

First and foremost, I would like to wish all our students, parents, staff and governors a very happy Christmas. I hope that you all manage to find the time to enjoy some wonderful time with your families and friends. Many thanks for all your support of Langtree School in so many ways over the course of the last two terms.

We will be very sorry to say farewell to staff who are leaving the school this Christmas.

Mrs Mallam, has been promoted to a Deputy Headteacher post in West Berkshire and we wish her every success in her new role. Mrs Mallam has been at Langtree for fourteen years as Head of Art and Design, Director of Performing Arts Specialism, and for the last five years Assistant Headteacher. In all her various roles, she has worked tirelessly to support students and staff in the school, and has had a significant part to play in our successes over the years. I am sure that Debbie will have a similar impact in her new role, and we wish her well for that.

Miss Grant, Mr Burrows and Mr Stear will also be moving on from Langtree, and we wish them all every success in the future with sincere thanks for all they have done in their time in the school. In addition, Miss Brockwell will be starting her maternity leave in January although, while we wish her well for the period of her leave, we are delighted that she will be returning in due course to take up her role again at Langtree as a new working Mum!

There has been so much to celebrate at Langtree in the build up to Christmas. The annual party for our senior citizens was a huge success yet again, and our Year 9 students acted as impeccable hosts. The Christmas Concert was also a huge success, with wonderful performances both musical and dramatic, and this was complemented by the outstanding exhibition of KS3 artwork. Students also enjoyed the traditional Christmas lunch event – with waiting staff recruited from the staffroom – and the annual Christmas celebration in the library was enjoyed by many, offering our students the chance to stock up on holiday reading and chocolate in equal measure.

In addition, we were touched by the generosity of many of you who donated items for our Christmas Hampers. As a result, a record number of 41 hampers were delivered to the elderly in our village community by staff and students this week, which always seems to me to be a reminder of the true spirit of Christmas. Many thanks indeed.

In our final assembly, we will celebrate the individual achievements of students Astrid Tozer and Lily Clifton, who quietly became world champions in tap dancing during the course of the term! Tommy Boyd has set a new Guinness World Record for the fastest ever 'Maradona 7', in order to raise funding for the BloodWise cancer charity. Many congratulations to two especially talented students!

On behalf of all the staff and governors, may I wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming our students back on Tuesday 3rd January 2017!

Artist of the Term—Tom Wenczek Tom has produced some brilliant photography this term

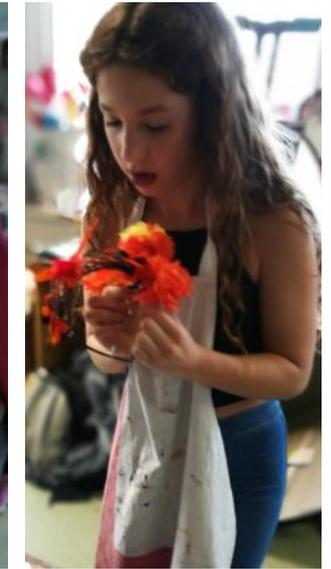


Year 9 Creativity Day

This term we had creativity day on Thursday 10th November we did a Day Of The Dead photo booth and costumes to make a photo display outside Mr Holroyd's office.

We used makeup to paint skulls and bones on people's faces and arms and we used dark clothes and cloth to create an atmosphere of death. Also we used a lot of dark coloured lights to make cool shadows. It was a really good day.

I would like to say thank you to Mrs Pimm for letting us use her drama studio and her lights it really improved the quality of the photos. Also I would like to say thank you to the makeup artists and the people that participated. Tom Wenczek 9LB



SNOW DRAGONS

WE HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL. 'SNOW DRAGONS' IS A NEW PLAY, WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THE FESTIVAL BY PLAYWRIGHT LIZZIE NUNNERY. 30 OF OUR YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10 STUDENTS WILL BE PERFORMING ON 27TH AND 28TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT LANGTREE, AND THEN AT THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH IN EARLY MAY.



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

Langtree School Battlefields 3 day tour to Ypres and The Somme

The Battlefields trip has been an incredible opportunity and our favourite trip whilst being at Langtree School. We found out some amazing things that we never knew before and got a real insight into the lives of WW1 soldiers. We gained a knowledge that you couldn't get just looking at pictures and reading diaries. Being there and standing in the trenches at New Foundland Park or the Sunken Lane, Tyne Cot and Langemark cemeteries and the battlefields of the Somme, we were able to empathize with and understand the lives of the men that all those years ago gave their lives for King and country.



One of our favourite activities was going through the trenches at Sanctuary Wood, despite being quite scary, we found this a really interesting experience because you physically got to see the conditions of the trenches.



We also found the Lochnagar Crater very interesting, it was made by 25,000 kg of explosives, that were used on the first day of battle at The Somme. According to Jo, our fantastic tour guide, the explosion shattered windows in Dover! We were amazed at the size of the crater.

The highlight of our tour was being a part of the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. It was a privilege to see Langtree Students lay a wreath to commemorate the fallen soldiers and listen to the buglers. We were able to reflect on lives of those lost; 54,896 named on the walls of the Menin Gate whose bodies have no resting place as well as all the other soldiers who lost their lives.



