

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form's Magazine

# on campus

Issue 7

Open Evening

Rewards Trips

Work Experience

Discipline with Dignity

Product Design Trip

Sixth Form News

and much more

# Welcome Year 7

first day at Notley High

Lyons Hall Primary and Secondary Partnership

## Thinking about a career in teaching?

Please join us at our information evening

# Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014

## at 7.00pm

**Honywood Community Science School  
Westfield Drive, Coggeshall, CO6 1PZ**

Find out more about teaching in the Primary and Secondary age range. The session will start with a talk about teacher training and advice on how to apply. You will then have the opportunity to speak directly to training providers, current trainees, newly qualified teachers and teachers from our partnership schools.

**To book a place at this event** please email Caroline Duncombe at [prolearnnet@gmail.com](mailto:prolearnnet@gmail.com)

Lyons Hall Primary and Secondary Partnership  
Working in partnership with



and Schools across Essex and its borders

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# headlines

Welcome to the first edition of OnCampus for this academic year.

Students and staff at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form celebrated examination successes in the summer.

62% of the Year 11 students achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades, with 52% achieving this measure including English and mathematics. 99% of students achieved at least one A\*-G grade and there were many outstanding individual achievements across the entire ability range.

Braintree Sixth Form students celebrated another excellent set of examination results, with many students gaining top grades in both A Levels and the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Braintree Sixth Form Open Evening for 2015/16 entry is on Wednesday 12 November 2014, from 6pm to 8pm, with a talk from the Sixth Form Leadership Team at 7pm. Online applications open on Thursday 13 November 2014, with the first round of applications closing on Monday 15 December 2014. Offers will be made to students in early March 2015.

On Tuesday 2 September 2014 all staff took part in a training day which focused on Discipline with Dignity. This is a classroom management and school discipline approach that teaches responsible thinking, co-operation, mutual respect and shared decision making. Mrs Kelly, Deputy Headteacher, delivered an assembly about the training day to each year group in the first week of term. Further details can be read on page 26.

On Wednesday 24 September 2014, the Friends of Notley High School (FONHS) held their AGM, followed by their final meeting, at which the closure of the FONHS was confirmed. I was delighted to be presented with a cheque for £2,436.97 for the school, which was the closing balance from the FONHS accounts.

This money will be spent on items of benefit to the whole school and I will have pleasure in notifying you of the purchases in due course. I would like to thank Mrs Adams, Chairperson, Mrs Hayhurst, Secretary and Mrs Bannister, Treasurer for their contributions to the school through their commitment to FONHS.

On Thursday 10 October 2014 we held our Open Evening for Year 7 intake September 2014. 276 of our students supported the evening as ambassadors for our school and all were a credit to themselves and to the school. During the week commencing Monday 13 October 2014, we hosted tours of the school for

prospective parents/carers/students. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form next September.

## Staff Changes

We said farewell to Mrs Ward, Speech & Languages Therapist on 30 September 2014. Mrs Ward had worked with us since October 1994. The SLC students have really appreciated the help that Mrs Ward has provided helping them to access the curriculum across the school. We wish her well in her retirement.

Mr Lawrence, English teacher left the school for personal reasons last week. His timetable has been taken over by Miss Ford, who we are delighted to welcome back as a permanent member of staff.

The following three staff are leaving the school at the end of this week:

Mrs Lillywhite joined the school in 2001 and has fulfilled the roles of ICT Teacher and Year Leader during her time here. We will remember her for her great loyalty to the school, her commitment to providing the very best education for our students and for her infectious laughter in the staffroom! We wish her well as she relocates to Spain.

Ms Thrussell leaves us after seven and a half years working as a Learning Support Assistant. We thank her for the care and support she has offered to our students over her time with us and we wish her well as she develops her learning support experience further in the primary sector.

Ms Jones leaves the Modern Foreign Languages Faculty after a successful start to her teaching career over the last two and a half years. We thank her very much for her contribution to the school and the teaching of languages and we wish her well as she also relocates to Spain.



Mrs Lillywhite,  
Ms Thrussell  
and Ms Jones  
(clockwise from above)

## Governing Body Changes

After twelve years of service to the school as Chair of Governors, Mr Gask has now stepped down from this role and Mr Parrott has taken over as Chair of Governors.

I would wish to offer my own personal thanks alongside those of all governors to Mr Gask for his unstinting support and service to the school as Chair of Governors. During his tenure he has worked closely with me and other governors to secure the development of the Braintree Sixth Form and the ongoing success and popularity of the school. As Headteacher, I have always valued his advice and support and I have witnessed the many hours of his own time he has given to the role. He will continue as a school governor and as Chair of the North Essex Multi-Academy Trust Board and he hopes to devote some time to working more closely with our partner school, The Ramsey Academy, Halstead.

We have also received four nominations for parent governors during this half term and we look forward to welcoming these new parent governors to the Governing Body during the next half term.

## Staff Training Days

As well as the next Staff Training Day on Monday 23 February 2015, an additional staff training day has been scheduled for Friday 27 March 2015. There is a great deal of curriculum change taking place at present in relation to GCSE and A level qualifications and this extra day will provide important time for staff to prepare for these changes which start in September 2015.

The Spring term will therefore end for students on Thursday 26 March 2015 at 1.30pm.




*Simon Thompson, Headteacher*



*Mr Gask (above)  
and Mr Parrot (right)*



# openevening2014



On Thursday 9 October, we held our Open Evening for Year 7 intake September 2015. 227 of our students supported the evening as ambassadors for our school and all were a credit to themselves and to Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form. We received positive feedback from parents/carers of Year 6 students who attended Open Evening We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form next September.

Mrs Kelly - Deputy Headteacher



**Gothic Library Quiz**  
Answer all the questions correctly to win some sweets!

1. How many bats are swarming the library?
2. Who's wearing a witch's hat?
3. How many ghost lights can you count haunting the room?
4. Where is the Witch's broomstick hidden?
5. Can you count how many spiders are creeping around the place (at this 5)?
6. Name one of the gothic novels on the table?
7. Can you name a famous gothic character?





*“My daughter had a great time helping with the chemistry experiments, especially the methane bubbles!”*



*"A really well-run evening. We have already done a few and so we do have others to compare it to. My son has really enjoyed the evening and has decided that Notley is definitely his first choice of school"*



**View the Online Photo Gallery**

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photo-galleries-2013/events/open-evening-2014>

# welcome Year 7



On 3 September 2014 the new cohort of Year 7 students arrived on the tennis courts ready to start the next chapter of their lives! They waited eagerly whilst they were registered and taken in to find their tutor bases and be handed their journals and timetables.

Mr Thompson welcomed students in their first assembly and it was lovely to see students looking so smart in their new uniforms! Students have done really well settling into life at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form with the help of their tutors, Mrs Edge and their parents/carers.

I look forward to getting to know the students more over the next 5 years and share in their success!

*Miss Stanley, Year Leader – Year 7*



“Working together, achieving together”

# welcome Year 7

My first day at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form was not as terrifying as I thought it was going to be. I made new friends in my tutor group and got to know my tutor really well. I was never left alone as I was always with someone I knew or a new friend, which was really good so I never got lost on your own! If I did get lost, all I had to do was ask someone and they helped me and my friends find our way to class. On the first few days it was exciting and interesting to meet my teachers and find out the sort of things we were going to be doing. I have really enjoyed my first 4 weeks at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form!

*Katie Skingsley 7L*



I was excited about my first day at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form and was looking forward to meeting everyone in my tutor group again. I have enjoyed gymnastics club at lunch time and I have also started playing football which has enabled me to make new friends. I love how other students and teachers help you here at school so I haven't had to panic about being lost! I am looking forward to trying more clubs and making the most of life here at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form!

