up confused, and probably demanding a refund! After investigating several character personalities and exploring features of Shakespearean plays, a satiated audience had to leave the theatre. The production had taught us not only about the story of Macbeth, but also that Shakespeare can be interesting, compelling and engaging – quite the opposite of our previous assumptions!

Jess Eaton-Fearne



Student Voice

A number of Student Voice activities have taken place recently.

A group of 3 Year 11 Students, Craig Robertson, Rhys Crook and Christopher Dickens, represented the Student Voice Executive at a Senior Leadership Team Meeting. The purpose of their presentation was to inform the leadership team of the outcomes of the Student Voice Executive Meeting that took place on December 2012. The proposals made by the Student Voice Executive will now be used to inform school improvement planning over the next term. All 3 representatives, who also chaired the Student Voice Executive Meeting, spoke very well and represented the student body very effectively indeed. Well done!

On PTB Day (Thursday 21 March) a number of Year 10 students participated in the BBC School News Report. This national initiative sees thousands of students from all over the United Kingdom spend one day writing and producing news reports with their peers. Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form has participated in this initiative for many years. This year saw the creation of a varied set of articles, with topics including an analysis of the Olympic Legacy, the arrival of pandas at Edinburgh Zoo and a report on PTB Day activities that were taking place in school on the day. The final cut of articles is available to see on the Student Voice section of the school website:

<http://voice.notleyhigh.com/index.php/bbc-school-report>

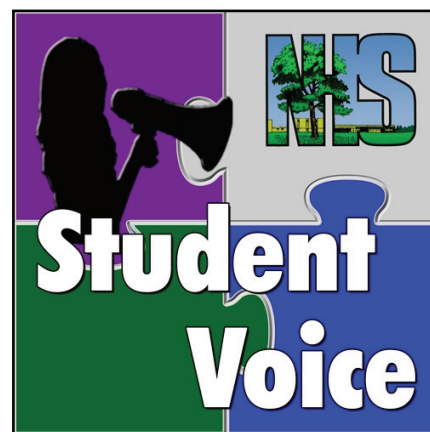
Blue Voice Representatives have also spent time creating a booklet, setting out what they consider to be effective learning. Ms Stanley has been working with students in Years 7 and 8 to create the booklet, which will be distributed to all staff at Notley High School & Braintree

Sixth Form, and will be placed on the school website. My thanks go to Ms Stanley who has been meeting with the group throughout the last half term. I am very much looking forward to reading the students' views.

Friday 26 April saw 25 Year 10 students participate in the

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, a training course and competition designed to develop public speaking skills in students. Students participated in a variety of activities designed to improve their public speaking skills. The day concluded with each student participating in a competition in which they were required to give a 1-minute speech on a subject of their choice. In her feedback to the school, the course tutor, Fiona Whytehead from Speakers Trust commented that the standard of the competition was extremely high. Well done to all students who participated, particularly to Luke Fleming who won the competition, and will represent the school in the regional final. A full report on this part of the competition will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

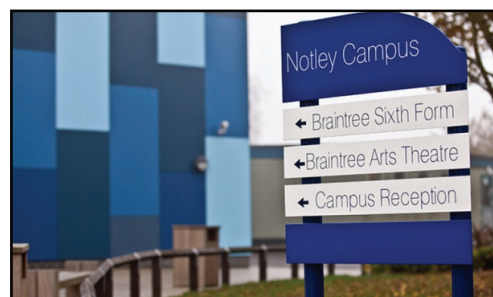
Mr Baster
Assistant Headteacher
tom.baster@notleyhigh.com



Parent/Carer Forum - Marking and Assessment

On 2 May 2013, the inaugural meeting of the Marking and Assessment Parent/Carer Forum was held in Braintree Sixth Form. A select group of invited volunteer parents and carers from across the school, representing students in all year groups from 7 to 12, got together to discuss marking and assessment at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form and to offer a home perspective of that topic to the staff at the meeting. Nick Vosper and Tom Baster, Assistant Headteachers, who have been leading on this whole-school project this year, outlined the reasons for needing to improve this aspect of our practice stemming from recommendations made by Ofsted at previous inspections. They shared the journey that the school has undertaken this year in Marking and Assessment, moving from redrafting the whole-school Marking and Assessment Policy to working with Faculties to ensure that each has a workable policy which is being rigorously implemented. Parents and Carers at the meeting were able to give a valuable insight into what matters to students, parents and carers with respect to marking and assessment, compared to how teachers view the subject and any statutory requirements which also may be brought to bear; subjects such as grades and levels and how easy these are to understand as well as the frequency with which books are marked were robustly discussed. The Forum will meet again in June when it will form a component of the Whole-School Marking and Assessment Review which is aimed to monitor the effectiveness of our new strategies in this area. The review will include support from outside experts as well as monitoring from within the school and will provide a snapshot of the health of Marking and Assessment at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form. The School wishes to thank all the parents/carers who gave up their time to attend and helped to drive this important project forwards.

