



May 2018 Newsletter



It was with great sadness that our school community learned of the passing of Mrs Protheroe, our Examinations Officer and Resources Manager, on Good Friday. Hilary was a long-standing and highly valued member of staff and her passing, after a brave battle with cancer, was a shock to us all. Not only did Hilary do wonderful work in her roles in school, but she also gave of her time so willingly to support many residential trips and visits in her own holidays, as that was the generous spirited person she was. Staff and students were able to pay their respects at a wonderful celebration of Hilary's life at St Leonard's church, and we were all delighted that family members joined us for a further celebration in our whole school assembly after Easter, in which we all remembered and celebrated the outstanding contribution Hilary had made to our school over so many years. As always, our students were impeccable in the respect they showed throughout what was a very sad time for the school. We will all remember Hilary's kindness, her willingness to help, and her lovely smile for many years to come.

However, life goes on and our 2018 examination season is now in full swing, and I would like to wish all of our GCSE students every success in their remaining examinations. I am sure that parents, students and staff would also like to join in thanking the examinations team who have stepped up to the task following the tragic loss of Mrs Protheroe, to manage the examinations process. This has involved taking on a significant amount of additional work, and I applaud Mr Bamford, Mrs Taylor Lane, Mrs Hoare and Mrs Henderson for all extra that they have done to allow the examinations to run so smoothly.

We have also appointed Nicky Smith to the post of Examinations Assistant, to assist the team in the running of examinations. Many other member of support staff have done all they can to assist the team, and I am extremely grateful to all of them for their willingness to help out.

There will be some changes in the staffroom this summer, as Mr Blower – our long standing Head of PE – has decided to take early retirement. I am delighted to say that we have appointed Mr Clark to replace him, which is an excellent appointment for the school. I am sure that Mr Clark will continue to develop PE as a successful subject and extra-curricular activity well into the future.

Artist of the Term

Nicole Hemming

We are also sorry to see Miss Richards leave the Humanities Department this term. Miss Richards has contributed a great deal to the school in her first year in teaching, and we wish her every success in the future. We have already made an excellent appointment to cover this position, and Mrs Godfrey will be joining the team as teacher of Religious Education and History, with a wealth of experience from her current post at Sir William Borlase's Grammar School in Bucks.

We have also made a very strong appointment to the vacant post of Head of Modern Foreign Languages, and Mrs Warren will be joining Langtree to take up leadership of the department, following significant successes at Reading Girls' School. I am happy to say that we will be fully staffed again with subject specialists in September, as Langtree is still a very attractive proposition for excellent teachers looking to develop their careers!

The KS3 Surf Trip to north Devon was a spectacular success again this year, with our students enjoying some amazing weather and new experiences. Yet again, centre staff praised Langtree students for their excellent behaviour and attitude – they rarely let us down! The English Department also enjoyed the company of many members of Y10 on the recent trip to see Romeo and Juliet at the RSC. Again, our students proved to be great company and seemed to enjoy the production very much indeed.

And finally, many thanks indeed to all those parents who responded to our staff survey last ter. Please read the report on the outcomes, and the work now underway as a result, inside the newsletter. Your views are very important to us as we plan to improve provision still further in the coming years.

I do hope that you are all able to enjoy some sunny family days over the forthcoming bank holiday break. Many thanks again for your support over such a busy term!



2018 Survey

Thanks for your feedback!

I would like to say a very sincere thank you to all our parents who took the time to complete the recent stakeholder survey. 138 of you did so, which was an increase on the 126 who responded in 2017. Your views are very important to us, and so I hope that the number of responses continues to rise in 2019! These surveys are important to us, as the outcomes help us to evaluate where we are as a school, and help us to set objectives and targets for the following year in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which will help us to improve future provision.

The headlines from the parent survey indicated a very high satisfaction rate around most of the key questions and, in most cases, responses were more positive than last year. The percentage figures given indicate the proportion of parents who strongly agreed, or agreed with each prompt:

	PARENTS	
	2017 (126)	2018 (138)
Students are happy at school	92	93.5
Students are safe at school	96	94.9
Students are making good progress	74.6	83.4
Students are well looked after	91.2	93.4
Teaching is good or better in this school	---	87.7
Students are set appropriate homework	71.5	83.3
Behaviour is good or better in this school	90	83.4
There is effective management of bullying	72.3	73.2
The school is well led and managed	86.5	91.3
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	73.9	78.3
I receive information from the school about progress	84.2	80.4
I would recommend Langtree School to a peer	86.5	90.6

What these results – and the comments made by respondents – tell us, is that while there is a relatively high satisfaction rate from parents regarding our provision, there are some concerns around the following issues:

The frequency of homework

The frequency of marking, assessment and feedback

Some features of student behaviour in and out of school

Since the survey was completed, senior staff have been reviewing these issues with students and all staff, and considering ways in which we can improve our provision further in the future. Following this consultation, we will be setting new objectives in our SIP which we hope will address these issues, and improve provision for the next academic year.