*Amy Marsh 7S*



# Year 8 reward strip

Photos: Mrs Forster  
and Mrs Dennis



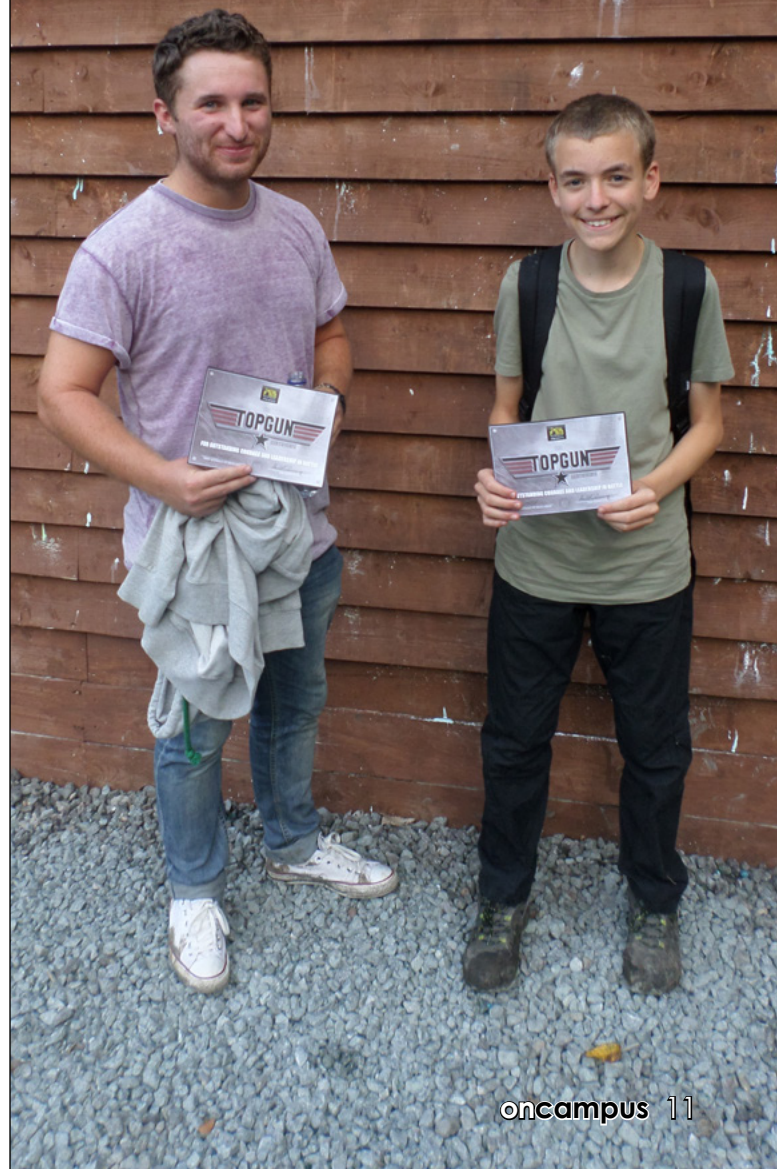
## Delta FORCE

On Friday 26 September, 45 of Year 8's highest merit achievers from last year, went to Delta Force paintballing in Billericay. After getting kitted out in army overalls and masks they made their way through to get their guns!

Anna Perry 8E and Henry Wright 8B both excelled in the first game, managing to raise the flag on the fort for their respective teams. Mrs Forster took a pellet to the visor, thanks to Harry Bailey 8E. Game 2 involved both teams firing at each other and trying to totally eliminate the other team. The blue team won this game but Joshua Christie 8E won a Top Gun award for being the only surviving member of the red team. Reece Hearn, ICT Technician, also won an award for the blue team for making a stealthy run up the side of the course and almost making it without being shot.

Game 3 and things were getting serious. Mrs Dennis was handed a smoke grenade to help her team get through the blue team's volley of paintballs and promptly threw it. It bounced off a tree and straight back to her. Good skills.

The blue team were victorious overall but everyone enjoyed the experience and had fun comparing bruises on the way home. Well done to everyone who came along for your impeccable behaviour and spirit.



*"Working together, achieving together"*

# Year 9 reward strip

On Friday 3 October a group of Year 9's were taken to Rope Runners, High Ropes Course, as a rewards trip. There honestly wasn't a dull moment on that afternoon out, even the coach ride there and back was amusing!

Once we were there we got our harnesses and helmets on and got taken to a 'warm up' climbing course to be briefed on what we were to expect as well as learning how to swap our harness clips over while climbing. After we did the warm up course we were free to do all the activities available in the time we had there, which included a zip-wire, medium and high level courses and the vertical zip line!

Once I got up onto the medium level climbing course, I remember clinging onto the ropes for dear life while my legs shook like jelly! While I stood there, frozen, I kept seeing Emily advancing further through the course as she yelled at me to move my foot forwards! Once I eventually defeated my fear and managed to move to the platform I was shaking so much I almost fell just at having to hold my own weight up! When I finally got to the end zip line it was another pain-staking event, for Emily that is, as I sat there for about five minutes while she persuaded me jump. Other than literally laying in the dirt after finally jumping off I was thrilled that I had managed to do the course without backing out.

I volunteered to go first through the warm up course as I couldn't wait to get onto some of the higher courses. When Alex and I had both completed the warm up course we excitedly made our way to the beginning of the medium course. I went first and slowly shuffled along the platform to face the first obstacle. The rope shook beneath my feet and at first I was dreading moving onwards, but once I

had got my bearings, I overcame my doubts and eagerly made my way forwards. Whilst waiting for the person in front of me to finish the next obstacle, I turned around to find Alex frozen with fear and unable to move even an inch forward. Concerned, I yelled encouragingly at her and told her 'politely' to move! I got to the end of the course and sat on the platform preparing to hurl myself off the edge and fly through the air on the zip wire! When I hit the ground after racing my friend next to me down the zip wire, I breathed a sigh of relief and contentment.

We would both like to thank the teachers who organised and gave up their time to take us on this amazing trip. We both love climbing and for us it was the perfect way to spend our Friday afternoon.

*Alex Thorne and Emily Hynes 9S*

On Friday 3 October some lucky Year 9 students had the chance to go to one of Essex's most enjoyable and fun filled rope themed adventure, Rope Runners. This involves people strapped via a harness climbing through the trees at great heights, trying to overcome the height, and completing the training bases all the way around the facility.

There are also 2 more separate activities at Rope Runners, one which is a long zip wire stretching all the way across the ropes; where you glide down the zip wire and you can see your friends struggling to make their way through the course without falling, and additionally a straight drop dropping you 30-40 foot to the ground !

Overall Rope Runners was a great experience and a fun filled afternoon !