For more details please contact nick.vosper@notleyhigh.com or tom.baster@notleyhigh.com



CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Creative Arts festival is coming! Invite your friends and family members to enjoy a fantastic evening from our talented Notley High School and Braintree Sixth Form students.

**Friday 14th June
6-8pm @ Braintree Sixth Form.**

Register for free @
www.braintreeartstheatre.com



Artwork by Grace Hatchman
Poster Design by Katie Collins

Head Boy & Head Girl – Final Report



What a tremendous term we have had again. The French exchange with 18 students from Toulouse having activities inside and outside school was a great success for Year 9 and 10. We hope that you all had a great time and we hope that you enjoy your trip to France on 18 May.

We are also glad to hear that 10 students from Year 7, 8 and 9 participated in a Maths Day at New Rickstones Academy in Witham. The students were divided into 2 teams and we would like to congratulate team 1 for winning the maths challenge and team 2 for coming runners up. Well done to Oliver Claxton, James Knock, Jake Whiteside, Tilly Kilkelly, Alice Thurston, Jordan Rudge, Keerthy Vijendran, Lorna Upton, Ben Turley and Tom Sewell.

Year 11s prepare for study leave after working hard at school, to get ready for our upcoming examinations, which are extremely important as they are what will decide our future as we move on to either further education, job seeking or aiming for an apprenticeship. Year 10s also have their revision sessions to prepare for their upcoming exams too. To everyone we say, try your very best to achieve what you wish most out of life. It may seem difficult but, as we students have been taught time and time again, work as hard as you can and you'll get the grades that you surely deserve and which reflect the hard work that you have put in. Good luck everyone.

We are signing off for the last time as Head Boy and Head Girl and we wish the very best of luck to the new Head Boy and Head Girl for when they start their new role in September.

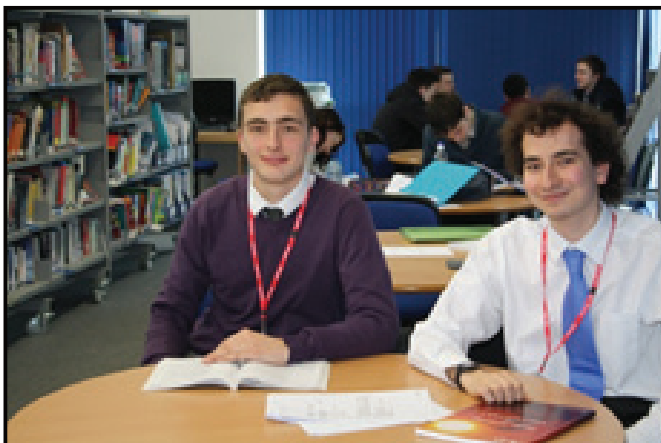
Omar Ally & Kirsty Ayre

Head Boy & Head Girl

Braintree Sixth Form

Back to BSF

We have been delighted to welcome back some past students of Braintree Sixth Form to offer support and advice to current students. Kieran Jones, currently studying Philosophy and Literature at University of Warwick and James Wood, reading Mathematics at University of York are pictured, and have been joined by James Pickering, reading Chemistry at University of Oxford; Ellie Hicks, reading Music at University of Oxford and Wes Hicks, studying on the Music and Sound Recording (Tonmeister) course at University of Surrey. Other alumni will be joining us for the launch of the University admissions process in June.



'Getting In' Conference

On Tuesday 26 March a group of Year 12 students attended a conference at Essex University focussing on the process of applying to a top university. Students were treated to presentations from speakers from Cambridge, Oxford and the London School of Economics and were given guidance on how the application process works and what they can do to ensure they maximise their chances of success.

The day gave students a real insight into how competitive it is to get into a top university and helped to illustrate the rewards of successfully applying. At the end of the day, there was a question and answer time with a panel of experts, which was an opportunity for the Sixth Form students to ask their own questions. Many of the students left with renewed determination and focus which will be vital in the forthcoming examinations and for starting the university application process.

Year 7 and 8 Disco



On Friday 9 March it was the night of the Year 7 and 8 disco, which took place in the drama studio.



