



# February 2019 Newsletter

It was a huge privilege to attend the Langtree Challenge awards evening this week. The evening was a further reminder of how lucky I feel to work in such a wonderful school with such a large number of fantastic students and staff and to enjoy the support of great parents. The proportion of students who have achieved these awards is quite staggering and it was great to hear from Davis Taylor of BP how much employers and further education establishments value the skills that these awards recognise. However, the awards are not only useful when students leave Langtree, students who achieve the awards also access opportunities within school. Student Leaders, the Rewards Trips, work experience placements and responsibilities such as touring visitors around the school are all selected partly by looking at students' Langtree Challenge records.

However, we have been successful this term in many other areas of the school. Our under 16 girls football team won the County Cup final. Our record in a range of sports is made all the more incredible considering that we compete against, and regularly beat, much larger schools with a bigger pool of players to choose from.

It's not just sporting success, we competed for the first time in the Rotary Public Speaking Competition. An event that is invariably entered mainly by independent and grammar schools. Although we did not quite win, our teams were highly commended by the judges and we learnt a great deal which means we will be even more successful next year.

We also had several teams of "cyber girls" from year 8 who entered the GCHQ Cyberfirst Challenge. The questions were incredibly hard but despite this all our teams did really well and one team came 24th out of nearly 1000 teams.

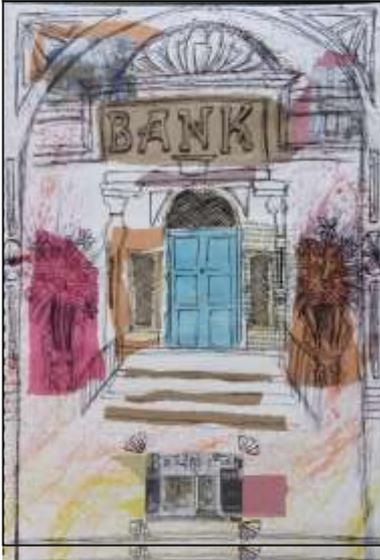
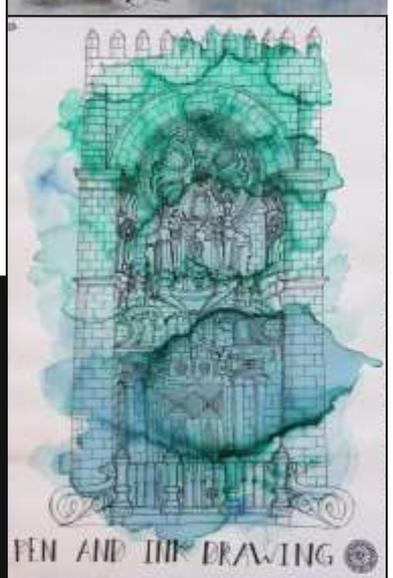
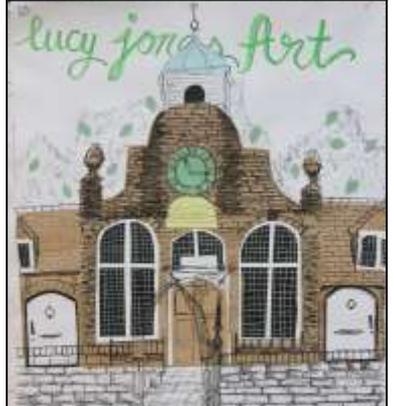
Langtree has two teams through to the semi-finals of the Student Investor Challenge. We have reminded these students that the school deserves a percentage of their earnings when they go onto make a fortune. Only yesterday Ms Phipps took a team to the Geography Association Quiz. For much of the evening we were competing at the top of the leader board. Our teams finished a highly credible 6th and 7th out of 22 schools entered.

Year 11s are in the final run up to exams - having received their mock exam results at the start of term they are, in many cases, now starting on assessments that contribute towards their actual GCSEs. We have had food technology and drama assessments over the last couple of weeks. I am extremely proud of the way our students performed in both these NEAs - I was lucky enough to witness some of the drama work and was again astounded by the standard of the performances which would have been entirely at home on a west end stage. I also saw the meals produced by the food technology students and again they looked, and I am sure tasted, like they had been produced by professional chefs. I wish the entire cohort all the best as the head towards their final term at Langtree and their exams which are now only 43 school days away.

Tomorrow our annual ski trip departs with over 40 year 10s and 5 staff embarking on a 24 hour coach trip and 6 days of skiing and other activities. We wish them all well and look forward to hearing all about it when you return.

