

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form's Magazine

oncampus

Issue 16
March 2016

Ski Trip

Poland Trip

Jacob Sam-La Rose

Notley's Got Talent

View from the Big Chair

...and much
much more

Speak Out Challenge

Notley has a Dream Today...





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"Counterfeit Quo - They sound FANTASTIC"
talkSPORT Radio

"...from the very first chord, I think it's fair to say they went down an absolute storm..(the audience) were not just happy, they were ECSTATIC."
Alan Burrige, KYPS

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headlines

Dear Parents/Carers

A small number of parents/carers have contacted us to express concerns about a “high turnover” of teaching staff, and the impact that this might have on their child’s educational success. I should like to provide some context to the staffing situation locally and nationally, and to explain what we are doing to ensure that there is no negative impact for the students of Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form.

Firstly I would like to state that the turnover of staff is not, in fact, high at all. The total number of staff employed by the school is nearly 300, of whom about 120 are teachers. In any given year some of these will:

- Retire
- Gain promotion
- Move to another part of the country for personal/family reasons
- Take maternity leave
- Become seriously ill

Teacher contracts allow for movement between schools or retirement at the start/end of any school term, so some of the first three can happen at Christmas or Easter. Notice periods mean that it can be impossible to replace a member of staff until the start of the term after the one in which they leave. Obviously for the latter two reasons replacement staff can only be employed on a temporary basis. All schools therefore struggle to find suitably qualified, experienced and good quality staff to cope with these short term gaps. What is for Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, and in my experience, unprecedented is that we currently have ten members of staff on maternity leave, and this has, as you might imagine, created a very challenging situation. Additionally we have five members of staff who are experiencing extremely serious health conditions.

It has been widely reported in the press that there is also a national shortage of teachers. The position is at its very worst for recruitment in North Essex and South Kent. Given this context we have been very fortunate to have been able to find a number of staff who have been able to support us through what is a very difficult time. We recognise that sometimes the temporary staff have not been of the quality that we would expect from teachers of the children at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, and where necessary have been rigorous in addressing this – with the result that some have chosen to move on.

Very few of the 1500 students here are affected by this, but I recognise and have great sympathy for



David Conway, Headteacher

the concerns that some of you have raised, and understand that it is no consolation that this affects very few children in school when two or more of your own children are affected.

The most important consideration that has been expressed by parents/carers is what we, the school, are doing to remedy this situation. Obviously, given the explanation above about notice periods and lead in times for recruitment, a very short-term solution is difficult but we have taken on a range of staff to support us, and where appropriate and possible provided additional tuition to students who might have been affected to ensure that they do not fall too far behind. Our main strategy to deal with this, however, is a long-term one to make sure that we do not find ourselves in this position again. To this end we have over-recruited staff for the next academic year. Across the school this means that in any area if a member of staff, or even two, should leave, be taken ill, or start maternity leave we will still have enough staff within school to re-organise timetables and have our students taught by Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form staff.

I hope that you are now able to understand the issues with which we are dealing, are able to bear with us whilst we resolve the situation, and will continue to give us the support that is the hallmark of relationships between home and school at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, so that jointly we can help all of the young people here to develop their full potential.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Conway, Headteacher

The Headteacher's Book

Laura Hartwell	Charlotte Conway
Ella Webb	Amy George
Lily Amos	Natalie Elmes
Alexandra Perrin	Emily Harbottle
Katie Fagg	Rhiannon Scudder
Grace Turner	Emily Adcock
Ellie McNaughton	Bobby Springer-Porter
Mollie McGowan	Samuel Ball
Tiana Roberts	

Staff Changes

The following staff are leaving us at the end of term. We thank them for their commitment and contribution to the school and wish them every success for the future:-

Mrs Farquhar joined us as an LSA in 2002 and was promoted to a senior LSA in 2004.

Mrs Pillai has been employed as an IT teacher since September 2006.

Mrs Ross has been employed as an English teacher since September 2012.

Mr Allen joined Braintree Arts Theatre as a theatre technician apprentice in March 2011 and has recently worked in the box office and as a theatre technician.

Mr Hearn joined Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form as an IT technician apprentice in August 2012 and will be taking up a new role at The Ramsey Academy, Halstead, as an IT technician.

Miss Fadare has taught mathematics since July 2015.



Easter Break

We wish all students and families a very pleasant Easter break.

All students return to school on
Monday 11 April – Week B

Monday
11 April 2016

notley's got talent

*Now that's magic!
Oliver Lipscombe
astounds the judges*

Boot Camp

On 9 March 2016, the senior prefects held an inter-house talent show for all years to participate in. Across the week starting 29 February, students auditioned to be in the talent show for their house captains. The auditions included a variety of acts which involved singing, dancing, comedy, magic, karate, drama, gymnastics, football skills and musical performances.

After a good conversation between senior prefects the house captains managed to narrow it down from 30 to just 9 acts (3 from each house).



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/2016/notley-s-got-talent-2016>



Harry Egeling



Georgia Thomas and
Kayleigh Cutmore



Amy-Rose Ismael

First of all was Harry Egeling 11T, who played his guitar and sang one of his own personal songs called 'A Million Stories'. Secondly, Amy-Rose Ismael 7B sang a song called 'One Call Away' by Charlie Puth. We then had Oliver Lipscombe 7L who amazed the judges with his magic but not as much as Mrs Shipton amazing the audience with her invisible card shuffling skills. After we had Lexie Charlery-Warner 8T who sang 'All of Me' by John Legend.

Then we had a lovely duo from Matthew Brooks 7L, on the guitar and Charlotte Conway 7L singing 'Seven Years'. Next to perform was Luke Bates 7S who sang 'Writing's on The Wall' by Sam Smith. Then we had an extraordinary combination of singing, karate and gymnastics from Paige Mellor, Grace Connelly and Ella Gilfillan all in 7E. We had 'Beautiful' played by Amy Howard 7B on the piano and to end the evening, we had an engaging drama performance from Georgia Thomas and Kayleigh Cutmore showing an aspect of bullying.



Paige Mellor,
Grace Connelly and Ella Gilfillan



Amy Howard



Final Results

1st place – Oliver Lipscombe
(Chelmer)

2nd place – Matthew Brooks and
Charlotte Conway (Chelmer)

3rd place – Amy-Rose Ismael (Colne)



Luke Bates

All acts performed to the best of their ability and all did very well despite the nerves and the event was a huge success as many peers and teachers came to support their friends and students. The show was presented by the excellent duo of Dexan Charlery-Warner and Myles Peacham and was judged by Mrs Sutton and Mrs Shipton and former Head Boy and Head Girl, Scarlett Perrin and Adam Grimwood.

A huge thank you to all senior prefects who helped organise the talent show, especially Millie Fowler, Chloe Elms, Verity Forster, Megan Amos, Kayli Haydon, Noreen Mukahiwa, Dexan Charlery-Warner, Myles Peacham, Lydia Butler and Josh Nicoll for his expert lighting and music skills.

Millie Fowler 11T

I need a volunteer from the audience



Lexie Charlery-Warner

“Working together, achieving together”

SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE

Read everyday 

Compliment 

Embrace Change 

Forgive others 

Talk about ideas 

Continuously learn 

Accept responsibility for their failures 

Have a sense of gratitude 

Set goals and develop life plans 

UNSUCCESSFUL PEOPLE

Watch TV everyday 

Criticise 

Fear Change 

Hold a grudge 

Talk about people 

Think they know it all 

Blame others for their failures 

Have a sense of entitlement 

Never set goals 



museum of childhood



Photos: Staff on Trip

On Thursday 25 February 2016, this year's cohort of Literacy Leaders visited the Museum of Childhood. Students had the chance to explore the museum and visit their latest exhibition, 'On Their Own: Britain's Child Migrants'.