Year 7 & 8 students enjoyed the latest and

greatest music, to drive them to the dance floor. There were lights and lasers to make the atmosphere more alive. There were lots of various drinks to keep you going and a fine selection of sweets and crisps. For the enjoyment of students there were glow sticks for sale.

Everyone enjoyed showing people their talented dance moves which had a jaw-dropping effect on everyone. Also the DJ played some great tunes which made everyone jump up and down and sing along.



In conclusion Year 7 & 8 had a night to remember with all the incredibly happy faces, having a good time.

Joseph Bennett & Luke Pettitt



FRIENDS OF NOTLEY HIGH SCHOOL



SUMMER DISCO

Due to the popularity of our last disco we have asked MLC Discos to DJ again for the next Year 7 disco which is being held on 14 June 7pm-9pm in the drama studio, letters will be coming out shortly and tickets will be on sale at lunchtime on 6 & 7 June.

Don't miss your chance to party.....



Our next Quiz Night is being held in the Braintree Sixth Form on 21 June 7.30pm for an 8pm start, we have a limited number of tables left. Tickets are £5 per head, maximum 8 people per team and you can bring along your own drinks and food. This is always a popular event so tables are issued on a first-come, first served basis. If you would like a table, please contact TheChair@FoNHS.info

GRAND DRAW – 3 JULY 2013

**Tickets will be coming home soon for our Annual Grand Draw.
Top Prize £200 cash plus many more great prizes
(keep an eye on our page on the school website for an updated list of prizes)**

If students sell tickets that win and they have written their name on the stub that is returned to school they will also win a prize.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MR HIGGON WHO WON MAY'S 100 CLUB – ENJOY SPENDING!
REMEMBER THE MORE PEOPLE IN THE 100 CLUB THE MORE MONEY YOU CAN WIN – JOIN NOW
EMAIL TheChair@FoNHS.info if you would like to join.**

HOW ABOUT THIS FOR A VERY EASY FUNDRAISING IDEA?

**WE ARE VERY SURE THAT MOST OF YOU USE THE INTERNET TO PURCHASE MANY THINGS
AND IF YOU DO – WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE A FEW MOMENTS OF YOUR TIME TO JOIN
WWW.EASYFUNDRAISING.ORG.UK**

**EVERY TIME YOU ARE THINKING OF BUYING SOMETHING JUST GO TO THE EASY FUND RAISING SITE
WHERE YOU CAN SEARCH FOR THE STORE YOU WISH TO PURCHASE FROM AND THEN JUST BUY AS YOU WOULD
DO NORMALLY! SO EASY – YOU WON'T EVEN NEED TO ASK THE KIDS TO HELP YOU!!!
WE WILL BE SENDING OUT AN EMAIL NEXT WEEK ALL ABOUT THIS – SO PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR IT.**

Our next meeting will be held on 3 July 2013 at 7.30pm in the school Library – all welcome – Email TheChair@FoNHS.info if you would like to come or have any fundraising ideas.



Year 7s
It's time to party...

BEACH STYLE

Friday 14th June
7pm- 9pm

More details to follow

Braintree Arts Theatre's Spring/Summer season ends with a bang with shows to suit every taste! Whether you like **live music, comedy, drama, children's theatre, dance** or **cabaret** - you can be sure Braintree Arts Theatre is the place to be!

Classical music fans won't want to miss their chance to have an intimate **Evening With Julian Lloyd Webber** on 18 May. The programme will include a selection of anecdotes interspersed with music by Bach, Faure, Saint Saens and Delius, as well as works penned by his brother Andrew and their late father William. Fans of the 70's will definitely want to come and see the **Supersonic 70's Show** on 25 May! If you lived in, or just love the 70s, then get on-board for a roller coaster ride of nostalgia with the show that always inspires a party atmosphere and a fun spirit wherever it plays. 70s dress is encouraged too as is a strong pair of lungs to join in with all those favourite tunes pop pickers! Rock fans will definitely want to come and see **Purple Zeppelin** (recently voted Best Tribute Band!) on 22 June. Purple Zeppelin are proud to pay tribute to Deep Purple & Led Zeppelin. In a unique "full-on" two part show, complete with costume changes, you'll hear more than 30 classic songs – basically "The best bits, all of the time!"

Fans of our regular Funhouse Comedy Nights know that Braintree Arts Theatre is the best deal in town - 3 top notch comedians and a compere all for £10! On 16 May we've got **Joe Lycett** (as seen on *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*), funny man **Johnny Ausum** will headline on 20 June and Andrew Bird (as seen on *Have I Got News for You*) will headline on 18 July. Don't miss your chance to see newcomer Luisa Omielan's hit show, **What Would Beyoncé Do?!** on 31 May! Smash hit of Edinburgh Fringe Festival, sell out East London show, and having come from a ten date run at Soho Theatre, fresh, sassy, and utterly original, Luisa Omielan is bringing her debut comedy hour to Braintree for one night only!

