



School closes on Friday 20th December at 12.30pm for Christmas. Term 3 begins for all students on Monday 6th January 2014

December 2013

Message from the headteacher

been! Following a successful Ofsted inspection, and some of the best examination results the school has ever had, we are delighted to report that Langtree has been ranked in The Times List of the top state schools as fourth out of all 11 – 16 schools in the entire country for our A* and A grades in 2013. In football parlance, this is a 'top four' European place for our school in a league of 500 schools. This is a remarkable achievement and reflects the immense amount of hard work of our staff and students over the last twelve months.

We were delighted to celebrate those achievements with the Class of 2013 at the recent Presentation Evening. Professor Tony McFadyen from the University of Reading, our guest of honour, was present to present GCSE awards to a wonderful group of students who achieved some of the best results the school has ever had. It was a huge pleasure to see the students again and we all hope that they stay in touch



in the future.

And what a term it has been. Our students have enjoyed a wide range of opportunities, activities and challenges, many of which are reported in this newsletter. And, at the time of writing, a group of Y9 and Y10 students are currently experiencing a memorable trip to Poland with the Humanities team.

One of the most important dates in our Christmas calendar however, is our annual Christmas Party for the Senior Citizens in the local community. This year the event was bigger than ever, with approximately 90 guests attending the party, which was hosted by our Y10 students. The event is an opportunity to remind us all at Langtree of the real significance of Christmas: a time when we can all take the time to think about others and do something - no matter how small - to make their lives happier or easier in some way.

On behalf of all the staff at Langtree, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to wish you a very happy and peaceful family Christmas.



SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Langtree School was full of festive cheer on Wednesday 11th December when we welcomed local Senior Citizens to the school for our annual Christmas Party.

Guests were treated to a programme of entertainment including singers, dancers, a harpist and a ukulele player, all students at Langtree School. We also welcomed singers from Woodcote Primary School.

Christmas afternoon tea was served by the students and enjoyed by everyone. Many of our guests went home with fantastic raffle prizes. All of our guests were also presented with a mini Christmas cake to take home.

Many thanks to everyone who performed and helped to make the party such a success including: Langtree School students, Woodcote Primary School and the all the local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle: The Highwayman Inn, Londis-Woodcote, The Woody Nook – Woodcote, The John Barleycorn, Albert Fields Hair Salon, Goring Hardware, Kimberley's Hair Studio, Lloyds Chemist – Goring.

Mary Taylor-Lane
Community Co-ordinator



A Celebration of 2013 – Roll on 2014!

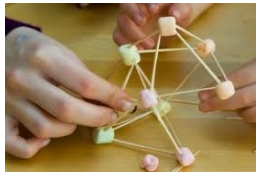
Christmas time is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the successes of the previous year, as well as to look forward to the challenges of the new year ahead. 2014 should indeed be a very special year for the school indeed. Our Sponsored Walk was a record-breaking event this year, raising over £7,000 towards the astro turf pitch project, which is now in the formal planning stages. Many thanks to all parents and families for their generous support.

We were all very sorry to say farewell this term to one of our valued Higher Level Teaching Assistants, Isabel Aisbitt. As well as her excellent work in the Learning Support Base, Isabel was a school governor for many years and cared deeply about the future development of Langtree School. We wish Isabel every success in her new career – she will be sadly missed by staff and students alike.

But what a year 2013 has

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Year 7's build Oilrigs



4 people from BP visited some of the year 7 students in the Design Technology room in November. They came to give us a presentation of how oil is extracted from the North Sea, for use in all of our daily lives. They gave us a challenge to create an oilrig out of marshmallows and straws.

They split us into about 8 groups of around 7 students; our challenge was to create a sturdy oilrig from marshmallows and straws. Every marshmallow and every straw cost \$1,000,000 each, since generally an oilrig costs up to \$2,000,000,000. The oilrig had to hold 200g and had to be around 20cm tall. In addition it had to be made as deeply as possible!