Students also participated in a creative writing workshop that will support their completion of their award later on in the year.

Mrs H Sutton, Literacy Co-ordinator



headboyheadgirlreport



Like every term at Notley, it seems as if it's flown by, however we decided that it would be a pleasant change to cover our journey through the years at Notley as we sadly don't have much time left. The time we spent here has been a roller coaster of exciting, new experiences and amazing, new opportunities.

Evie: Year 7 is a big year. Transitioning from a school a fraction of the size of Notley, parting with friends you've spent what feels like your whole life with and entering a new and completely different environment is a big step. But it also means gaining an enormous number of opportunities, the chance to meet new people with different ideals and participate in exciting, foreign ventures. What I remember most from Year 7 was my overwhelming desire to be a part of school life as much as possible. I attended a different lunchtime sports club every day of the week as well as auditioning for the musical *We Will Rock You* and comfortably accepting a place in the chorus, certain that one day I'd be as confident

and self-assured as the actors in the years above me. The memories and friendships I made that year formed the foundation for the rest of my high school life and I don't regret a single one of my 11 year old self's choices. Unless we're counting that horrific pink headband I wore almost everyday, in which case, perhaps just one regret...

Sam: Year 8 was an interesting year for me to say the least. I joined Notley this year after attending another school in the local area. To say I was nervous would be a huge understatement. I don't think I will ever forget that first day, strolling through the busy corridors in serious apprehension as to what may happen next, until I was saved by one of my old friends from primary school, who promptly walked me and my oversized blazer to my first lesson; at this point everything seemed to be going my way, until I realised that the classroom I was sitting in in fact wasn't my class at all and that I had read him the wrong day off of my timetable, possibly not my finest moment. However I would later discover that

everyone at Notley was more than happy to show me around and within days I had made many friends (of which I am still friends with today) and that almost overnight, Notley would feel like a home away from home.

Evie: On to Year 9, slap bang in the middle of being the young ones and the old ones. It is a fantastic year for taking in all that Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form has to offer. I made countless memories with such a vast range of people during this year and I hope they remember it all as vividly as I do. Fast forward towards the end of the year and things start to get serious, what with option choices and sitting big exams in the Sports Hall. After choosing my subjects, I know I was eager to start focusing on the lessons I loved and this motivated me to work even harder to bring about the end of the year and start the next stage of my life.

Sam: Year 10 was the year that my dreams would come true, as well as many of my nightmares, by that I mean my GCSE courses. Please don't get me wrong, I enjoy the strong majority of my courses and find them extremely interesting, however being the mischievous 15 year old boy that I was, the thought of buckling down and starting my GCSE course (aka, growing up) was quite possibly the scariest, most off-putting thought I could imagine. However, after a few 'you need to grow up' speeches from my Mum I was more than ready to take on the year head first and make the most of it. These special talks that I would have with my parents obviously started to sink in, as my grades and general work shot up as well as my ambitions, of which lead to the proudest moment of my life, running for Head Boy. At first I wasn't too sure I could do it, however after putting in a lot of thought and effort I was ready - then came the campaign. Everything was going to plan, I had written a high quality letter, made a beautiful poster (if I do say so myself) and had my speech 'down to a T', however what came next could only be described as my Nan would say (who hasn't quite mastered the skill known commonly as slang) 'an epic fail'. When presenting my final speech in front of my year I seemed to have let my nerves get the better of me, however that's not something I particularly want to re-live. The day had come to find out who had achieved the title of Head Boy, I sat myself in the far corner, away from any unsuspecting eyes that could possibly see me weep into my blazer as my name wasn't announced. However to my great surprise, I was chosen and I can honestly say that I don't think I've ever been as happy as that moment.

Evie: And finally we reached Year 11. It's funny how often throughout the four years prior you look to a Year 11 student and think "I can't wait until that's me - until I'm ruling the school!" without realising that in no time at all you'll be sitting your GCSEs and dreaming

of those breezy days, free of responsibility and the pressure of exams. That being said, this past year has definitely been my favourite. I have had the chance to achieve a large number of amazing things. But you have still yet to experience it all and I can hardly contain my envy! The truth is you do feel grown up, watching a new batch of wide eyed 11 year olds wander into the school, realising how far you have come and how much you have learnt. Being the oldest in the school comes with its perks and the biggest of those is having earned the trust of teachers to look after the school and set an example for the younger years. And as Head Girl it has filled me with so much joy to stand before you all in assemblies or at my prefect post and confirm what I already knew, that the school is safe in your hands and I can leave comfortable in the knowledge that each of you will reach Year 11 and become fantastic role models for the students still climbing up the school years.

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



Evie - Year 7



Sam - Year 9

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karatechamp



Photo: Provided by Amy Joyce

Year 7 student Amy Joyce recently won gold and bronze medals at the EMTF National Karate Championships held in Cambridge. Amy, who trains with Braintree club Yong Gi Do, won a bronze medal in her forms group. In her sparring group she excelled taking the gold after a number of hard fights against strong opposition.

Well done Amy!

The Hut, in Braintree town centre, is a youth centre run by local charity Braintree Youth Project. It offers 11-18 year olds a place to go to relax, and is free. The Hut is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings for young people to drop in and spend time with their friends, play pool, watch DVDs, listen to music, play Wii and just chill out. We are based at the back of Sainsburys, near Pasha Café – just look out for the big purple sign on the building.

We also go on trips to places such as Stubbers Adventure Centre, Wales and the Lake District. This summer we will be spending a week sailing around the southern coast of England.

If you are looking for something to do that doesn't cost anything, come down - we offer toast and drinks at every session and often have hot meals at the Friday session.

advertisement



Braintree Youth Project Charity

For more information, follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/BraintreeYouthProjectCharity) or Twitter (@BYPC1), or check out our website at www.braintreeyouth.org.uk

skitrip2016

Photos: Staff and Instructors




On Friday 12 February, five members of staff, four instructors and thirty-eight (in some cases slightly nervous) students loaded up a coach and set off for a week of skiing, snow and adventure in Austria.

Despite the fact that a few students had never skied before we were up the mountain in record time (12pm first day!) and had an absolutely stunning week.

All the ski trips have been great but this one really was exceptional.

Over the next few pages you can see our intrepid band of adventurers on the slopes and read about their exploits in a special report written by Jodie "Plant, Up, Round, Down" Douse 11Y

A large group of people, including children and adults, are posing in a snowy mountain landscape. They are wearing winter clothing, including jackets, hats, and goggles. Some are sitting on the snow, while others are standing. The background shows a snow-covered slope and trees. The overall scene is festive and captures a moment of group enjoyment in a winter setting.

'I really enjoyed the skiing, it was my first time skiing on snow and I learnt so much. I loved going swimming and going to Altenmarkt in the evening'.

Holly Gordon 8N



[View the Online Photo Gallery](http://www.skinotley.co.uk/photos/austria-2016)

<http://www.skinotley.co.uk/photos/austria-2016>



Rocking the look!



My three friends and I went on the annual ski trip to Zauchensee, Austria this year. It was my first time and I had never skied before. We stayed in a small hotel near to the slopes where we ate every day at breakfast and dinner and at the ski slope restaurant for lunch. We were in rooms with our friends and the hotel also had wifi which was good. There were students from all year groups on the trip but we all skied with people of the same ability as us regardless of what year we were in. I got to know lots of new people and we all got on well together.



