



At the end of a very long, busy and hugely successful school term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our students, staff, parents and governors for their hard work and support of Langtree School in 2017. I sincerely hope that you all have a very restful and enjoyable Christmas and a well-deserved break!

Our best wishes are sent especially to Mrs Buckley, who will be starting her maternity leave in January. Although she will be sadly missed, we are delighted to welcome Miss Grant back to Langtree to cover Mrs Buckley's timetable. Miss Grant has taught in the English Department previously, and proved to be extremely popular with students and staff. Miss Grant will be working alongside Mrs Ilderton, a specialist English teacher with immense teaching experience who joins us from Chiltern Edge.

We will also be delighted to welcome back Mrs Brockwell to the Humanities team, following her maternity leave. Mrs Brockwell has been in school regularly to plan for next term, and it will be a great pleasure to see her in the staffroom again in January. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Peates, who has provided such excellent cover during Mrs Brockwell's absence. However, I am also delighted that Mrs Peates has agreed to stay on until the end of the year in a part time capacity in the Geography department.

Our students have achieved so much this year so far, and we continue to be extremely proud of their attitude, spirit and achievements. On the sports field, our rugby teams have had considerable success. The Year 8 team and a combined Year 10/11 team won their respective leagues without losing a single game, and just to top that remarkable record, the Y10 team went on to win the County Cup!

In November we celebrated our Class of 2017 at their GCSE Presentation Evening. The Class of 2017 students were welcomed back to Langtree to celebrate their GCSE results. The Class of 2017 achieved the best results ever with 82% of gaining 5 good GCSE passes at A\*-C (or equivalent), with 76% achieving five or more passes including English and Maths. The proportion of the cohort achieving the new Basics measure of a pass in English and Maths was 77%, and the proportion of all grades awarded overall at A\*-C (or equivalent) was 79%. In total 26% of the Year 11 cohort achieved the English Baccalaureate measure, or EBacc. It was fantastic to see our now ex students and hear how their Year 12 courses are progressing.



Our Celebration of Christmas was also an occasion when our students were able to shine. Over 100 students gave outstanding performances in gymnastics, drama and music to a sell-out audience in one of the biggest and best Christmas concerts I have ever had the pleasure to see.

In other ways, our students exhibited the true spirit of Christmas this term. Our Year 9 students were excellent ambassadors for the school when they hosted the senior citizens Christmas party, with over 60 guests attending. This is a very special opportunity for our students to spend some quality time with members of an older generation, and their company and sensitivity was hugely appreciated, as was evident in the lovely thank you messages we have received since the event.

Furthermore, a group of students had the pleasure of distributing over 20 Christmas hampers to the senior members of our local community, thanks to the generosity of our parents through their kind donations. Last but not least, our Student Leaders waited on in professional style to serve Christmas lunch to a record breaking number of over 180 students. What a lovely event that was to end the term!

And so we will enter 2018 with optimism and excitement for another successful year ahead. We look forward to seeing our students again in school on Thursday 4th January but, in the meantime, I sincerely hope that you all have a happy and restful Christmas break.

Mr R Holroyd Headteacher



The **Christmas Extravaganza** was another fantastic success. The students performed in wonderful Gym displays, drama pieces and displays of musical talent. There were excellent solo performances by Jessica Li, Reuben Greenslade, Caitlin Parmar-Sheppard, Lloyd Singleton, Laura Ogden, Georgina Benham, Michael Varnes and Sophie Webb. The Junior and Senior orchestras joined forces (50 musicians) at the end to send the audience home with a rousing performance of We Wish You A Merry Christmas.



The **Langtree PTA** raised an incredible £2000 at the bingo night. Thank you to the PTA amazing team who helped to make this a fun and successful evening for everyone. The PTA have donated: £400.00 to the Technology Department - Precision Pro Lathe, £400.00 to the Art Department – SLR Camera and £400.00 to Humanities/Science Departments for a Digital Weather Station. A huge thank you to all involved.



**SENIOR ORCHESTRA**

**Piano Soiree**

Thirty students took part in what has become a regular event. The event offers the piano students the opportunity to perform in a relaxed environment to their friends and family. As usual, the standard was very high. Particular thanks must go to the students' teachers and especially Judith Ward and Mary Daniels.

**Music News**

Langtree Student, Sophie Webb is a member of the Reading Symphonic Wind Orchestra who took part in the National Concert Band Festival in London earlier this month. They won GOLD and progress to the finals in Manchester in April. Well done Sophie and good luck!