There were 2 teams who won, both models were 19cm tall, cost \$24,000,000 and both held 200g. Both groups collected 3 BP branded prizes each.



Ben Stodolnic, 7SD



Santa Fun run at Langtree

On Sunday 1st December a group of year 10 business studies students put on the very first Woodcote Santa fun run. We worked with Mrs Morel after school and lunch times to organise the fun run to raise money for the school's astro turf. We had 54 adults take part in the Santa run and over 30 children involved in the Santa's little helper race. Overall we managed to raise £650. It was a very enjoyable morning. We were delighted so many of the Langtree students and their families took part and had a great time. The winner of the Santa fun run was Mark Homer with the time of 22 minutes 35 seconds, and the winner of the Santa's little helper race was Oliver Hazel. We are grateful to all the local businesses and marshals that supported and helped us, as without them we couldn't have run the event.

We are really hoping that this will become an annual event due to its popularity and positive feedback we have received.

By Maisy Parmenter 10GL



BBC Children in Need

Langtree students raised a massive £830.03 !!



Eco Committee News

The Langtree Eco Committee and Eco Club led the school in taking part in EDFs Switch it off Fortnight campaign. With the aim of reducing the school's, as well as staff's and students individual, Carbon Footprints. The committee presented assemblies to inform the staff and students about the campaign, what a carbon footprint is and ways in which we all could reduce them. Many KS3 students, seen in the photo below, used an on line Carbon Footprint calculator to work out their individual footprint and were informed how to reduce them.

Leilah Whitehead 8CF won the Groundworks Oxfordshire Greenschools EDF Switch it off poster competition in the secondary section. She received a £30 amazon voucher.

The committee will be keeping busy in 2014, taking part in their second clothes collection, Feb 7th 2014, for Science into Schools. O2s electronic recycling scheme, (date to be decided) and EDFs waste week in March.

Dr Cindy Thatcher



Geographical Association Geography Quiz

On Tuesday 26th November, two teams of 3 Langtree students (Charles Norman, Isabel Carr, Conor Coleman, Ben Zimmerman, Livi Nelson, Robert Carr) set out to Reading Boys School to take part in the Geographical Association Geography Quiz. It was Langtree's first time taking part in the event so the team weren't sure what they were letting themselves in for and hearing that the winners last year won both the regional and national competition, it did little to settle the nerves! The teams were faced with six brutal rounds of geographical questions based on current affairs, flags, capital cities, landmarks, country outlines and general knowledge. At half time, Langtree was sitting 9th and 20th and at ¾ time, one team was placed 4th. In the end, the teams finished in a respectable 10th and 17th place out of 26.

Congratulations to the teams who did incredibly well and faced some of the most academic schools in Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and a huge thank you to Mrs Phipps and Miss Hatcher for arranging the teams, getting us there and putting up with the unbearable tension! Hopefully we'll have just as much luck in next year's quiz!

by Livi Nelson, 10HC

Sports News



CROSS COUNTRY

Langtree sent four teams to the area cross country recently with the stand out result being for the Year 7 boys who were overall winners and the Year 10/11 girls who were runners up.

RUGBY

The Year 7 boys have had a promising season beating Icknield 10-7, Chiltern Edge 15-0, drawing 20 all with Highdown and losing 10-0 to Wallingford. They also finished fourth in the area tournament. The Year 11's recently beat Icknield 10-7 and the Year 9's did well to finish 3rd in their area tournament.

FOOTBALL

The Year 7 5 a side team recently took part in the District tournament drawing with St Birinus and beating Larkmead. This meant they had to beat Faringdon in their final group game to reach the semi finals but despite hitting the post twice and dominating most of the game they narrowly lost 1-0.

TRIATHLON

Langtree took 4 teams to the area triathlon event at Chiltern Edge which involved each three competitors in the team completing 1500m on a rowing ergo, a 2.5km bike ride and a 1.6km run. All teams performed really well but special mention must go to the Year 9 boys' team who finished 2nd. Their combined team score of 62 minutes 47 seconds was just 2 seconds behind the winners!