The Lucky Flitzer





Skiing was obviously the primary activity consuming most of our time. We skied for at least six hours every day but we also went swimming, had a quiz night and also went on the Lucky Flitzer which was a roller coaster. We also had time to look around Altenmarkt, which is a typical small Austrian town, to do some shopping.

The trip was very light hearted and a pleasure for everyone who attended especially the teachers who delegated three wally outfits daily for silly acts such as dropping ski poles off the lift!



View from the top of Zauchensee



Ski Train!

Another day, which was a personal favourite of mine, was the fancy dress day where everyone wore costumes and skied in them for the day. We got some funny looks from other skiers on the mountain but it was great fun!

It was easily the best week of my life. I didn't realise I could have such a love for a sport especially as it was many of our first attempts. This didn't matter though as the teachers and instructors were astounding in how able they were able to promote mine and many





others' progression. I had some dry slope lessons before I went which really helped and I was amazed that we all got to ski from the top of the mountain even on the first day!

It's definitely a trip worthwhile attending as it, to me, was the best school trip experience I have ever had.

I want to thank everyone who made it happen, it was truly amazing.

Jodie Douse 11Y



"Working together, achieving together"

view from the big chair



Our Head Girl and Boy interview Mr Conway for OnCampus

When we were asked to interview Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form's Headteacher, we sought the answer to just one question: who is the man behind the ties? After starting the day with this riveting conversation, we gained a small insight into Mr Conway's life, including his appreciation for the German language and culture and advice for Year 11 students sitting exams in May.

What were your first impressions of the school and have they changed?

'My first impressions of the school were that the buildings seemed to be fairly dilapidated however the people were really nice, since then my first impressions of the school haven't actually changed.'

Have you always wanted to be a Headteacher and what other aspirations did you have?

'I honestly never set out to be a Headteacher; however by sheer luck and hard work, as well as taking numerous opportunities as they arose, I have found myself in this current situation and I must say I'm extremely happy with how it turned out. You're probably aware that I spent eighteen years in the RAF so I never really thought about being a teacher, never mind a Headteacher. As for aspirations, I never really had a distinct drive to do something specific until I actually became a teacher. It was only after a few years teaching, I realised that I wanted to become a Headteacher as you're able to influence certain things that are otherwise beyond your reach.'

What did you previously teach?

'I taught A-Level German, history and English.'

Which of those was your favourite to teach?

'My favourite subject would have to be German. It's a wonderful language and I also love the culture of Germany; the landscape, geography, and the cities. I believe that Berlin is in fact the most exciting city in the world. I became interested in German through several means however interestingly the most significant would have to be through a woman, who happily I call my wife.'

What are some tips, tricks and general advice you would give to the Year 11 students taking their GCSE exams this year?

'Each student will have a particular method that suits them, however this doesn't mean they should only stick to one method. Try as many as you can and use the best suited methods to revise each of your subjects.'

Having said that, I believe that there's no substitute for actually sitting down with everything switched off and simply reading through your notes, writing them out and repeating until you know the subject inside out. When I studied for my German exam, every day I would start off with fifty new words and with this technique I learnt fifteen thousand new words in a

year. If you really want to do it, no matter how quickly you believe you are able to learn things, it's always possible to achieve outstanding grades, but only if you're willing to put the work in. It's much easier to get distracted than it was in my day since we didn't have telephones or televisions in every room. But if you want to do well - you will, it's as simple as that.'

Could you tell us about your famous tie collection?

'I worked in the RAF for eighteen years and during that time I was only ever allowed to wear a very specific plain black cotton tie - any other material or shade wasn't allowed, although I did try and get away with it a few times before quickly being caught.'

Once I left, I promised myself that I would never wear a black tie again and ever since have made sure to try and wear a variety of different colours and patterns for each day.'

How do you choose your tie for the day?

'As I'm a very organised man I always choose the tie the night before. I try to use a rotational system to work my way through the ties, wearing one and then waiting until I've worn the rest before picking out that one again, although as you can imagine this can sometimes prove difficult.'

Are you a big fan of reading? What is your favourite book?

'Because we didn't have the technology that's available now when I was younger, I used to spend a huge deal of time reading anything I could get my hands on. After learning the language, now I actually read books in both German and English.'

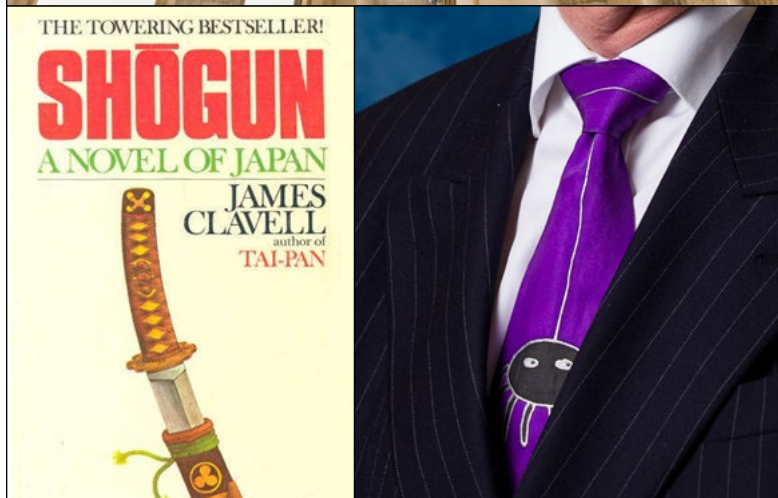
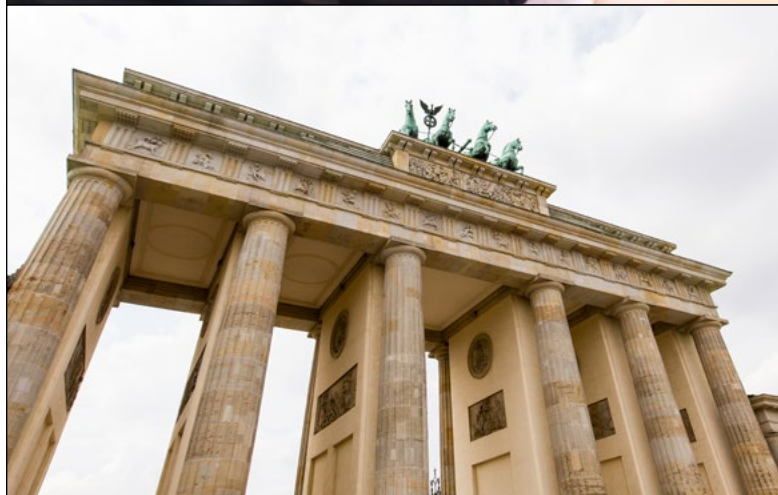
My favourite book in English would have to be 'Shōgun' which is based on the true story of an English pilot that was shipwrecked in Japan and eventually became a Samurai. It's an incredibly well written book with a truly brilliant storyline. I'm very much a fan of adventure, that's what I look out for when I pick up a book. I think my next favourite is 'The Count of Monte Cristo'. Although it's rather a large novel, it is fantastic and I would strongly recommend anyone and everyone to go out of their way to read it.'

Although nervous entering the interview, we were immediately put at ease and enjoyed our brief stint as journalists. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Conway for a very entertaining discussion on the subject of the school and your life before Notley.

We are certain that his impact on the school will mean a great deal for all students and bring about many positive changes to life here.

Evie Stoneman and Sam Marshall

"Working together, achieving together"



MID-ESSEX I T T

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lookatmetoo

When you look at me, what do you think?

