

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form's Magazine

# onceampus

Issue 12  
July 2015

## Activities Week

**Bigger, better, more!**

Jack Petchey  
Speak Out Challenge

Emma Croker Visit

Youth Health Champions

Work Experience

Midsummer Arts Festival

...and much much more



4th Braintree Scout Group Presents:

# Community Family Fun Day



**Sunday 19th July 2015**  
**12pm —3pm**

Inflatable Assault Course

BBQ  
Ice Cream  
Drinks  
Refreshments



Duck and Dive  
Prize Draw



Human  
Fruit  
Machine

Fire  
Engine

Various  
Stalls

Community  
Groups

**Goldingham Hall and Field**  
**Park Drive**  
**Braintree**  
**Essex**  
**CM7 1AW**

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 and Catherine Reeves

# Ed Byrne Outside Looking In

advertisement

9 October

8pm

Tickets: £19



**ED BYRNE**

# headlines

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

At the end of this term (or, more precisely and officially, on 31 August after A Level and GCSE results) I leave the headship of Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form after eleven and a half very fulfilling years here.

For my last Headlines I thought I would reflect on some of the key achievements in that time which have made me proud and privileged to be Headteacher of this school.

## 2004 – 2006

In January 2004 I joined a school which already had an excellent reputation for traditional values, high expectations and strong academic achievement.

Shortly afterwards, in 2005 this was recognised by the Department for Education when Notley was designated as a 'High Performing Specialist School'. One of the options available through this designation was the opportunity for successful 11-16 schools to open sixth forms (more of which below).

In 2006 Ofsted judged us to be 'a good school with some outstanding features' and the lead inspector stated that 'pupils and staff are rightly proud of their school'. Also in 2006 the new eight classroom mathematics block was opened by Miss Dorothy Gardner, Founding Headteacher of the school, finally bringing the permanent capacity of the buildings at the school to 1200 some 35 years after the school opened!

## 2007 – 2009

The period from 2007 to 2009 saw the High Performing Specialist School status mentioned above being used to accelerate the plans for Braintree Sixth Form in partnership with other local schools: Alec Hunter, Honywood and Tabor. Final planning permission for the proposals, developed by the school and working with Stanley Bragg Partnership, the architects for the project, was granted late in 2007 and construction began on site in early 2008.

I did not anticipate this opportunity when I first took up the headship at Notley and fully expected that I would be the Headteacher of an 11-16 school who might, at some point, move on to the headship of an 11-19 school as my predecessor had done. But it was an opportunity which I knew we must grasp with both hands (which I and the governors and staff did!) and one which has had a transformational effect on the school.



*Simon Thompson, Headteacher*

In 2009 we were delighted that the school was inspected again and given the highest Ofsted rating of Outstanding. This came just prior to the establishment of Braintree Sixth Form in 2009, when Mrs Angela Comfort, Founding Chair of Governors, and Miss Dorothy Gardner performed the ceremonial honours at the official opening. At the same time, we also opened the new sports hall, now known as the Fitness Centre.

## 2010 – 2012

Early in 2010, following our rating of Outstanding from Ofsted, I was accredited as a National Leader of Education and the school became a National Support School. This was in recognition of the increasing outward facing work we were doing and have continued to do to support other schools within Essex and further afield.

In 2011, after much research and due diligence by myself and the governors, we decided, like many other schools up and down the country, to become an academy. With this decision, we maintained the same successful ethos as a school but received our funding directly from the Department for Education rather than from the Local Authority.

2011 also saw the best ever results we have achieved as a school on the now headline measure of 5+ A\*-C at GCSE including English and mathematics, when 66% of our students achieved this measure. This was also the first year of IB Diploma and A Level results from Braintree Sixth Form with a 90% pass rate for the

IB and 98% pass rate for A Level. A striking feature of this first year of sixth form results which has been sustained since then is the excellent progression rates to further and higher education.

2012 was, of course, the year of the London Olympics and we did not miss the fabulous curricular and extra-curricular opportunities this world class event brought to us. Activities days were themed around the Olympics and we hosted visits from Olympic and Paralympic athletes. Students and staff grew weary of my Olympic-themed assemblies which ran for over two years!

In May 2012 we were inspected for the third time during my tenure as Headteacher. Although our rating dropped from Outstanding to Good this judgement was against a much more stringent Ofsted framework and we were confident that the school had improved in many areas between the 2009 and 2012 inspections.

The Ramsey College, Halstead was also inspected at about the same time and fell subject to Special Measures. This was the catalyst to resurrect the relationship between our two schools which had previously faltered and I worked closely with governors to arrange the secondment of Mr Gee to the school as interim Headteacher from September 2012.

## 2013 – 2015

2013 saw the development of the sponsored academy relationship which we now have with The Ramsey Academy, Halstead. Following its Special Measures Ofsted report, Ramsey made rapid progress under Mr Gee's leadership and was given a Good Ofsted rating in July 2013. In September 2013 it became a sponsored academy, sponsored by Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form and the North Essex Multi-Academy Trust (NEMAT) came into being.

September 2013 also saw the introduction of our Personal Development Time (PDT) curriculum, an initiative where all tutors have an hour with their tutor group each week to deliver important aspects of the personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural curriculum.

During 2014 and 2015 we have continued our longstanding emphasis on improving the quality of teaching and learning across all areas of the school and, as I leave, we are confident that we will, once again, see a very strong set of A Level and GCSE results in August of this year.

In the last three years the extra-curricular life of the school, which I have often highlighted in previous Headlines, has gone from strength to strength and we have, for example, just held our second highly

successful Activities Week. The contribution of staff to these 'outside the classroom' experiences is absolutely exemplary, as is the commitment and dedication of the students who participate in them.

## Epilogue

As I look to the future for the school I do so confident that the North Essex Multi-Academy Trust (NEMAT) Board have appointed a very experienced and successful Headteacher to lead the school and the Trust into the next phase of its development. I wish Mr Conway every success in his tenure as Executive Headteacher.

Much has changed over the time I have been here but some things have remained constant: the popularity of the school with its parent body, the commitment and conscientiousness of the staff, the knowledge and support of governors, and the enthusiasm and commitment of the students.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. When I arrived I never anticipated that I would leave as the longest serving Headteacher, replacing Miss Dorothy Gardner's claim to that honour. It has been an immense privilege and honour to serve firstly as Headteacher of Notley High School, then subsequently Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form and, finally, as Executive Headteacher for NEMAT. I have enjoyed tremendous support from students, parents, staff and governors throughout and I wish all associated with the school every success in the future.

I am looking forward to my new role as Executive Director for the Association of Secondary Headteachers in Essex (ASHE), a role in which I will watch the school's and the Trust's progress with great interest in the future.

Thank you for all your support over eleven and a half years and I send you all my very best wishes for your future success.

Yours faithfully

*Simon Thompson, Headteacher*

## Departing Staff

The following staff are leaving at the end of this term and I would like to express my thanks to all for their contributions to the school.

### **Mr L Hopkins**

Mr Hopkins joined the school as Finance and Premises Manager in July 2001 and has since become the School Business Manager and then Academy Trust Business Manager for North Essex Multi-Academy Trust. He has overseen many building projects in the school including the building of Braintree Sixth Form and his care and attention to the fabric of the buildings and the management of the school's finances have been greatly appreciated by governors, staff and students. He leaves us to take up a new post as Business Manager at Colchester County High School for Girls.

### **Mr M Ledwith**

Mr Ledwith joined the school as a mathematics teacher in September 2002. He leaves us to pursue a career in primary mathematics teaching. We thank him for his loyal service to the school over 13 years.

### **Mrs C Harding**

Mrs Harding has been a cleaner with us since April 2008 and retires at the end of term.

### **Mrs K Brown**

Mrs Brown was faculty leader for mathematics from January 2011 to August 2014. For the last academic year she has held teaching and learning responsibilities in mathematics. Mrs Brown leaves us to take up a new post as a senior leader at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport.

### **Miss C Rushby**

Miss Rushby joined us as a newly qualified science teacher in November 2011. She is leaving to undertake an MSc in mental health nursing.

### **Ms C O'Neill**

Ms O'Neill joined us in July 2012 as a newly qualified teacher of food and textiles. She is leaving to move to a new teaching position elsewhere in the country.

### **Miss S Rust**

Miss Rust has been an English teacher with us since September 2012 and following the birth of her baby daughter, has decided to take a career break.

### **Miss S King**

Miss King has been an art teacher at the school since November 2012 and moves to a new position, teaching at the Children's Support Service at Heybridge.

### **Ms C Butler**

Ms Butler joined the school in November 2011 as a Learning Support Assistant. She leaves us to continue

her studies at university.

### **Miss A Shambrook**

Miss Shambrook undertook her teacher training with us from September 2013 to July 2014 and has taught science for the last academic year. She leaves us to take a career break to spend time travelling.

### **Mrs P Venner**

Mrs Venner joined as a newly qualified science teacher in July 2013 and moves to a new post at Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form in Great Dunmow.

### **Ms S Mason**

Ms Mason joined us as Payroll/Finance Assistant in July 2013 and is relocating to a different part of Essex.

### **Mrs R Abraham**

Mrs Abraham has been with us teaching food and textiles since 6 January 2014 and is relocating to the South West.

### **Mrs S Brown**

Mrs Brown has been working at the school for the last academic year firstly as a cover supervisor and then as a food and textiles teacher. She will continue to undertake supply teaching on a casual basis.

### **Miss A White**

Miss White started at the school in September 2014 as an English teacher and is relocating to a different area.

### **Ms L Blackburn**

Ms Blackburn has been teaching modern foreign languages here for the last two terms and has decided to take a career break from teaching.

### **Miss A Breckon**

Miss Breckon has also been with us for the last two terms working as a cover supervisor and is now relocating to another part of the country.

### **Mr D McCarthy**

Mr McCarthy has been with us on supply as a mathematics teacher since September 2014, and he moves to a post at the Children's Support Service at Heybridge

### **Mr B Maxwell**

Mr Maxwell has also been with us on supply, teaching science, for the last two terms. He leaves to pursue his teacher training elsewhere.

# Farewell to Mr Thompson from the Governors

The end of this term represents an important milestone for Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form with the departure of Mr Thompson, our Headteacher, after eleven very successful years of leadership, which make him the longest serving Headteacher in the history of the school.

The school has gone from strength to strength during his time with us and has grown in many ways, not just in student numbers and buildings, but more importantly in the breadth of the curriculum we provide, the aspirations we have for all our students, and the support we now provide to the wider education community. There have been many notable achievements but there is space here to mention only a few.

First and foremost must be the opening of the Braintree Sixth Form in 2009. It was Mr Thompson's drive and determination that identified this opportunity, created the broad based community backing for the project and finally obtained the necessary funds from central government for the magnificent building that now marks the entrance to the school site. The presence of the Sixth Form has raised the aspirations of our students to study at this level and beyond, and in addition it has provided opportunities for staff and students from the wider community to teach and study a varied curriculum in this new stimulating environment.

Mr Thompson has always had the education of all our students as a priority and throughout his time as our Headteacher he has focussed relentlessly on raising standards. Initially this was achieved by building on the foundations laid by his predecessor and firmly establishing Notley as a 'good' school; but quickly it moved on to further raising expectations across the board and aspiring to get the best Ofsted rating possible. It was therefore another major milestone when Ofsted came again in 2009 and, in recognition of all that the school was doing, awarded us an 'Outstanding' rating. It is fair to say that this event has left an enduring expectation and confidence about what Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form can do and where it needs to be.