*Luke Pettitt 9O*

Photo: Trip Staff





# Year 10 reward strip

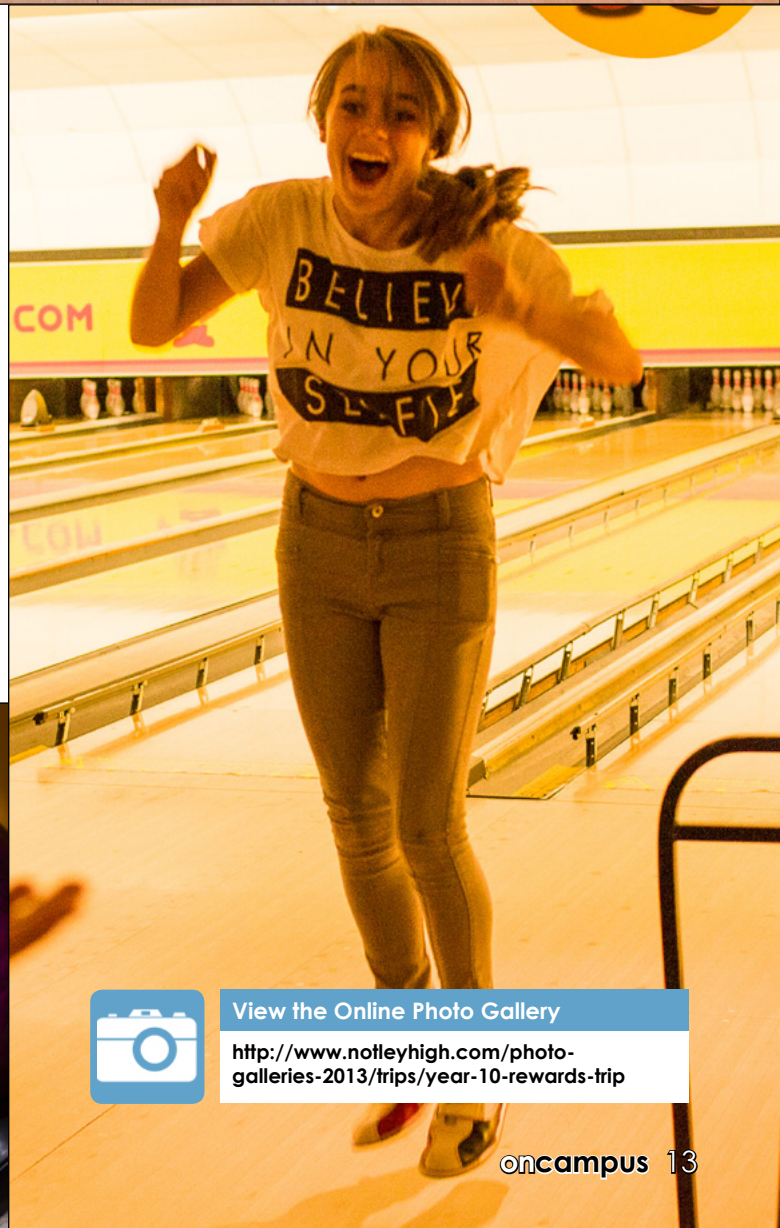
On Friday 12 September, 21 students made their way to Namco Funscape after school to participate in the Year 10 rewards trip. The students were selected for this trip based on their effort grades from their end of Year 9 reports and should be commended for this achievement.

The students played two games of bowling each and were able to use the facilities of the bowling alley.

Many thanks to Miss Short and Miss Duncan for accompanying me on the trip and to Mr Rowe for attending and taking plenty of photographs, much to the delight of those that attended!

Well done to those that were invited to attend the trip.

*Mrs Sutton, Year Leader - Year 10*



View the Online Photo Gallery

<http://www.notleyhigh.com/photo-galleries-2013/trips/year-10-rewards-trip>

“Working together, achieving together”

# when I grow up



On Monday 29 September, The Essex Chronicle made their annual visit to Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form to see a small group of Year 10 students.

The Essex Chronicle have been visiting the same group of students each year as part of their 'When I grow up' feature. The idea behind this article is to ask students what they would like to be when they are older and revisit the students on a yearly basis to see if their aspirations have changed. Notley High School was privileged to be

featured once again. Jodie Douse 10Y would like to work in advertising, Katelin Dewing 10L would still like to work in a nursery, Jonathan Edge 10N would like to teach football in primary schools, Joe Crossley 10S would like a career that includes creativity and Georgia Rathe 10T is considering a range of different career paths.

Look out for our students that will be featured in this week's edition of The Essex Chronicle.

Mrs Sutton, Year Leader - Year 10

# Year 10 product design

On 17 September Year 10 Product Design students caught the train up to London, Tower Hill, to visit the Design Museum. Each year the Design Museum sponsored by Deutsche Bank host a country wide competition to design a product to sell in their shop for under £10, this year the theme is 'Connect'.

The first objective was to take part in a design workshop, this helped the students to understand what they meant by 'Connect' and to generate some highly original ideas, the man from Deutsche bank later complemented them as

having produced the best ideas of the day. Secondly they needed to see the shop and get a feel for who the customers are and how their product would look amongst the other products sold there. In addition they had time to look around the museum and experience a variety of exhibitions and explore some of the interesting sights in the vicinity of the Design Museum.

The group were a pleasure to be with, I hope they enjoyed the day as much as I did.

*Mrs Smith, Technology Teacher*

Photos: Trip Staff

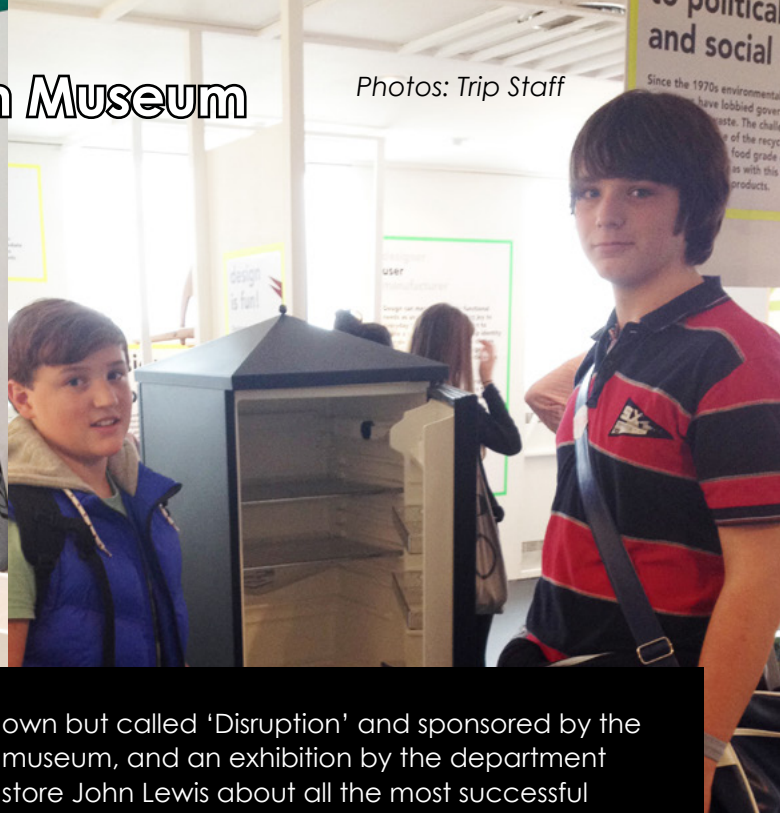


“Working together, achieving together”

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# Product Design Trip to Design Museum

Photos: Trip Staff



Going to the Design Museum in London was a really good day because the whole class learned a lot of new things about designing.

Our project is, in groups, to design a product linked to the word 'connect' which could be sold in the Design Museum shop. We had to get into our groups in the 1st activity and we were given a sheet of pictures, we had to choose 2 random items and put them together to make an item, for example, a tie and headphones, the headphones are connected to the tie so you could listen to music instead of having to untangle them you could just grab them off of your tie.

After that activity Mr Chapmen and Mrs Smith took 2 groups each, as there were 4 groups, and went round the museum looking at different things. We saw things to do with Paul Smith the Fashion Designer, Louis Kahn the Architect, work by young designers who were given a brief similar to our

own but called 'Disruption' and sponsored by the museum, and an exhibition by the department store John Lewis about all the most successful products they have stocked over their history. It was very interesting learning about it all.

When we went to the shop there was all sorts of things like books, kids toys, stationary, plants, jewellery, and even some things from the exhibition, and everything that was in the shop has been designed.

Altogether, it was a really good day and we all learnt a lot, as well as the Design Museum we saw the Tower of London, HMS Belfast and St Katherine's Dock, crossed Tower Bridge and London Bridge, and went up the spiral floors inside City Hall. We are all grateful that Mrs Smith and Mr Chapmen took us.

Bobbie Nash 10Y



# head**boy**head**girl**report

## Senior student team

2014-15



### Students and staff

We are very happy and honoured to have been elected as this year's Head Boy and Head Girl of Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form.

