

Easter 2018 Newsletter



It was with somewhat mixed feelings that I announced my decision to leave Langtree School at the end of the academic year, after more than thirteen years as Headteacher. I have invested a tremendous amount of time, energy and emotion into the school during my time in post here, and it was never going to be easy to leave. However, the opportunity to lead King Alfred's School in Wantage is hugely exciting, and I look forward to the new challenge with relish; this is an opportunity which I simply could not pass up.

Looking ahead, I am delighted to announce that the governors have appointed Mr Bamford as acting, interim Headteacher from 1st September, pending a process to appoint a permanent, substantive Headteacher to the post in the future. Mr Bamford has gained the deepest respect from students and staff alike in his time at Langtree to date, and he certainly has the experience and capability to lead the school successfully through the transitional period to come. I am delighted with this decision both for Mr Bamford, and for the school as a whole, and I sincerely believe that the school could not be left in a better pair of hands. I will be working hard over the coming weeks with Mr Bamford to effect as smooth a transition as possible for the benefit of students, staff and parents alike. Furthermore, I have huge confidence in the colleagues I am leaving behind. Our Heads of Department are the strongest group I have ever worked with, and with our more recent appointments to the leadership team only last year, the senior team has all the skills needed to improve the school still further. I will watch all the future developments and successes with real interest from Wantage!

I will leave with a real sense of pride as to what we have all created at Langtree, and by that I do not just mean the staff, but the students, parents and governors all working together. The school has a very special ethos and culture; it is a happy place in which to work; it is certainly very successful in terms of academic outcomes; and is consequently heavily oversubscribed. Those achievements have been brought about by consistent teamwork over a long time, and I have every confidence that, given the strength of the Langtree staff team at the moment, the school will continue to flourish for a long time to come.

It is fair to say that, perhaps most of all, I will miss the students. I have often thanked you in recent years for lending your sons and daughters to us at Langtree, as it is a huge pleasure to work with them. They all bring a great spirit to their school, as well as considerable humour and evident pride. The vast majority model our core values of courtesy, tolerance and respect in all they do, and they are, in my view, outstanding in every respect, and I will miss their warmth very much indeed.

As parents within our school community, I have always appreciated your overwhelming support during my years in post, as well as your constructive criticisms when things have not been quite to your satisfaction! I would like to finish by taking this opportunity to thank you all for your trust and your support during my time as Headteacher, and to wish you, your families and your sons and daughters every success in the future.

In particular, I would like to wish all the very best to our Y11 students, who are about to embark on their final GCSE examination season. I wish them all well: stay calm, revise thoroughly, and simply aim to do the very best you possibly can. That way, the freedom you will enjoy through the long, hot summer will feel all the more enjoyable and satisfying!

Mr R Holroyd, Headteacher



Artist of the Term

Polly Keene 9KB



Langtree PTA

We are proud to say – more donations on the way.....

Funds have been raised this term in a number of ways including refreshments at school events, running a Woodcote coffee shop morning and the very successful Race night which alone raised £4100.

Thank you to everybody who has helped to run these events and to all those of you who came along to enjoy yourselves and spend your hard earned cash.

As a result, this term, we have been able to donate the following:

- £400 - PE Dept for a much needed new Trampette
- £60 - History Dept for a holocaust survivor talk
- £40 - History Dept to take part in Oxford Remembers
- £360 - English 2 x Reading pens to help students be independent and so achieve more
- £640 - Extra Curricular for Lacrosse equipment so all students can access the sport
- £2560 - Science Dept 16 x Chromebooks to support learning in science

That's a massive **£4060!**

So you can see that together we are making a huge difference for all students.

Please continue to support the PTA however you can, either by joining the committee or coming and enjoying the events we organise.

Our next meeting is 7.30pm Tuesday 15th May at The Highwayman Inn, Checkendon



Race Night Jockeys

UKMT Team Maths Challenge

On the 20th of March 2 students from year 8- Elena Bromidge and Oli McCormick- and 2 students from year 9- Rosie Sweeten and Luke Trott- were chosen to go to Highdown School & Sixth Form Centre for the regional final of this years' UK mathematics trust team maths challenge. There were 4 challenges; the first was a team test where we all had to work out 10 questions between us, the second was a cross number where we split into 2 groups, one working out the across and the other down. The third challenge was a kind of relay race where you needed the answer from the previous question to work out the next, the final challenge was a proper relay race where we were in groups again and had to run to the other groups and hand them their question once we had had 2 tries or got it right. The questions were very challenging, and Langtree came 8th out of 30.