Overall the trip was a brilliant experience, and we are very glad we got the opportunity to be a part of it. Thank you to all our teachers for putting up with us for a whole 3 days!

Amelie Wilson and Niamh Walker, Year 9

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

We were delighted to welcome some of the senior members of our community to a Christmas Party at Langtree. April, Tilly, Will and Ellis from the Year 9 leadership group helped to organise the event and along with 16 other year 9 students then hosted the party. The guests were entertained by Woodcote Primary School and students from Langtree School before enjoying a Christmas tea, a raffle and finally a Christmas carol sing-a-long.



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AREA CROSS COUNTRY

This competition was held on 15th November at Gillots, all pupils ran well and really were a credit to the school.

Congratulations to the following teams who have now qualified for the Oxfordshire Games in March

YEAR 7 GIRLS – Jasmine Hogg, Courtney McKinnon, Grace Picton, Lily Burrows and Lottie Moghul



YEAR 10/11 GIRLS – Jess Roberts, Mollie Edgar, Sophie Webb & Lauren Morgan (unfortunately the girls were a bit camera shy!)

YEAR 10/11 BOYS – Jack Clark, Jack Carrington, Jake Gourley & Sam Clift



In terms of the individual competition Jack Clark (Yr10/11) finished second and Juno Norman (Yr8/9) came in third which will mean they have been selected to run for the South Oxfordshire team.

Congratulations to all those who took part.

Langtree Student Tommy Boyd—World Record Holder (to be verified)

On the 9th December 2016, I attempted to break a football freestyle Guinness World Record in proud memory of my Granddad, who sadly lost his battle against blood cancer last year. I have currently raised £715 but would like to raise more for the blood cancer charity Bloodwise to help beat this horrible disease.

It is really important that I personally strive for excellence in everything I do. I was very close to my granddad who was very passionate about football as am I. With my love of football and my desire to beat such a horrible disease, I attempted to beat the football freestyle world record.

My time was 29.78secs (the previous record was held by John Farnworth and was 35.47 secs) my record still needs to be verified by Guinness World Records. I felt a great sense of achievement after the event having worked so hard every single day and to finally see the results on the day was incredible. I would like to thank every one who has helped me so far.

You can watch my world record attempt on YouTube search for Tommy Tekkers. I also have a JustGiving page if anyone would like to donate to Bloodwise: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TommyTekkers



Christmas Hampers

The year 9 leadership group have recently collected food to deliver to the elderly people in the wider community. As per usual, this has been a massive success and we have assembled plenty of hampers ready to deliver! Many elderly people struggle with loneliness over the Christmas period and here at Langtree School we aim to support these people in various ways such as the Senior Citizen's Christmas Party, but some people cannot make it to these events. So, we collect the donated food items, put together the hampers and then deliver them. The Hampers have been delivered this week, the last week of term— all 41 of them. Delivering the hampers has been an amazing experience and has really helped us to enjoy the gift of giving. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We have enjoyed organizing this collection, and we are looking forward to giving these boxes to people in need at Christmas. A huge thank you must go to Wilflower of Pangbourne who donated the cellophane to wrap the hampers. Eve, Dan, Andrew and Chloe - Year 9 Leadership Group



Year 8 trip to Warwick Castle

Personally I had never been to Warwick Castle so this was a whole new experience for me. When we arrived we got off the coaches and walked to the castle we could not see it because it was behind a wall but when we were through the gates the view was spectacular. There was a slight mist as it was early in the morning and the sun was shining down. The castle was amazing and the towers were really high.

We were in groups and the first thing our group did was the dungeons. As we were waiting for our turn the Jester spoke to us. He was very scary and behind us we could hear the screams of our class mates already in the dungeon. The first stop was the creepy church where a man was telling us about the history of the dungeons. Some objects moved by themselves making everyone jump then the door opened and we all walked in to the doctor's surgery. The man was terrifying and made me scream because he took one of the boys in our group and made it look like he had killed him with special effects. But of course he joined us in the next room: the torture room. The torturer was quite funny but the punishments that they used to use were horrific. There were lots of other rooms including a mirror maze which was very confusing. The last room was the witch's room where a woman told us a story about a witch at Warwick Castle. She jumped out at us and used loads of special effects I think we all agreed that that was the most petrifying room. Although the dungeons were scary we all enjoyed it and we learnt a huge amount about the different parts of the castle and life back in the middle ages.

Next we went to the exhibition which had of information on 1471, when Richard they were really re-jobs we learnt about farmer and black learnt about social ty in the past. We then visited the were very grand mas. We learnt what life might have been like living there and there were some photos and many paintings to show us the style of the time. It was as if we had gone back in time and it was really interesting.



"Kingmaker" wax works and lots castle life back in Neville became Kingmaker", and alistic. Some of the included soldier, smith. We also standings and socie- State rooms which and ready for Christ-

We had lunch outside by the bird show. While we ate our lunch there were two peacocks and a rainbow so a good opportunity for lots of photos to show our family and friends.

