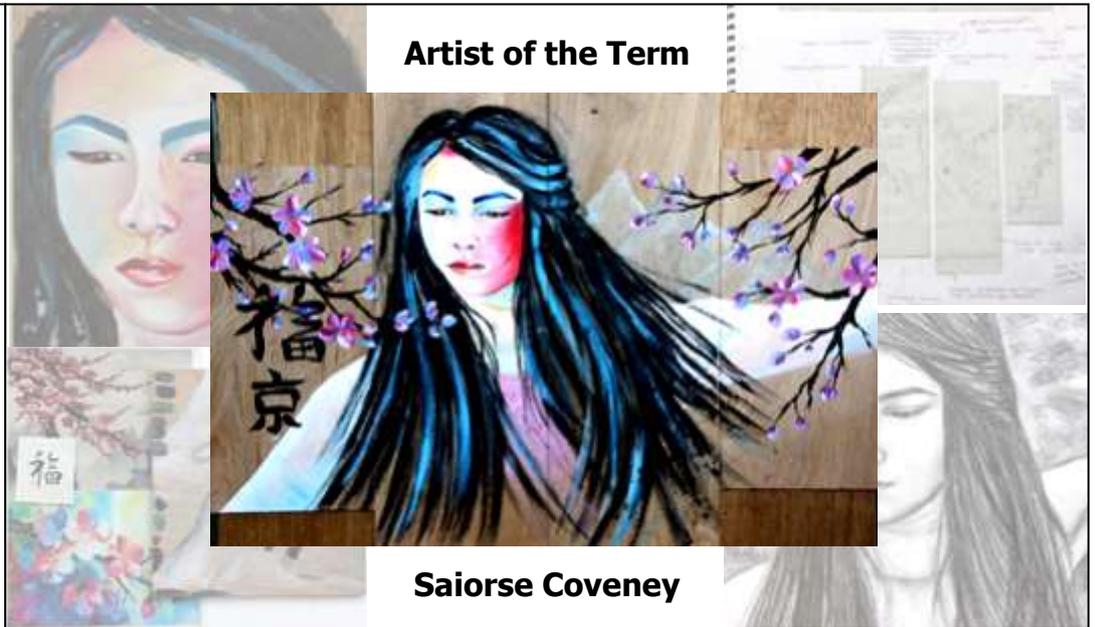




October 2017 Term 1 Newsletter

Artist of the Term



Saiorse Coveney

It's spooky how quickly the term has flown by!

The summer seems only very recent and yet the leaves have turned, the mists have descended and Halloween events are well underway! This week we had the first of these, with a wonderful promotion of holiday reading at the library 'Spooktacular' event. It was very pleasing to see so many creepy tales being issued to so many students, amongst the other seasonal activities.

This term may have flown by, but there has been much to celebrate. Yet again, our GCSE students in the Class of 2017 set new school records for Langtree, with 78% of the cohort achieving 5 or more good GCSE passes including English and Maths. Furthermore, 26% of all grades awarded were at A* or A. Our Progress 8 score – one of the government's new accountability measures – this makes Langtree one of the highest performing schools in Oxfordshire in 2017, and our outcomes are yet again well above national averages. Congratulations to all of our past students and the staff who worked so hard to support them to achieve these wonderful results. I look forward to celebrating with them at our annual GCSE Presentation Evening on 22nd November.

As we prepare to say a fond farewell to last year's cohort, our current Y11 students are busy preparing for their mock examinations which start on Monday 27th November. We wish them all every success; current predictions for the group are extremely positive yet again, but there is a lot of hard work for them all to do in order to turn predictions into guaranteed results!

Our new colleagues have settled in quickly to the routines of Langtree, and we are all delighted to be working with them. Mr Bamford (Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum) and Miss Burman (Assistant Headteacher for Student Services) are both making a significant contribution to the smooth operation of the school. Mr Smith, our new Head of Science, and Mr Rye, Head of Art, are both working closely with other Team Leaders in their new roles, and Miss Clark and Miss Richards have made excellent starts teaching in Maths and History respectively. We have also welcomed Mrs Peates as a teacher of Geography and Ethics, whilst Mrs Brockwell completes her maternity leave. We should all feel very fortunate and very proud to have attracted such considerable talent to the Langtree staffroom.