Thanks to Elena Bromidge for writing this article and well done to all of our students that took part in this event!

UKMT Intermediate Challenge

On Thursday 1st February students from year 9, 10 and 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Student's had to complete a number of problem solving questions in an hour based on a variety of different topics! The results are now in and the following students achieved certificates. Congratulations to George Brinson who achieved our Best in School certificate!

Gold:
Oscar Hewlett- Best in Year, George Brinson- Best in Year, Luke Trott- Best in Year
Lottie Whatmore, Niamh Walker, Evelyn Singleton,
Silver:
Frances Wahlen, Sophie Webb, Ben Stodolnic, Jessica Li, Molly Cole, Hannah Oduekun, Alex Ostridge, Mungo Leveroni, Rosie Turtle, Katie Harris, Danny Harris, Ted Spencer, Daniel Nicoll, Robert Millsop, Luke Ogden, Chris Wahlen.
Bronze:
Alex Heath, Ben Sumner, Emilia Kent, Matthew Allen, Madeline Warren, Craig Moran, Hazel Drury, John Higgins, Julian Davis, Joanna Hopwood.

Author Visit

S D Mayes visited Langtree to speak to Year 9 about her new book 'Letters to the Pianist'. Set during World War II, fourteen-year-old Ruth Goldberg and her two younger siblings, Gabi and Hannah, survive the terrifying bombing of their family home. They believe their parents are dead, their bodies buried underneath the burnt remains – but unbeknownst to them, their father, Joe, survives and is taken to hospital with amnesia.

Four years on, Ruth stumbles across a newspaper photo of a celebrated pianist and is struck by the resemblance to her father. Desperate for evidence she sends him a letter, and as the pianist's dormant memories emerge, his past unravels, revealing his true identity – as her beloved father, Joe. Ruth sets out to meet him, only to find herself plunged into an aristocratic world of sinister dark secrets.

Not only did Sherron contribute to our World Book Day celebrations, it was also an opportunity to enrich the Year 9 History curriculum.



Please check the website for up to date information. www.langtreeschool.com

Holocaust Testimony

On Thursday 22nd of March, Year 9 of Langtree School were incredibly privileged to hear the Testimony of Janine Webber, a Holocaust survivor. Her story is an incredible one.

Janine was born in Lwow (pronounced Vov), in Poland. She and her family hid from SS soldiers until they were found and placed in a ghetto. Sadly, she lost her mother here.

Luckily, her uncle paid for a family to hide Janine and her brother. They hid in a hole for a year, without any sunlight and little food. Unfortunately, they were found by an SS soldier. He buried her brother alive, but didn't kill Janine. After this, she found another place to stay, thanks to her Aunt. She managed to get Janine to an orphanage with false papers and saying Janine was Christian. Thankfully, Mrs Webber was able to survive the ordeal.

Langtree School are very thankful to Janine for coming into school and talking to us. She pressed upon us the importance of tolerance and respect and it is a lesson which will stay with us for ever more.

Many thanks to the PTA for helping this visit happen. Guy Furlonger, 9NJ



Langtree brother's bring home silver and gold!



On Saturday the 24th of February 2018 my brother Adam (year 10) and I went to our first Tae Kwon-do sparing competition (the British Tae Kwon-do Federation juniors and veteran championships) down in Wales. We have been studying and training for 8 years and we have passed every belt and we are one grading away from achieving our black belts.



We had to be up and gone by six o'clock with our kit together on a dark and damp morning. I slept for a while in the car only to wake up to the sunrise over the Severn River as we drove across the Severn Bridge.

We managed to grab some breakfast on the way before finally reaching our destination which was the Ebbw Vale Sports/leisure centre. We were directed to the main, huge, sports hall where the competition was taking place. We found our seats and met up with our coaches and other team competitors from the club we go to.

The hall itself had tiered seating in a large viewing area and the arena was laid out with four large matted competing arenas. There were over 200 competitors and large number of officials walking around in their suits.

It was a very long wait for us as our competition times were scheduled for around four pm (we could have had a lie in) so we spent all day watching other people compete. As we were competing in different age groups, we couldn't watch each other compete.

