

Autumn 2020 Newsletter



Dear Parents



As we approach the end of a long first term, I am happy to be able to report that we have not had a single case of the virus at Langtree School. This is in part due to the measures we have instigated but mainly due to the resilience and maturity of our students in following the handwashing, sanitising, one way, timetabling and social distancing systems we have put in place. I know it is annoying and inconvenient but the vast majority of our students have adapted exceptionally well. I am pleased to report that as I visit lessons and observe learning, the atmosphere in lessons is as purposeful and enthusiastic as in more normal times.

I have been particularly impressed with the students and staff that have joined us this term. Starting a new school is always a challenge but particularly during these unusual times. However, they have all settled in so quickly and they are all definitely a welcome addition to our Langtree community.

However, I am not naive enough to believe that it is easy for anybody, I am aware that the new shorter lunchtimes are difficult for students and staff. I know we are all tired and will benefit from the half term break. Despite looking at a range of alternatives we will have to stick with the short lunchtimes for the foreseeable future. If they are required beyond Christmas we will rotate the timings so as one year group is not disproportionately affected by the schedules.

One of the highlights of the first term is always the open evening, while we could not host our traditional event in school I think the virtual event was a brilliant event considering the restrictions. If you have not seen the video we made to show prospective parents I hope you can find time to watch it and that you recognise the school of which we are all so proud to be a part of. You can view it [HERE](#).

At the time of writing we are packing up the tins, packets and other items of food so generously donated by all members of our school. I was concerned this year that we might not be able to collect quite as much as we have in recent years. However, I should not have been concerned as I think we might have even surpassed last year's record haul. Thank you to anyone who did supply food and I know it will be very much appreciated by anyone unfortunate enough to need the services of the wonderful people at Wallingford Food Bank.

Despite the restrictions, there is a huge amount to celebrate this term. I hope the rest of this newsletter gives you a flavour of the extent and variety of our students' achievements - from horse riding, acting, music, gliding and achieving Duke of Edinburgh Awards it is a testament to our wonderful students ability to overcome adversity and triumph even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Simon Bamford
Headteacher

Coronavirus Update

We are not expecting a local or national shutdown but we are nevertheless making sure we are prepared if one should be required. We have conducted an audit of all those students who may have difficulty connecting to the internet with a reliable and suitable device in the event of working from home.

If your child or a member of your household has a positive test result or symptoms of coronavirus (even during an evening, weekend or holiday) please let us know immediately using the studentabsence@langtreeschool.com email address.

We will start next term with a reminder of our expectations and I would be grateful if you would reinforce these with your son or daughter at home as well.

- Wash hands frequently and always when they change classrooms.
- Use the hand sanitiser provided on entering a classroom and wipe their desks and any resources with an antiviral wipe.
- Maintain social distancing when moving around the school, at breaks and lunchtimes and when they are with their friends in the evening and at weekends.
- Wear a face covering on school transport and when going into shops.
- Follow instructions from staff at all times.
- Bring all of their required equipment and resources.

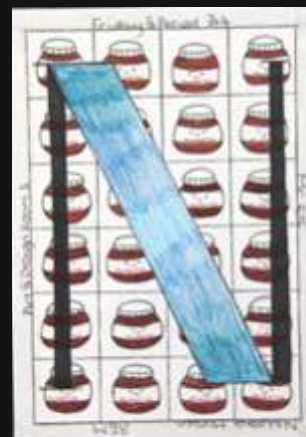




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Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Despite the challenges of this year our Duke of Edinburgh Awards group has managed to keep going with their Bronze award. So far Beth Westcar, Rebecca Servais, Ellie Lomax, James Kearsey, Toby Weller, Ben Barter, Olie Phillips, Luke Ridley, Samuel Redman, Kaitlyn Doran and Leo Sentinella have all completed their Bronze Awards—congratulations to them all. The pictures below are from a recently completed expedition.



Back in March I auditioned to be a member of the **National Youth Theatre**, a world leading youth arts organisation for 15-25 year olds with alumni such as Matt Smith, Rosamund Pike and Catherine Tate. The audition process was very fun and focused around creating a powerful ensemble. Two months later (what felt like an eternity waiting for something I wanted so badly!) I found out I had got in and was offered a place on the compulsory intake course over the summer holidays. Hooray! It's safe to say I've never been quite so excited after reading an email; I think I smiled all day! Except at this point lockdown was in full swing and the two week course in London, working and living with other new members, was replaced by a week long online course via Zoom. Although still very exciting I felt as though I had been robbed of what people say is the best part of NYT, the friendships...



However, the course was incredible and I learnt just as much over that week then I've learnt over my 10 years at stage school. Our programmes were varied and our two teachers (the loveliest people by the way!) were industry experts. Over the intensive week, we worked on exploring ensemble values through Zoom, character work, script work and lots of improv amongst other things. I have never been a massive fan of improv but we had created such an accepting, open space that I felt safe to throw myself into it! I also loved the script work we did on how to approach a piece of text and the emphasis on there being no wrong answer in creativity. We then shared our work in a virtual performance evening with the other courses happening over the week and Paul Roseby, the artistic director. But, for me, my all time highlight was what I was so concerned about. I was in a group with 14 other 15-17 year olds of all races, religions, economic and cultural backgrounds from all over Britain who I now speak to every day. There is nothing better than being in a room (even if it is virtual...) with people who share your passion.