During the last few years Mr Thompson has spent much of his time steering the school through numerous Government led changes to the education system, be they structural, curriculum based, or the changing relationship between schools in our community. His objective has always been to get the best for our students, and staff, by identifying and seizing opportunities as they occurred. For instance, we were early adopters of Academy status when it quickly became clear that this was the surest way of maintaining best funding for the school.

However, Mr Thompson has always recognised the mutual benefit of schools working together to raise standards, and he has ensured that this philosophy has continued, and expanded, since he became a National Leader of Education and Notley High School became a National Support School. The highly successful interim leadership, and ultimately the sponsorship, of The Ramsey Academy in Halstead, with the great benefit this is bringing to the local community, is testament to the effectiveness of this collaborative approach.

These few examples demonstrate how there has been a real growth in ambition for Notley High School under Mr Thompson's leadership, and this is lasting change which should give us real confidence for the future. Of course changes are not brought about by one individual but by the combined efforts of the whole school community – governors, staff, students and parents - but Mr Thompson's personal integrity, openness and inclusive nature have been key in getting the best out everyone, and in driving each initiative forward.

Mr Thompson has been planning the next move in his career within the education system for some time and we wish him the very best for the future. He will be replaced by Mr Conway, who is an experienced Headteacher from a successful school in Sheffield. Mr Conway has made a number of visits to our school already this term and work to ensure a 'smooth handover' of responsibilities is well underway.

Mr Thompson has always been very proud of Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form and what it achieves. Now he should be very proud of the lasting contribution he has made to the school and to the local education community as a whole. He will be leaving both in excellent shape for his successor.

*David Gask, Chair NEMAT Trust Board*

*Trevor Parrott, Chair Local Governing Body*



Exam Results Day, 2005

Sports Day, 2011



Grand Opening of the Maths Block, 2006



World Book Day, 2014



Charity Karaoke, 2008



Year 11 Leavers, 2011

"Working together, achieving together"

On 10 and 11 June, Year 7 stepped back in time to experience what life was like in a medieval castle. The Hands on the Past history company welcomed us at Hedingham Castle for a day of

medieval medicine, archery and games in the sunshine.

*Miss L White, Activity Leader*

*Photos: Staff on trip*



# castlehedingham



“Our trip to Hedingham Castle was amazing”

We had lots of fun meeting different medieval people such as the lady of the household and all of her servants.

We had many different and new experiences such as medieval music, weapons, illnesses, cures and housing.

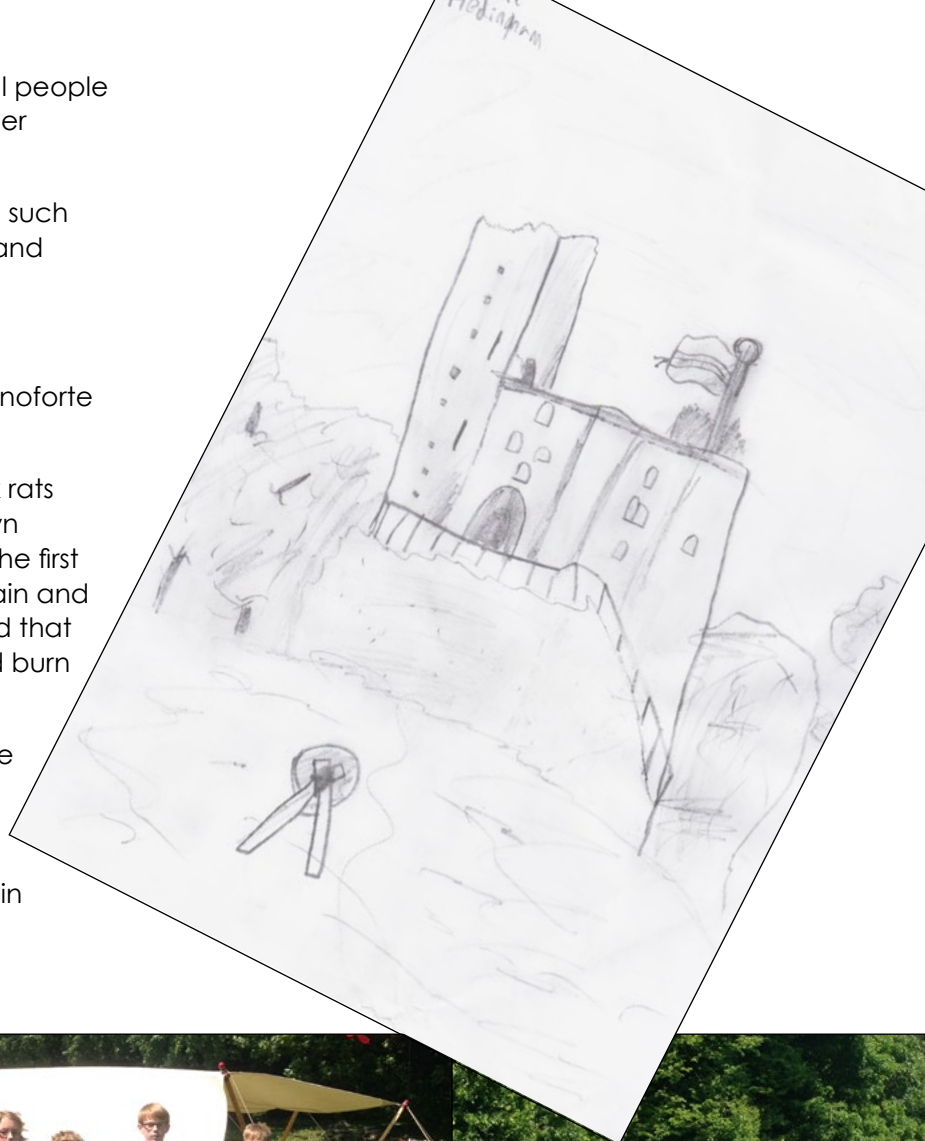
Did you know that...

The first ever type of piano was called the pianoforte and was made in the 18th century.

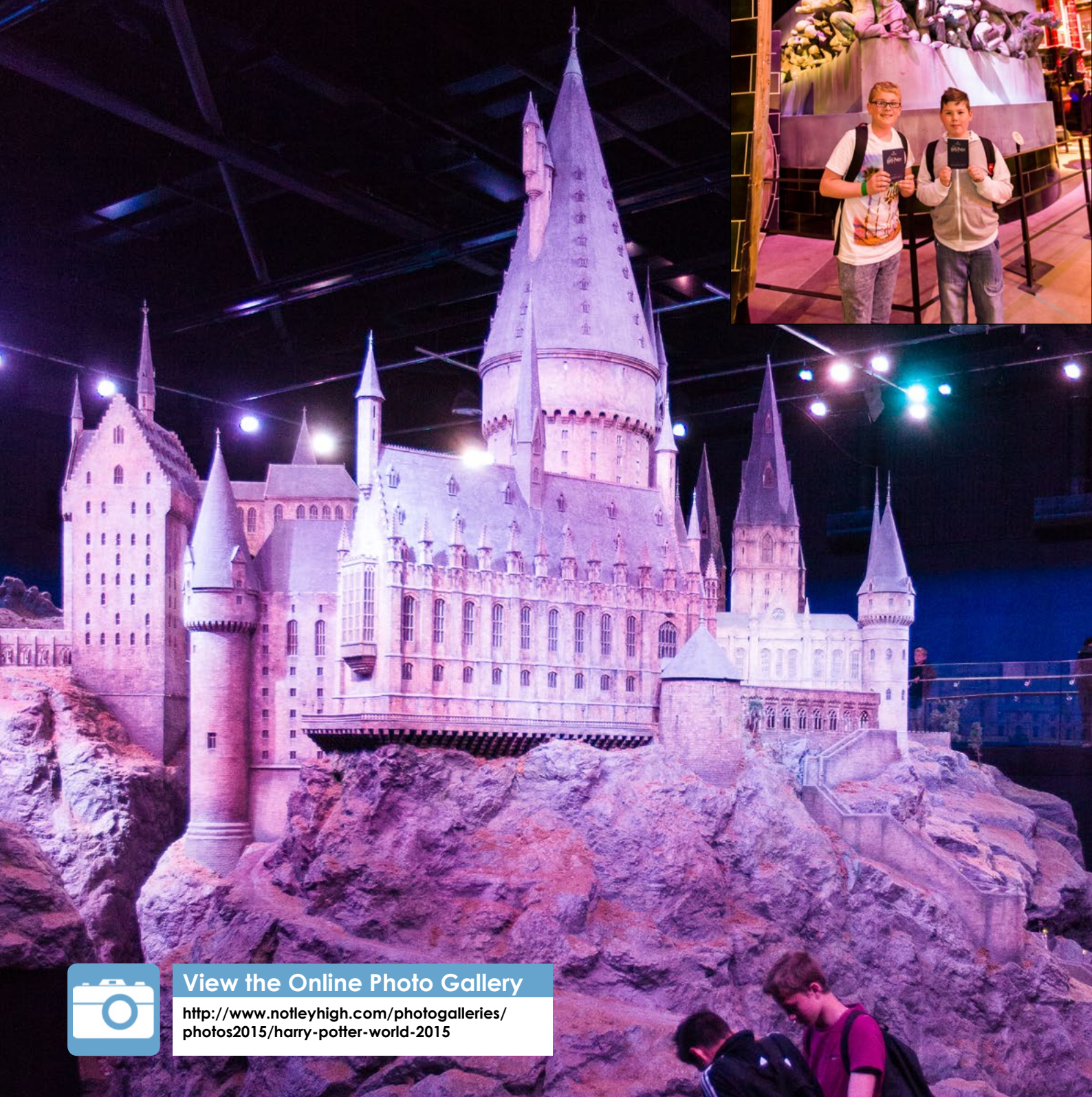
The Plague/Black Death was spread by black rats and was eventually spread to the larger brown rat which cannot spread any diseases to us. The first symptoms of the Black Death was swelling, pain and discomfort in the groin, many people believed that the Black Death was dark spirits so they would burn frankincense to scare them off.

Modern day bow and arrows are harder to fire than the original bow and arrows due to the tension in the string whilst firing it. A modern day bow and arrow was originally made out of ash wood costing around £180 to £200 in today's money (30 shillings).

*Lauren Metson 7T*



**“Working together, achieving together”**



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/photos2015/harry-potter-world-2015>

## Harry Potter Tour

On Friday 19 June, 53 excited students and four even more excited teachers had the amazing opportunity to take a trip around the Harry Potter Studio Tour. I would like to start by saying that the

students' behaviour and attitude was excellent throughout the day; they were a joy to take along and the staff and I were extremely proud of them.



The day saw those involved getting an opportunity to see and experience some of the magic behind the Harry Potter film franchise. They were able to see parts of key sets (such as the Gryffindor Common Room and Dumbledore's Office), ride broomsticks, drink Butterbeer, walk down Diagon Ally, ride the Hogwarts Express and most importantly see the famous Hogwarts Castle model.

It was clear that everyone on the trip had a great day and got some great pictures and souvenirs to remember their magical experience.

*Miss N Short, Activity Leader*



*"Working together, achieving together"*



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/photos2015/science-museum-trip-june-2015>



## Science Museum

On Thursday 18 June 2015, a trip to the Science Museum gave students the privilege to be part of a once in a life time event to hear Charles Bolden Jr, an astronaut who is now the Administrator for NASA, give a presentation at the IMAX Cinema. The presentation lasted for an hour in which the students could ask any questions, big or small, hopefully resulting in an answer that no one else could give.

While the presentation was going on, three of our Year 9 students Grace Poole, Edward and Oliver Leggett were being prepped by Sky News, with other students from different schools, to interview Charles Bolden Jr in the hot seat after the presentation.

