Notley High
School and Sixth Form
Enjoy, Enrich, Achieve, Aspire.

5 November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

The Centre for Computing History - Trip
Wednesday 9th December 2026 – Cambridge

The Computer Science Department is pleased to offer students the opportunity to visit The Centre for Computing History in Cambridge. Based in Cambridge, it hosts hands-on exhibitions, educational workshops and a wide range of activities and events.

The Centre for Computing History (CCH) is a pioneering educational charity that was established to tell the story of the Information Age through exploring the historical, social and cultural impact of developments in personal computing. It maintains a long-term collection of objects to tell this story.

CCH has an internationally significant collection of vintage computers, memorabilia, artefacts, documents and hands-on displays – in total about 24,000 items. The core collection consists of 800 historic computers including an Altair 8800, usually considered the first home computer, as well as mobile phones, games consoles and calculators. CCH is currently developing two new Cambridge-related archives: a Sinclair collection and an Acorn collection.

There will also be an opportunity to see the Megaprocessor. Over 10 meters long and 2 meters high, the machine shows the inner workings of a microprocessor, the tiny chip at the heart of billions of smartphones, laptops, gaming consoles and other electronic devices. It features 12,000 LEDs and 40,000 transistors, with over 250,000 individual solder joints wiring it all up. The LEDs light up at every stage of the computational process to show how data moves through a CPU as it executes a program.

We will travel by coach which will leave the school at 09.00am and we will hopefully return at approximately 3.30pm (dependent on traffic conditions). Year 10 and 11 students will wear school uniform and Year 12 and 13 students will be held to the same uniform standards as always. The students should also bring food to sustain them throughout the day.

Students will be reminded that the highest standards of behaviour will be expected and that any misconduct may mean that they will be unable to participate in future visits. Students will be expected to arrive at Notley High School at 08.40am to meet Mr Pryke in G54. This will ensure the entire school day is covered and that we can leave promptly for 09.00am.

The cost of the trip, including travel, is £26.00 per student. The trip is open to all students studying Computer Science in Year 10 and above. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment should be made via ParentPay and the payment window will close on Monday 16th November 2026.

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Headteacher: Mr M Barrow

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To ensure that all students have access to the full range of co-curricular opportunities available at Notley High School, financial assistance may be available for students who receive Free School Meals or Pupil Premium funding. If you would like to request support towards the cost of this trip, please contact our Pupil Premium Coordinator, Mrs Ketley, who will be happy to discuss this with you: Rebecca.Ketley@Notleyhigh.com or Richard.Pryke@Notleyhigh.com.

Should you have any questions about the trip, please feel free to contact me via email : Richard.pryke@notleyhigh.com

Yours sincerely

R Pryke
Head of Faculty – Business, Computer Science and Economics