Fans of drama and theatre will be pleased to see the extremely talented group Curious Directive bring their Edinburgh Fringe hit **After the Rainfall** on 24 May. Curious Directive use a breathtaking mix of multi-media video, original composition, sound and scenography to create exciting multi-layered narratives. **After the Rainfall** is an epic piece of adrenaline fuelled theatre, exploring the architecture of ant colonies and their relationship to human behaviour. Spanning 70 years, *After the Rainfall* explores four chapters of the British Empire, interconnecting the aftermath of Britain's colonial relationship with Egypt. For a throwback to a bygone era, look no further than **Four Farces**, coming to Braintree Arts Theatre on 29 May. International touring company European Arts returns with a delicious

evening of one-act Farces from the Victorian stage. There's more than a hint of Monty Python or The Goons in these four plays entitled 'Wanted, A Young Lady', 'Box and Cox', 'An Unwarrantable Intrusion' and 'Duel in the Dark'. Involving duelling pistols, cross dressing, thwarted lovers, double-crossing, romance and intoxication, these colourful comic capers promise a sublime evening of mayhem and merriment.

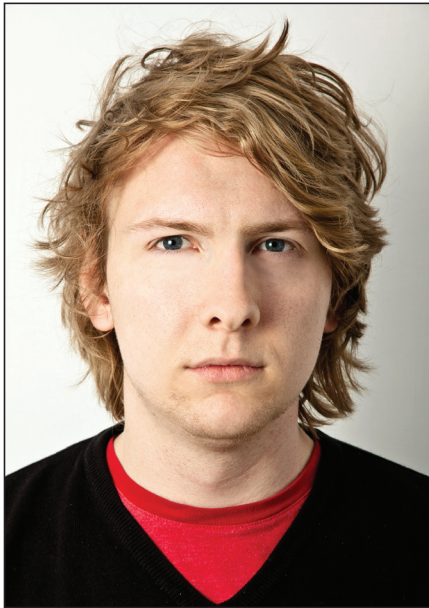
Children and adults alike will fall in love with **The Girl with No Heart**, playing Braintree Arts Theatre on 11 May. **The Girl with No Heart** is a stark, yet beautiful, fable about the power of a child's heart in a fragile paper world ravaged by war. Inspired by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, this award-winning company present another brilliantly realised slice of puppetry, storytelling, live music and shadow play.

Behind the scenes: the secrets of shadow

Join the cast and crew of *The Girl with No Heart* to discover the magic behind shadow puppetry. This hour long workshop is designed to accommodate both children and adults from the ages of 8 and up and will explore a variety of shadow techniques, including those used in the show. Intended as an introduction to shadow puppetry, participants should leave the workshop bursting with ideas and with a basic knowledge of shadow puppetry techniques in order to explore these ideas at home. *Space is limited for this workshop, please email enquiries@braintreeartstheatre.com to reserve your place!*

Fans of street dancing will not want to miss **Council of the Ordinary** on 13 June. Britain's leading b-boy crew, Bad Taste Cru, present an explosive and thought-provoking triple bill fusing breaking (b-boying) and physical theatre. The performances range from an in-depth social commentary dealing with class stereotyping to a piece grounded in the experiences of the crew growing up in the midst of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Direct from London's West End comes **An Evening of Burlesque**, playing Braintree Arts Theatre on 28 June. Experience the thrills and spills of modern-day burlesque featuring an all-star cast of elegant, beautiful girls. It's all tease, no sleaze as corsets, killer heels, stockings aplenty, sultry vocals, breath-taking choreography, mischief, magic, frivolity and fun collide. The true spirit of the time-honoured art form is revived. . . and given a playful, modern-day tweak for good measure! Wickedly witty, stunningly sensuous – experience the best of burlesque and the weirdest and most wonderful from the bizarre world of modern-day variety. Prepare for a truly unique night out – a colourfully kaleidoscopic spectacle guaranteed to thrill.



Joe Lycett - Thursday 16 May



An evening with Julian Lloyd Webber
Saturday 18 May



After the Rainfall Friday 24 May



Supersonic 70s Show Saturday 25 May



What Would Beyonce Do? Friday 31 May



Purple Zepplin Saturday 22 June



Jonny Awsum Thursday 20 June



An Evening of Burlesque Friday 28 June