The 30 minute interview can be viewed via this link <http://news.sky.com/video/1504808/nasa-chief-in-the-hotseat> and the 3 minute clip can be viewed via this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C98dXN9u94> both links are available to view on the school website.

Charles Bolden Jr was born 19 August 1946. A 1968 graduate of the United States Naval Academy,

he became a Marine Aviator and Test Pilot. After his service as an astronaut he became Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy. On 23 May 2009 President Barack Obama announced the nomination of Bolden as NASA Administrator.

He is the first African American to head the agency on a permanent basis. Bolden is also the virtual host of the Shuttle Launch Experience attraction at the Kennedy Space Centre and serves on the board of directors for the Military Child Education Coalition.

Charles Bolden Jr has had a brilliant American Military and NASA Career to find out more about Charles Wikipedia is a very good resource to research for more information.

*Mrs J Simpson, Trip Leader and Science Technician*

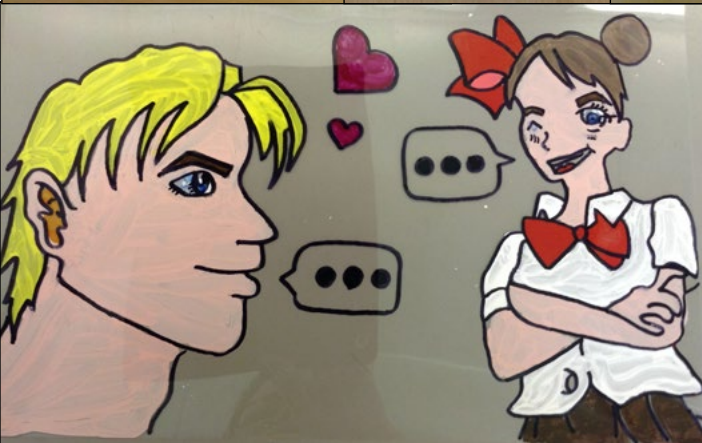


## In School Art Activity

The art department were busy over the three days with various activities, two of which were Manga drawing and designing and painting skateboards. Students were given a wooden template on which

they had to paint their own design for a unique look. Students were then able to take their designs home.

Ms S King, Activity Leader



Photos: Department staff



“Working together, achieving together”

Amber  
Mason



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/photos2015/firebreak-course-june-2015>

## Firebreak Course

For activities week, I was picked to go to Braintree Fire Station for the Firebreak Course which involved climbing a ladder, lowering a casualty from the tower, going into the chamber wearing breathing apparatus, first aid, road safety awareness and much more.

At first I was unsure of wearing the breathing apparatus because it made me feel claustrophobic, but I managed to get inside the chamber wearing it and get back out again with it still on. I really enjoyed the course; I hope lots of other students also get the chance to do this in the future.

*Elle Goddard 9S*



Photos: Staff on trip



## Hazeleigh Wood

As part of activities week a group of Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit Hazeleigh Wood near Maldon. Hazeleigh Wood is 60 acres of designated ancient woodland and Maureen and John Bissell live in the wood and manage it as it would have been when it was planted a few hundred years ago.

### Hazeleigh Wood Scavenger List

3 different coloured flowers

A feather

Something with a strong smell

3 different shaped tree leaves

Something important in nature

Something prickly

2 different evergreen leaves

Something white

Something soft

Something that you think is beautiful

We started the day with a big welcome from Cookie the dog who followed us on our tour of the wood. Maureen explained all about the wood and handed out our scavenger packs with a list of things to find on our tour.

Everyone was very inquisitive and learnt about coppicing, squirrel management, wood preservation and explored the flora and fauna. Students also played games in pairs where they were blind folded and had to be led to a random tree and after being moved away from it, they had to find it again and identify the tree.

During lunch, we shared our scavenger bags and Maureen explained more about the plants and the animals who live in the woods. In the afternoon Maureen explained how she makes charcoal using an ancient method which 'cooks' wood in a kiln.

Then everybody had a go on the pole lathe used to carve wood and all were very good at it. Some also used the charcoal pens to draw and most wanted a second go at the pole lathe.

All students really enjoyed visiting Hazeleigh Wood and said this was a trip with a bit of geography, history, PE, art, technology, biology, languages and also PER.

We will definitely be organizing more trips to Hazeleigh Wood.

Thank you to Miss Cook and Mr Harris for accompanying the trip and especially Maureen from the wood for her inspiration.

*Mrs A Harris, Activity Leader*





## Survival in the Library

On Thursday 18 and Friday 19 June, two groups of students took part in "Survival in the Library". The activities were based around the theme of survival, with four activities testing survival knowledge and team building skills.

In activity one, students worked in pairs to design and build a survival shelter using just newspaper and masking tape. It had to be free standing, but the real challenge was Mrs Osborn had to fit inside. Activity two, "to eat or not to eat", tested students' knowledge of poisonous plants, whilst activity three got students animal tracking around the library.

Finally, the activities concluded with a sound test of "guess the animal". Students were played ten sound clips of animals you would find in the wild that were native to this country. We had some interesting responses.

Thank you to all the students who took part and to Mrs Simkins, Mrs Ross and Mrs Cosway for all the help throughout the session – they had fun building the shelters too!

*Mrs K Osborn,  
Library and Learning Resource Manager*



## Tower of London

Wednesday 17 June saw yet another exciting activities day trip. This time students and staff were given the opportunity to visit the Tower of London. The weather, students and staff were excellent throughout the day, which meant the trip was a great success.

Students walked around the walls of the tower, gaining fun historical facts from Miss Duncan as they went, whilst being able to take in the view of Tower Bridge. Next we took a visit to the crown jewels, where students were able to see past Coronation items, but much to some students dismay, not try any of the jewels or crowns on. Students were then given an opportunity to have some free time to explore other parts of the tower they wanted to, these included: the Bloody Tower, the fortress and royal beasts.

Staff and students clearly had a great day and I believe many wish to return.

*Miss N Short, Activity Leader*



Photos: Department staff

## Textiles Activity Day

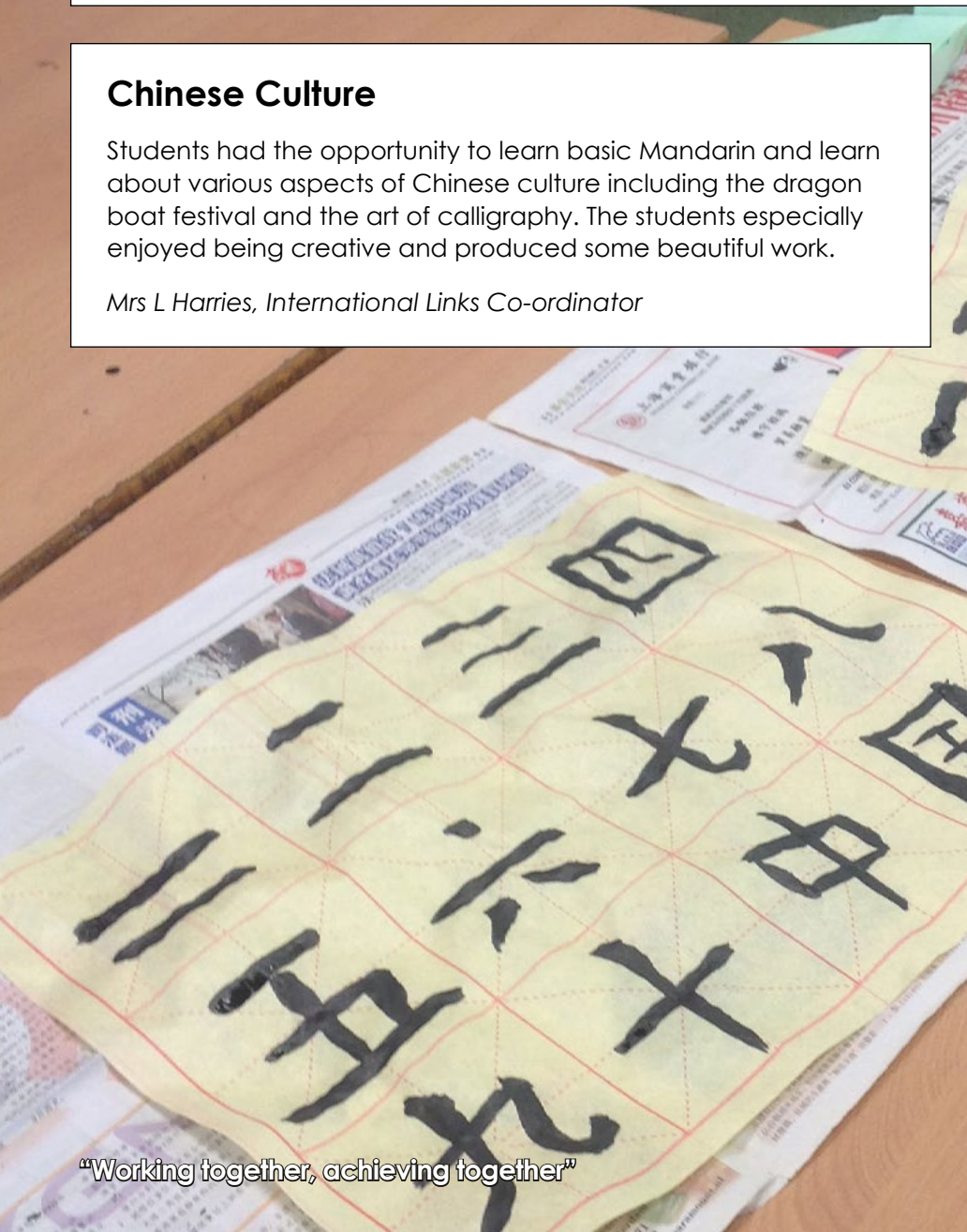
Students were invited to restyle and decorate t-shirts as part of the activities week. Students were able to use various techniques including image transfer, printing, painting, fabric pen, sequin and button embellishment to decorate their t-shirts. Some students also used sewing machines to restyle their t-shirts and give them a complete makeover. Some of the design ideas were very well executed and there were some really vibrant and exciting outcomes.

*Mrs O'Neill, Activity Leader*

## Chinese Culture

Students had the opportunity to learn basic Mandarin and learn about various aspects of Chinese culture including the dragon boat festival and the art of calligraphy. The students especially enjoyed being creative and produced some beautiful work.

*Mrs L Harries, International Links Co-ordinator*





Photos: Staff on trip

# year8gotomersea

During activities week, the whole of Year 8 went on an exciting school trip to Mersea. We left on Wednesday morning and we were all very eager to get going! When we arrived at about 10.30am, we all dropped off our luggage and then we were free to explore around the site. Later, we took part in two activities – mine were low ropes and kit-karts which were both lots of fun!

After the activities, we all settled into our tents.

In the evening after dinner, we took part in the 'It's a knockout' competition between groups involving lots of inflatables and water so we got very wet! After this we went back to our tents but none of us got much sleep!

Over the next two days, we took part in lots of fun activities such as climbing, zip wire and the adventure course, which involved swimming through stagnant green water! We also had a disco which was really fun.

Everyone really enjoyed Mersea as it was exciting taking part in lots of new activities but also it made us get to know people better and strengthen friendships. My favourite part of Mersea was the climbing because I have been climbing lots of times before and really enjoy it. Also the disco was really fun as everyone got to spend time with their friends.

Overall, Mersea was a great experience and I hope to go again soon!

Abbie Grimwood 80



Year 8 visited Mersea for an exciting residential trip.

We left on a Wednesday morning and were eager to start activities as soon as possible.

After a safety talk, we all explored the site. This was followed by our first two activities. They were incredible fun and we all returned with enthusiasm for what was to come next.