**Thank you**

Thank you to Mrs Sporle for the donation of a bass guitar and amplifier. Thanks also to Mr and Mrs Whatmore for the donation of a clarinet. If you have instruments in good condition that are no longer of any use to you or your family we would be happy to consider them for the Music Department. Please contact Mr Henderson shenderson@langtreeschool.com

**Year 10 GCSE Drama**

A group of Year 10 GCSE Drama students created and performed a bespoke Theatre-in-Education piece for Year 4 students at Woodcote primary. They tailored their drama for their target audience, as they taught them about how to be a good friend. The audience enthusiastically joined in, and their teacher commented on how perfectly pitched the drama was for the age group. Well done, Kyle, Eve, Esme, Trinity and Daniel! The same students also took a piece about 'Green' and the letter 'P!' to the Cabin Pre School—the children at the pre-school absolutely loved it - and so did our performers

Our **Year 10 GCSE Drama students** were lucky enough to take part in a free workshop by one of the lead actors and producer of Reading Between the Lines theatre company. She was accompanied by the playwright of their recent production of Matilda the Empress, Beth Flintoff.

The workshop focused on how to structure devised performance work, and we learned techniques which will be hugely beneficial towards our Component 1 devising unit. Mrs Pimm



### Tae-Kwando National Silver Medallist

There are few words to describe the feeling of fear and excitement I felt as I stepped onto the sparring mat and bowed towards my opponent. The judges ready themselves and the referee inspects our protective gear; we're ready. The bell rings, the spectators roar and the fight begins, all my nerves vanish as I land the first punch. I have been doing Tae-Kwando for just two years training twice a week for a total of 4 hours. I started Tae-Kwando in order to gain more fitness to play county football but started competing as soon as I could. This March I went for my first national competition and won a bronze, one of my proudest moments. On November 12th 2017, after not winning medals in "patterns" or "special techniques" I became a national silver medallist in category A, a very proud moment - but I am hoping for Gold next Year. Ali Varnham. (far left of photo)



Our **Year 8 Rugby Team** won the Reading schools rugby conference league, winning the play off semi final 15-10 against Maiden Erlegh and the final 10-0 against Bohunt. They had already beaten Theale, Highdown, Little Heath, Chiltern Edge, Oakwood and John Madejski Academy.



Year 8 boys also took part in a County rugby competition winning 3 games and losing just one. They lost 15-5 to Chipping Norton but beat Faringdon 5-0, John Mason by the same score and Blessed George Napier 20-5.

### Triathlon Champions

Our U14 girls won the team event at area triathlon. Caitlin Edgar, Gemma Botham and Mia Stovell. (right) Caitlin was the individual winner with Gemma 3rd.

In the U17 girls category Juno Norman came second. Ben Morgan also came 2nd in the U14 boys. Each athlete does 1500m ergo Row, 2.5km cycle, 1600m run.



### Area Cross Country

The Year 7 girls who won their event in the area cross country, well done to Lola Batt, Charlotte Svensden, Lydia Godfrey, Tilly Ogston, Lara Bell and Sydney Spearing

In the same event the Year 7 boys were 3rd, the Year 8/9 girls, 4th and the Year 8/9 boys came 5th



During the creativity day in November the **Year 11 students** spent a day at **The Henley College** looking at options for courses in Year 12 and Year 13. The Year 11 students had a chance to take part in activities relating to the courses offered. For some students this included taking part in fitness tests in the sports Department, during a sports science taster session.



Not to be outdone by the success of the Year 8 rugby team, the **Year 10/11 Rugby Team** followed suit by winning their league at a VERY wet Reading RFC. Having won all 8 league games they then beat Maiden Erlegh 28-0 in the play off semi final before beating Oakbank by the same score in the final. The Year 10 boys won the County Cup rugby. Beating Burford 24-0 in semi final and Bloxham 19-10 in the final.



### KS3 Access to Education day at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) by Stella Cleverley

On Tuesday 6th December 12 year 8 students visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory with Mrs Darkins. We were one of 6 local schools that attended. The day aimed to inspire students to continue with STEM subjects at GCSE. After arriving, we had a tour of ISIS - a massive particle accelerator. In ISIS we were taught about how it worked and how it generates protons that move at the speed of light! We also had a go on a Van Der Graaf Generator which produces static electricity; some students were even able to feel electrocution without it hurting! My favourite part of the day was when all of the schools were set an engineering task to build a car completely powered by a balloon (easier said than done!) each group was given a budget of '£100' to spend on all of the resources that they needed. After lunch we all headed to a lecture theatre where we were all given little voting pads to take part in an interactive lecture on materials. The questions were interesting, and the outcomes were extremely surprising! Sadly the day came to an end at that point, but it was an extremely fun, inspiring and fascinating experience. A huge thank you to RAL and Mrs Darkins for this brilliant experience!