Having completed an application form, being interviewed by school governors and even having to get up in assembly and persuade our year group, we were both delighted to be given the role.

Over the next year, we hope we can help to ensure your learning experience is as enjoyable as it can be, whilst representing you and any ideas you would like to put forward in and around school. We are very thankful for this opportunity and hope we can make you proud.

*Scarlett Perrin and Adam Grimwood,  
Head Girl and Head Boy*

You are invited to our  
**Open Evening**

A-level &  
International  
Baccalaureate  
Courses



12 Nov 2014

6-8pm

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



# workexperience

Photos:  
Notley Staff

During the summer term, Year 10 (now Year 11) students completed an eye opening one week experience of the big wide world of work. Placements varied from hospitals and offices to retail outlets and laboratories. Students travelled not only within the Braintree area, but also as far afield as London, Harlow and Cambridge.

Staff visited students at their placements, where the enjoyment of the experience was evident. The students proved to be excellent ambassadors for the school. Employers were very pleased with the students, some requesting their presence for a second week. Many employers commented on the high standards of dress and attitude to the work of which the students were undertaking.

The week allowed students to have a taste of what the future may hold and what can be achieved if they were to strive academically and put their knowledge to good use at school and in further education, if necessary.

Students were able to gain new skills and further their knowledge and understanding of the work area in which they had spent the week, whether it be as a hairdresser, a mechanic or an office clerk. Students have told staff how much they have gained from the experience and how happy they were with their placements. The week proved to be a success for all despite the long commutes, crowded train carriages and the stress of first impressions.

*Georgia Bartlett 11L (Georgia's work placement was at 'The Enquirer', Billericay)*

Here is a selection of photographs and student reports of their experiences.

Myles Littleton 11E  
at Fenn Tool Ltd



I had a work experience placement at Ilford Metropolitan Police Station.

When the work experience started, I was really nervous because I didn't know anybody and I didn't know what I was going to be doing or what to expect at all. Most of the time, I was sitting watching the detectives sort their cases through computer systems and listening to what they do. Although the work was quite restricted, it was very interesting.

I really enjoyed meeting new people. I also enjoyed the property store and SOCO which is the forensic department. I very much enjoyed being taken out in a police car through Ilford! I learnt a lot about what it really takes to be part of the police force and what qualifications are needed. It was great being part of their team and I hope that this experience helps me in later life.

Jodi Heather 11B

For my work experience, I went to work in 'The Wooden Spoon' café at the Discovery Centre. I was preparing food, serving the customers and I also went to their other café over at Cressing Temple Barns making spaghetti bolognaise and chilli con carne with Kate, another member of staff.

When serving the customers, I had to use the till to register the money. After a while of getting it wrong and making the alarm go off, I got the hang of it by the end of the week. I think that would have been my most enjoyable part of the week, but I wished it was two weeks instead of one because I enjoyed it so much.

At first I didn't speak much to any staff, but by the end, it was good because I knew the staff and manager a bit better so I could talk to them more often. All the staff were lovely to talk to and I could work well in a team with them. I think my personal development has improved, talking to new people and facing new challenges. Work experience was really fun and enjoyable; it has set me up for getting the job I would like to get.

*Isabelle Elward 11Y*



Callum Payne 11H at Tamdown Group

Isabel Edwards 11Y and Mary May Conway 11Y at Scientific Laboratories Ltd



*"Working together, achieving together"*

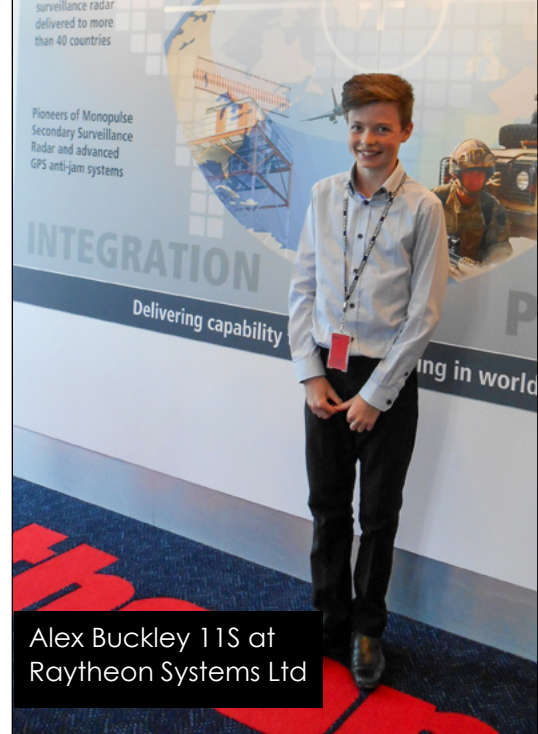
On the week beginning 23 June I began my work experience at St Andrews Junior School, Hatfield Peverel. Before I started, I was worried about it as I didn't know anyone there and didn't know what to expect.

During the week I worked with Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. My first day was spent with Year 3 helping them with maths and reading. On Tuesday I was with Year 4 in the morning, helping them make some baby birth fact files and in the afternoon I assisted with Year 5 Science. It was interesting to see how they do things differently

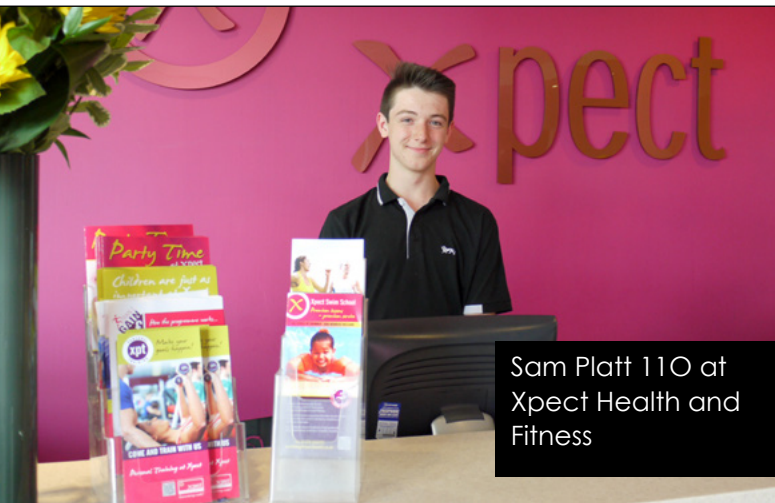
to my old primary school. On Wednesday, I was with another class of Year 4, helping make their charity tops. On Thursday and Friday I spent with Year 6. I had put up a display of their trip to the Lake District and helped make displays and props for their play.

I enjoyed the whole week but helping the Year 4s with their tops was one of my favourite days. From doing my work experience I learnt that I do want to become a teacher and that I need to focus more at school to get the right grades.

Frankie Thorpe 11E



Alex Buckley 11S at Raytheon Systems Ltd



Sam Platt 11O at Xpect Health and Fitness



Charlie Hallett 11H at Lloyds Pharmacy

I worked at 'The Wooden Spoon' café at the Discovery Centre in Braintree.

On my first day of work experience I felt nervous but when I got there, I felt calm. I had a week working with nice people and they made me feel welcome to work there. During the week of work experience, I did all different tasks around the café. For example, I cleaned and cleared the tables, prepared some of the salads, served customers and took food to their tables. The thing I enjoyed the most was making cakes with Kate, who is the baker at 'The Wooden Spoon'.

From this week of work experience I have learnt a few different skills such as how to work a till and to interact with customers.

Jamie Clark 11E

Sam Perry 11T, Megan Marsh 11N and Ellie Pugh 11H at Broomfield Hospital



"Working together, achieving together"

# year11 englishtrip



Once upon a time, a long time ago (3 September to be precise), in a land far away called London, forty Year 11 students went to the Old Vic Theatre to watch the very dramatic and thrilling play – The Crucible. As soon as the play had begun, I eagerly watched with great interest and enthusiasm. The acting that I witnessed was absolutely sensational; it kept everyone’s mind focused on the events that unfolded before our very eyes. In particular, the performance of Richard Armitage, the actor who played the main protagonist, John Proctor, was completely fantastic.