'It's a knockout' was something everyone was ecstatic about and it didn't disappoint. It consisted of inflatable and team events, which everyone took part in.

Over the next two days, we were kept busy by our action packed timetable. The activities were new to all of us and none of us could wait to try them.

We slept in tents, surrounded by vast open fields where we could spend our free time making memories with our friends.

Overall, Mersea was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am eager to go back!

Rebecca Moore 8N



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"Working together, achieving together"

oncampus 19



## Bushcraft Camping



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<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/photos2015/bushcraft-2015>

Sunshine, camp fires and the beautiful Kent countryside, the perfect setting for the Year 9 residential trip to the Bushcraft camping site.

During the course of three days, Year 9 learnt how to maintain a campfire effectively, how to administer first aid in the wild and they even got to try their hand at carving camp pegs out of sticks. During the evening, games were played around the cracking camp fire, the more daring of our students even had

the opportunity to try sleeping out in the shelters they made during the day; one 'tent' even managed to survive the whole night!

We were all looked after very well by the accommodating Bushcraft staff and no-one went hungry. Three square meals a day cooked out in the open and cakes baked on the camp fire for desert. Bear Grylls would be jealous!

*Miss K White, Activity Leader*



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“Working together, achieving together”



Bushcraft was an experience not to be missed. The students found it difficult to cope without wifi for the full three days, all we had was what nature gave us.

The days were full of challenges, some harder to complete than others. This consisted of swimming in the lake, making pizza in a clay stove and being able to handle a bushcraft knife to make tent pegs for survival.

The best part of the Bushcraft expedition was playing a game called Predator, this involved us using camouflage paint (as we were hiding in the wild trying not to get caught).

Overall the Bushcraft expedition was an engaging way of working as a team successfully and learning the basic skills in life.

*Jennifer Stanhope 9B*



**"Working together, achieving together"**

## Year 7 Visit Boulogne-Sur-Mer

Photos: Staff on trip

Another successful day trip to Boulogne-Sur-Mer took place on Friday 23 June 2015. 60 students from Year 7 enjoyed what they have called a "fun day".



Despite the usual early start, the day went really smoothly and students enjoyed a visit to the Nausicaa Sea Centre where a fantastic collection of fish and sea mammals can be seen. Students went around the aquarium taking a real interest and many

photographs.

We then went to the old town of Boulogne and had a tour of the ramparts, before having some lunch and buying a few souvenirs from the stalls. Once our stomachs and pockets were full, we went

to explore the famous French supermarkets, but with a mission in mind: finding the most interesting French product on sale that would start with a P within a 15 minute timeframe. Students came back with all sorts, even poisson.



22 oncampus



"Working together, achieving together"



At this stage, the day was nearly over but the best was to come; the visit to the bakery. The students made a special encounter with the baker; a fierce baker with a rolling pin... and only French can be spoken in his bakery. Students had to use their knowledge and their deduction skills to figure out how to make those delicious croissants and pains au chocolat. Before they were allowed to taste them, they had to prove that they could give shape to those croissants, an experience they will never forget. All in all, it was a fantastic day which was enjoyed by all of us. Students really made the school proud and made the most of the day.

*Miss M Rabhi, Activity Leader*



*"Working together, achieving together"*



## Year 7 Sailing Trip to Weymouth

The journey to the sailing centre took about five hours. The students were filled with anticipation, along with some nerves and speculation about what the days ahead might hold. We had only two seasoned sailors within or ranks; the rest being novices at best,

with most simply having never sailed before. After a quick pit-stop at the service station, where the students rightfully mobbed Jimmy Bullard having lunch with a friend, we pushed on to The Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre, Weymouth.





On arrival, we discovered that the facilities, venue and accommodation were literally fit for an Olympian. Before we arrived at the hotel, we had been told that it had been purpose built for Team GB, and it had everything - comfy beds, a TV, a fridge and sink in every room and a stunning view of the harbour. The first meal we had on the harbour was dinner that night, which was lasagne, which everyone enjoyed. The next night we had chicken wrapped in bacon; both meals fit for a sailor.

On the water, the students took out the Pico sailing boats in the afternoon that held 2-3 people, and were used throughout the trip. It had several parts called the boom, kicker, dagger board and other important parts; including the sail. Mrs Segura and Mr Newman took out The Dart, wowing us with their

sailing expertise around the harbour, while Mr Ellis and Miss Stanley provided a masterclass in capsizing.

The trip was a glorious and memorable one, with some of the best moments including playing games on the Picos, playing games on the dock, pelting one another with water balloons, and of course, the amazing three days of sunshine we were gifted with.

Reluctantly, we endured the journey home on Friday, but even being tired, getting stuck in endless traffic (six hours to get home) and a few travel sick classmates would not stop me recommending this trip to any Year 7s who are offered the opportunity next year.

Thanks Notley for such an amazing time!

*Guy Fitzgerald 7T*



**"Working together, achieving together"**



**View the Online Photo Gallery**

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/photos2015/weymouth-sailing-trip>



# dexanwinschallenge



Since January, 450 Year 10 students in North Essex have taken part in Jack Petchey Speak Out workshops in their schools.

From these workshops, twenty students from eleven different schools were chosen to take part in the regional final at Maltings Academy.

I am delighted to announce that Dexan Charlery-Warner, 100, won!

Her speech, titled, 'Who am I?', was performed with style. The content and structure was mature and her delivery was exceptional. A video of Dexan's winning speech is available at this link:

<http://www.speakoutchallenge.com/dexan-charlery-warner-winner-jack-petcheys-speak-out-challenge-north-essex-regional-final/>

Jack Petchey's  
**"SPEAK OUT"**  
Challenge!

# jackpetcheyawards



We are delighted to have recognised another nine students this academic year for their effort and achievement in a range of areas both inside and outside of school. Reasons have included efforts in charity work and personal achievement and these students were nominated by friends, family and members of staff in school. Each student has received a certificate, badge and if they haven't already, will receive their Jack Petchey medallion at the presentation evening in the winter. They are also given £200 to put towards a project in school of their choice. This year, students have donated the money to a range of different projects, including:

- PER workshops
- equipment for the SEN department

- Sports kit for the PE faculty
- An end of term party
- Running fundraising events in school to raise money for a charity outside of school

If you would like to nominate a student in school (or recommend a member of staff for the leader award), along with the paper nomination forms in the main school library, you can now complete a form online via <http://www.notleyhigh.com/rewards-and-awards/jack-petchey-award-scheme/jack-petchey-nomination-form>

*Mrs S Wallace, Rewards and Awards Co-ordinator*



# Jack Petchey Foundation

**Inspire • Motivate • Achieve**

*"Working together, achieving together"*

## Lauren Fisher March 2015

Lauren has been nominated by her family for her unwavering support of her friend as she contended with cancer.

Lauren has been an amazing friend and support to Olivia and her family while she went through chemotherapy, sitting with her and keeping her company while she contended with all the side effects, being a 24/7 friend in her time of need.

Lauren has chosen to turn this very tough experience for Olivia into a positive one, running the Race for Life in June 2014 and raising £1500 for Cancer Research UK. She has also been part of a team of girls in Year 11 who have organised a quiz night in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust, managing to raise an astounding £3160.

On Olivia's return to school, Lauren and her friends have been



there to help get her to her lessons and push her around the corridors during break times. Lauren's family are incredibly proud of how she has given up her time in support of her friend and as a consequence, raising money for cancer charities to help others in a similar position and really would like her to be recognised for her selfless attitude.

Lauren has chosen to give her money to the SEN department to support partially sighted students. We are very impressed with how Lauren has been a valued and continuous support and still maintained her positive attitude. Well done, Lauren.

*Mrs S Wallace, Rewards and Awards Co-ordinator*

# jackpetcheyawards

## Callum Dadd April 2015

Callum was nominated for the award by his Year Leader for voluntary work he does outside of school.

Callum helps with the under 10 and 12 beginner skaters at the ice rink, improving their confidence and skills on the ice. He also helps at the swimming pool, working 1:1 with disabled children every Saturday, helping them gain confidence in the water and encouraging them to take their first strokes unaided. His family are really proud of the patience and ability he has displayed in helping children of all ages to be more active.

We are really impressed with his efforts outside of school – well done Callum!



Callum has chosen to use his money to reward his tutor group with a little party to celebrate the end of the school year.

*Mrs S Wallace, Rewards and Awards Co-ordinator*

## Olivia Coughlan May 2015

Olivia was nominated for the Jack Petchey award by her form tutor and this was supported by her Year Leader and some of her teachers (I am sure they all would have, had they known).

Olivia was diagnosed with chondroblastic osteosarcoma – a severe form of bone cancer – in her left pelvis in February of Year 10, just days after her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. She underwent 30 weeks of chemotherapy which didn't shrink the tumour, and then a major operation to remove her leg and part of her pelvis. Consequently, she missed lots of school (and we missed her). Despite this, Olivia has kept smiling and kept up with her studies in her core subjects and is predicted to achieve good GCSE results in the ones she has taken. Olivia has inspired her



friends to raise money both in and out of school for cancer research and for a prosthetic leg. Her determination to keep going and to always keep smiling through her ordeal has been amazing and we all think she really deserves to win

the Jack Petchey award for May.

Olivia, we wish you well as you finish your exams and go on to sixth form.

*Mrs S Wallace, Rewards and Awards Co-ordinator*

## Elizabeth Lewis June 2015

Elizabeth was nominated by her Year Leader for her fundraising efforts.

Elizabeth has been working really hard with her mother to raise money for the Watoto mission. The charity is working in Uganda to look after orphaned and vulnerable children and vulnerable women. Working alongside the local government, community and other stakeholders on the ground, Watoto has been actively involved in making northern Uganda liveable again. This includes homing orphaned children and family based holistic care to ensure all people in the community are looked after and have necessary healthcare.

<http://www.watoto.com/home>

Elizabeth, along with twelve other people from her church will be going out to Uganda in August to help with the projects that Watoto are running and have been raising



money to get out to the country and for a building project. As part of this, Elizabeth completed a very long sponsored walk that took all day. This was a real challenge and required a great deal of determination on her part. Elizabeth will be continuing with her fundraising throughout the summer and her efforts so impressed our selection panel that

they were also inspired to offer support with fundraising for this worthwhile cause.

A fantastic effort, Elizabeth. We wish you well in your trip to Africa.

*Mrs S Wallace, Rewards and Awards Co-ordinator*



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/photos2015/handball>

## Under 15 Girls Handball

This year has seen an excellent performance by the U15 girls handball team. New to this sport the girls quickly learnt the game and beat Bromford School to become Essex champions.



The team had some coaching from Louisa Jukes the Development Officer for this region and an Olympian. She was very impressed with both the girls' ability and attitude. This coaching paid off with the girls becoming East Regional Champions beating Thurston

Community College in the final. This meant that they went to the Southern Handball finals in Swindon where they came 5th in the south, despite only losing one game 1-0 to the eventual champions. We dominated this game but due to a good goalkeeper we could not make our dominance count and unfortunately let in a disputed goal in the last minute of the game.

Essex Team: Maisie King, Verity Forster, Jamie-Lee Bamford, Isabel Oakley, Lilli Mullings, Rachel Merritt, Grace Poole, Ella Jones

East Team: Maisie King, Verity Forster, Jamie-Lee Bamford, Ellie Maddocks, Lilli Mullings, Isabel Oakley, Grace Poole, Jen Stanhope, Shana Cahill

Southern Team: Maisie King, Verity Forster, Jamie-Lee Bamford, Ellie Maddocks, Ella Jones, Lilli Mullings, Isabel Oakley, Rachel Merritt, Grace Poole, Jen Stanhope.