### English Civil War Creativity Day

Year 8 was split into several groups, the first activity we participated in was the Musket handling. We were taught how to load the weapon and just how dangerous it was to be a Musketeer, if the lit wick was held too close to your chest where the gunpowder pouches were hanging, you would be dead before the war had even begun! After the musket handling, we moved onto the Pikes and Positions including "Charge for Horse", where the pike was planted into the ground supported by a foot and held at an angle towards the oncoming cavalry. This was the most effective way to stop the onslaught of charging horses. It was brilliant to touch and hold all of these weapons. One group prepared pottage and bread for our lunch, another created flags with authentic English Civil War designs to use in the re-enactment of the Battle of Naseby which ended the day and another group designed and made pewter casted badges to present to the bravest soldiers! Anna Lewis and Tom Fitzsimmons



### Senior Citizens Christmas Party and Christmas Hampers

Year 9 students helped to organise and host our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party, 60 guests enjoyed entertainment from our students and Beech Class from the primary school along with afternoon tea. Year 9 also organised the Christmas hampers that are created to give to members of the local community.



Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094

**Children in Need  
raised an amazing  
£1050**

**Thank you to some of  
the students in 8KM  
for all their hard work.**



**Sponsored Walk**

Raised a fantastic  
**£8412.80**



**Christmas Lunch and  
Christmas Jumper Day**

Students sat down for a lovely  
Christmas Lunch served by staff.  
The Christmas Jumpers collection  
raised £134.20 which will be split  
between Save the  
Children, Launchpad, The Dogs  
Trust and Make a Wish Charities.



**We collected 75 Shoe  
Boxes for Operation  
Christmas Child**



**2017–2018 Term Dates**

**Christmas Holiday – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January Start of Term 3

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February End of Term 3**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February Inset Day 3**

**February Break – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February Start of Term 4

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March End of Term 4**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March Inset Day 4**

**Easter Holiday – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April Start of Term 5

Monday 7<sup>st</sup> May May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May End of Term 5

**May Break – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June Start of Term 6

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July End of Term 6 (School closes at 12.30 pm)

**The date of an additional inset day during 2017 /2018 is to be confirmed.**

**Absence Requests**

Parents may not authorise absence; only schools can do this. Schools may authorise any absence they deem appropriate; conversely, they can refuse to authorise any absence. Parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw students from school for a holiday, and, in law, have to apply for permission in advance. Retrospective approval may not be given. Holidays taken during term time without approval from the Headteacher will be recorded as unauthorised. Removal of your child for a holiday in term time without permission without authorisation from the Headteacher may lead to issuing of fixed penalty notice or even prosecution under section 444 of the Education Act. **What to do:** Requesting absence should be done in writing at least one month prior to the absence. If the child does not return to school after an agreed period, they may be marked as having unauthorised absence. Requests for absence should be made in writing to Mr Holroyd stating the dates of absence and the reason for the absence, the school reserves the right to seek further information about the requested absence. Email requests can be sent to Mr Holroyd via his PA Mrs M Taylor-Lane [mtaylorlane@langtreeschool.com](mailto:mtaylorlane@langtreeschool.com)

90% attendance means that your child is absent from lessons for the equivalent of one half day every week. Over 5 years this adds up to missing nearly half a school year of education

**Please pay on line for trips & visits rather than by cash or cheque.**

**If you do not have your unique pupil code please email the finance office:**

**[finance@langtreeschool.com](mailto:finance@langtreeschool.com)**

Paying online is quick and convenient and allows you to see what you have paid and any amounts left to pay, particularly useful for school trips. Paying online also helps the school by cutting down the amount of time needed to process the hundreds of cheques we receive. There is a link to the online payment system on the front of the school website.

**PLEASE  
PAY  
HERE**

If you have any good quality **School Uniform** that your child has grown out of, we would be very grateful to receive it. Please bring any donations of uniform to reception, thank you. If you would like to purchase any of the second hand uniform please contact the School Office [office@langtreeschool.com](mailto:office@langtreeschool.com) or 01491 680514

**LOST PROPERTY**

When lost property arrives in the school office it is checked for a name. Named lost property is then returned directly to the owner. Unnamed property is kept in the school office in the hope that it will be reclaimed. 2 or 3 times during the school year the un-named lost property will be made available in the main hall for the students to look through. please help us to return belongings to students by clearly naming all their uniform and other belongings. Thank you.