

Christmas Newsletter 2019



We have reached the end of another very busy and successful term at Langtree School. Our Governors Open Morning last week celebrated the diverse range of activities, opportunities and experiences the students of our school are involved in. The governors witnessed the interactive session delivered by Frontline History on army life in World War I to our Year 9 students who were able to try on the kit, experience wearing a range of World War I gas masks, act as a stretcher bearer for a fallen comrade and hear about what life was like in the trenches of Belgium and France. This term students have also been on a successful trip to Berlin where they visited the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, viewed Berlin from the top of the Kolhoff Tower, visited The Jewish Museum and enjoyed a Christmas marker.

The students have taken part in a variety of Creativity Day activities - from learning how to speak in public with "Talk the Talk", a trip to the Historic Dockyards in Portsmouth and carrying out enterprise and team building activities in school. Our Year 11 students have visited Henley College and are continuing to plan for Life after Langtree. We have worn yellow for Positivity Day, spots for Children in Need Day and odd socks for Anti-Bullying Week and of course Christmas Jumpers for Save the Children.

Over the last term, our students have continued to excel in a great many areas and the focus on academic achievement is, as always, ongoing. Once again there has been an extensive range of extracurricular activities and events which highlights the willingness of students to get involved and of staff being prepared

to go the extra mile in organising such a wide range of activities.

We are all getting well and truly into the Christmas spirit. We had Christmas Jumper Day and our Christmas lunch last week. The Senior Citizens Christmas Party was a wonderful event, with 92 guests enjoying afternoon tea and entertainment. This was testified by a number of emails and cards received: "Thank you all for the lovely afternoon! Great kids, music and stories" and last Thursday I was again impressed by the variety and depth of talent among our students as they joked, acted, sung and played their way through the wonderful Christmas Extravaganza Concert. As we enter the last few days of term the Year 8 Leadership Group will be helping deliver Christmas Hampers to local residents, created from the donations students have bought into school.

Langtree School continues to thrive and flourish because of the commitment of students, staff and parents. We celebrate outstanding achievement as well as the personal enrichment and development of our students. Our excellent GCSE exam results from 2019 were validated by the DfE and Ofsted and as a result Langtree School were ranked 33rd on the Sunday Times list of the best non-selective state schools in the UK.

Our year 11 students will be sitting their mock exams just after the Christmas holiday but we have assured them we do not expect, or want them to spend the whole holiday working. If their parents could help them to schedule a reasonable amount of revision during the break but ensure they have all the correct equipment for the exams on the first day back - imagine their joy as they unwrap a protractor on Christmas morning! None of our teachers will be setting homework for our KS3 students this holiday to ensure they (and their families) can all enjoy a relaxing, stress-free Christmas holiday. There is a list of recommended reading that they (or Santa) can choose a book from.

I would like to join with all staff at Langtree by wishing all of our students and their families a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2020. Can I take this last opportunity to remind all parents that Langtree has a new year's resolution? We want to dramatically reduce the amount of disposable packaging in the canteen. Therefore, any student wishing to take food away will need to bring in an appropriate, clean take-away container clearly labelled with the child's name as we will no longer be issuing disposable packaging for food like hot meals, pasta or grab and go items.

Mr Simon Bamford—Headteacher



Artist of the Term: Tina Slovak (Collections and Connections)

Frontline History: Year 9

A couple of weeks ago, we were lucky enough to have a workshop from Frontline History. We got to learn first hand about WW1- from gas to weapons to stretcher bearers to helmets. It was really informative and interesting! The reality of the events in WW1 seemed much more shocking when you can see and feel the shells, the helmets, the grenades. Often you forget that the horrific things really did happen, and the enormity of it all. We got to smell the gas, and try on gas masks. The two men talked us through the different gases and what they would've been used for, and how that would have come into effect.

Old shells and grenades were passed around, and feeling the heavy weight of them, the rough metal against your hand, you can only imagine their consequences- it was slightly surreal! They told us all about the different strategies that were implemented, and about how soldiers would've been looked after. Some of us got to act as stretcher bearers, and carried a "wounded soldier" to "safety". We saw how soldiers would have tried to prevent themselves from developing trench foot, and how the casualties were counted.

We learnt about the helmets, and how they changed from wool to metal- unsurprisingly, head wounds were reduced! When the helmets of the different countries were passed around, you could see how they had developed to be as protective and inconspicuous as possible- and how some would've been better than others! Some volunteers went up and were given the gas masks to try on- the men told them how to do this when wearing a helmet!

They told us about artillery bombardments, and why some battles turned out the way they did. The men taught us about the trench structure, and the transition to trench warfare. Overall, it was a great experience! Learning about all the gases and weapons practically was really useful. It was good to remember and understand how the war was fought, and important to be reminded about the reality of it all. I'm very grateful that we had the opportunity to be visited by Frontline History- it was definitely worth it! Daisy Siggers



Thank you!

We managed to collect enough Christmas food to deliver 32 hampers for local residents and 5 very large hampers to the local care homes in Goring and Nuffield.