A disrespectful youth, why make this link?

We are not all the same; I have my own mind,

I do not cause trouble, I am truly kind.

An age should not control us, or what others see,

I want to break the stereotype able of destroying me,

Behind my face, clear of wrinkles, is a soul full of drive,

A mind full of knowledge,
why not can I thrive?

My potential is wasted by
my generation's reputation,

I am held back by other's expectations,

Through my young exterior, I am a person at heart,

I feel, love and dream, but they are torn apart.

I may have no experience of this hateful planet,

But I, a member of a loathed generation,
can change it,

As I spend my time striving and wish to succeed,

I have done nothing wrong, don't make me plead.

I do not socially smoke on endless nights out,

Never break laws and at others do not shout,

Someone like me, what do I say?

When I am just a label day after day,

I am not the source of every hurtful crime,

I am not moody all of the time,

My grades at school, of which I do not bunk,

Are high to my peers because I never end up drunk.

At some point in the past, you too were like me,

Struggling to prove yourself, of disrespect you were not free,

I wish you no harm, so do not glare with suspicion,

Just bury your prejudice and find the love to listen.

I wish to grow up in a world less shallow,

In a place of acceptance and no worthless sorrow,

But endless joys and possibilities instead,

As one day, regardless of age, we will all be dead.

So please, I beg, look inside,

Search the place where I reside,

I am not an unsociable, lazy teenager,

But a beautiful person put under great pressure.

Society rules that I am unworthy of admiration,

For all the days that I impact this nation,

My impression may be small and, in some lives,
non-existent,

But of proving you wrong I am persistent.

I will not retire until the problem is solved,

Until our broken planet has learnt and evolved,

From the unnecessary judgement, which deep we all hold,

Into one that flourishes no matter young or old.

So look at me now, directly in the eyes,

Am I really the arrogant figure you despise?

Of the person I am, I wish you knew,

So along with my appearance, look at me too.

Rebecca Moore 9N

A Notley High PER student wrote this poem in response to a PER study of prejudice and discrimination. We thought this should be shared with a wider public!

Mrs M Townsend, Assistant Headteacher

Polandtrip

Photos: Staff on Trips

"Thou shalt not be a victim, thou shalt not be a perpetrator, but, above all, thou shalt not be a bystander."

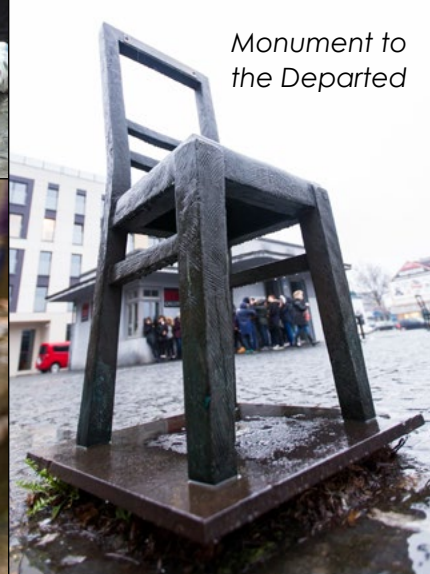
— Yehuda Bauer

On Monday 29 February 2016, 45 students and 4 members of staff left Luton Airport for Krakow, Poland, followed the next day by another 40 students and 4 members of staff. The main purpose of our trips was to visit the death camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau.



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/2016/poland-trip-2016-trip-1>



Monument to the Departed



Jewish Cemetery in Krakow



Despite the cold and rain we started off with a walking tour of the old Jewish quarters in Krakow. Amongst other things, we visited a synagogue, the Jewish cemetery as well as the film set for Steven Spielberg's Oscar winner, Schindler's List.

In the afternoon we visited the Galacia Jewish museum which is home to an internationally

acclaimed permanent photographic exhibition which commemorates the victims of the Holocaust as well as celebrates Jewish culture.

We ended the day off with dinner at a traditional Jewish restaurant where we were entertained by a talented group of Jewish musicians. Exhausted after a long and busy day we collapsed into bed.



“Working together, achieving together”

oncampus 25



The next morning we woke very early, had our breakfast on the coach, and headed off for our first stop which was Auschwitz.

It is one thing to learn about the Holocaust but it is quite another to stand in the place where it happened and bear witness. We were the first group in to the camp which was quite a surreal experience.

As we silently walked around, we tried to process the information and make sense of what we were seeing. For many, this was an impossible task at the time and it is often days, weeks or months later that many truly reflect on the enormity of what they have seen.

Birkenau was a similar experience, as we stood in the place where millions of people were imprisoned and murdered, the haunting atmosphere made the whole event uncomfortably real – the vastness of the camp, the bleak surroundings, the snow and biting cold, the reality of what happened hit home for many.

I am grateful that we were able to make this trip a reality for so many students and that we were able to pay our respects to the victims of such an atrocity. It allowed our PER students to take some of what they are taught in class and reflect on it in a more meaningful way.

Claire Guest wrote a Holocaust Memorial Day poem which ends with:

*We can't change this history;
We are here too late -
But what we can do is remember,
In our thoughts and in our ways;
Let these memories guide our actions,
And pray others do the same.*

If we can achieve this, then I think we would consider that this trip has been extremely worthwhile.

Mrs L Fouché
Subject Leader – Philosophy, Ethics and Religion (PER)



Birkenau



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/2016/poland-trip-2016-trip-2>



Photo; Jack Petchey Foundation

jackpetchey presentation evening

It was a pleasure to attend the Jack Petchey Annual Regional Schools' Presentation Evening on Wednesday 20 January 2016 in Braintree Arts Theatre. We clapped and cheered to the beat of various songs for each of the young people from the schools in the Braintree District who have received an award for their hard work, determination and achievement over the past year.

We were delighted to celebrate all nine of the previous year's winners as they collected their medallions in front of their family, peers and staff and to celebrate their achievements with them one more time. Each winner was applauded onto the stage where they were presented with a medallion in a special gift box from the local police commissioner before posing for a photograph.

The winners attending this year were:

Harvey Payne	Jamie Nutt
Lauren Fisher	Callum Dadd
Olivia Coughlan	Elizabeth Lewis
Amy Bird	Ross Dawson
Jennifer Stanhope	

Mrs Stringer was also presented with a Leadership Award for her amazing work with young people in the school, particularly with the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge, inspiring our students to grow in courage as they work on the skills needed for public speaking and in supporting Dexan Charlery-Warner as she progressed in last year's competition.

Well done again to all of students who have been awarded the Jack Petchey Award this year!

Remember; If you think you can, you can!

Mrs S Wallace
Rewards & Awards Co-ordinator



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/2016/jack-petchey-presentation-evening>

jackpetcheyaward



Emily receives her award from Mr Conway, Headteacher

Emily Heissig March 2016

Emily was nominated for the award by her peers for the amazing achievement of completing a sponsored silence for seven whole days!

Emily collected sponsorship for her period of silence and managed to raise £270 for the NSPCC. She did not talk, text or use social media throughout this time and managed to continue with all her usual activities including netball and other clubs.

We agree that this is quite an achievement, particularly when so much of what we do relies on communication with others.

Well done Emily!



"Let's get collecting."

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Active Kids is all about helping children understand the importance of leading healthier lives. The school is currently collecting these vouchers to put towards sports and cooking equipment .

Vouchers are available until 3 May.