## Regional Trials

Five of the U15 squad went on to the regional development trials held in Cambridge and all have been invited back to the next round of trials. Congratulations and good luck in July to Maisie, Verity, Ellie, Jamie-Lee and Grace.

Mrs L Gunn, PE Teacher



England Women's Rugby World Cup winner Emma Croker came into Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form on Friday 5 June to work with our students. She was able to show her expertise and enthusiasm whilst working with a group of Year 7 girls, as she put them through their paces in a practical session.

# emmamacrokervisitsnotley

Afterwards, Emma kindly gave her time to sit down and discuss her experiences in both rugby and women's sport with another group of girls from Years 9 and 10. The students were also given the opportunity to quiz Emma on her high level sporting

career and her lifestyle. All of the girls were excited about listening to stories of winning the World Cup and her training regimes. Emma joined us during 'Women in Sport Week' and proved to be a great inspiration to both students and staff.



**View the Online Photo Gallery**  
<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/2015/emma-croker-rugby-coaching-session>





# peermentoring

## CHIPS

We are delighted to announce our shortlisted candidates for CHIPS, a peer mentoring and listening scheme, for 2015/2016. There were a high number of applications this year which was wonderful to see. Over the course of the next half-term the candidates will participate in training

to become CHIPS members. On completion of training, they will then be awarded their CHIPS badges and ties. Well done to those that have been shortlisted.

*Mrs H Sutton, Year Leader - Year 10*

# bookreport

**Book Title: Queenie**

**Author: Jaqueline Wilson**

Queenie is an amazing book as it relates to real life and parts of the book are really heart-warming.

It is a good book because many people can relate to the story and it is an interesting book and one that everyone should read. The book is good because it is well described so you feel like you are at the same place as the characters.

The book could be improved by adding a more detailed ending because it kind of leaves it on a cliffhanger. The only extra detail is in the prologue which is only two pages. I think the ending should be a lot longer.

In Queenie, the main characters are an adorable girl named Elsie and her nan. They live together and dream of attending the Queen's coronation (at this time in the book we are in 1953). Her nan catches TB and has to leave poor little Elsie crying at the thought of her nan going to a dank sanatorium. Elsie misses

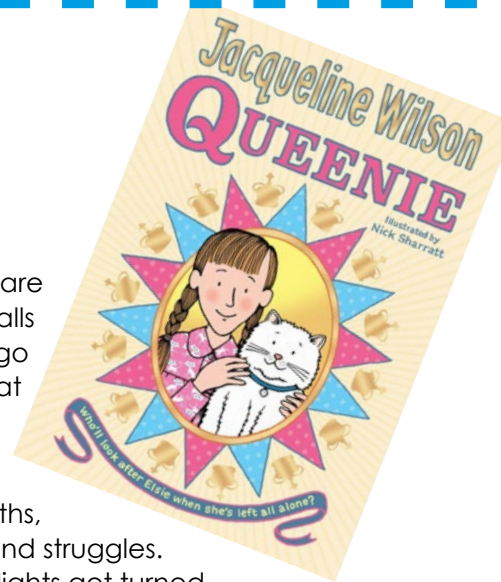
her nan. Her dreams are shattered. Elsie also falls ill with TB and has to go to a children's ward at Miltree Hospital.

Confined to a hospital bed for months, Elsie misses her nan and struggles. Every night after the lights get turned out she tells magical tales of adventures to the other children on the ward. For the first time, Elsie finds herself surrounded by true friends, including Queenie, the hospital's white cat who loves Elsie.

Elsie only gets to take a few things with her to the hospital: her cat pyjamas and her toy elephant.

Queenie is one of the best books ever. If you want to find out more, read Queenie.

*Rachel Butler 8T*





# youthhealthchampions

The Youth Health Champions are a group of Year 10 students that volunteer to be trained in health awareness by attending a two day course and completing an exam which results in them receiving an NVQ Level 1 qualification in Health

Awareness. They have to produce and deliver three events within the school to successfully achieve their year as running Youth Health Champions.

2014 was the pilot year for the Youth Health Champions. They produced, directed and performed a play on self-harming, which was shown to Key Stage 3 students, accompanied by a leaflet that they had produced. They touched on this subject as it is one they felt affects lots of young people and wanted to help with the understanding of the issue which is what they achieved.

Lily Measures, one of the 2014 Youth Health Champions, won an award for the most outstanding student in mid Essex and attended an award ceremony with Mrs Simpson, Youth Health Champions Leader and her parents to receive the award presented by the Mayor of Chelmsford.

This year, Youth Health Champions have focused on bullying, producing posters and leaflets. They also

organized a cake sale to raise money for womens refuge raising £83 which was received with much gratitude. A lovely letter was sent to the school explaining how the money that had been donated had helped a young mum to safety. To accompany the cake sale, a powerpoint and presentation on domestic violence was created to be shown in PDT the same day as the cake sale, to bring awareness to the embarrassment and shame that people feel when living in these awful situations through no fault of their own.

The Youth Health Champions have recruited next year's volunteers so watch this space for more exciting events in school.

*Mrs J Simpson - Youth Health Champions Leader*

Photo: Provided by student



# student achievement

Samuel Cornwell, 10S, took part in the East Anglian Karting Cup on 12, 13 and 14 June. Samuel was very successful in his performance and managed to also set a new lap record on track 2, claiming 4th position overall in the East Anglian Cup. Not only did Samuel exert great driving skills but he was skillful and kept calm under pressure to ensure his victory. Samuel races with a team, MLC Motorsport, and they have offered him a place to drive to represent the UK at the world finals in Le Man, France, in October. Samuel and his family are actively looking for sponsorship to fund this opportunity and they are offering advertising on the kart itself.

We wish Samuel the best of luck for this next part of his journey and congratulate him on his recent success.

Mrs H Sutton,  
Year Leader - Year 10



# workexperience

Photos: Visiting members of staff

## Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students had the opportunity to complete a work experience placement during 15-19 June. Students were encouraged to find their own placements and as a result of this there were some really fantastic placements secured, ranging from the Essex Chronicle to Chelmsford Magistrates. Reports from employers were very positive as staff went out to visit each student. Please read on for reports from some of our students.

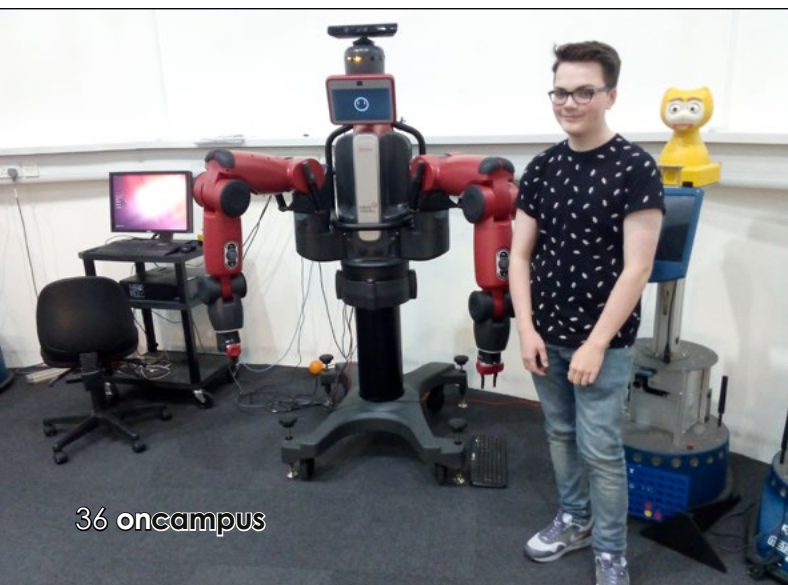
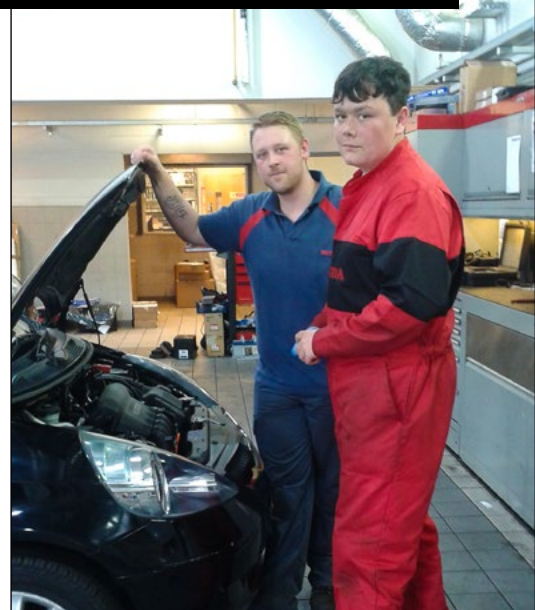
Thank you to Mrs Elstone and Mrs Saward for all of their organisation.

*Mrs H Sutton, Year Leader - Year 10*

I spent my week of work experience at Spring Lodge Veterinary Hospital. On top of sterilising virtually everything thoroughly from top to bottom and cleaning up a substantial amount of dog wee, I was also given the opportunity to walk and look after the dogs, witness the vet nurses do blood tests, and watch the vet perform a cat spay and then later a canine splenectomy. This gave me an enormous insight into the roles that both vets and vet nurses play in

keeping the animals happy and healthy and certainly gave me a lot to consider in terms of career options. All of my colleagues for the week were incredibly friendly and helpful and I'm so grateful for their generosity during my stay at the practice. I gained a huge amount of knowledge and experience from my placement and would definitely encourage students to use the week to learn more about something they are interested in doing in the future.

*Evie Stoneman 10B*





For my work experience, I was thrilled to be able to work at Christchurch Nursery.

Whilst there, I was lucky enough to work with all the children, as well as the friendly staff.

I managed to gain an insight into what it is like working with younger children, and thanks to my work experience, now know for sure which career path I wish to follow.

Megan Amos 10N



"Working together, achieving together"



My work experience went better than I could ever have hoped. I was expecting to be locked up in an office all day creating a new filing system for the workers of Chelmsford Crown Court general office. I spent my week, however, observing different roles within the court rooms themself.

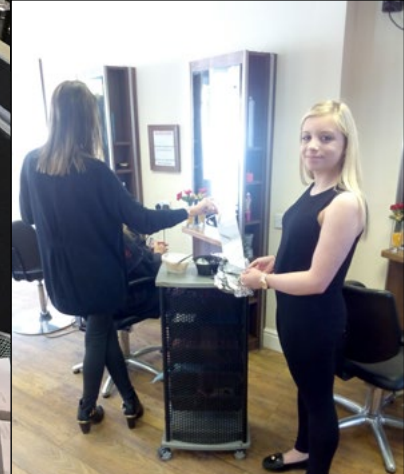
The first day was a little hectic: a whistle-stop-tour of the building, a gazillion new faces whose names I never remembered, sitting through a jury-welcome presentation. I loved it! I did have to sign a form of confidentiality first thing, meaning you can't get any gossip out of me from any of the court cases...

It was all a blur, black shoes and ties, observation practise, and the many lunch breaks sitting with adults, talking about adult things. It made a huge change to be treated as an equal, surrounded by people who have so much life experience.

Because the court is a crown court, they had some serious cases. The week has really helped me. I now know what to do if I want to go into law by bottle necking the options down to the correct path.

I know what I want for myself now.

Ross Dawson 10Y



# midsummerartsfestival

## Celebrating the Arts at Notley

The Midsummer Arts Festival was a real celebration of the creative talents of the students of Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form. Students, families, friends, staff and governors packed the Braintree Sixth Form building to enjoy the performances, exhibitions and workshops.

Music, dance and drama performances took place in the theatre and Textiles students from Years 7 to 13 revealed their creations in our first fashion show.