After lunch we went to the tower we climbed for a very long time and my legs were aching but it was all worth it when we got to the top and saw the view. We had a booklet which we had been filling out throughout the day and so when we were at the top we drew a sketch of one view and labelled the physical and human features. Up there we could really imagine what life was like all those years ago and why Ethelfreda (daughter of Alfred the Great) chose the area as a good place to defend back in 914.

Next we visited the interactive "Timetower" and found out about the history of the castle and people who had owned, attacked and visited. Lastly we went in the maze which was really good to use up loads of energy running around finding all the places to collect a stamp. Then we got on the coaches once more and travelled back to Langtree. I had so much fun and learnt a lot! Josephine Snowden, 8AB

Donations to Langtree School.

We have recently had a number of parents asking how to make a donation to the school, we are always extremely grateful to all our parents and carers for their support and contributions to the school. The finance office have now added a "Donation Option" to all accounts on the online payment system. This can be accessed through the school website by clicking:



Thank you for your support of Langtree School.

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Young Carers at Langtree School

As many of you know, Langtree has been making great efforts over recent years to support students who are also Young Carers. What you may not know, is that last term the school was awarded the Gold Standard. This is a national award which recognises the work the school has done in identifying and supporting the young carers amongst its student body as well as raising awareness of and support for these students within the school community.

The school is extremely fortunate to have two student ambassadors, Casey Bevins and Ryan Barratt-Belcher, who do much to show Young Carers in a positive light with their enthusiasm and confidence. Sadly, from our point of view, they are both year 11 students so over the coming year we will be on the lookout for some replacements to take over from Ryan and Casey when they leave us next July.

The members of staff who are actively involved with Young Carers in the school are Mrs Belcher, Mrs Temple, Mrs Wood and Anita Owen, the school nurse, however, all members of staff are regularly updated with information about the Young Carers within our school and are aware of the additional pressures these young people may be under.

The school also regularly covers the subject of Young Carers during assembly to raise awareness and these students are supported with a weekly drop-in facility (Wednesday lunchtimes in the Lion's Den) as well as cooking club (which will be resuming soon).

If you wish to find out more on the subject, please see the school website or contact Mrs Temple (atemple@langtreeschool.com).



Urban Orchestra Workshop

On Thursday 3rd November Reading Arts Organisation Readipop came to work with the Year 10 GCSE musicians on a project called Urban Orchestra. The project involved producing storyboard style pieces using a mixture of acoustic instruments and music technology based instruments such as iPads and KAOS pads.

The students had a great day and comments included.
"Really interesting and thought provoking"
"I learnt how to use music technology to make songs"
"There was loads of different sound that could be produced with the tech."
"Techno music is not confusing or boring!"
"Gave me more confidence to use tech"
"The different technology equipment is really cool and added something to every piece"
"We used music tech to make different sounds and make music in different ways"
"A great experience working with music professionals"
Picture – 2 students working with Readipop's Richard Bentley



Christmas Concert and KS Stage 3 Art Exhibition

During the last week of term staff students and parents enjoyed a Christmas Concert and Key Stage 3 Art exhibition. The profit from the concert will be donated to Helen and Douglas House. Students who exhibited art work in the exhibition were really pleased to see their framed works hanging on the wall.



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

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Students enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch served by members of the Langtree Staff on the last Thursday of term. Many of the students also took the opportunity to wear a Christmas jumper for the day



Cinderbella goes on Tour

And finally a small group of Year 9 students took a brilliant Pantomime which they had written themselves on tour. Visiting Goring and Checkendon Primary Schools - with a deafening response, and also to Helen and Douglas House in Oxford.



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2016 – 2017 Term Dates

1 st September	Inset day	Tuesday 3 rd January	Start of Term 3
2 nd September	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students	9 th February*	End of Term 3
5 th September	Term 1 starts for all other students	10 th February*	Inset Day
30 th September	Sponsored Walk	February Break – 13th February – 17th February 2017	
5 th October	Open Evening/students finish at 1.00pm	20 th February	Start of Term 4
6 th October	Inset Day	6 th March	Year 10 Mock Exams Week
11 th October	Open morning for prospective parents	15 th March	Inset Day
12 th October	Open morning for prospective parents	7 th April	Creativity Day 2 and End of Term 4
14 th October	Harvest Festival Assembly	Easter Holiday – 10th April – 21st April 2017	
21 st October	End of Term 1	24 th April	Start of Term 5
October Break – 24th October – 28th October 2016		1 st May	May Day Bank Holiday
31 st October	Start of term 2	26 th May	End of Term 5
10 th November	CREATIVITY DAY 1	May Break – 30th May – 2nd June 2017	
16 th November	7.30pm GCSE Presentation Evening	5 th June	Start of Term 6
28 th November	Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams Week	3 rd July	Creativity Week
7 th December	Senior Citizens Christmas party	17 th July	Sports Day
16 th December	End of Term 2 (12.30pm finish)	19 th July	End of Term 6 (12.30pm Finish)
Christmas Holiday 19 th December 2016 – 2 nd January 2017		Summer Holiday 2017	

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 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, Langtree School Office.

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

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

finance@langtreeschool.com