My first fight I automatically won as my opponent didn't show up but then went on to fight two more opponents and, to my surprise, I won against both of them and found myself having to fight in the 'final'. This opponent was really aggressive, he had so much energy and just wouldn't stop. The fight finally came to an end and despite his many warnings and penalty points, he won the gold medal, so I received the silver medal. Adam, in his competition, won all of his rounds and won the gold medal.

It was a great day, we really enjoyed the competition and we really didn't expect to win anything as it was our first one. We can't wait for the next which will be in May. T-J McBride. 8KM

Visit to BP on International Women's Day

We were driven to the technology centre in Mr Vitty's car in two lots, as the minibus had broken down the day before ironic, really, since we were visiting a place specialising in engineering!

We were put into four groups made up of us, Theale Green, Didcot Girls and Bradfield College and we were set our first task: to draw and describe a stereotypical person that fit the given job description. E.g. ours was a chemist, so our initial ideas were things like a lab coat, quite nerdy, reserved and male. (Throughout the day, we realised that our brains conjure up many unconscious biases on a daily basis that we should aim to challenge.)

After being introduced to everyone, we had the chance to ask four female panellists questions about their career or pretty much anything. There was a really diverse range of responses which made us realise that there is so much you can do with STEM. It opens up so many doors and it's easy to change which route you go on, and where you end up.

After the interviews, we took a break for lunch. There were hot chicken kebabs, an array of neatly cut sandwiches and free access to the hot drinks machine (which we all took full advantage of!).

After lunch, we had the chance to have a guided tour around the labs. The best part was when we got to see a demonstration of a machine in the analytical building. One thing that she showed us was that the machine could detect molecular levels of Cocaine on an old £10 note (in fact, those levels of cocaine are common to almost all old £10 notes!)

As well as being a day full of inspiration and new experiences, we realised the value of careers in STEM and the importance of reducing the STEM skills gap in the UK to tackle the issue of gender equality. We would highly recommend pursuing such a career! Hannah and Finn



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The BIG BANG Fair

Earlier this month, students from Langtree school were given the chance to attend the biggest STEM event for young people in the whole of the UK – the Big Bang Fair! STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) has a big part to play in our daily lives, such as our mobile phones, cars and even musical instruments. At the fair, all the staff demonstrated how important it is to be enthusiastic about STEM because it is so important in the present day but will keep developing in the future. On the way there, despite the long journey, the excitement levels were high! As soon as we entered the hall, there were stalls that appeared to go on forever, which was very cool. All of them looked so enticing that it was hard to pick where to go first!

Have you ever touched a cloud? We did- at the cloud factory, which looked so fascinating we couldn't ignore it, you could touch, see and even 'hear' the clouds, as they are all made of dry ice. They also managed smell and taste interesting, due to some unusual laboratory reagents (chemical substances). I think that the activity was great fun, and suitable for all the year groups. There were so many other interactive STEM activities to take part in, like building different gadgets, by assembling a device kit, and then personalising the robotics of it!

Throughout the rest of the day, we realised that there is such a range of careers linked into STEM, and so many experiences on offer. After doing an entertaining online quiz, we were presented with a suitable job that may interest us later in life. In the 'Careers Cabin', we were told all about different jobs: a robotics engineer, a digital musician, a flavourist or and even a fragrance chemist!

One of the ways the staff explained the positives of choosing a STEM career was through an interactive an entertaining live show, which had the audience on their feet, cheering and laughing, at the same time as learning about how STEM skills are valuable for all sorts of jobs, not just the most common (like chemists or car engineers). We watched chocolate being experimented on, fireworks exploding, and there was even a knee surgery station!

As well as all this, we also got the chance to see Stefan Gates from the 'Gastronauts' TV show perform live, and the BBC had also set up a big area of stalls. If you were lucky, you also had a chance to see a Guinness world record take place, and get your own book signed! This just goes to show how important it is to give STEM opportunities to young people across the world, and that we should take all the chances we get to explore deeper into either science, technology, engineering and maths.

By Finn, 9SA



Music News

The last evening of term heralded another great music concert starring 80 members of the Langtree student body. Once again Mr Henderson orchestrated a fabulous evening of music and song it was wonderful to see so many of our student body taking part in the evening. This was also the last performance for our Year 11 students before they start their GCSE's and ultimately leave Langtree. They have dedicated hundreds of hours of time to rehearsal and performance during my first three and a half years at Langtree. They are, Sophie Webb, Saoirse Coveney, Ben Atkins, Ali Varnham, James Broadbent, Erin Varnes, Lottie Whatmore, Craig Moran, Rhiannon Evans, Bertie Spencer, Jess Li, and Laurie Stevenson.