We are also delighted to welcome three new Teaching Assistants to the team Rachel Smith, Fiona Hoff and Tatiana Ganayunova who are already providing excellent support for our identified students. Additionally, Dee Insell will be joining Langtree as our new Art Technician after half term.

Many thanks indeed to all those members of our community who supported the annual sponsored walk this year. After a false start owing to some unseasonal weather, we strode out in glorious autumn sunshine and the students were, quite simply, a pleasure from start to finish. We seem to be raising a record amount of money this year – already over £6,000 – which makes the event all the more worthwhile. If there are any monies still outstanding, I am sure that the school office would welcome these as soon as possible after the break so that we can celebrate our grand total! Many thanks again to all parents who have supported this event so generously.

The term ended with a wonderful celebration of the Performing Arts at Langtree in the Music and Drama Evening. In our small school, it is quite amazing to note that the evening featured performances from 49 orchestral musicians, a Drama Club membership of 50 and 21 singers in the school choir. That represents nearly 20% of the school's population in one arts event! The evening was – yet again – an absolute triumph. Congratulations to all the students involved and Mr Henderson and Miss Pimm who made it all happen.

And as the night's draw in, plans are already in place for a busy and exciting term of activities after the break. Do keep an eye on the website and calendar for notification of all events. And dare I mention Christmas is on its way?

With very best wishes for the half term break.

Mr R Holroyd, Headteacher.

Harvest Festival



Last Friday we welcomed David Archer, Rector of St Mary's Purley to the school to lead our annual whole school Harvest Festival. Students brought in a large donation of food that can be seen in the photographs. All the food was then donated to the Wallingford Food Bank who work along side Churches Together supporting those in need in our local area. In 2016 Langtree provided the food bank with it's single largest donation, this year the donation was even larger. Thank you.



Music News

It has been a great pleasure to welcome the new Year 7s into the Music Department and in particular to have them contributing to Junior Choir and Orchestra.

On Wednesday 27th September the GCSE musicians visited the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford for the Oxford Schools Concert to see a new piece for Theremin – an experimental electronic instrument and the world famous Evelyn Glennie perform a fantastic side drum piece.

Langtree musicians were really successful in their music examinations last Summer. Congratulations to the following students. Beth Pasker, Maddy Furmage, Ben Stodolnic, Isabelle Chandler, Ben Atkins, Caitlin Parmar-Sheppard, Jasmine Hogg, Niamh Rasmussen, Arran Toolin, Ani Archer, George Scurr, Danny Harris, Niamh Walker, Michael Varnes, Jamie Best, Izzy Byron, Henry Leadbeater-Hart and Amelie Wilson.



Rugby at Langtree

The year 10/11 team have won all three of their league games by over 60 points to nil and sit top of their league, as well as finishing runners up in the area tournament.

The Year 10 team are through to the quarter finals of the County cup having beaten John Mason 43-0 and won their area tournament.

The Year 8 team have won their league having won all 8 games, were joint winners of the area tournament and runners up in the Abbey RFC invitational tournament.

Over 100 boys have taken part in these fixtures.



U15 Rugby

43-0 winners against John Mason School.

Theatre Visit

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students went to see Frantic Assembly's **'Things I Know To Be True'** at the Oxford Playhouse. In the words of our students: 'The use of symbolism was very powerful' 'A beautiful performance, packed full of movement and emotion' 'An outstanding piece of physical theatre, an unbelievable experience.' 'An emotional rollercoaster' 'The combination of monologue and physical theatre meant that I felt I had known the characters for decades!'

Congratulations to Langtree School's **Leontina Slovak** who is currently ranked 119th in the LTA ranking for Great Britain and 3rd in the County in her age group U14. During the summer she won Berkshire County girls singles in the U14 and U16 ag categories. (regional level grade 3 both of them). Leontina considers these wins as the best result in her tennis life. She had a successful year 2016/2017 - and won 7 out of 10 tournaments she entered.



We raised a massive **£290.00** Thank you



Food News

A big thank you to everyone who was kind enough to donate their Sainsbury's vouchers to Langtree School. The food department made very good use of them, and ended up with lots of new equipment.