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Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

We welcomed 92 guests from the community to our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party, who all enjoyed a Christmas team served by our Year 8 leadership group. Onstage the guests were entertained by students from Woodcote Primary School, the Langtree Orchestra, 3 choirs and a dram group, followed by carol singing. All our guests were given a piece of Christmas Cake to take home which had been made during Food technology lessons.

" I have just returned from the most delightful Party as a guest of Langtree School. This is to say a very appreciative 'Thank You' to all the staff and pupils for lovely afternoon of entertainment and hospitality. I am so impressed by the quality of the music and singing, and the attitude of the Students. All my grandchildren have gone to other local schools, so I have had many experiences, but I have never experienced such a professional occasion as today. So thank you once again, to everyone who must have worked so hard to make today such a success. Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year."

" Thank you all for the lovely afternoon! Great kids, music and stories amongst you all. Happy season"



Christmas Extravaganza Concert

An amazing evening of music drama and gym, summed up beautifully by the email received from a parent the following day:

"Just wanted to pass on my thanks to all the children and teachers for an amazing concert last night. This was my first time as child in year 7 has just joined the Orchestra. I was blown away not just by the talent you have in the school but also the different groups of children who wanted to showcase their artistic work that they have been part of this year. I love the way the school has encouraged the kids to take part in the Drama, Music and Gymnastics and to give them the opportunity to put together last night's concert. I hope the children will treasure these memories of being part of a special evening".



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Year 11 Visit to University of Oxford Music Department

The Year 11 GCSE Music group visited the University of Oxford Music Department. In the morning we visited the Bate Collection of musical instruments. We were given a lecture about the history and development of many families of musical instruments. In particular the students were given the opportunity to try out

instruments they played. So we had Caitlin, Alice, Reuben and Dorothy on flutes; Daniel on brass; Freya, Philippa, Holly, Becky and Jon on keyboards. We were able to play harpsichords that had been played by Handel and Haydn.

In the afternoon we took part in a Gamelan workshop. Gamelan is the traditional instruments of Indonesia; Bali and Java. It is like a big percussion orchestra.

We had an excellent, enjoyable and educational day and thanks must go once again to the Arts Society in Goring for kindly subsidising the cost of the day. We also had the company of an old friend, in the form of Mr Doyle.



Berlin Trip

54 students from years 9 and 10 were given the opportunity to visit Berlin for 3 days. This trip was really beneficial for the students studying History and German, although the trip was open to everyone. During our time in Germany, we travelled to many historic sites and museums, as well as traditional Christmas markets and the zoo! From the Nazi concentration camp of Sachsenhausen to the German government building: The Reichstag, this trip was really beneficial for our history studies and also very interesting. Everyone involved really enjoyed this trip and would recommend it to any other year groups in the future

Charlie Ball and Patrick Jones



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

Sports Results for Term 2

5/11	Year 7 Hockey A Team	Wallingford	Won 7-2
5/11	Year 7 Hockey B Team	Wallingford	Drew 3-3
5/11	Year 11 Rugby Semi Finals	Reading RFC	Lost 10-0 To Denefield. Bt ME 7-0 to come 3rd
6/11	Year 7 Girls Football	Icknield	Won 9-0
6/11	Year 8/9 Girls Football	Icknield	Drew 0-0
7/11	Year 10 Hockey	Gillotts	Drew 1-1
7/11	Year 8 Rugby Festival @ Banbury RFC	Banbury RFC	Won v Sibford lost 5
8/11	Area Triathlon U14 and U16 Boys and Girls Teams Tilly Ogsten 1st overall girl Lydia Godfrey - 3rd Ben Morgan 4th Overall boys Lilly Burrows 3rd overall girl	Chiltern Edge	U14 Boys - 5th U14 Girls - 1st U16 Boys - 2nd U16 Girls - 1st
12/11	Area Cross Country Year 7 Girls Overall 2nd Aoife, 3rd Mia Year 7 Boys Overall 3rd Finn Year 8/9 Girls 1st Lydia, 2nd Tilly, 3rd Ruby Year 10/11 Girls 1st Gemma	Gillotts	Year 7 Girls - 1st Year 7 Boys - 1st Year 8/9 Girls - 2nd Year 8/9 Boys - 4th Year 10/11 Girls - 1st Year 10/11 Boys 3rd
19/11	U16 Girls Football County Cup Quarter Final	Gosford Hill	Lost 4-2
20/11	Year 10 Rugby Angus Cusack 1 try 1 con. TJ McBride 1 try	Wallingford	Won 12-0
21/11	Year 7 Vale 5-a-side Tournament Sonny played brilliantly with lots of saves in all the games we played.	Faringdon	Lost 2-1 to Matthew Arnold. 5-0 to King Alfred's and 2-1 to Fitzharrys
25/11	Year 7 football	Matthew Arnold	Lost 3-2 Won 9-6 Penalties
28/11	Year 7 rugby County Tournament Boys played some really good rugby, building on everything they have done so far this year. Great rucking, tackling and passing.	Banbury RFC	Won 2 - lost 3 by one 1 try
26/11	Year 7 Girls Indoor 5-a-side football Aoife Murphy, Megan Kinloch, Ava Lunt, Mia Hatt, Lucy Bigmore, Amy Edwards		Beat Didcot Girls 5-1 in semi-final and Larkmead 3-0 in the Final. All played really well! Won the Tournament! Through to Southern Region finals
2/12	Year 11 Girls Football	Icknield	Won 6-0 Mia Stovell scored 4!
9/12	Year 8 Boys county cup quarterfinal	Oxford Academy	Lost 10-2 Played well against the current champions. David Spiers scored twice
11/12	School Games finals Radley College: Cross Country Lydia Godfrey came 2nd Lola Batt 4th overall Aoife Murphy came 7th in her race. George Godfrey 12th Finley Hannigan 14th Rob Milsop 11th and Gemma Botham was 4th		Overall Team results: Year 7 girls came 3rd Bronze medal awarded. Year 7 boys came 5th out of 12 Year 8/9 girls sadly missing two key runners came 4th/9 Year 10/11 girls came 4th/7 Year 10/11 boys came 5th/6