*Danny Sutton 11N*

**“Working together, achieving together”**

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# 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>

### Wednesday 22 October

Year 7/8 History Trip (Civic Theatre, Chelmsford)  
6.15pm - 9.30pm

### Friday 24 October

Years 8 - 11 Rewards and Awards Trip  
(Diensyland, Paris)

### Monday 27 October

Half term

### Tuesday 04 November

Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Progression Information  
Evening 7pm - 8.30pm

### Wednesday 05 November

Year 11 Futures Event

Year 7 - 11 Impact Day

Ski Trip 2015 Information Evening for Parents/  
Carers (Drama Studio) 6.30pm - 7.30pm

### Thursday 06 November

KS3 Presentation Evening (Braintree Arts Theatre)  
7.30pm - 9.30pm

## Uniform Wanted

Do you have any uniform that no longer fits, or you no longer need?

We are in need of any items you would be able to donate, especially trousers, skirts and ties.

Thank you.

Mrs S Hunter, Student Services

## 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.

# schoolcrossing

## A Message from the School Crossing Patrol Service:

The loss of John Ray Infant School building in Notley Road and the installation of portable classrooms on the Junior School site has changed the route which a lot of parents/carers and children take to the school and there is a much heavier footfall across the Junior's crossing. Added to this, there are a lot more cars parking outside the school and in Masefield Road due to the building work taking over a lot of the school car park.

If you are driving to the school before using the crossing please obey the Patrols if they are crossing others and please park considerately, taking into account the parking restrictions, including the School Keep Clear markings, double & single yellow lines and the bus stops. Parking a little further away and walking to the school is a great help to the Patrols, enabling traffic to flow more easily around this very busy site. Traffic here includes buses and very large lorries which need plenty of room so parking in clearly restricted areas will only cause more congestion, fuelling frustration for all concerned.

1. Please ensure that young children only arrive at the crossing point with their adult, ready to cross.
2. Always wait for the Patrol Officer to be established in the road, with the traffic stopped, before crossing.
3. Please ensure that you only cross "straight" across the road, directly in front of the Patrol Officer, not on a diagonal from the previous driveway.
4. If the Patrol Officer asks you to wait for more people to be ready to cross with you before he/she stops traffic, please wait.
5. If the Patrol Officer asks you to wait so that he/she can come out of the road to let cars pass, please wait.

If you are travelling by bike or scooter, please dismount before crossing the road.

Thank you for your help in these matters.



# SKI NOTLEY



**6 days skiing**

**Beginners  
welcome**

**Hire of skis, poles  
and boots included**

**Full tuition provided**

**All meals included**

**Evening activities  
included**

**Watch members of staff  
falling over\***

**\*probably**

**We have a limited number of places still available  
for the Austria Trip in February 2015.**

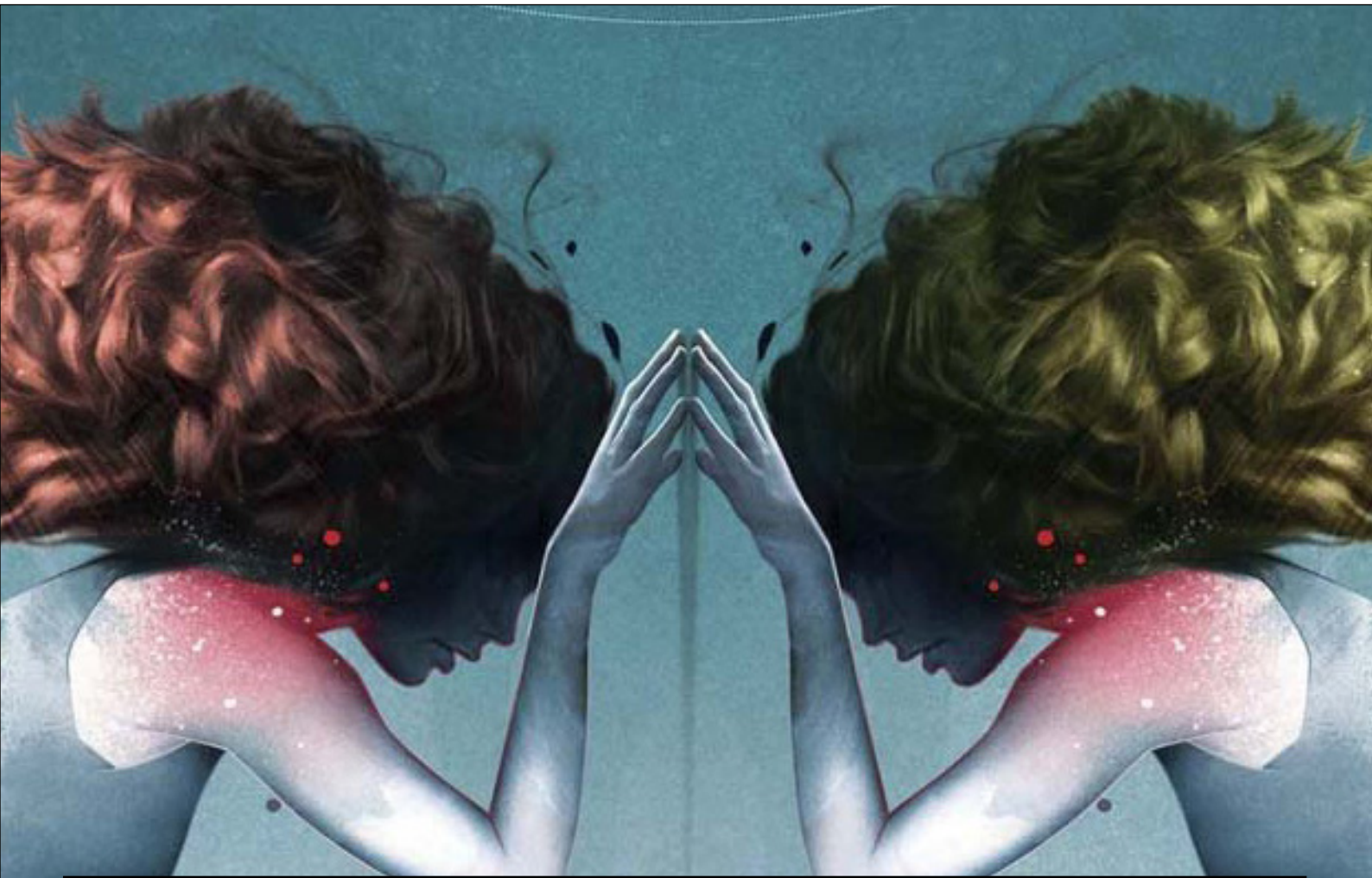
**See Mrs Segura in PE if you are interested.**

**Check out our website: [www.skinotley.co.uk](http://www.skinotley.co.uk)**

# bookreview

## Linked

Author: Imogen Howson



A great first Young Adult book written by Imogen Howson. *Linked* is set in the future where there are many different planets to live on and travelling between them is as easy as going to Australia.

The twins, Elissa and Lin, have had a telepathic link their whole lives. Classed as Elissa's clone, (twins are now extinct) Lin has been tortured in a facility because she is not legally human and they want to find out exactly what she is. However, due to their telepathic link, Elissa felt all of the pain that Lin did and she got all of her scars too.

In the book, they are on the run. The government are trying to track them down and bring them back.

I would give *Linked* 5 stars because it is the most exciting adventure story I have ever read. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to read something thrilling – the story lures you in and lets you watch the action close up.