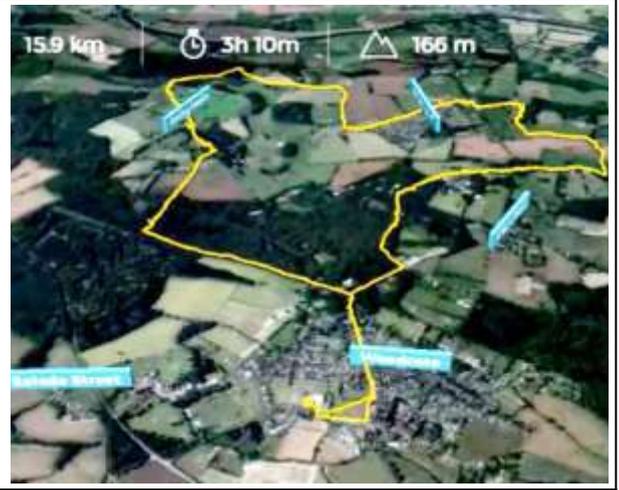
Thank you





Sponsored Walk 2017

After a weeks postponement due to the weather , the whole school of 617 students set off for our annual 10 mile sponsored walk, a long loop through the beautiful local countryside. Patrick Jones 8WI set his "strava" app giving us a brilliant overview of our route. So far the sponsored walk has raised over £6000 with more to come. If your child has yet to had in their money please do so straight after half term or pay online through the "Pay Here Today" button on the website.



Reading Pro.

The English Department are very excited to launch a new reading programme called Reading Pro. Every student in Years 7 and 8 will take a termly reading test. Not only will this help us to track students' reading progress, but also help the programme to generate personalised reading lists for each pupil based on their reading ability and their interests. After reading each book, students need to complete a quiz to generate their rewards and to log their reading in the Word Millionaire race.

Huge thanks to the PTA for funding this brilliant new resource!



Year 11 "Learning Stars"



Some of our Year 11 students were presented with "Learning Star" certificates for their outstanding attitude to learning during the first term of their Year 11. **John Howell MP** who was at Langtree School for a brief school visit spoke to all the year 11 students, he wished all the students well for their final year at Langtree School and complimented Langtree as a whole for providing an excellent learning environment, John then presented the "Learning Stars" with their certificates.



Animation Workshop with Jesse Cleverley of Wildseed Studios



Students identified as talented in music, drama, computing or art in Years 8 and 9 were involved in a animation workshop lead by Jesse Cleverley of Wildseed Studios, the students really enjoyed finding out more about the industry and benefited from the experience.

"The animation workshop was an amazing experience! I had a great time watching the different stages of making the animation, it was inspiring and LOTS of fun! Thank you so much Jesse!" Ramya Evans

"It was really interesting to learn how long it takes to make such a short animation. It was also fascinating how they built up the background, shrub by shrub, rock by rock. Thanks" Niamh Rassmussen

"The workshop was amazing ,I didn't realise how much time and skill was needed for such a short animation .I loved all the animation stages and was shocked by how many jobs are in that entertainment area". Tabi Arnfeld

"I thought it was very interesting to learn about how a short film is made and I enjoyed seeing the process in action." Luke Handley.

"I found this really fun, it was so nice having the opportunity to see how animations work. I really enjoyed this and would like to say a massive THANK YOU to Jesse!" Megan McDougall

"The workshop was amazing! It gave me loads of ideas for a future job that I didn't even know existed. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!" Jade Redfern.

"I thought that the workshop was great. It was interesting to find out about how many steps there are between the idea, and seeing the finished product on screen. It was also fascinating hearing about all the different people involved and what their jobs were." Patrick Jones.



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2017–2018 Term Dates

Friday 20 th October	End of Term 1
October Break – Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October 2017	
Monday 30 th October	Start of term 2
Tuesday 19 th December	End of Term 2 (School closes at 12.30 pm)
Christmas Holiday – Wednesday 20th December – Wednesday 3rd January 2018	
Thursday 4 th January	Start of Term 3
Thursday 8th February	End of Term 3
Friday 9th February	Inset Day 3
February Break – Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2018	
Monday 19 th February	Start of Term 4
Wednesday 28th March	End of Term 4
Thursday 29th March	Inset Day 4
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

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

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 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 re-claimed. 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, Langtree School Office.