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Area Cross Country



Year 7 Vale 5 a side tournament



Year 7 Rugby County Tournament



Year 8 Football County Cup
Quarter Final



Year 7 Girls
5 a side Football



Year 8 Rugby Festival



Area
Triathlon



Life Outside Langtree School.

We are always pleased to hear about what our students get up to when they are not at school.

Tilly Ogston a year 9 student has just returned from a weekend in Germany where she was competing in a swimming gala in Kelkheim.

Tilly writes: "The weekend started early on Friday morning. I had to get up at 4.30 am on Friday. We (Wycombe District Swimming Club) met at the airport for our flight. There were 16 swimmers who travelled out with our coach and team managers.

After landing in Germany we met up with the families hosting our visit. We then had lunch before heading off to the Kelkheim shopping centre where we enjoyed a bit of downtime shopping and bonding with our host families. Later on, we visited the Kelkheim swimming pool for a training session. I then went home with my host family for the night. The gala started early on Saturday morning where I took part in a number of races. I was particularly pleased with my 400m front crawl where I achieved a second and the 50m breaststroke where I managed a bronze place.

At the end of the day, my host family took me into Frankfurt for the evening to have a look around this amazing city. I really liked the old part of the city with the original buildings. We then went home and watched a film before going off to bed.

Sunday morning it was back at the pool for yet more races and this time I managed a second in the 200m backstroke, my favourite stroke.

At the end of the gala, we went back to the host family's house, packed our bags and whizzed off to the airport to catch the flight back.

I was pretty exhausted but really happy to see my mum and dad waiting for me at arrivals.

I feel really lucky to have had this experience and feel really proud of my achievements. I also thank the coach, team managers, my parents and school for making this all possible".



Bella Barter also travelled to Germany in November to compete at the World Dance Championships with Team GB where she performed in 3 dances, a solo, trio and group formation. Her solo dance got her through to the semi finals, which was a great achievement.



And the Primary School Year 6 Teachers came to Tea with Year 7.

I really enjoyed the afternoon tea with my primary school teachers. My favourite part was when I showed my primary school teachers my books; it was funny when she told me to join my handwriting. We all shared some cake and got our teachers some tea while we discussed what was now going on at school. We also showed them around the school, where we now have our lessons. Overall, I think this event was a success and it should definitely take place again next year for the new year 7's. Emily Byron

At the beginning of November we invited year 6 primary school teachers to visit Langtree. We were reunited in the reception area of the school. At first I felt a bit nervous about meeting them again but as soon as I saw my old teacher's familiar faces I felt really excited. Our primary school teachers were really happy to see us. Firstly, we all went into the hall and had a chat about how our first weeks at Langtree were going. While having tea and cake, we showed our primary school teachers some of our school books. Our teachers were amazed at how much progress we had made. After that we showed the teachers round the school. We showed them round every part of the school. It is amazing to think how quickly we can now find our way round compared to a few weeks ago. George Godfrey



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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

2019 – 2020 Term Dates

Christmas Holiday – Thursday 19th December 2019 – Friday 3rd January 2020

Monday 6th January	Start of Term 3
Monday 6th January - Friday 17th January Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams	
Monday 20th January	Inset Day
Thursday 13th February	End of Term 3
Friday 14th February	Inset Day (Disaggregated)
February Break – Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2020	
Monday 24th February	Start of Term 4
Monday 2nd March - Thursday 12th March Year 10 Exams	
Friday 3rd April	End of Term 4
Easter Holiday – Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April 2020	
Monday 20th April	Start of Term 5
Friday 8th May	May Day Bank Holiday (moved for VE Day Anniversary)
Friday 22nd May	End of Term 5
May Holiday – Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2020	
Monday 1st June	Start of Term 6
Friday 3rd July	National Inset Day
Mon 13th - Fri 17th July	Activities Week Y7 Camp / Y8 France / Y10 Work Ex.
Monday 20th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 21st 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.