Hannah Kane 8T

IMOGEN HOWSON

# discipline with dignity



On 2 September 2014 all Notley staff, including caretakers, canteen staff, admin staff and all student support services staff, as well as teachers, took part in a training day which focused on Discipline with Dignity. This is a classroom management and school discipline approach that teaches responsible thinking, cooperation, mutual respect and shared decision making. This approach was developed by Drs Richard Curwin and Allen Mendler, in and around New York, and they have published numerous books and still lecture and train educators in this methodology.

## Success in School Discipline

St Martin's School in Brentwood and The Maltings Academy in Witham have been successfully using this approach to school discipline in their schools for a number of years. Mrs Kelly, deputy headteacher, worked with two of their deputy heads during last summer term and planned the training day on 2 September; together they delivered the training sessions to our staff.

Some of the staff feedback from the day...

*"One of the best training days I have attended"*

*"Great to see the whole school approach for such a positive strategy"*

*"A lovely common sense approach from all session leaders. The day was purposeful and although there none of the approaches were new to me, it was nice to have a reminder and an opportunity to reflect on my own practice"*

*"Best CPD in last 17 years. Thanks"*

*"It was very enjoyable and good to reflect on what you do etc. I do hope that some of the issues raised around rules/procedures will be considered by SLT asap, whilst the enthusiasm of the launch is still there"*

## Why now?

At Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form we have always prided ourselves in placing particular emphasis on the traditional values of civilised behaviour, courtesy to all and a smart appearance. These traditional values will remain.

We recognise, however, that recent years have seen a growing staff body, now totalling over 250 staff

(teaching and non-teaching) and we have realised that consistency in how students are disciplined and staff-student relationships has to be a high priority.

Discipline with Dignity is providing a framework around which we can reflect on our consistencies (and inconsistencies).

## Key considerations of the staff training day

- All interventions can stop misbehaviour for a short time. More importantly, how does the intervention affect behaviour and learning over time.
- Students need dignity and control. Give control by giving choices and setting limits.
- Reframe student behaviour in a way that allows you to be a teacher rather than a policeman.
- Think in terms of opening doors, not closing them.
- Avoid power struggles.
- Keep all communication as private as possible

**Goals for Defusing Power Struggles:** dignity for the student; dignity for the teacher; keeping the student in class; teaching an alternative to aggression.

**Methods for Defusing Power Struggles:** listening; acknowledging; agreeing; deferring.

## Practical Discipline Guidelines

1. The most practical discipline technique is to welcome every student.
2. It takes less time at the end when you spend more time in the beginning.
3. When students withdraw, make an even bigger invitation.
4. Discipline responses require a two-stage approach: stabilise the situation and teach
5. Model effective expressions of anger with your students.
6. When you take something away, give something back.
7. Never use something you want a child to love as a consequence.
8. Eventually you must face a student who misbehaves; no one can do it for you.
9. When disciplining students, always provide choices and limits.
10. No one can change his or her behaviour without a commitment.





## What are the key principles of Discipline with Dignity?

- First Principle:** Long term behaviour change takes time
- Second Principle:** Stop doing ineffective things
- Third Principle:** I will be fair and I won't always treat people the same
- Fourth Principle:** Rules should always make sense
- Fifth Principle:** Model what you expect
- Sixth Principle:** Responsibility is more important than obedience
- Seventh Principle:** Always treat students with dignity

Staff and students have spent time considering these principles this half term. Mrs Kelly delivered an assembly about the training day to each year group in the first week of term and then a full hour's PDT lesson was devoted to the students considering each of the principles and giving their feedback. Staff and students were very animated when it came to discussing rules that they don't feel make sense. Some rules have already changed: notably students now being allowed to eat anywhere outside at lunchtimes (not just in the designated areas) and entering the building via the most convenient door after break and lunchtime (rather than via a designated door for different year groups). High

on the list for re-consideration currently are the effectiveness/usefulness of PURE cards and whether to allow students in the main building at lunchtimes.

Uniform rules feature highly on the students' 'rules should always make sense' consideration list and regardless of whether there will be changes to our uniform policy as a result of the discussions, it will be very important to make students understand why we have a uniform policy. It is essential to have a shared understanding of why rules are in place and even if there is not full agreement with a policy, at least students (and staff) are able to articulate why the rule is there.

### Next Steps

All the student feedback has been collated and Mrs Kelly will report back at a staff meeting on Thursday 16 October and ask for their response as to which of the students' suggestions we should take action on by changing certain rules. The tutor group reps will have an opportunity to give more detail around the written feedback that has been collated as a result of their discussions. There will then be assemblies to report back to the whole year group about what changes have taken place and a further PDT session to agree next steps. These are the initial steps on a journey that will shape and embed

our core values as a school.

We are committed to Discipline with Dignity as a positive framework through which we can further our goals of raising achievement for every child, regardless of their starting point, and ensuring that we adhere to our core professional values of "working together, achieving together".

If you would like any further information, or would like to become involved, please contact me by email at [rachel.kelly@notleyhigh.com](mailto:rachel.kelly@notleyhigh.com)

Mrs Kelly, Deputy Headteacher



**KEEP  
CALM**

**AND**

**RESPOND  
WITH  
DIGNITY**

# extracurricularclubs

## Extra-curricular Activities and Clubs

### Autumn Term 2014

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
Computing	IT4	Mrs Pillai
Year 9 Textiles Club 24 September- October half term	G16	Mrs O'Neill
Science Club	G26	Mr Vosper
Chinese Club	F2	Miss Harries
Homework Club	G29	Mrs Haight
Grease Drama Production	Drama Studio	Drama department
Entry Level French	F2	
KS 3 and 4 Maths Support	G44	Miss Whitmore

## Extra-curricular Clubs and Activities

### Autumn Term 2014

Club	Day	Venue	Staff
Computer Club Nintendo, Wii Sport/Fit & Games, homework	Monday-Thursday after school	G29 3.15- 5pm	Mrs Haight
Art Club	Monday- Thursday Lunch	G11	Miss King
Homework Club	Every lunch	G35	
Maths and Rubik's Cube	Every lunch	G46 & G49	Maths Department
Reading Club	Thursday lunch	Library	Mrs Ross
D of E Drop In	Thursday lunch	G6	Mr Burge
Entry Level Spanish	Thursday after School	F10	Mr De Gea
Card Making	Thursday after school	G34	Mrs Park
Year 9 Dance Performance	Thursday after school	Dance studio	Miss Auston
Christian Union	Friday Lunch	F7	Miss Fouche

# Music Department Extra-curricular Activities

## Autumn Term 2014

Monday	Senior Choir: Year 9-13 (G2)	Mrs Hanna
Tuesday	Wind Band (G2)	Mrs Hanna
Wednesday	African Drummers (G2) (11.05 -11.25) Jazz Band (G2) Junior Choir (G3)	Mr Timms Mrs Robb Miss Hermon & Miss Freeman
Thursday	Flute Group (G3) Keyboard Club – Year 7&8 (G1) GCSE Year 11 (G2)	Mrs Robb Mr Harris Mrs Hanna
Friday	Ukulele Club (G3) Music Technology Club – Year 7&8 (G1)	Mr Harris Miss Hermon

All rehearsals start at 1.40pm (except African Drummers). New members are always welcome. Please see members of staff for more details.