Thank you to ALL students that have attended extra -curricular sports clubs and taken part in matches this term. Enjoy a well earned rest over Christmas!



Mr Blower, Head of PE



Year 10 Sports Leaders in action

Our Year 10 GCSE PE group had their first experience of leadership at our recent Primary Partnership event. They did us proud and although they were nervous to start, they really excelled themselves whilst teaching over 120 Year 1 and 2 students. Well done, a great start to the leadership programme.

Mrs Blower,
School Sports Co-ordinator



Climate Change Conference

The main aim of the Conference was to educate everyone on how important the environment is and how climate change affects the environment. We also wanted to show everyone how easy it can be to make a sustainable world by using renewable sources of energy such as wind power, and simple things such as turning off lights when they are not needed to be on or to close doors to keep the warmth in.

Each school had a team of students who represented a country. Each country had to come up with arguments against the other countries and ones to defend themselves against the other country's questions and arguments. Each school had two countries except Whitchurch who just had one. Langtree had the USA and India, Henley College had Canada and Brazil, Theale Green had Australia and South Africa, Icknield had the UK and Bangladesh, Bradfield had Russia and China and Whitchurch had the Maldives.

First we started with Mr Peter McManners, an environmentalist and author, who welcomed every school and gave us an explanation of how the conference was set out. This was followed by Professor Nigel Arnell from the University of Reading who gave us a talk on local impacts on climate change, how climate change happens and its effects on the planet. Then every school group gave a speech on their country explaining what they had done to minimise climate change, what are they doing at the moment and what they were planning to do. After that we listened to a talk by Professor Brian Hoskins from London's Imperial College and the University of Reading. He gave us a talk on both the national and international climate change political scene at the moment.

Written by
Will Booker
and Jack
Darnbrough,
9NM



Emil and the Detectives: National Theatre Visit

On 2nd December a group of Year 10 students went to the National Theatre, Southbank, London to see the above production. Below are some of the reviews written by our Year 10 students.

Phoebe Bennett: *'the pantomime elements brought a comedy element to the show'*

Harper Ford: *'really effective use of semiotics of colour in the production. For example the contrast between the black sinister suits of the adults in the city and the warmer/paler costumes of the the child detectives which symbolised their purity.'*

Thalia Swann: *'In the dream sequence the words flashing up behind Emil expressed his emotions, which effectively reinforced the character's feelings'*

Greg Chandler: *'very effective use of semiotics of colour for example the dark red of the sinister character's hotel room symbolised the danger and intensity of the moment'*

Megan Gainsford: *'the audience participation when we had to stand up and join in helped us to empathise with the feelings of the characters and made us feel like we were part of their secret group. This made me feel like I was being personally involved.'*

Conrad Heath: *'the use of lighting with many torches in the sewer scene created tension, because it gave us a perspective of the narrow sewer tunnels and the journey of the characters through them.'*

Liam Rowntree: *'the way the lights flickered repeatedly in the train scene was effective because it conveyed Emil's semi-consciousness.'*

Gill Pimm, Head of Drama: *'when the money fluttered onto the audience from the sky at the resolution of the plot it was truly magical!'*

Please check the website for up to date information.



Great idea for a stocking filler this Christmas! All our students will find that a set of coloured pencils will be really useful in most subjects at school.