Visitors joined in an art workshop or experimented with sounds in the music technology workshop.

## Art

The variety of carefully developed pieces and the skills demonstrated by the art works on show attested to another successful year for Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form art students.

Students showed a wide variety of work this year including expressive painting, mixed media, ceramic and print pieces.

Final pieces, sketchbooks and display boards from art, product design and textiles students were on display.

We are proud of the achievements of our creative arts and design and technology students many of whom go on to careers within the creative industries. This year we have students holding university offers to study a range of courses from architecture to fashion.\*

A huge thank you to everyone who took part and to those who came along to support the students.

AS, A2 and IB students' sketchbooks and boards illustrated the extensive research, experimentation, problem solving and planning that goes into the production of every piece.

GCSE fine art and art graphics pieces and sketchbooks demonstrated the technical skills and themes developed by the students.



*James Cook with his painting of Ely Cathedral*

This year's art workshop focused on 'zentangle'.

Visitors became absorbed creating intricate pattern designs aided by Ms King.

*Ms S Monro,  
Subject Leader - Art*



*GCSE display*



*Zentangle workshop*

**"Working together, achieving together"**



The cast of Blackbeard



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/photos2015/midsummer-arts-festival>

## Drama

This year, drama showcased work from across the key stages. Year 7 performed a terrible tale of 'The Legend of Blackbeard'. They used key drama skills such as freeze frames, soundscapes, stage fighting and characterisation to bring the tale of the pirates to life. Students engaged the audience from beginning to end, performing with great talent. Thank you to our wonderful Year 7s.

Students from Year 8 created and performed 'Macbeth in 10 minutes'. This whistle stop tour of the bloody tale saw students using a range of drama strategies to explore the key themes, plot and language of the Shakespearean play. This performance was an excellent example of the work they create within lessons using narration, still images, physical theatre, thought tracking and soundscape. Well done to those Year 8 performers.



Year 7 perform 'The Legend of Blackbeard'

Year 9 demonstrated their character work through Willy Russell's Blood Brothers. The tale of twins separated at birth and being brought up in contrasting societal class households was brought to life with energy and emotion. The Year 9 students worked hard on capturing the essence of this family from children through to adults and performed this turbulent story with talent and maturity. Well done Year 9 for a captivating performance.

Our Year 12 students also took to the stage with their monologues from their recent examination. Each monologue was contrasting in content yet all were performed to an exceptional standard. We are so proud of our A Level students and are excited to see what the future brings for them. Many thanks to Georgia Willis, Hayleigh Truscott and George Orton for their fantastic performances.

Ms L White, Drama Teacher

Photos: Sixth Form  
Students and Staff

Lucy Hawtin, Leanne Tegg and Chloe Elms who  
performed 'Sunburn' by Ed Sheeran



Year 10 singers perform 'Cheerleader' by OMI



## Music

A wide range of musicians representing the whole range of age groups across the school took part in this year's very successful event.

The choir, led by Miss Freeman, had an enjoyable time spent rehearsing for their performance which was extremely well received by the audience. The ukulele group had the opportunity to provide the accompaniment for the choir for 'Cecilia' by Simon and Garfunkel, something which they had not done before.

The opportunity to perform in public is one which develops the confidence and ultimately the skills of all musicians as they learn to handle the pressure of the situation in a positive way to enhance their performance. This is an important skill for students to develop as they prepare

for GCSE and A level exams where performance skills are formally assessed. GCSE students rehearsed with Mrs Robb and performed 'Cheerleader' by OMI to a high standard, appreciated by the audience.

Year 12 students George Orton

and George Stiff performed 'Hard to Get' by Orton and 'Meeting Place' by the Last Shadow Puppets to an enthusiastic reception.

Mr C Harris, Assistant Subject Leader - Music

## Product Design

The Midsummer Arts Festival was a fantastic opportunity for our product design students. Students exhibited the development of their unique products and ideas and should be very proud of all their hard work.

This year we had an upcycled luxurious chair from our A2 student James Cook, whose inspiration came from industrial design and discarded car parts. A2 student Ross Smith's cardboard chair was manufactured by slotting layers of laser cut card and covering with papier mache. This striking chair has incredible strength. Matt Self and Monika Delekta tackled the theft of bicycles. Matt designed an advanced locking system which could be built into the bike during the manufacturing process rather than it being sold separately. Monika created her own security locking device.

Our AS students displayed a range of equally innovative products for the festival and some were on hand to explain them during the evening. Marc Hughes created a very functional car boot tidy.

Toby Hyde created a prototype chest of drawers with a pull out table to solve the issue of small living space. Adam Bentham produced a stunning ergonomic guitar designed to relieve pain when playing for long periods of time. We also saw an unusual 'Mood Vase' from Damian Rogulka. Bethany Dennison and Cameron Davis made excellent use of our 3D printer by manufacturing a children's night light and an identity light for a child's ski hat.

*Ms E Currie, Technology Teacher*



*A prototype of a space saving piece of furniture by Toby Hyde Year 12*

## Textiles

We were very excited about the idea of putting together a fashion show for the Midsummer Arts Festival. We wanted to take the opportunity to showcase some of the fantastic work that students from all key stages have been creating in textiles. Our A Level textiles students had some show stopping designs to present and our GCSE students had also created some beautifully designed and finished dresses.

Year 10 students who are currently working towards their textiles GCSE, showcased their coursework while some also created new garments just for the event. We were particularly impressed with three Year 7 students who have been attending Textiles Club and chose to take on the challenge of creating their own outfits just for the show.

Some of the garments were modelled by their designers and others were modelled by their friends but all students were extremely professional and did a fantastic job on the day. The standard of the textiles coursework was particularly high this year and it was great to see all of the garments together under the spotlight.

*Ms C O'Neill, Technology Teacher*



*Emma Nash and Rebecca Cureton Year 13, model their designs*



*Dresses made by Jasmine Dawson Year 13*

*\*For more information on BSF students' progression to arts related courses see page 56*

# SUMMER SAFETY



## STAY SAFE IN THE SUN

- Stay out of the sun during the hottest parts of the day, particularly 11am – 3pm.
- If you have to go out when it is hot, make sure you apply sunscreen, wear a sun hat and move into the shade where possible.
- Drink plenty of water/cold drinks, but avoid drinks containing caffeine.
- Spraying water onto your skin or placing a damp cloth on the back of your neck will help you keep cool.
- In hot weather, keep an eye on people who are elderly, ill or very young. Make sure they are able to keep cool.



## BARBECUES

- Barbecues must be operated/supervised by a responsible adult.
- Make sure your barbecue is on a flat site, well away from a shed, trees or shrubs.
- Never leave the barbecue unattended.
- Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby for emergencies.
- Keep children, games and pets well away from the cooking area.
- Only use recognised fire lighters or starter fuel on cold coals – never use petrol.
- Ensure the barbecue is cool before attempting to move it.



## CAMP FIRES

- Camp fires must be started/supervised by a responsible adult.
- Only light a camp fire in specially designated areas/sites.
- Choose a clear area away from trees and bushes.
- Ensure there are no overhanging branches.
- Use a fire ring if provided. If not, make one with stones/rocks. This will help contain the ash.
- Keep gathered fire wood away from the area.

\*Never play with fire or start fires in fields or wooded areas for fun. Fire can get out of control very easily and spread extremely quickly.

Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

Our Values: Respect, Accountability, Openness and Involvement



# prefecttraining



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/photos2015/prefect-training-sessions>

Wednesday 1 July was a momentous day for Year 10 students. It began with assembly where the senior student team and prefects were presented with their badges and ties by Mr Thompson. This was then followed by a full day of prefect training with a whole host of guest speakers.

The first session was delivered by Mr Townsend, Deputy Headteacher, Felsted School where a workshop was delivered based on good leadership.

Mr Lee, Vice Principal, Maltings Academy then followed by delivering a session on Discipline with Dignity which even included students making their own jam sandwiches! Our very own Mrs Kelly then coached students on how to be good public speakers with 25 handy tips. Following on from this were some practical team building activities that were organised by some sixth form students, which culminated in the creation of the 'perfect prefect' in the afternoon.





Students thoroughly enjoyed the activities that they participated in. Chenise Smith, 10B, said 'Today has been really useful in terms of

helping us to bond as a team and I am now equipped with the skills required to perform my prefect duties.'

Many thanks to Mrs Townsend for organising the day's events.

*Mrs H Sutton,  
Year Leader - Year 10*

# housepoints

Notley's house competition runs across the entire academic year.

Students are continuing to earn a good number of housepoints which are achieved from a wide range of activities, events and achievements including merits and commendations,

attendance, Impact Days, curriculum competitions, PE inter-form activities and, in the Summer term, Sports Day.

The totals for June were :  
Blackwater (NOT) 1280  
Chelmer (LEY) 1740  
Colne (HSB) 1510

The current running totals are:  
Blackwater (NOT) 13175  
Chelmer (LEY) 12615  
Colne (HSB) 12565

Winners to be announced in the final assembly on the last day of term.

## Housepoints

### Monthly Totals

June 2015



### Running Totals

2014-2015



# universityvisit

Year 9 students with  
Mr R Newman visit  
the University of  
Cambridge



Photo: Cimglee (Own work) CC BY-SA  
3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Our visit to the University of Cambridge was a great opportunity to find out more information about university life and what advantages it can bring you.

After a morning participating in sessions led by students and admissions staff, and learning about Russell Group universities, we visited the magnificent Trinity College for lunch and then spent the afternoon punting on the River Cam finding out about the

history of the university and seeing the various colleges. It was a fun, relaxing end to the day.

The trip was informative, interesting and made me consider going to a university more. We would like to thank Mrs Robb for organising the visit, and Mr R Newman for accompanying us on the day.

Megan Ranger-Green 9B

# staff training

On 25 June our staff participated in the culmination of this year's staff training programme. Staff have been working in groups, focusing on a particular area of teaching and learning of their choice. Areas staff have focused on include using mathematical skills and literacy across the curriculum, using questioning techniques to support student learning, differentiating learning materials to support students with different ability profiles and considering how to motivate boys with their learning.

At the after-school event on 25 June, staff had the opportunity to share their work, and discuss next steps that they plan to take in our 'Action Research Marketplace'. Action Research requires staff to try out new teaching and learning ideas with their classes, and then review how successful these new strategies have been.