I couldn't recommend NYT more for other stagey, theatre lovers whether your place is on/off stage. But even if you aren't, take this as general advice to throw yourself into it, and take any opportunities you can to do what you love even if you're feeling nervous about it! I'm happy to talk some more about it to anyone who may want

more info regarding NYT, feel free to drop me an email (yzanelli@langtreeschool.com). Although you can't audition till you are 14/15, they offer plenty of other fantastic opportunities!

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Music Department News



Music Examinations

It is unfortunate that many of our musicians haven't been able to have their brilliance validated by music examinations during the COVID crisis. However four students did manage to get in under the wire; Anna Rowson passing Grade 5 violin with merit, Hannah Bates passing Grade 4 piano and Toby Best & Toby Weller passing their Bronze singing award.

During lockdown Toby Best also passed his Grade 5 theory. This is a written exam and I believe he had to be videoed taking it to check on his honesty - as if!

Rebecca passed Grade 5 clarinet and Dominic passed Grade 6 saxophone taking their exams by sending in video performances to Trinity College.



And finally congratulations to Asri Southby who left us last year but achieved a distinction for her Grade 5 singing exam.



Video Summer Concert

It was a great pleasure at the end of the Summer term to be able to compile a video of performances to form a virtual Summer Concert. It was a great testament to the resilience of our students that I was overwhelmed by their response. It is possible to view the concert [HERE](#) It was particularly lovely to get a performance from four Year 11 students - Alice Carson, Caitlin Parmar-Sheppard, Asri Southby and Hannah Weller.



GCSE Results

The music results this year were fantastic. Particular congratulations to Alice Carson, Caitlin Parmar-Sheppard, Freya McDonald and Becky Atkins who achieved Grade 9s.

GCSE Music 2020



40% Grade 9
60% Grade 8 & 9
100% Grade 5 +



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



Congratulations to Leah Coley. Leah is a figure skater and is currently in the GB squad. Unfortunately due to covid-19 she didn't get to compete in the British Figure Skating Championships this year but is aiming to qualify again next year in both single and pair skating, her and her partner are also aiming for the Junior 2024 Olympics. Leah and Jacob won the pairs competition (their first competition together) in Lee Valley London in February



Leo Sentinella 10GPi is a newly solo glider pilot.

I went solo at Booker Gliding Club at Wycombe air park flying one of the K21s KCZ on Sunday 13 September. I went on my first trial lesson when I was 12 at Oxford Gliding Club in a K13. Then when I turned 13 I joined Bicester Gliding Club as a cadet and started my training in there K13s. I had just completed my training by my 14 birthday so I could go solo on my birthday and then we went into lockdown.

Unfortunately during lockdown Bicester Gliding Club lost it's lease to the airfield, so I joined Booker Gliding Club as a Junior member and flew for the first time in August and have been getting used to the new airfield and new launch method (I learnt on the winch but now launch from an aerotow) and then my instructor sent me solo on my 73rd flight for 11 minutes.

After my solo I instantly got into aerobatics and came second at the clubs (slightly delayed) Easter Egg Cub Aerobatics Competition and was only beaten by British Aerobatics Team Coach and Champion Will Jones. Who is now encouraging me to take part in next year's Dan Smith Trophy Aerobatics competition at London Gliding Club, Dunstable which is a national competition run by the British Aerobatics Association.

I got into gliding because I have always wanted to become a commercial pilot and found that gliding is a really fun way of learning how to fly.



Student Success

Many of our Students take part in activities outside of Langtree we are always keen to hear about our students lives away from school

The Law siblings have had continued Equestrian success this year. Millie Year 11 is shown here competing at Cherwell Equestrian Centre gaining 1st Place back in March this year. Olivia Year 10, was placed 1st in her class at Hall Place last month, as was Ashton Year 8 who was also 1st in his class at Hall Place last month.



Eva Foldvari Year 9 competing in the Aintree Indoor Championship, Pony British Novice Championship Final.



2020 – 2021 Term Dates

INSET DAYS

October Break – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2020	
Monday 2nd November	Start of term 2
Friday 18th December	End of Term 2 (School closes at 1.30pm)
Christmas Holiday – Monday 21st December 2020 – Monday 4th January 2021	
Tuesday 5th January	Start of Term 3
Tuesday 5th to Friday 15th Jan	Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams
Monday 18th January	Inset Day
Thursday 11th February	End of Term 3
Friday 12th February	Inset Day
February Break – Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2021	
Monday 22nd February	Start of Term 4
Year 10 Exams (dates to be confirmed)	
Wednesday 31st March	End of Term 4
Thursday 1st April	Inset Day
Easter Holiday – Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April 2021	
Monday 19th April	Start of Term 5
Monday 3rd May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May	End of Term 5
May Holiday – Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021	
Monday 7th June	Start of Term 6
Mon 12th - Fri 16th July	Activities Week Y7 Camp / Y8 France / Y10 Work Ex. (all TBC)
Monday 19th July	Sports Day
Thursday 22nd July	End of Term 6 (School closes at 12.30pm)

LANGTREE SCHOOL IS NOW CASHLESS for TRIPS / VISITS / BOOKS and EQUIPMENT

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, this is particularly useful for school trips.

There is a link to the online payment system on the front of the school website.



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.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

The school office keeps a supply of second hand uniform for students and parents / carers to purchase. We are always happy to receive donations of good quality uniform to add to the second hand cupboard.

Absence Requests (other than for medical appointments)

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 Deputy Headteacher Ms S Burman, via the attendance officer: Mrs Debbie Hayward studentabsence@langtreeschool.com stating the dates of absence and the reason for the absence, the school reserves the right to seek further information about the requested absence