Can I wish all members of the Langtree community an enjoyable half term and look forward to reporting on further successes next term.

The art work within in this newsletter is the work of our Year 10 GCSE fine art students and shows a mixture of work books, sketches and completed pieces. Mr Simon Bamford, Headteacher.



**Langtree School Presents:**



**2nd 3rd and 4th April 2019**

### **Music Examinations**

The following pupils took and successfully passed music exams last term. Caitlin Parmar-Sheppard, Gieve Sporle, Fin Walker Stef Archour-Dorado, George Scurr, Euan Coveney, Eve Singleton, Ella Lovegrove and Leo Sentinella. Special congratulations to George who passed two (trumpet and theory) and Caitlin who got a distinction at Grade 6! Well done to them.



### **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat**

Preparations are under way for April's performances of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Singers and orchestral musicians have completed Act 1 and are well on the way with Act 2. As usual rehearsals are an absolute pleasure with a mixture of really hard work and fun!



### **Student Investor Challenge**

Two teams from Langtree School have got through to the semi finals of the Student Investor Challenge, beating over 5,300 teams, across KS4, from around the UK and abroad. They have successfully invested £100k of virtual money in the stock market over a 3 month period. We look forward to the net stage of the competition. One of the teams is pictured Here.



Miles Varnham, Louis Tucker and Archie Jones



### **CyberFirst Girls Competition**

At the end of January, we took on the challenge that was the CyberFirst Competition with 32 of our Year 8 girls. The annual competition is organised by the National Cyber Security Centre, and is designed to develop and nurture the next generation of cyber skilled professionals.

Women currently only make up 11% of the global cyber work force, but by sparking a life-long interest in the girls who take part, and tapping into new talent, this could ultimately turn into more careers in cyber security, helping to make the UK one of the safest places to live and do work online.

The girls attempted over 100 puzzles from 4 key areas; networking, cyber security, cryptography and logic & coding. The girls worked exceptionally hard and showed a great deal of dedication, perseverance and teamwork. Some of the puzzles were exceptionally challenging and remained unsolved at the end of the competition!

It was incredible to find out that we had been placed 24th out of 851 schools at the end of the competition! Go girls!!!!  
Mrs Morel

I had a great time solving computer question some of them where so hard not even Mrs Morel could do them. Majority of them were right in front of you but you had to look between the lines to find the answers. - Anya

Even though some of the questions were difficult it was over all very enjoyable also I am amazed but also proud of place we came because everyone put in a lot of work. -Ivy

I found some questions really hard but it was really fun! Sometimes even Mrs Morel found them hard. But we worked together and each team did really well. Sometimes it was quite difficult to see the meaning of some but eventually we got most of them done. - Louise

Although I found some of the questions difficult and a few frustrating; I learnt loads and I think it was really impressive that we came 24th out of 851! - Rebecca

We all spent so much time working on it, and the questions were so hard. - Sadie

Even though it was really hard, I really enjoyed it! And I am glad that we had a bit/lot of help from Mrs Morel! -Betsy



### **Year 9 Languages Day at Oxford University**

On 24th January, six Year 9 languages students had the amazing opportunity to visit Queen's College, Oxford for a languages day for Year 9's. On arrival we were greeted by college students who gave us a quick tour. Following presentations on linguistics and careers in languages, we were split into groups to learn a language in 30 minutes!

Mine was Italian and it was fun and interesting to quickly learn so many facts and words. After a short break, we subtitled a short animated film about monsters on the underground into the language we are studying at Langtree. The university students helped us. Finally, our group was invited into the refectory and this was fascinating and just like as in Harry Potter. Our time at Oxford University gave us plenty to think about, especially as we are taking our options soon. Plus, it was fun! Abi Li 9WI

**Please check the website for up to date information.  
[www.langtreeschool.com](http://www.langtreeschool.com)**

## 2019 Oxfordshire Schools Cross Country Championships

The Langtree team ran exceptionally well on a very cold afternoon on Thursday. The temperature was only just above freezing and the course at Radley College was challenging, however this did not hold our runners back. They all gave a very good account for themselves, with one particularly outstanding run by Lydia Godfrey (year 8) who came 10th in the Year 8 & 9 category and subsequently has been invited to represent Oxfordshire in the National Championships. Great team performance, well done all!

Team: Chris Sims, Juno Norman, Izzy Yarwood, Lily Burrows, Tilly Ogston, Lydia Godfrey, Lola Batt, Jamie Best, Oliver McCormick and Charlie Marples.



