

## Youngster fighting eye cancer joins Vision Express to officially open new optical store at Tesco in Dunstable

Six-year-old Nathan Ingram and his family share their battle with rare eye cancer as optician launches



L-R: Vision Express Dunstable optical assistant Matthew Ursell, acting store manager and clinic coordinator Najam Mohiuddin, CHECT ambassador Nathan Ingram and optical assistants Rachael Sonaiki and Catherine Howson

The new 'Vision Express at Tesco' store in Dunstable has officially opened its doors, with a celebration led by child eye cancer survivor and charity ambassador, Nathan Ingram.

Nathan, aged six, is an ambassador for the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT) and was on hand to help cut the ribbon on the premises, which is home to sophisticated sight

screening equipment, to deliver a thorough eye health service to local residents.

Nathan was diagnosed with retinoblastoma (Rb), a rare and aggressive eye cancer, three weeks before his second birthday after his parents, Claire Snushall and Karl Ingram, noticed a white reflection in his left eye - a common symptom of Rb.

“Obviously, when Nathan was diagnosed it was a huge shock – we were gutted and scared at what the outcome could be,” explained Claire. “After what was a whirlwind five weeks, ending with him having his left eye removed, we got the good news that Nathan didn’t require any further treatment, just checkups.

“Four years on, he is a confident little chap and doesn’t let having one eye bother him.”

Vision Express at Tesco Dunstable acting store manager and clinic coordinator, Najam Mohiuddin said: “It’s fantastic to have Nathan and his family join the team to

officially open our new store. We're here to help residents ensure their vision is the best it can be, and Nathan's story demonstrates the importance of looking after your eye health.

"We have over 100 ways to test your eyes, to assess how they're working and help detect serious conditions such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and increased risk of stroke. It's great that Vision Express is now in such a convenient location for local residents to drop in and get this essential health check."



Nathan Ingram, CHECT ambassador at Vision Express Dunstable store

The Dunstable optical store, is one of more than 200 'Vision Express at Tesco' outlets launching across the UK in 2018 and showcases a purple-infused rebrand being introduced across the entire Vision Express chain.

The re-brand introduces a refreshed logo and striking purple and green colour decor, featuring bright sofas and wooden flooring, delivering a modern, inviting and vibrant environment to encourage customers to feel at ease.



Najam Mohiuddin, acting store manager and clinic coordinator, and Nathan Ingram

Vision Express' acquired Tesco Opticians at the end of 2017. In preparation for the expected increase in demand for frames prompted by the acquisition, a £1.5 million investment has been made at Vision Express' Nottingham-based Technical Centre.

The national home of Vision Express' laboratory, the Technical Centre currently produces more than one million pairs of glasses a year but following the investment, production capacity is expected to double during 2018.

Vision Express CEO Jonathan Lawson added: "This is a hugely exciting time for the Vision Express family, and we're delighted to welcome new team members to the company and provide a seamless eye health service to former Tesco optical customers. Crucially, we're pleased to now be able to offer our vision expertise in a convenient location to residents."

## ENDS

### Notes for editors

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### About Vision Express

Vision Express is one of the largest optical retailers in the UK and part of [GrandVision](#), the global leader in optical retail operating in more than 40 countries, spanning over 6,500 stores and online.

With almost 600 stores nationwide, Vision Express first opened its doors in Newcastle in 1988. Built on a passion for the profession, it has gone from strength to strength, driven by a commitment to unparalleled customer service and providing the best individual optical care, the right product and great value. Customers can select from a vast range of genuine designer brands and the latest technology lenses, through to complete glasses from £39.

With around 6,000 employees, Vision Express makes a significant difference to the communities it operates within, and the organisations it chooses to support. As part of its commitment to [Vision Taken Seriously](#), and as a responsible and caring retailer, Vision Express is proud to partner with a range of healthcare charities, which have touched the lives of customers and teams. These companies provide vital support to people affected by vision-related conditions. They are part of the [Vision Express Charity Project](#) and include:

1. Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT)
2. International Glaucoma Association
3. Macular Society
4. Stroke Association
5. Temple Street University Hospital
6. Brake

### About the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust

1. The Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT) is a UK charity dedicated to helping people affected by retinoblastoma. It:
  - Provides ongoing support and information to families and individuals.
  - Funds research into the prevention and treatment of retinoblastoma.
  - Raises awareness among health professionals and the public.
  - Influences policy to improve services for patients.
2. Retinoblastoma is a rare and aggressive form of eye cancer that affects babies and young children, mainly under the age of six. Around 40-50 cases are diagnosed a year in the UK – or one child a week. It represents 3% of all childhood cancers and 10% of cancers in babies under the age of one in the UK.
3. Around 98% of children survive retinoblastoma in the UK but early diagnosis is crucial in order to save a child's eyes, sight and life. The most common symptoms are a white glow in a child's eye or pupil in dim lighting or when a photo is taken using a flash, and a squint.
4. CHECT has been a registered charity since 1987 and was formerly known as the Retinoblastoma Society. For more information on CHECT or retinoblastoma (also known as Rb), including signs and symptoms, diagnosis, the red reflex test and treatment options, visit [www.chect.org.uk](http://www.chect.org.uk)