TERM 3 DATES



A full public/mock timetable for examinations is available on the school website at www.langtreeschool.com

Mon 6th January	Start of Term 3
Tues 14th January	7pm Governors Curriculum sub committee mtg
Thurs 16th January	5-7.30pm Year 7 Parents' evening
	7pm Governors Community sub committee mtg
Wed 22nd January	7pm Governors Finance sub committee mtg
Fri 24th January	7.30pm Langtree School Council BAND NIGHT
Thurs 30th January	Creativity Day 2
	Year 11 Mock interviews
Wed 5th February	7.30pm Full Governing Body meeting
Thurs 6th February	UK Maths Challenge (Years 9/10/11)
	6.00pm Student Leader Meal with senior staff
Thurs 13th February	5-7.30pm Year 8 Parents' Evening
Frid 14th February	End of Term 3
Mon 24th February	Start of Term 4



CHOLSEY YOUTH CLUB

Youth Leader Vacancy

The club runs each Thursday evening during term time in this large South Oxfordshire village. We are looking for an enthusiastic and organised individual with relevant experience and qualifications. You'll need a friendly, positive attitude and lots of energy to work with our lively members. You should be willing to take the lead in implementing our agreed behaviour policy. The successful applicant will be expected to plan and run every session, prepare termly activities, attend committee meetings and have good communication skills as well as a working knowledge of email, Word and Excel. At the moment we expect the Youth worker to work 6 hours per week during term-time. The successful applicant will be required to have an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service application. For further information or if you would like to apply please email: lindseyramsay@aol.com

Christmas Card Competition & KS3 Art Exhibition/Craft Fayre

I would like to congratulate the winners of the Christmas Card design competition. They are *Saoise Coveney 7SD, Isabelle Wood, 9AWL, Louis Stone 9CD, Rose Rushbrooke 9NM* and *Thalia Swann 10HC*. This year the cards were professionally printed and on sale at the Art Exhibition and Craft Fayre which took place on Monday 9th December.

A very big thank you to all the key stage 3 students who produced the fantastic work that was on display last Monday. We are very proud to show off their hard work and commitment to achieving their best in Art and Design. It was a wonderful way to celebrate their achievements so far this year! It was a joy to share the students work with parents and the rest of Langtree School Community!

Beth Wilson and Ruth Buckley deserve a special mention for all their hard work and talents that they put into designing and creating the laser cut Christmas decorations that were on sale, alongside the Christmas cards designed by our Christmas card competition winners. There was no end to the student talents on display!

Mrs Mote and her crew made delicious gingerbread reindeers that students and adults alike all enjoyed decorating and eating! The festive celebrations were joined by the two Ben's who played their guitars beautifully to serenade our guests throughout the event.

Thank you to all the visiting artists who brought an array of wonderful hand-made products for us to buy, demonstrating how artistic skills can be enjoyed by many others!

If you were unable to join us for our exhibition this year and would like to purchase your son or daughters fantastic artwork in a mount and frame then please drop £8.00 along with your child's name and tutor group information into the front office before Wednesday 18th December.

Mrs Bainbrigg, Head of Art



Our catering provider ran a competition recently in all of the schools they provide a catering service for. Students had to design "a menu for the school for one day". The

Langtree student winners were Helen Moody and Ruth Buckley, 10GL. Their entry now goes in with the other schools and the winning school will win £1,000 !!!

Fingers crossed.



Mr Holroyd, Ruth Buckley, Mrs Parr-Catering supervisor and Helen Moody.



PTA report on Quiz night



Thank you to all who took part in making our Quiz Night a resounding success and to those who donated such superb raffle prizes. Feedback from parents who came along to support the school had a great evening and feedback was "that it was good fun, great food, and the drinks went down well!" A special thank you to Jackie and Christine our School Caterers who took on the mammoth task of catering for this event and gave up their Friday night to open the kitchen. Special thanks to Mike – our superb Quiz Master for making the night a challenging one with top drawer questions. Congratulations to the Winning Team who took home the Langtree Quiz Trophy for the first time. The question is, can they hold on to their crown next year? Can you let us know who you are please!!

The night raised a staggering some £940.00 !!! Your continued enthusiasm to support PTA events is much appreciated and necessary in order to raise funds to improve the facilities within the school for all our children. If any parents/carers would like to know more about the PTA or are interested in coming along to our meeting in the New Year, please contact:

Lynne Longshaw – lynne@lynnelongshaw.com
or Theresa Murphy – theresag2009@hotmail.com



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 on finance@langtreeschool.com