**Form Tutors: Please display on form notice board.**

**Extra curricular bus service**

- Leaves Notley High School at 4.35pm
- Travels down Bakers Lane and then along the London Road to White Court – 1st stop
- Travels back along London Road towards Great Notley Garden Village
- Stops between London Road and Great Notley Avenue – 2nd stop
- Travels along Great Notley Avenue – 3rd and 4th stops
- Travels along Notley Green – 5th, 6th and 7th stops (last one being just before Cuckoo Way)
- Travels along Cuckoo Way – 8th and 9th stops
- Travels to Panners Field triangle – 10th stop
- Travels along the A131 bypass, back towards Braintree, past the Broomhill Industrial Estate, turning left towards Rayne
- Travels to the Welsh Princess pub in Rayne – final stop – approximately 5.05pm

**\*=Stops**



### PE Clubs – September 2014

Monday Lunchtime	Tuesday Lunchtime	Wednesday Lunchtime	Thursday Lunchtime	Friday Lunchtime
<b>Handball</b> – Years 7/8 – Fitness Centre – CG/EW	<b>Netball</b> – All Years – Sports Hall – GN/SE	<b>Gymnastics</b> – Years 8/9/10/11 – Gym – SE	<b>Trampolining</b> – Year 7 – Gym – SH/SE	<b>Handball</b> – Years 9/10/11 – Sports Hall – EW/CG
<b>Gymnastics</b> – Year 7 – Gym – MD/SH	<b>Trampolining</b> – Years 8/9/10/11 – Gym – EW/CG	<b>Indoor Cricket</b> – All Years – Sports Hall – JRE/SH	<b>Badminton</b> – All Years – Fitness Centre – BLW/EW	<b>Table Tennis</b> – All Years – Sports Hall – JRE/BLW
<b>Inter-form</b> – Sports Hall – JRE/BLW		<b>SLC Club</b> – Fitness Centre – EW	<b>Sports Hall Athletics</b> – All Years – Sports Hall – JRE/CG	
After School	After School	After School	After School	After School
<b>Rugby</b> – Year 7 – Field JRE	Staff Meetings	<b>Netball</b> – Years 8/9/10/11 – Courts – SH	<b>Girls Football</b> – All Years – Field – SH/JRE	No clubs
<b>Football</b> – Years 8/9 – Field – EW/CG		<b>Football</b> – Years 7/11 – Field – JRE/EW	<b>Football</b> – Year 10 – Field – BLW	
<b>Netball</b> – Year 7 – Courts - MD		<b>Sixth Form Football</b> – CG/BLW	<b>Gymnastics</b> – All Years – Gym – SE/MD	
<b>Badminton</b> – All Years – Fitness Centre – KCU			<b>BTEC Catch Up</b> – ICT 2 - EW	

# term dates



## Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form School Term and Holiday Dates Academic Year 2014-2015

September 2014							October 2014							November 2014							December 2014						
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	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30																		29	30	31						
January 2015							February 2015							March 2015							April 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
			1	2	3	4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
26	27	28	29	30	31								30	31					27	28	29	30					
May 2015							June 2015							July 2015							August/ September 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
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30												24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
																			31	1	2	3	4	5	6		

= Schooldays/Weekends
  = School Holidays
  = Bank Holidays
  = Staff Training Days( No students)

Please note that Monday 1 September 2014 and Tuesday 2 September 2014 are Staff Training Days ( no students). In addition, we have allocated three Staff Training Days out of the school days indicated and the equivalent of one school day in disaggregated twilight sessions.

<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Monday 1 September 2014 – Friday 19 December 2014 Half Term 27 October – 31 October	75 days
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Monday 5 January 2015 – Friday 27 March 2014 Half Term 16- 20 February	55 days
<b>Summer Term:</b>	Monday 13 April 2015 – Friday 17 July 2015 Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday, 4 May	64 days
<b>Staff training days</b>	Monday 1 September 2014 Tuesday 2 September 2014 Friday 10 October 2014 Monday 23 February 2015	194 days

# 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.



## socialmediainlinks

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

#### Twitter:

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

### 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

# 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 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 icons for a globe and a document. Below this is a navigation menu with links: Home, News, Information, Curriculum, Training, School Life, Teaching & Learning, Vacancies, and Contact.

The main content area features a large image of Year 7 students on bicycles, with a caption: "Year 7 Bikeability Level 3 Training. On Thursday 9th October, some Year 7 students went out with two Road Safety Officers from Essex Highways. read more ...". To the left of this image is a sidebar menu with links: "Thinking about a Career in Teaching?", "Year 7 Bikeability Level 3 Training", "Year 9 Rewards Trip", "Venue for Year 11 Prom 2015", "Essex Chronicle Interview Year 10", "Bikes and Road Safety", "European Day of Languages - 26th September", and "Year 10 Rewards Trip".

Below the main image are four content blocks:

- Quick Links:** A list of links including Exam Results, Parent View, School Governance, Term Dates, Handbook for Parents and Carers, Pupil Premium, Ofsted Report, Welcome from the Head, Admissions Policy, and Find the School.
- Latest Newsletter:** Features a thumbnail for "on campus" with the text "Activity Days" and a "View previous newsletters" link.
- Latest Letters Home:** Lists several letters from October, such as "Severe Weather Arrangements Letter", "Year 13 Drama - Unit 3 Devised Performance", "Year 10 GCSE Mathematics in Action Conference", "Welcome Year 8 Presentation", "Year 7 Data Evening Presentation", "EuroDisney Trip Information Letter", and "Early Finish Open Evening Letter". It includes a "View previous letters" link.
- Home Learning:** Shows a photo of two students holding a book and includes icons for "Show My Homework" and "Home Learning Information".

At the bottom of the page is a row of ten blue icons with labels: Home Access Point, Parent Portal, Parents/Carers Evening Booking, School Calendar, Office 365, Leadership, PowerPlay, Library System, School Policies, and Current Job Vacancies.



# sixthformnews

D of E Expeditions



The rain came, lightly at first, then more persistently, paths became rivers, rivers became torrents and previously dry students became... well... damp. Still the hours of trudging uphill through the worst weather that the English Lake District could throw at them seemed like a distant memory as they wild camped amongst some of the highest ground in England and watched the sun dip behind the twin giants of Scafell and Scafell Pike. The weather had relented for a short time and in that window we had pitched our tents, nestled amongst the rocks and rivers of the Lakeland fells at over 700 metres.

This was the pattern for all four days of the

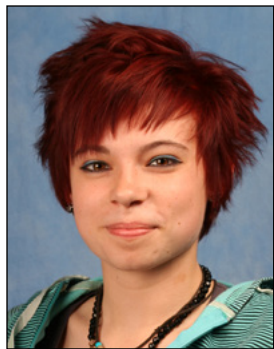
students' expedition, moments of hard won elation that were followed by miles of hard walking in horrible weather and all ending in glorious sunshine on the shores of Lake Coniston. Throughout, the group were a credit to the Sixth Form, working together as a team, showing resilience, stoicism and determination in the challenges they faced. We are sure they even surprised themselves with how they performed and, as this goes to press, they are readying themselves for an October assessment in the wilds of the Cambrian mountains of mid-Wales.

*Mr Beal, Year Leader - Year 13*

*Photos: Staff and Students*



## University Success at Braintree Sixth Form



Following this summer's excellent A level and International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma examination results, the vast majority of Braintree Sixth Form students will be going on to university, joining a very successful group of alumni. The Sixth Form opened in 2009 and staff are enjoying hearing of the first

graduate successes, including Rhyannon Brignell with a first class degree from UEA in English and American Literature and Toby Dyke who has secured a 2:1 in History from the University of York. Kieran Jones who graduated from Warwick with a 2:1 in Philosophy and Literature is now starting his PGCE. Kieran has been back into his old Notley classrooms, but this time acting as an observer rather than a student in preparation for entering the teaching profession. Alex Abbott graduated from the University of Birmingham with a first class in Nursing. His final dissertation is also to be published in a Nursing journal later this year. He is now working at a hospital in the Birmingham area in a critical care ward and is looking into the possibility of doing a Phd in the future.