We have a collection box in the library so let's get collecting!



speakoutchallenge



Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

On Wednesday 9 March, 25 Year 10 students were involved in the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge 2016. Students were trained by Fiona Whytehead, a public speaking specialist from the Speakers Trust. The day culminated in the 25 students delivering a short speech on a subject of their choice to their fellow course participants. We are delighted to announce that Laila Taylor-Learoyd, Jodh Basra and Joe Bennett were

announced as highly commended. In second place was Lucy Elliott, with James Knock being selected as the winner. James and Lucy will now continue to prepare their speeches for the North Essex Regional Final on 27 April.

Well done to you all.

Mrs H Sutton, Year Leader – Year 11



We started the day at 9am outside Braintree Sixth Form, many of us not really knowing what to expect. We entered the sixth form and met our instructor for the day, Fiona. She was very friendly and made us all feel more comfortable as many of us were nervous at the idea of public speaking even in front of a relatively small audience. We started the day with a few communicative games to get us prepared to think about our voice and body language. We then sat down and listened to Fiona giving us some key tips on effective public speaking.

Our first speaking task of the day was a smaller introduction to speaking to ease us into delivering something in front of an audience, we had to say our name and if there was a story about it, one thing we liked, one thing we disliked and if we had to be somewhere else where we would rather be. I said I like cats because of my ginger cat, I dislike peanut butter because it makes me sick and that I'd rather be in Sweden or a cold country because I burn very easily since I'm ginger.

After that we went to break and came back to do task two which was an improvisation activity where we were given a question we'd never heard before and were asked to answer. Mine was would I save Justin Bieber out of 6 celebrities if I could only save one, of course I argued yes. Finally we were given time before lunch to prepare our final speeches of

the day which had to be more than 1 minute long on any topic of our choice.

We came back after lunch and the atmosphere was very different as everyone was incredibly nervous but we were all very supportive. I was genuinely blown away at how serious and brilliant some of the speeches were and I couldn't say a bad word about any of them, everyone in attendance did Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form proud.

Normally there are only two highly commended speeches but the excellence of the speeches meant that we had three highly commended speeches for Notley High. Lucy Elliot came second place and has been put in as a reserve speaker for Notley at the regional finals and may even get to deliver her speech as well. It was very passionate with an excellent delivery and spoke about a great topic, equality. However I was placed first for our Notley representative for the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge with a speech about awareness for victims of male suicide and abuse. I was very honoured to win as every speech was amazing and I didn't expect to win as the maturity of some of our students was very commendable. It was a very worthwhile experience as public speaking is a very useful skill and everyone had a great time and a very enjoyable day.

James Knock 100



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/2016/jack-petchey-speak-out-challenge>

The day started outside of Braintree Sixth Form at 9am on Wednesday 9 March 2016. We were taken upstairs and introduced to Fiona, our speaking skills instructor. Immediately she had us sit down and proceeded to tell us about herself and started to teach us 'key tips' about how to be a successful, confident public speaker. She led us into a few different communicative games, to help us with our communication skills both verbally and non-verbally.

After, she had us sit back down and told us what we would be doing for the day. She told us that there would be games throughout, along with three public speaking tasks. The first was about introducing ourselves – Who were we? What were our names? The stories behind our names? Our likes and dislikes, and where we would rather be in that moment of time. I was partnered with Lucy Greenan and in turns around the classroom, pairs were picked to go up in front of the class and tell everybody what we had quickly prepared in the short two minute time span she had allocated us. When it was finally our turn, I went first and Lucy went second. I told everybody my name, the story behind it, that I liked coffee, hated situations where I didn't know what was going to happen and that I would rather be travelling around America. Shortly after, she had us play a few more games to calm the nerves around the room and sent us to break.

Once we returned she told us that we were going to be doing an impromptu 'interview question' that candidates were nearly always asked during job



interviews. Some people were asked questions such as 'would you prefer to read the book or watch the film and why?', 'if you could be anyone for a day, who would you be and why', as well as asking questions such as 'is the best mode of transport and why?' and finally questions such as 'if you had the chance to save celebrity from dying would you and why?' I was asked the latter, and was asked if I would save Beyoncé if I were given the chance.

Finally we had finished our second speeches of the day and Fiona told us that we would only have thirty minutes to prepare our final speeches of the day, that we would need to write and learn as we were not allowed to have any type of script to aid us in our performance. We were given the thirty minutes to choose a topic to write about, write our speech and learn it enough so that we remembered the main points to be able perform without help. She then sent us off to lunch and told us 'not to worry too much

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!



about the speech'. However, naturally, being a person that doesn't like situations where I don't know what is going to happen - the thought of performing a speech I didn't know – terrified me. So I made sure that I had learnt it by the end of lunch. However, this didn't go exactly as planned, as I had only learnt half of it.

By the end of lunch, walking back to the sixth form, I was becoming increasingly nervous about my speech and I could feel my anxiety starting to kick in. However, I tried desperately to remember the skills that she had previously taught us that morning and I began to calm down. We all proceeded to do our speeches, including James Knock, the winner of the competition, who wrote his speech about the issues and problems that men deal with – it was extremely motivational and powerful. I was the last person to perform my speech, besides Lucy. I had written my speech about equality and discrimination

and had tried to address the three main problems with equality in the world currently. One: equality between the sexes, two: equality with homosexuality and three: equality amongst ethnicity. I was still fairly nervous prepping myself to do the speech, and after watching the speeches of everyone else became increasingly nervous – every speech was fantastic. Every single one of them was delivered with confidence and passion and I could not think of a single fault with any of them if I tried. I knew that all the speeches were going to be so close to choose between and felt dreadful for the teachers that would have to decide who would win, as I knew it was going to be a near-impossible task. Nevertheless, I knew that my speech would last no longer than two minutes and then it would be over, and I could relax. So, I did just this. I stood up and performed my speech, constantly thinking about how I was standing, if I was moving my hands around enough, if my voice was varying in tone, pitch, enthusiasm, expression. I was certain I was going to mess up, but somehow, with the help of the confidence tips our instructor had given us, I managed to deliver it without fault and was overwhelmed with pride and confidence once I had finished.

So that was it – the day was over, the class had been taught the lesson and it was eventually time to learn who the winners were. We were told who the honourable mentions were – Laila Taylor, Joseph Bennett and Jodh Basra. We were then told that they had decided on an overall winner and a reserve.