We have been working with other schools, and the University of Cambridge to support this work during the year. Feedback from visitors to our training event included:

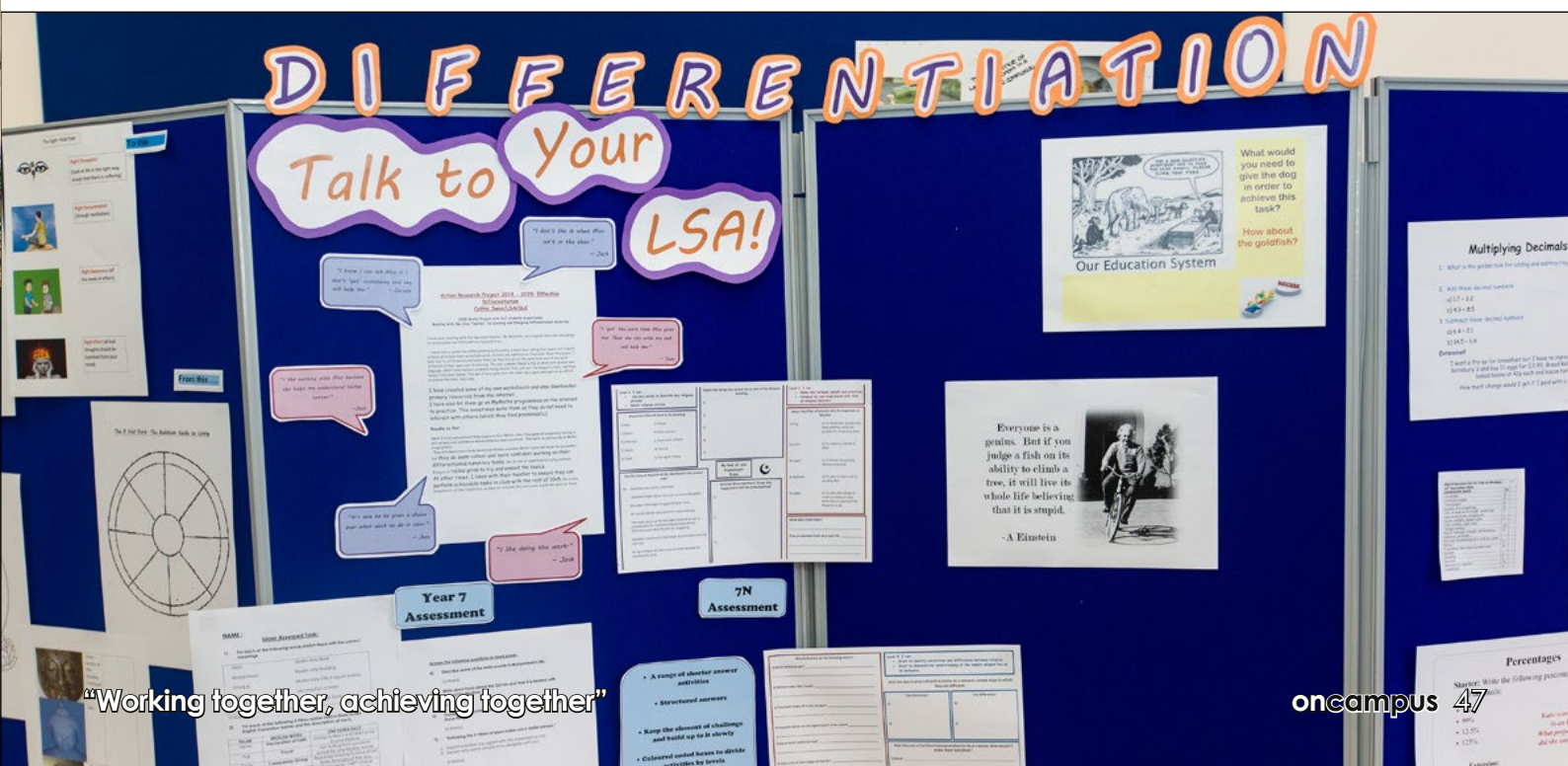
*"I was particularly impressed with the way all teachers had bought into the concept of Action Research ... I was struck by the research readings underpinning projects, the quality and diversity of the presentations and materials created as part of the projects, and the range and breadth of student feedback. As a visitor to the school the Research Marketplace gave a vibrant and thought-provoking insight into teaching and learning at Notley".*

*"Many congratulations to Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form for a really excellent research*



*evening. Just about everyone in the school took part and the research teams produced not only excellent resources to share with all colleagues but genuinely valuable research insights into a wide variety of themes ... A five star event".*

*Mr R Newman, Senior Deputy Headteacher*



*"Working together, achieving together"*

# noticeboard



## Diary Dates

Here are a few diary items to note. For a full list of diary events please visit the online campus calendar at

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/school-calendar>

### Monday 13 July

Enrichment Trip to Berlin (13 – 16 July)

Year 9 and 10 PE Trip (Essex County Cricket Ground, Chelmsford)

### Wednesday 15 July

Braintree's Got Talent 7.30pm - 10pm

### Friday 17 July

End of Term Assemblies 11.10am - 12.45pm

School finishes at 1pm

### Monday 3 – Friday 7 & Monday 10 – Friday 14 August

Summer School

### Thursday 13 August

Enrolment Year 13

AS/A2 Results Day 8.30am – 4.30pm

### Thursday 20 August

GCSE Results Day

BSF New Student Enrolment Day 9am – 3.15pm

### Thursday 3 September

Staff Training Day (No Students)

Year 12 Induction Evening for New Parents/ Carers 7pm – 8pm

### Friday 4 September

Week B

Autumn Term begins for Years 7 and 12 Students Only

Year 12: First Day Induction 8.40am - 1.30pm

### Monday 7 September

Week A

Autumn Term begins for Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 Students

### Thursday 10 September

Welcome to Year 10 Meeting for Parents/Carers 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Welcome to Year 11 Meeting for Parents/Carers 7pm – 8pm

## 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.**

## Contact the Magazine

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 magazine, you can email it directly to the editor at:

[lisa.perkins@notleyhigh.com](mailto:lisa.perkins@notleyhigh.com)

The deadline for submission is the Thursday prior to publication.

# term dates



## Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form School Term and Holiday Dates Academic Year 2015-2016

September 2015							October 2015							November 2015							December 2015						
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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7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
28	29	30												16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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# parentview

In October 2011 Ofsted launched Parent View, which is a facility for parents/carers to give their views about their child's school.

Parent View allows parents/carers to give their views about their child's school at any time of the year. It features 12 questions that cover a range of issues important to parents/carers, such as how well the school deals with bullying, the quality of teaching, whether the level of home learning given is appropriate and a final question of whether or not a parent would recommend the school. Once a small number of surveys are completed, the results for the school are visible in Parent View although individual responses are not.

If you are a parent/ carer you simply need your email address and a password to register on the Parent View website at: <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Once your account has been activated it only takes a few minutes to rate your child's school against the 12 questions.

Thank you for taking the time to give feedback about Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form.



## socialmedialinks

Below are the official social media sites for Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form. Any other social media sites are not related to the school.

### Notley High School

#### Facebook:

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

#### Twitter:

- Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form
- Notley High School PE Department
- Notley High School English Department
- Notley High School Philosophy, Ethics & Religion Department
- Geography at Notley High & Braintree Sixth Form
- Notley CPD
- Notley IT Support

### Braintree Sixth Form

#### Facebook:

- Braintree Sixth Form Students
- Braintree Sixth Form Admissions
- Braintree Sixth Form Art Department
- Braintree Sixth Form Psychology Department
- Braintree Sixth Form Sociology Department
- Geography at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

#### Twitter:

- Braintree Sixth Form Students
- Braintree Sixth Form Biology Department
- Braintree Sixth Form PE Department
- Braintree Arts Theatre
- Geography at Notley High & Braintree Sixth Form

# schoolwebsite

This has lots of key information about many aspects of school life. We would encourage all parents and carers to use our website regularly to keep up-to-date with all that is happening at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form.

We also have school Facebook and Twitter feeds for keeping up-to-date with information. These can be easily reached from our homepage or via the appropriate apps on smartphones.

The new academic year will see an increasing use of social media by the school so watch this space...

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form website. At the top left is the school's logo, 'NHS Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form'. To the right are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, RSS, and Email, along with a search bar and icons for 'Notley High School' and 'Braintree Arts Theatre'. A navigation menu below the header includes links for Home, News, Information, Curriculum, School Life, Teaching & Learning, CPD, Vacancies, and Contact.

The main content area features a large image of a young man in a suit, Tom Bickers, with the headline 'Tom Meets the Prime Minister'. Below the image, it states: 'On Wednesday 17 June, Thomas Bickers went to the Houses of Parliament and had the opportunity to play tennis in a competition and to meet the Prime Minister. read more ...'. To the left of this image is a sidebar with a list of news items, including 'Handbook for Parents and Carers 2015-2016 Now Available', 'Learning Matters Newsletter - Issue 14', 'Remembering the Victims of the Tunisia Terror Attack', 'Year 6 Transition Newsletter', 'Tom Meets the Prime Minister' (highlighted), 'School Meals: Price Increase', 'Sam Sets a New Lap Record', and 'Legal Highs or New/Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)'.

Below the main content area are four columns of quick links and information:

- Quick Links:** Admissions Policy, Exam Results, Find the School, Handbook for Parents and Carers, Ofsted Report, Parent View, Pupil Premium, School Governance, Term Dates, Welcome from the Head, and a 'Translate our site' section with a language selection dropdown.
- Latest Newsletter:** Features the 'oncampus' newsletter cover with the headline 'A Winning Hand' and 'New Senior Student Team'. A link 'View previous newsletters' is provided below.
- Latest Letters Home:** Lists several letters from June: School Meals: Price Increase, GCSE Statistics Trip Letter, Year 11 GCSE Poetry Live Letter, Final Letter re Activity Days 2015, GCSE Statistics Trip Letter, Prefects' Training Letter, PE Option 2015 - 2017 Letter, and Year 8 - Mersea Residential Trip Presentation Slides. A link 'View previous letters' is provided at the bottom.
- Home Learning:** Shows a photo of two students holding a 'Week A' sign. Below are icons for 'SMHW Show My Homework' and 'Home Learning Timetables'.

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

"Working together, achieving together"

oncampus 51

# headboyheadgirlreport

As our first term serving as Head Girl and Head Boy is coming to an end, we have an enormous amount to write about after a very busy month for all years.

Year 10 students were given their first insight into working life with a variety of placements including working at a primary school, a news agency and a veterinary practice. We all thoroughly enjoyed this glimpse into the future but also greatly welcomed the weekend of rest that followed.

Come Monday, we found ourselves diligently working our way through a week of internal exams. Though it was an incredibly tough five days, it showed us the hard work we will need to put in between now and the end of next year to achieve the best results we can.

Needless to say, it was an eye-opening fortnight for Year 10.

After this build up of excitement, the Year 10 students found their next challenge awaited. This challenge, although daunting, would come to be

a truly wonderful experience. DofE - better known as Duke of Edinburgh - involved small teams of students making their way through the hazardous countryside, in which they came face to face with their biggest fears, such as undependable bridges, dubious creatures and worst of all, a serious lack of wifi. However everyone made it through with minimal injuries (aside from a few blisters) and some accomplished memories.

Don't be too concerned though, Year 10 students weren't the only ones having fun. Year 7 up to Year 9 took part in an activities week, giving students opportunities to enrich themselves with different unique experiences and trips.

A huge variety of up to sixty trips were on offer to these lucky individuals and they made the most of



every single one, ranging from a residential sailing trip to Weymouth to a languages trip to France, and that's only the Year 7 students! Year 8 went on an activities trip to Mersea Island and Year 9 students had the chance to take part in a 'back to nature' Bushcraft trip. There were also several activities being held in the actual school, including African drumming and Chinese activities in which the students learnt about different cultures.

All in all, it has been both an exciting and exhausting term. We hope that next year is filled with just as many opportunities and look forward to supporting the students through them.

Thank you.

*Evie Stoneman and Samuel Marshall,  
Head Girl and Head Boy*

## IB Results



Year 13 International Baccalaureate Diploma students at Braintree Sixth Form are celebrating an excellent set of results, with an average point score of 30 exceeding international averages. Top performer Kirsty Reynolds achieved an impressive 36 points and gained a place at Royal Holloway to study psychology. With IB results coming out 6 weeks before A level results, IB students are definitely ahead of the university placement game. Italian national Francesca Perin with her Diploma secured, is now planning to apply to the prestigious University of Groningen in the Netherlands, which offers many of its courses in English.

Year 12 IB students meanwhile are enjoying their residential in the sunshine of Cevennes, southern France where they are undertaking projects as part of their science coursework, helping with local community projects

and taking time out to do some white water rafting.