In addition, we have also noted all of the ways in which so many of you have offered help to the school through voluntary activities. We will be contacting you again about this, as we plan to hold some 'Make a Difference' days, in which parents will be able to volunteer their time and their skills to improve our facilities and the provision we offer to our students. Many thanks indeed for that!

Your help in this process is very important to us, so thank you once again for taking the time to respond. I do hope that you will give us your feedback again in 2019, and that at least nine out of every ten parents will still be happy to recommend our school to another family!

Thank you

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



The Class of 2018



Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094

Music News

Congratulations to the students who took graded music examinations

Highlights are distinctions for Gleve and Jasmine

Rosie Sweeten	Grade 5 Clarinet - merit
Jasmine Hogg	Grade 3 Flute - distinction
Asri Southby	Grade 4 Clarinet - pass
Aiden Murphy	Grade 1 Piano - pass
Henry Leadbetter	Grade 2 Drums - merit
Liam Foston	Grade 1 Cornet - pass
Gleve Sporle	Grade 4 Piano - distinction
Ani Archer	Grade 3 Piano - pass
Finn Bint-Savage	Grade 3 Piano - pass



Women in Computer Science at Oxford University

A group of us went to the Oxford mathematics Institute for a Women in Computer science Day. It was very enjoyable and we learnt a lot. We spent most of our time listening to lectures about the different types of work that you can do within computer science. We also had a tour around Keble College and were told about the Oxford Colleges and the application process. Overall the day was fun and very informative.



Les Miserables Theatre Trip

We went to see Les Miserables in the West End on Thursday 24th May. We loved it! It was absolutely thrilling to see ex-Langtree student, Catherine Hannay (Mitchell), perform in the show. Such a proud and inspiring moment. We were especially delighted when Catherine rushed out to meet us after the show! Of course, we couldn't resist the chance for a group selfie with her! (Catherine is centre front with blonde hair and a huge smile).

"I'd rate that 24601 out of 10!" - Amelie Wilson

"It was such a mess of emotions that I didn't know what to think or feel!" - Eve Singleton

"Spectacular" - Emma Wallace

"Breathtaking!" - Niamh Walker



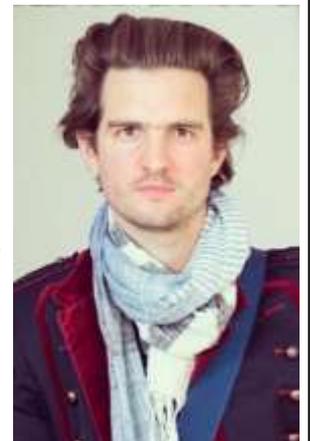
Chris Russell— author and ex Langtree student came to speak to Year 9 during Term 5

Chris Russell is a writer and musician based in London. At the age of thirteen, he formed pop/rock band The Lightyears with his best friends from school, and since then the band have performed everywhere from Wembley Stadium to Glastonbury Festival. His presentation 'You have to start somewhere' is based on his touring experiences with his band, a journey that eventually inspired him to become a novelist.

Chris was joined by The Wallingford Book Shop manager who said of our Year 9's:



"I just wanted to say how lovely your pupils are – really helpful and chatty. So much so that we're looking for a secondary school for my son and we're coming to the open day in the autumn!"



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



Surf Trip 2018

On Friday lunch time we all got in the mini buses to leave Langtree to drive to Devon for the weekend. We stopped at the motorway services just outside of Bristol on the way. When we arrived at Yenworthy Lodge, we sorted out our rooms and then had a delicious meal. After eating we went on the challenging ropes course.



On Saturday morning we went straight to the beach, we had to walk across a big sand dune with our surf boards to get to the sea, it was very hard work. We had a surfing demonstration from Steve and then we had a go ourselves.



On Saturday evening we played the "Game of Life" and had a campfire, we had a really fun day.

Sunday saw more surfing before the long journey back to Langtree.

Thank you Mrs Darkins, Mr Vitty, Mrs Lackey and Mr Brown for taking us on the surf trip.



Langtree and BP

BP have joined Langtree for a number of events this term both here at school and at BP its self. Maths and science STEM activities have been the focus with Maths based events here at school and a women in science day at BP. We are also grateful to BP for continuing to support the "Langtree Challenge" and for all the support they provide to Langtree.



2017—2018 Term Dates

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