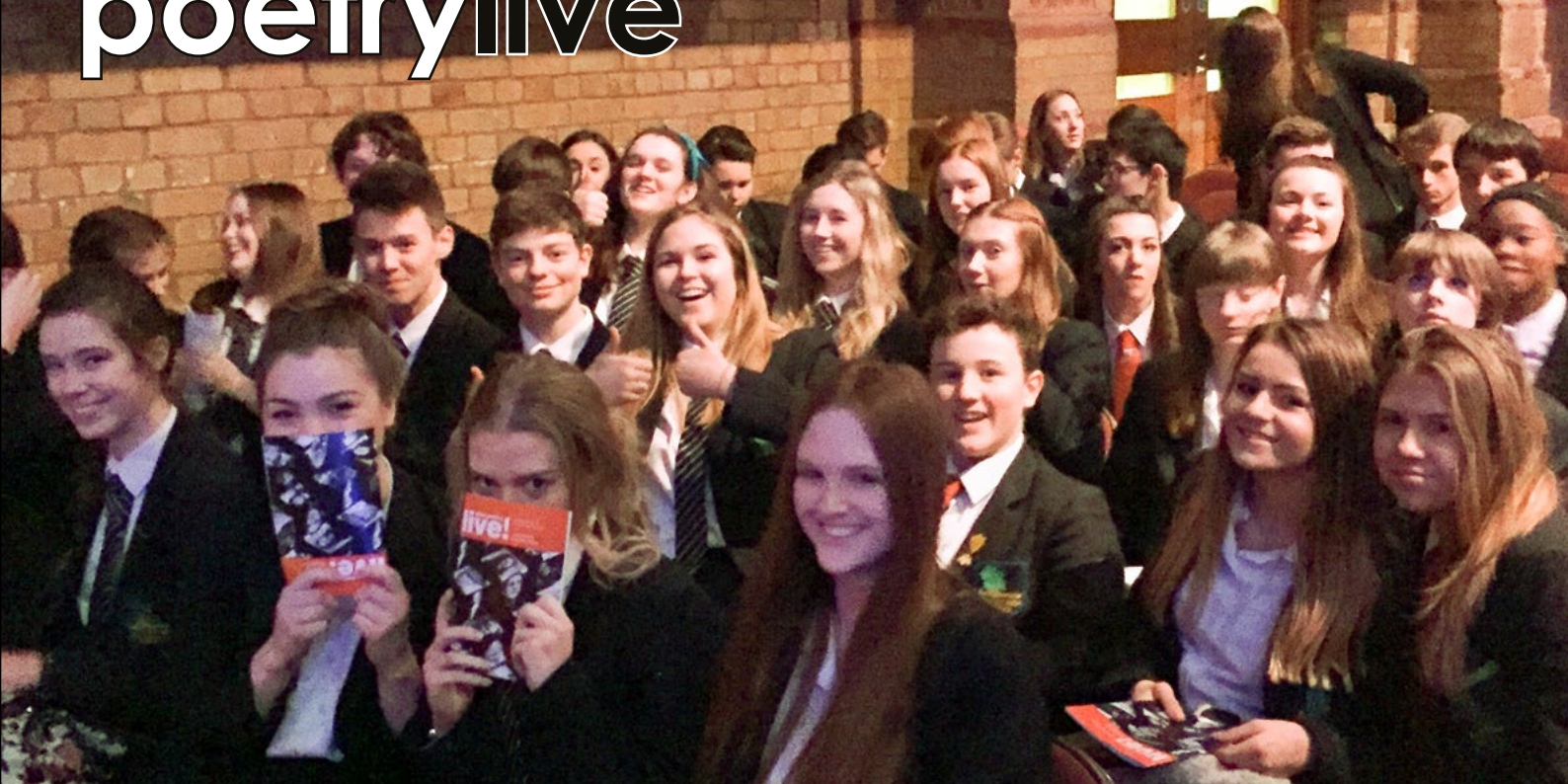
The reserve was revealed first – me. Somehow I had managed to convince Fiona and the rest of those judging that my speech and I was somehow worthy of becoming a reserve for the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge. I couldn't believe it; it was more than I wanted and more than I thought I could get.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved, the teachers, the students, Fiona (our instructor), the school, Jack Petchey and anybody else involved and say thank you for helping me with my confidence and potentially giving me the chance to go through to regionals and be able to speak towards the borough and to practise my confidence and speaking skills that I have recently learnt. I also want to congratulate everybody who participated and say that you should all be proud of the speeches you delivered, and that every single person has done Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form proud.

Fiona taught us that any type of speech should be ended with a distinct message to summarise what has just been said – so here goes. One thing that I have taken out of the speak out skills day was that there are many cons in confidence, but if you fake it, smile and try your hardest, no matter how nervous you are, things will go

Lucy Elliott 10Y





Thursday 3 March saw 40 Year 11 students visiting GCSE Poetry Live! at the Cambridge Corn Exchange. Fortunately we had front row seats! Students had the opportunity to listen to poets such as Simon Armitage who discussed poems

that they are studying for their Literature GCSE. They also heard from chief examiners and were provided with tips on how to tackle the unseen element of the exam, as well as the comparison.

Mrs H Sutton, Year Leader - Year 11

On Thursday 3 March, a group of Year 11 students and I took a trip to the beautiful city of Cambridge to view the Poetry Live Conference; a collection of poets reading aloud some of the poems from the GCSE Moon on the Tides anthology. The show itself was amazing. It was incredible to hear the poets themselves reading out their work and describing what inspired them to write the poems in the first place, which also, as you can imagine, really helped our understanding of the poems.

As well as the trip being so fun and interesting, it was also a massive aid to our classwork and I am sure most of us will be able to use the tips and advice given from the poets when it comes to the real exam. As well as the poets, there was a chief examiner who also featured at the conference, giving us really useful guidance on how to structure our essay answers for the exams in May.

Overall, it was an incredible trip and really eye opening to see these poems from the poets' point of view.

Charlotte Hawrylak 11T



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 11 April

Summer term starts

Wednesday 13 April 7pm - 9.30pm

Parents'/Carers' Information Evening
re: Vertical Tutoring

Tuesday 19 April

iGCSE English Intervention Day

Wednesday 20 April 5pm - 8pm

Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Consultation Evening

Tuesday 26 April 9am - 12pm

Years 9, 10 and 13 Vaccination Catch-up session

Wednesday 27 April 2pm - 10pm

Jack Petchey North Essex Regional Final
Workshop and Performance

Thursday 28 April 9am - 10am

UK Maths Challenge (KS5), Sports Hall

Tuesday 3 - Friday 6 May

iGCSE Examinations

Monday May 16 - Monday 27 June

GCSE Examinations

Monday 2 May - Friday 20 May

IB Examinations

Friday 6 May - Sunday 8 May

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice Weekend

Wednesday 8 June - Tuesday 28 June

A Level Examinations

Monday 16 May - Friday 17 June

AS Examinations

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:

chris.rove@notleyhigh.com

The deadline for submission is the Thursday prior to publication.

PER



The Essex Teaching Awards were created some three years ago, as a means of recognising the significant impact that teachers and all those who work in schools can have on the lives of young people. This year, we were delighted that our PER (Philosophy, Ethics and Religion) Team have been awarded 'Highly Commended' in the School Team of the Year category. This is an excellent achievement, not only acknowledging the inspiration and support provided by some outstanding teachers individually, but also for rewarding their work as a collective. They

are passionate about their subject and its power to help students become well-rounded, thoughtful and respectful young adults. PER is a well-established, successful and popular subject at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form. The department places discussion at the centre of its work, and we know how greatly many students have benefited from the wide range of trips and visits organised by this team as well.

Congratulations PER!

Mrs M Townsend, Assistant Headteacher

housepoints

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

Monthly Totals

February 2016

Running Totals

2015-2016



extra-curricularclubs

Extra-curricular Clubs – Summer Term 2016

Clubs running on a WEDNESDAY after school will run from 3.15pm- 4.20pm. Late buses will be provided leaving at 4.30pm. Please see school website for bus routes.