The Year 11 Musicians

Langtree Musicians on the airwaves: Ian Freedman who as a parent had four girls who came to Langtree (Kym, Niki, Tally and Immy) runs a radio programme and he is broadcasting performances by Langtree students. The first performance was broadcast this week and features a performance of a piece written and performed by Georgina Benham in Year 10.

You can tune in to the show using the following links.

Blues & Roots: <http://goo.gl/35STxD> Tuesday at 10.00 PM UK Time (5PM EDT) And Friday at 8PM UK Time

Blast1386 : www.blast1386.com, Wednesday 7.00PM & Friday 5.00 PM, and on 1386AM in Reading UK

Mixcloud: www.mixcloud.com/ianfreedman18/

Please check the website for up to date information. www.langtreeschool.com



**World Book Day
at
Langtree 2018**



March Creativity Day

Another very successful day, the positive atmosphere was palpable and the students were smiling. Clearly a good day! Even year 11 managed to remain willing for the most part, despite being faced with a heavy day of Maths, Dickens and Romeo and Juliet!

Year 7 visited Warwick Castle, 60 Year 8 students visited the Design Museum in London the rest of Year 8 spent the day in a number of workshops on Ancient Roman Culture, Year 9 were in school taking part in a Science day. The Year 10 students took part in Team Building Activities day at the Eyot Centre. The Year 10 GCSE PE students went to Bath university. GCSE Photography students went to the Design Museum. Even year 11 managed to remain willing for the most part, despite being faced with a heavy day of Maths, Dickens and Romeo and Juliet!



Ski Trip 2018 Schladming Austria

On Thursday before February half term 39 students 4 staff and the rep from "The Ski Company" boarded a coach at Langtree to embark on what turned out to be a 22 hour coach trip across Europe. On Saturday morning we ventured on to the snow for the first time and for many in the group this was their first ski trip. The whole week was a brilliant experience with all students either learning how to ski or snow board and managing red runs by the end of the week or improving their technically ability for those who had skied / snow boarded previously. The Langtree Ski Trip is a real adventure and lots of fun, add it to your trip wish list!



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2017–2018 Term Dates

February Break – Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2018

Easter Holiday – Friday 30th March – Friday 13th April 2018

Monday 16 th April	Start of Term 5
Monday 7 st May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 25 th May	End of Term 5

May Break – Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2018

Monday 4 th June	Start of Term 6
Tuesday 24 th 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

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 unnamed 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.

2018 – 2019 Term Dates

Tuesday 4th September	Inset Day 1
Wednesday 5 th September	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students – Induction Day
Thursday 6 th September	Term 1 starts for all other students
Friday 28 th September	Sponsored Walk
Tuesday 2 nd October	Open Evening/students finish at 1.00pm
Wednesday 3rd October	Inset Day 2
Tuesday 9 th October	Open morning for prospective parents (9am-12pm)
Wednesday 10 th October	Open morning for prospective parents (9am-12pm)
Friday 19 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly
Friday 19 th October	End of Term 1
October Break – Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October 2018	
Monday 29 th October	Start of term 2
Thursday 15th November	Y11 Henley College Taster day and CREATIVITY DAY 1
Friday 16th November	Inset Day 3
Wednesday 21 st November	7.30pm GCSE Presentation Evening
Wednesday 5 th December	Senior Citizens Christmas Party
Thursday 20 th December	End of Term 2 (School closes at 12.30pm)
Christmas Holiday – Friday 21st December – Friday 4th January 2019	
Monday 7 th January	Start of Term 3
Thursday 14th February	End of Term 3
Friday 15th February	Inset Day 4
February Break – Monday 18th February – Friday 22th February 2019	
Monday 25 th February	Start of Term 4
Wednesday 27 th March	Creativity Day 2
Friday 5th April	End of Term 4
Easter Holiday – Monday 8th April – Monday 22nd April 2019	
Tuesday 23 rd April	Start of Term 5
Monday 6 th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 24 th May	End of Term 5
May Break – Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2019	
Monday 3 rd June	Start of Term 6
Monday 15th July	Activities Week Y7 Camp / Y8 France / Y10 Work Ex.
Monday 22 nd July	Sports Day
Wednesday 24 th July	End of Term 6 (School closes at 12.30pm)

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

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