BSF gained accreditation as an IB World School in 2008 and we have increasingly seen how the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme really benefits our students. The IB was developed over 48 years ago as a worldwide qualification which offers a broad base of academic courses, with consistent standards and structure, alongside the opportunity to develop wider personal skills and competencies. It is run by the IBO (International Baccalaureate Organisation) with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Maryland, USA and The Hague, Netherlands. See the IB website: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org). There are over 3,500 schools and colleges in 144 countries accredited to run IB programmes. For further information or details about enrolling on the IB Diploma in Year 12 contact [kate.stubbs@braintreesixthform.com](mailto:kate.stubbs@braintreesixthform.com)





## Speakers for Schools Talk – Lead Director of BBC News

“Bombard them with emails, knock down their doors” that is what Richard Murrell, Director of World News at the BBC says is needed to get a foot in the door of the competitive media industry. Over sixty students from Years 10, 12 and 13 were treated to a varied talk that ranged from a historical perspective of the BBC to a whistle-stop tour of Richard’s diverse career, and on to future challenges and developments in the world of media and journalism.

Students gained an insight into the differing job roles the industry has to offer and the changing landscape of the media industry,

which is coming to terms with the multiplicity of ways people now consume news and which is seeing a convergence of different formats and different technologies. It was clear from Richard’s talk that “soft skills” such as resilience, communication, creativity, the ability to deal with pressure, organisation, team working and above all an enthusiasm and a love of the work you do are all vital in order to succeed in this, and many other fields. Students left with a different perspective on how to develop their own skills and pursue their career aspirations.



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/photos2015/richard-murrell-bbc-news-director>



## Dance Choreography Showcase Raises Money for Amnesty International

Congratulations to IB students Meaghan Franklin, Sophie Kulik, Laura Humphrey, Molly Payne and Samantha Mallorie who raised £337 for Amnesty International. The students undertook the project as part of their Creativity, Action and Service (CAS).



## Life Drawing Workshop

As Year 12 students returned to art classes, they started their comparative studies topic on the human form with a life drawing workshop led by tutor Janet Reid.

The intensive five hours of drawing in a variety of media really helped the students progress quickly and gain confidence.



## UCAS Launch Day

**In 2014, 98% of our higher education applicants secured university places, 84% secured their first choice.**

Year 12 students began their university application process with a Higher Education Launch Day. Interactive workshop sessions run by BSF staff, and staff from the University of Essex and Anglia Ruskin University included student finance, writing a personal statement and student life.

In addition to this, the Anglia Ruskin Roadshow bus was on site, allowing students to access

a range of relevant resources and hosted by Anglia Ruskin's ambassador and former BSF student Thea Maragkakis (currently studying a BA in Childhood Studies). Thea was delighted to return to BSF for the day and share her experience with the new cohort of students. The bus had also been available for parents/carers on the previous day.



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## Midsummer Arts Festival

**Creative industries are now worth £8 million an hour to the UK economy.** Official statistics show that the UK's creative industries, which includes the film, television and music industries, generate over £71.4 billion per year and account for over 1.7 million jobs. The UK creative industries are renowned across the globe driving growth, investment and tourism. (Dept for Culture, Media & Sport, Jan 2014, [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).)

Small wonder then that BSF has so many students progressing on to higher education courses in areas such as Architecture, drama and theatre, fashion,

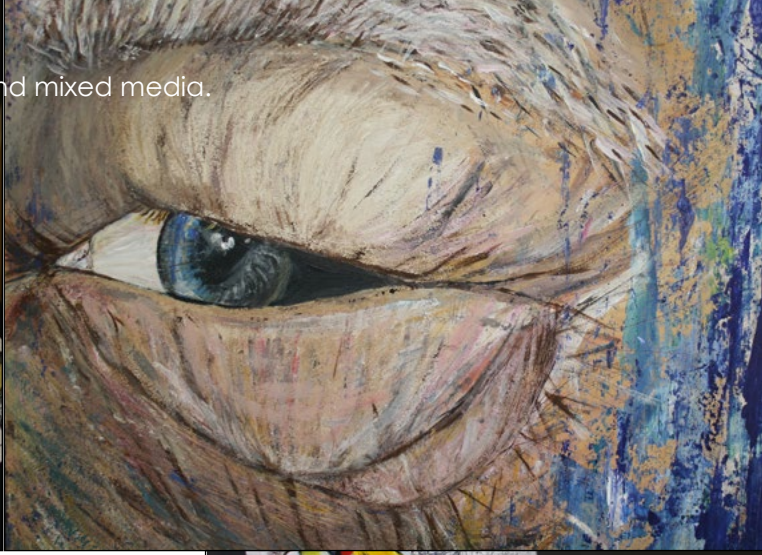
fine art, furniture design and music technology. The Midsummer Arts Festival provided an excellent opportunity for them to showcase their skill and creativity with work from A level art, drama, music, music technology, product design and textiles. The event proved very popular with many visitors commenting on the high quality of the work.

James Cook, Year 13 (left), studied both A level product design and art. He plans to become an architect. His work featured a chair created from recycled car parts and detailed dioramas of buildings along the Thames and Ely Cathedral.

Ross Smith's (below), A level product design portfolio, has gained him a university offer to study furniture design.

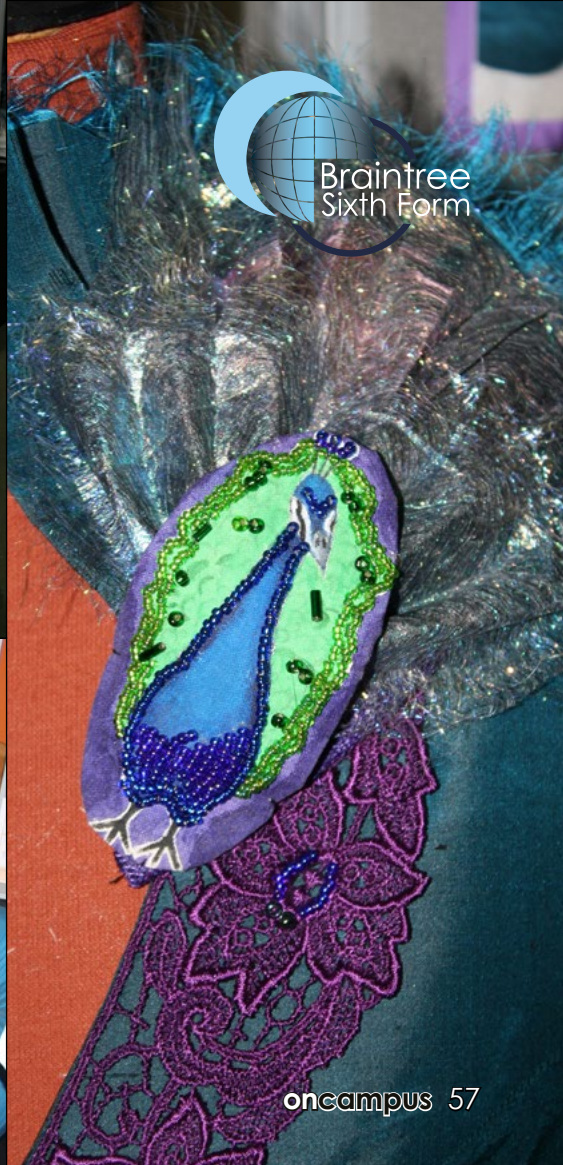


AS & A2 Art students demonstrated their skills in painting and mixed media.



A level textiles students took part in a fashion show to model their designs (left). Jasmine Dawson's work so impressed the admissions staff on the handembroidery for fashion, interiors and textile art course at University College, London that she was made an unconditional offer.

Musical entertainment was provided by AS music and music technology students and George Orton and Georgia Willis performed highly skilful monologues from their AS drama course.



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## Visit to the British Museum

AS art students visited the British Museum's "Defining Beauty" Exhibition as part of their current human form project. They were able to see the stunning architecture of the museum itself and the interior courtyard designed by Norman Forster - as seen in film in "Night at the Museum II". In the exhibition they were able to study first-hand some of the finest Greek and Roman sculptures which have amazingly survived for over 2,000 years.

## Applicant Induction Day

"A very positive experience – can't wait until September" – "I liked the whole day and it gave me a good insight into what the sixth form is like", "A very well organised and helpful day, the staff were very welcoming"...

Prospective students clearly enjoyed the BSF Induction day on 25 June and found the workshops very helpful in giving them greater understanding and insight into their chosen subjects. Many thanks to all those KS5 staff who ran the sessions and supported with the organisation of the day. We look forward to seeing our applicants at enrolment following their GCSE results on 20 August.





## Leavers' Event

Year 13 enjoyed an excellent Leavers' Event held at Fennes Estate on Monday 29 June. The student organising committee (Bethany Baker, Louise Lazell, Saskia Woolgrove, Lucy McNair) and Ms Brewis-Shephard ensured that everything was perfect and even the sun shone.



## Hertfordshire University Study Skills Day

On Wednesday 1 July, students enjoyed a study day at Hertfordshire University.

The day gave students valuable input on critical thinking, plagiarism and referencing in the morning session delivered by Doctor Ian Herrington, followed in the afternoon by students accessing the university's considerable resource bank, including online journals generally unavailable in the public domain.

## Higher Education Fair

On Tuesday 30 June Year 12 students attended the UCAS Higher Education Fair hosted by Anglia Ruskin University. It was a great opportunity for students to meet and talk with university staff, and come away with lots of free goodies!



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# braintreeartstheatre

The acclaimed New York comic now based in the UK returns.

Pronounced "Shay-fer", Lewis Schaffer combines the comedy genes of Joan Rivers and Jackie Mason with the relevance of the freshest British comedians.

Lewis Schaffer's free-wheeling style, often described as "jazzy", makes every show different and thrilling. Fasten your seat belts. Lewis Schaffer was the house compere of the Comedy Cellar and the Boston Comedy Club in New York. In London, Lewis Schaffer has the longest-running residency at the prestigious Leicester Square Theatre; he is the regular MC of Peter Cook's Establishment Club; and is the star of Nunhead American Radio on Resonance FM London.

Recommended by the Times, The Guardian, The Independent and many other publications and websites.

"Disconcertingly terrific" Bruce Dessau of the Evening Standard.

"An hilarious, cathartic, exhilaratingly appalling experience" The Scotsman.

"Who better to give it to us straight than this New Yoiker?" The Independent.

Free Admission. A voluntary collection will be made at the end of the show.

(50p Booking Fee applies to both box office and websales, further charges for postage and card payment will be charged as standard)

**Lewis Schaffer is  
Free until Famous**

**2 October 8pm**

**Tickets: 50p**

## Funhouse Comedy

Join us for our new monthly comedy night. Your evening comes jam packed with a host and 3 comedians.

Your Headliners will be:

**July - Christian Reilly**

**September - Carey Marx**

**October - Brian Higgins**

**November - Junior Simpson**

**December - Vince Atta**

*"Working together, achieving together"*



## The Legend

When Buddy Holly died in a plane crash in 1959 aged just 22 he was already a star... today he is a legend!

Starring Spencer J as Buddy Holly and backed by the superb Copycat Crickets, this exciting, high-energy show features all the classic hits - That'll Be the Day, Peggy Sue, Heartbeat, Maybe Baby, True Love Ways, Oh Boy, Not Fade Away, Everyday, Rave On, Raining In My Heart.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT BUDDY is guaranteed to have the whole audience Rockin' and Boppin' in the aisles..."the best 'Buddy' party in town"!

**I Can't Believe It's Not Buddy**

**23 October**

**7.30pm**

**Tickets: £16, conc £14**

# braintree arts theatre

Essex's Newest Community Theatre

- Live Music
- Drama
- Cabaret
- Comedy
- Dance
- Children's Theatre

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**Box Office 01376 556 354**

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Essex CM7 1WY**

**Facebook:** braintreeartstheatre  
**Twitter:** @BATheatre