Club	Venue	Staff	Children's University
Year 10/11 Computing, ICT, Business, CA and Home Learning	IT2	Mrs Homan-Smith	
Science Club	G26	Mr Vosper	✓
Home Learning Club	G29	Mrs Lewsey & Mrs Kay	✓
Year 11 Spanish Revision	F2	Mr de Gea Fernandez	
Year 11Y1 Mathematics Revision	G45	Mrs Forster	
Year 10/11 French Revision	F10	Miss Jaillot	
Year 8/9 Drama/Musical Theatre	Drama Studio	Drama Department	
KS4 Art Coursework Catch Up	G12	Ms Tyler	
Year 8 Sculpture Project	G11	Ms Stanton	

Extra-curricular clubs running on other days:-

Club	Day/Time	Venue	Staff	C.U.
Year 11 Dance	Monday lunchtime	G14	Mrs Whitnell	
Action Equality – All Years	Monday lunchtime	F9	Miss White & Miss Short	
KS4 Art Graphics Coursework Catch Up	Monday 3.15pm – 4.15pm	G10	Ms Monroe	
GCSE Product Design	Monday 3.15pm – 4.15pm	G4	Mrs Smith	
KS3 Art Home Learning Club	Tuesday lunchtime	G11	Miss Stanton	
Computer Club & Games, Home Learning	Tuesday - Thursday 3.15- 5pm	G29	Mrs Lewsey & Mrs Kay	✓
Home Learning Club	Tuesday - Thursday lunchtime	Flex		✓
Maths Club	Every lunchtime	Various rooms	Mathematics Faculty	
Chinese Club	Wednesday lunchtime	F2	Miss Jaillot	
Year 10 Dance	Thursday lunchtime	G14	Mrs Whitnell	
DofE Drop In	Thursday lunchtime	G6	Mr Burge	
Computer Programming Club	Thursday lunchtime	IT1	Mr Ball	
KS4 Art Coursework Club	Thursday lunchtime	G11	Miss Stanton	
KS4 Art Coursework Club	Friday lunchtime	G11	Miss Stanton	
Christian Union	Friday lunchtime	F7	Mrs Fouche	
Mathematics Revision 11X6	Monday 3.15pm – 4.15pm	G45	Mrs Forster	
Mathematics FSMQ	Friday 3.15pm – 4.15pm	G45	Mrs Forster	

Music Department Clubs – Summer Term 2016

Day	Activity	Venue	Member(s) of Staff
Monday	Senior Choir: Years 9 - 13	G2	Mrs Hanna
Tuesday	Wind Ensemble	G2	Miss Freeman
	GCSE and A Level music students' drop-in	G1	Mrs Hanna
	Blues Club	G3	Mr Stephenson & Mr Calley
Wednesday	African Drummers	G2	Mr Timms
	Vocal Ensemble	G3	Miss Freeman
Thursday	Jazz Band	G2	Mrs Robb
Friday	Ukulele Club	G3	Mr Harris
	Music Technology Club: Years 7 & 8	G1	Miss Freeman

All rehearsals start at 1.40pm. New members are always welcome. Please see members of staff for more details.

PE Clubs - Summer Term 2016

Day/Time	Year Group(s)	Activity	Venue	Member(s) of Staff
Monday lunchtime	All	Boys' Indoor Cricket	Fitness Centre	Mr Cunningham Mr Harrington
	All	Interform	Sports Hall	Mr Reeve Mr Ewing
Monday after school	7/8	Cricket (Hard Ball)	Field	Mr Ewing Mr Cunningham Mr Harrington Mr Reeve
	All	Girls' Rounders	Field	Miss Murdoch Miss Brough Mrs Brewis-Shephard
	All	Badminton	Sports Hall	Mrs Cureton
Tuesday lunchtime	All	Girls' Cricket	Sports Hall	Mrs Gunn Mrs Brewis-Shephard
	All	SLC Club	Fitness Centre	Mr Ewing Mr Cunningham
Wednesday lunchtime	All	Indoor Cricket	Fitness Centre	Mr Reeve
Wednesday after school	All	Gymnastics	Gym	Miss Murdoch
	7/8	Basketball	Sports Hall	Miss Brough
Thursday lunchtime	9/10	Boys' Indoor Cricket	Fitness Centre	Mr Reeve Mr Ewing Mr Cunningham Mr Harrington
	All	Basketball	Sports Hall	Miss Brough
Thursday after school	9/10	Cricket (Hard Ball)	Field	Mr Ewing Mr Cunningham Mr Harrington Mr Reeve
	All	Basketball	Sports Hall	Miss Brough
Friday lunchtime	10/11	Futsal	Sports Hall	Mr Ewing Mr Cunningham
	All	Table Tennis	Sports Hall	Mr Reeve

term dates



Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form School Term and Holiday Dates Academic Year 2016-2017

September 2016							October 2016							November 2016							December 2016						
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
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
							31																				
January 2017							February 2017							March 2017							April 2017						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28						27	28	29	30	31			17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29															24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31																										
May 2017							June 2017							July 2017							August 2017						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
29	30	31												31													

= Schooldays/Weekends
 = School holidays
 = Bank holidays
 = Staff Training Days (no students)

Autumn Term: Thursday 1 September 2016 – Wednesday 21 December 2016 75 days
 Half Term 24 October - 28 October

Spring Term: Thursday 5 January 2017 – Friday 31 March 2017 57 days
 Half Term 13 February - 17 February

Summer Term: Tuesday 18 April 2017 – Friday 21 July 2017 63 days
 Half Term 29 May – 2 June, and May Bank Holiday, 1 May 195 days

Please note that Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12 students only will return to school on Tuesday 6 September 2016
 The autumn term begins for all students on Wednesday 7 September 2016

Staff Training Days: Thursday 1 September 2016
 Friday 2 September 2016
 Monday 5 September 2016

Two further Staff Training Days will be held during the year and the dates of these will be agreed in due course.



New Holland Tractor Plant Trip

On Wednesday 3 February a group of 32 AS Business and Economics students visited the New Holland Manufacturing Plant to examine lean production methods which are used there to make this one of the most high performing production centres in the country – one that is highly concerned with sustainability. New Holland are an energy leader – a very environmentally friendly firm, where their 'built to order' tractors use bio mass as a new energy source. Their carbon impact is zero. The trip had been arranged to enable the students to see a production plant in full operation and to 'bring to life' aspects of their course.

Students were split into two groups and after an introductory presentation, where they learnt about the history of the company and other interesting economic facts, they were taken on a tour, where every aspect of production was observed and explained. After this the group were given a free lunch in the works canteen, followed by the opportunity to visit the company showrooms, where some of the tractors produced were available to see and sit in. There was also a simulator where students were able to see if they had the necessary skills to use a tractor in the field. Students thoroughly enjoyed what they saw and conducted themselves well throughout the day, gaining positive comments from our guides. Students left with a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding manufacturing and a free pack, containing company information, plus a free notepad and pen – a perfect end to the day!

"Working together, achieving together"





Photos: Staff on Trip

A Level Geography Field Studies Trip

Year 13 geography students visited Slapton, Devon, 22 – 26 February 2016, in order to improve our fieldwork skills for our upcoming examination.

On the first day we visited the coast, stopping at stunning locations such as Torcross and Hallsands, using methods such as bi-polar evaluations to determine the economic and social benefits of using coastal defences to protect areas. At the end of the day we tested our hypothesis regarding the change of sediment size in relation to longshore drift direction. We did this by completing a sediment sample and a

beach profile. It was very interesting and taught us valuable skills such as soil sieving and data collection alongside walking around 5 miles!

The next day we worked in the River Harboure, from the upper course in the beautiful Dartmoor National Park, to the lower course - taking a number of measurements such as sediment size, river width and depth. This was valuable as it was a way in which we could find correlations between various sets of data, as well as learning how to use new equipment such as a dumpy level and a flow meter. It was a fun





day and we eventually got over the fact we had wet feet!

On our final day at the field centre, we worked as a group to find out more information about local rural settlements. We visited Chillington, East Allington, Torcross and Slapton village itself to collect data on a number of factors such as population change and traffic count. All of this was to determine how the villages had changed or grown over time and impacts that had arisen as a result of this.