## Langtree U16 Girls Football Team are County Champions!!

The under 16 girls team reached the county final having beaten Didcot Girls in the semi's 5-0. For a school as small as ours to reach the final is a great achievement in itself, so the players were encouraged to enjoy the day and not approach the game nervously. We played against Marlborough School, who have a strong team with a few county players, so we knew it was going to be a tough game. The Langtree girls played some fantastic football with each member of the team giving 100%, rising to the occasion and finishing the game with a comfortable 2-0 win. This is only the second time in the history of the competition that Langtree have got to the final, the last time was in 2002, which they also won. A fabulous achievement - well done girls!

Team: Hannah Weller, Sophie Turnbull, Rosie Sweeten, Olivia Smith, Iona Bielby, Millie Hine, Lauren Morgan, Lois Joslyn (C), Lola Murtagh, Courtney Mackinnon, Jane Vincent, Holly Crook, Rosie Davies, Amy Lissenden.



## Langtree at the "Youth Speaks" Competition.

A few weeks ago, Langtree entered three teams of three into the Youth Speaks competition. Each group had to give a speech about a topic they felt passionate about. Here is my experience:

On the afternoon of the Youth Speaks competition, I felt fine. I was slightly nervous, but I rehearsed my section of the speech a few more times and I knew I had it utterly memorised. I kept the prompt cards just in case, however.

When I arrived with Niamh and Ramya, we saw on the program that we were in the second group. Great, I thought. It would give us plenty of time to prepare.

However, there was an issue with the groups and we ended up having to go first! At this point I felt so nervous that I nearly dropped my prompt cards.

Standing up and speaking to a full room of people is the most terrifying thing I could make myself do, but Ramya and Niamh had already spoken and they were amazing. I had to do well too, for our group.

Shaking, I gave my part of the speech. It was surprisingly exhilarating, and I found I was enjoying myself, despite my nerves. The other students who were competing congratulated us on our speech, and I went home with the feeling that I had been part of something brilliant.

Ellen Bentley, Year 9



## Life after Langtree?

For Millie Cooke it could be with The Kings Troop. Millie was invited to spend a day with the Kings Troop and had an amazing time. The uniform of the Kings Troop all has a meaning: For instance the buttons were originally made of gold. To be used as currency!! The hat. If you turn it upside down and fill it with water you can give your horse a drink. The red pouch to the side is for horse food. The gold braiding - is inf act a set of reigns (just in case yours snap) The flume at the top is a shaving brush and the gold band is actually a wedding ring.



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February Break – Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22 <sup>th</sup> February 2019		2019 – 2020 Term Dates	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of Term 4	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10 Mock Exam Week	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students – Induction Day
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Creativity Day 2	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Term 1 starts for all other students
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>End of Term 4</b>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Sponsored Walk
<b>Easter Holiday – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019</b>		Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Open Evening/students finish at 1.00pm
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>Inset Day 5</b>	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Start of term 5</b>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Open morning for prospective parents (9am-12pm)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Open morning for prospective parents (9am-12pm)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	End of Term 5	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival Assembly
<b>May Break – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019</b>		Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	End of Term 1
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Start of Term 6	<b>October Break – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019</b>	
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Activities Week Y7 Camp / Y8 France / Y10 Work Ex.</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Start of term 2
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Sports Day	<b>Date TBC</b>	<b>Y11 Henley College Taster day and CREATIVITY DAY 1</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Term 6 (School closes at 12.30pm)	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30pm GCSE Presentation Evening
		Dates TBC Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams	
		Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Senior Citizens Christmas Party
		Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Extravaganza Concert
		Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term 2 (School closes at 12.30pm)
		<b>Christmas Holiday</b> <b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020</b>	
		Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Term 3
		<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>End of Term 3</b>
		<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
		<b>February Break – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020</b>	
		Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of Term 4
		Dates TBC Year 10 Exams	
		<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>End of Term 4</b>
		<b>Easter Holiday – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020</b>	
		Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Term 5
		Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday
		Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	End of Term 5
		<b>May Holiday – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>	
		Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Start of Term 6
		Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
		Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	End of Term 6 (School closes at 12.30pm)



### 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 the Headteacher 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 the Headteacher via the Headteacher's PA Mrs M Taylor-Lane: mtaylorlane@langtreeschool.com

## LANGTREE SCHOOL IS GOING CASHLESS for TRIPS / VISITS / BOOKS and EQUIPMENT

**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, this is particularly useful for school trips. There is a link to the online payment system on the front of the school website.

**PLEASE  
PAY  
HERE**

### 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.