Among this summer's top A level achievers are Aimee Mason and Emma Norris who both secured A\*A\*A. Aimee's impressive performance gains her a place on the highly competitive English and American Literature and Creative Writing course at University of Kent whilst Emma will be taking up a place at Queen Mary University to read Mathematics with Business Management. Ex Notley students April Woulfe and

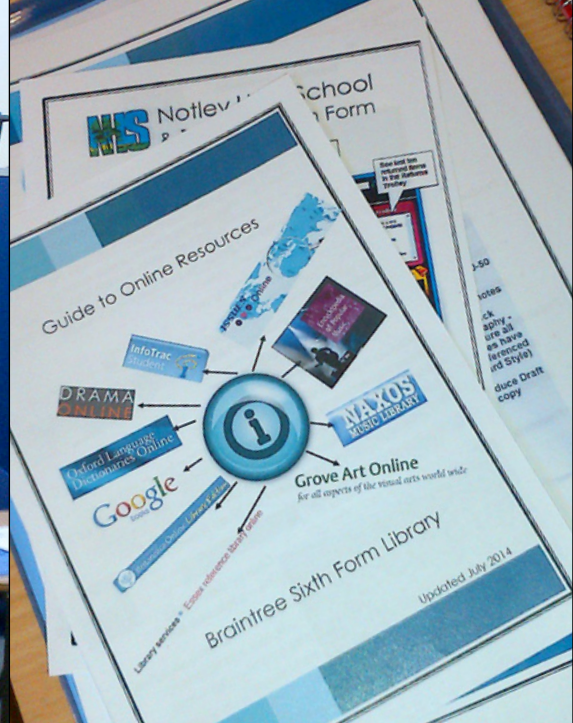
Adam Davey are both off to Russell group universities. April's outstanding 4 A grades taking her to Durham University where she will be reading Biomedical Sciences whilst Adam's A\* in English Literature helped to secure his place to read English at Warwick. Twins Kellie and Aimee Barker clocked up 6 A\*-B grades between them and will both be taking up places at University of Kent, although Kellie will be studying Sociology whereas Aimee has opted for Hispanic Studies.

International Baccalaureate students gained an average point score of 30, well in excess of international averages. Top performer Fathema Rahman achieved a score of 38 which is worth more UCAS points than 4 A\* grades at A level. This score places Fathema in the top 8% of IB students in the world. Fathema is looking forward to taking up a place at Queen Mary University to read Law. Other high scoring IB students include Charlotte Turner, who has gained a place at Exeter University, just a year after her sister Savannah left Braintree Sixth Form for the prestigious University of St Andrews and Abbie Vickers who will be reading Accounting and Management at University of Essex.

Every student leaving Braintree Sixth Form this summer has progressed onto university, further education, training or employment. Co-Directors of Sixth Form, Sarah Steadman and Kate Stubbs are very proud of this excellent progression record, 'We are delighted to see so many of our students achieving academic success. The number of them securing places at top universities in these competitive times is testament to both their hard work and the support of parents and staff.'



Photos: Staff and Students



## Extended Essay Day

On Wednesday 16 July, Year 12 IB students were off timetable for an Extended Essay Day. The day aimed to give students a better idea of why they were writing an extended essay and what is required of them by revisiting the IB points rubric and looking at how to write in an academic form. Time was spent on focusing their title on a specific area, how to take notes, how to avoid plagiarism and how to use the variety resources available in the Sixth Form Library effectively.

Students took a lot from the day and made significant progress with their projects; including narrowing down their questions from a broad area to a focussed research question, finding appropriate journal articles to use and reference in their essays and enjoying a

lovely chocolate cake courtesy of Ms Newell!

"The Extended Essay day enabled me to gain a lot of support from subject specialists and my Extended Essay Supervisor. The sessions and resources given to us students allowed us to go off and research our separate topics and essay titles individually. Without the resources given to us relating to our referencing and obtaining a substantial amount of different sources, I may have struggled to find sufficient evidence for my conclusion within the Extended Essay when writing it during my own time and the Summer Holidays."

*Kirsty Reynolds, Year 13 IB Student*

## Alumni Visits

We have been delighted to welcome back some past students of Braintree Sixth Form. James Pickering, who is reading Chemistry at University of Oxford was here have to offer support and advice to current students looking to apply to Oxbridge. Kieran Jones, who graduated from Warwick with a 2:1 in Philosophy and Literature, was in the classrooms as an observer

in preparation for entering the teaching profession. We are always delighted to have returning students working with us in BSF. It is testament to the success of the Sixth Form that so many of our alumni are keen to return! A reunion event for all past students will take place in January.





## A-Level Media Studies: A 21st Century Necessity

As teenagers in the 21st century we are bombarded with media 24/7, from social networks to TV and radio to newspapers and magazines. It is something we can never escape.

The media sector is worth over £977 billion and is scattered all over the world in many different forms. As a human being we are exposed to media every day, whether it is in our jobs, through our friends, in our social life, or just in our everyday lives. It is something we have lived with for many years and will expand in years to come. The technology industry is expanding all of the time giving us wider access to all types of media. We now live in an age where we can read what would be in a newspaper or magazine online and read online what wouldn't be in a magazine or newspaper. We are able to find out about the latest news first on sites such as Facebook or Twitter and even get news updates through emails and texts. Media expands even further in the terms of technology in the use of smart phone apps and other digital applications on devices.

Media Studies is a widely available subject in terms of studying for a qualification. Most institutions will provide the subject whether it is at GCSE, A-level, or degree level. Media Studies gives students the ability to interpret the world around them. It gives students key skills in analysing the properties of different aspects of the media industry and how it works. It is also about actively engaging the media world around us.

Some people see Media Studies as an irrelevant subject, that there isn't much work involved.



Professor James Curran, director of Goldsmith's media research centre and author of *Defending Media Studies*, says: 'I think that if people knew how demanding media studies is and how it requires the ability to write really well, a skills that most people don't have but makes a lot of media students highly employable, they would think differently.' Media Studies has been seen to improve students' English skills as well. Students are required to write critical evaluations and in depth analyses of many media aspects.

According to the Office of National Statistics 2013 report, people with a degree in Media have the second highest employment rate in the UK. So how come the subject is still so ridiculed, and why have ministers previously protested for it to be taken off the national curriculum when it provides so much for the economy?

Ms Shepherd, Head of Media Studies at Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, says: 'Media Studies is not an easy A-level option. The analytical demands and essay requirements are stringent. In our media driven society it is beneficial for students to be critical and aware of how we are manipulated and targeted by the mass media.'

Therefore, Media Studies as a subject can prepare students for the demanding world of work and learn how to produce excellent work to a deadline and see the ways in which the media pervades our everyday lives.

*Minakshi Sharma & Emma Smith,  
BSF Media Studies Students*

# braintreeartstheatre

Hansel and Gretel

26 October

2.30pm

Tickets: £8, £29 Family Ticket



Hansel and Gretel - a real Halloween treat for the whole family! See an all-star cast in a magical version of the classic Grimm fairytale!

We take everybody by the hand on the breadcrumb trail for a fun, light-hearted adaptation of Hansel and Gretel.

The show is jammed-packed with magic, action and slapstick comedy. With singing, cheering, booing, puppets, illusions, lots of colourful costumes, amazing sets and maybe even a custard pie or two!

Don't scoff at this tasty treat...book now!

# braintreeartstheatre

## Big Book Tales

23 November

2.30pm

Tickets: £8, £5 conc,  
£20 Family Ticket

This is an old story that takes place in a forgotten tattered library. The caretaker arrives to check the place over. He talks to the audience about his love of books.

While cleaning, the caretaker finds an old Big Book (6ft). He discovers the story has gone; all the words in it have been washed away. So he starts to think of a story. The battered pages are all different colours. He uses the colours left on the pages to suggest things that may have been in the story.

The caretaker falls into the book and is transformed into "Book Man". "Book Man" has a problem - he needs to find the rainbow that ends his story. This leads us to turn the pages; on each page we meet a new character from the water cycle.



## Comedy Club

20 November

8pm

Tickets: £10 in  
advance, £12 on the  
door, buy 3 or more  
tickets and receive  
15% off

**The** OFFICIAL  
Comedy Club<sup>®</sup>  
[www.thecomedyclub.co.uk](http://www.thecomedyclub.co.uk)

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