*Grace Fitzgerald,
Year 13*

Education for All Charity Walk

On Tuesday 16 February, more than 30 students, teachers, dogs and children joined a 13 mile charity walk along the Flich Way, raising money for Education for All. This is this distance the girls in



Morocco have to walk each day to and from school, should they want an education. It was a great afternoon, the sun was shining and there were plenty of giggles and cake along the way!



Photos: Staff on Trip

“Working together, achieving together”

Jacob Sam-LaRose



On Wednesday 24 February contemporary poet Jacob Sam-La Rose, who features on the OCR English Language and Literature A Level syllabus, visited the sixth form to hold a very successful workshop with all the Year 12 English students. It was a unique and very enjoyable opportunity for the students, giving them greater insight into his work.

We would like to thank Olivia Coughlan in Year 12 who used her Jack Petchey Award to fund the event and Ms Newell for the organising it.

'I want you writing like yourselves.' – Jacob Sam-La Rose

Poetry seems to have a certain stigma surrounding it amongst many of our younger generation, and there evidently is a lack of understanding for its purpose and place in the world of modern literature.

As a student, I know from first-hand experience that trying to annotate and analyse the works of an acclaimed poet is not always received well by students in the classroom; there does not seem to be a whole lot of excitement associated with deciphering why the poet chose to have a 'glass of water on the table', and if that is because they were going to drink it, or because it was there as some sort of metaphor.

Hearing the words of wisdom that Jacob Sam-La Rose had to offer gave me an insight into the very ideas that seemed meaningless before. He spoke of his personal experiences, the meanings and emotions he could convey by the freedoms and constrictions he and his family experienced, throughout his work.

He explained the reasoning behind his choices of imagery and symbolism, allowing the English students studying his poems a great insight that will no doubt benefit their ability to perform in

their final exams. And for those students who had never come across his work, myself included, there was still something to gain.

We began to understand that our English teachers were not crazy for making us dissect every minor detail on the page - words have a meaning that goes beyond their initial inking on the page, and writers layer this so we have to 'read between the lines'.

His performances of his works were perhaps the most eye-opening elements of the session. Emotion was conveyed, words resonated, and the stories and themes seemed to make more sense than a glance at a page could ever evoke. It was then I realised what was missing for me in poetry, why I did not feel the respect it deserves towards it.

'Poetry is like football.' Sam-La Rose told me, as I asked him why he chose this form of art as a means for expressing himself. I was curious to see where he was going with this analogy, as it seemed quite audacious.

He explained that it does not have the same restrictions as the narrative of the novel, nor does it need to follow the stricter guidelines set forward

by language. It can be 'played' by anyone so-to-speak, as can football, and done so almost anywhere. It is accessible, anyone may use it as a tool to express and convey emotion through experience.

He spoke of himself as a conduit of sorts that channels experiences of the world, be it music, family, history, and mere everyday occurrences in life. It was this that inspired me to realise just how powerful a medium poetry is, and that although it is considered 'uncool' on the surface, beneath there is so much more to witness. It can bring people together, invite creativity and freedom of expression that others, too, can experience.

Sam-La Rose does not want us to follow the conventions of any other writer, emulating the likes of Shakespeare and others, himself included; 'I want you writing like yourselves.' Our work does not need to follow any Shakespearean conventions, but serve as a means of expression and entertainment. Poetry allows the writer freedom, as they are unbound from the chains of pre-established convention.

If we ourselves were to indulge in the practice of writing and performing poetry, might we appreciate it more?

Matthew Thomas, 12S



[View the Online Photo Gallery](http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/2016/jacob-sam-la-rose)

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photogalleries/2016/jacob-sam-la-rose>

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

Braintree Sixth Form

Facebook:

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

Twitter:

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

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 is seeing 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 logo, followed by the school name. To the right are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, RSS, and Email, along with a search bar and logos for Braintree Sixth Form, MID-ESSEX INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING (ITT), and Braintree Sixth Form. A navigation menu includes Home, News, Information, Policies, Curriculum, School Life, Teaching & Learning, Vacancies, and Contact. The main content area features a large image of a student at a karate championship, with a sidebar listing various school events. Below this are four columns: Quick Links, Latest Newsletter (with a 'onecampus' magazine cover), Latest Letters Home, and Home Learning (with student photos and icons for SMHW, Home Learning Timetables, Mediaserver, and Home Access Plus).

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form

Home News Information Policies Curriculum School Life Teaching & Learning Vacancies Contact

EMTF National Karate Championships

Sport Relief 2016

Emily Heissig - Jack Petchey Winner March 2016

National Apprenticeship Week

Notley's Got Talent 2016!

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Vertical Tutoring Letter

Poetry Live

Shakespeare Schools Festival

EMTF National Karate Championships
Year 7 student Amy Joyce recently won gold and bronze medals at the EMIT National Karate Championships held in Cambridge.
[read more ...](#)

Quick Links

- Admissions Policy
- Exam Results
- Find the School
- Handbook for Parents and Carers
- Ofsted Report
- Parent View
- Pupil Premium
- Safeguarding & E-Safety
- School Governance
- Term Dates
- Welcome from the Head

Translate our site

Select Language ▾

Latest Newsletter

onecampus
Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form's Magazine
Issue 11
February 2016
What a Wicked Trip
Year 11 defy Gravity in the West End
and more... more... more...

[View previous newsletters](#)

Latest Letters Home

- Sport Relief 2016 (March)
- GCSE Statistics Visit Letter (March)
- Year 11 Attendance Reminder Letter (March)
- Curriculum Changes for MFL from 2016-17 (March)
- Year 11 Easter Revision Sessions Letter (March)
- Vertical Tutoring Letter (March)
- DEAR Relaunch Letter (February)
- Kudos 2016 (February)

[View previous letters](#)

Home Learning

- SMHW Show My Homework
- Home Learning Timetables
- Mediaserver
- Home Access Plus

www.notleyhigh.com

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WWW.BRAINTREEARTSTHEATRE.COM

INFO@MGMPROMOTIONS.CO.UK

WWW.MGMPROMOTIONS.CO.UK

braintreeartstheatre

An Evening with Ian Waite & Camilla Dallerup

Friday 8 April 2016

2:30pm & 7:30pm

Tickets £25 adults, £22 concessions

For two performances only, join Ian Waite & Camilla Dallerup from Strictly Come Dancing plus professional singer Paul Amer & guests for a spectacular evening of Dance, Singing and stories from their time on the BBC hit show. This up close and personal show promises to be a night to remember.

Camilla, one of the original professionals and champion in 2008 is joined by her professional partner (and ladies favourite) Ian Waite who has appeared in nearly every series of the show. During the show, Ian and Camilla will perform some amazing Latin and Ballroom routines and tell their inside stories from Strictly Come Dancing.



Richard Digance

Saturday 9 April 2016, 8pm

Tickets £12 adults, £10 concessions

Richard Digance is a rare performer in that he's respected by comedians for his original material and by musicians for being an accomplished performer/guitarist. His loyal following confirms his wide appeal, from the younger generation attracted by both his guitar playing and the fact he has inspired many modern-day performers, to the super-loyal who have followed him since the time he had his own ITV series and even further when he started out in folk clubs.



His evergreen career has been acknowledged through numerous awards within both the music and entertainment industries, from a BAFTA Nomination as a TV entertainer to a Gold Award from The British Academy of Composers and Songwriters. He is included in The Virgin Anthology of Songwriters for his important contribution to British comedy songwriting. He has supported such stars as Steve Martin, Robin Williams and played a duet with Brian May of Queen.

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braintree arts theatre

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Twitter: @BATheatre

