



## Newsletter Summer 2018

It is with very mixed emotions that I approach the end of my very last term at Langtree School. While I am extremely excited to be taking on a new challenge at King Alfred's School in September, it goes without saying that I also feel a great sense of sadness to be leaving such a wonderful and vibrant school community. Langtree is a very special place indeed.

The reasons why it is so special to me are threefold. The staff – and I mean all of the staff - is certainly a stronger group than I can ever remember working with over the last thirteen years, and I am constantly in awe of their talents, skills, expertise and commitment to the students in the school. It has been a great privilege to work with them all.

Secondly, the students continue to be an absolute delight. They have always embraced our philosophy of 'Putting Learning First' and our core values of Courtesy, Tolerance and Respect, which the vast majority exhibit in their behaviours (almost!) all of the time. I am so proud that they appreciate the culture and ethos of the school, which they value, uphold and protect as responsible guardians every day. That makes them a very special group of students indeed, and I will miss their positive attitudes, their smiling faces and their courteous behaviours very much indeed. As I often say, thank you for lending your children to us to work with at Langtree!

And lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to thank you as supportive parents of the school. Education leadership is a difficult profession and not for the faint hearted, especially in such austere times, and I know that colleague Heads have faced as much pressure and challenge from parents as they have from external agencies in the current landscape of change. However, that has never been the case for me. As parents you have been patient, appreciative and hugely supportive of all that we have done over the last thirteen years and, when you have had concerns, these have almost always been raised in a professional, respectful manner. Many thanks for your support, and for making the challenging job of school leadership easier than it might have been!

So, while I will be very sorry to leave, I will do so with some extremely happy memories, and a confidence that the school will continue to go from strength to strength under Mr Bamford's interim leadership. Please do read the message from our Chair of Governors, Mrs Jan Seal Roberts, about the plans for the appointment of a substantive Headteacher in this newsletter. In the meantime, I know that the school is in very capable hands.

We are very sorry to be saying farewell to four other colleagues this summer. Mrs Peates will be retiring and stepping down from her temporary post as teacher of Geography, Mrs De Freitas will be leaving the English team to relocate to Portugal, Mrs Cave will also be retiring after ten superb years of service to Langtree in the Maths department, and Mr Blower – a true Langtree legend – will also be retiring after 33 years of dedicated, loyal service to the school.

Ian has developed a passion and a love of sport amongst so many cohorts of students over the years, and it is testament to his impact that our sports teams, over so many years, have done so well in local and county competitions against teams from much bigger schools. Often described as 'a wise man of few words', we will miss Ian's input into so many aspects of the school in so many ways, but we wish him well as he heads out to start his retirement on his Greek Island!

However, as reported in the last newsletter, I am pleased to be able to confirm that we have made excellent appointments, and the school is fully staffed with outstanding subject specialists for September. It is perhaps a reflection of the strength of the school's reputation that colleagues are so very keen to take up opportunities which come along to join the staff team at Langtree. Long may that be the case!

With sincere thanks to you all, and with very best wishes for the future success of your outstanding sons and daughters at Langtree School and in their further education in the future.

Rick Holroyd

## A message from the Langtree Chair of Governors

Tuesday 24 July 2018 is not only the last day of Langtree School's academic year, but also marks the last day of us having Rick Holroyd as Headteacher. On the evening of Thursday 19 July a large group of parents, staff and students (present and past) gathered to pay tribute to Rick and to thank him for all that he has done over the past 13 years as Headteacher of Langtree School – but for those who were unable to attend, I am now reproducing below some of the words I spoke on behalf of the governors, and the wider school community.

I have been a governor at Langtree for many years, and have had the privilege of knowing Rick throughout his time at the school. It's true to say that I have seen him happy, cross, frustrated and elated – but over all these years I have never once seen him being anything other than the consummate professional that he is – fiercely loyal to the students and staff in his care, but always prepared to lead the way by personal, hands-on example. For example, on snow days, it is always Rick who has been out with a shovel, clearing the paths and de-icing the entrances first thing in the morning, long before most of us realise that it's white outside, and Rick who has been prepared to 'don the marigolds' when our cleaners failed to turn up.

And it's always been Rick who attends just about every single school performance, not only encouraging the students (and their parents) by his enthusiasm and positive words, but also being prepared to pick up his own guitar once or twice to give us a song. Indeed, Rick has embraced just about every opportunity to take the school forward, including Performing Arts status, and becoming an academy – and also more recently with the development of the astro pitch (and hopefully a new drama studio to come in the future), and IT improvements such as GCSE Pod, Kerboodle and Show My Homework.

On a less positive note, Rick has been vocal – and indeed, has campaigned tirelessly - in the face of funding cuts, but has somehow managed to keep going without ever becoming cynical or despondent. And of course, Rick was even prepared to take on the Ofsted inspectors last year when they seemed reluctant to realise just how good Langtree has become (on the cusp of outstanding, eh?!) – but at every stage he has always managed to maintain his characteristic good humour and warm smile.

And of course, Rick has always been a staunch advocate for all our students – fiercely proud of their achievements, both academic and otherwise (including the introduction of the Langtree Challenge) – in particular, speaking out for those who are underprivileged and struggling – and even (perhaps especially) for those whose behaviour isn't always the best.

But it's not just the students – because Rick has also been a tireless supporter and promoter of his staff over the years – earnestly seeking the highest standards, but being quick to give praise and to acknowledge successes where congratulations were due. Indeed, in Governors' meetings Rick has never seemed particularly comfortable in accepting praise for himself – but instead has always been quick to attribute success to others and to be generous in his own praise.

However, Rick's many achievements at Langtree haven't just been about enthusiasm, kindness and a strong belief in others. Rick has always demonstrated a clear and focused determination to keep things moving forward, and for Langtree School to be the best it possibly can. 'A great result – but there can be no resting on laurels here' is one of his favourite phrases – and his ability to inspire others to keep reaching forward, even in the face of funding difficulties and resource challenges, would put some of our captains of industry to shame.

So Langtree School has indeed been truly fortunate to have Rick Holroyd at its helm for the past 13 years - and right now it seems rather a daunting prospect to contemplate our school life without him. But perhaps the greatest testimony to Rick is that he is leaving the school in such a good place. The Langtree ethos, its staffing and indeed the results of the school are almost certainly better than ever – and as most surely realise, the school is now consistently over-subscribed, with many parents keen to enable their own children to have a taste of the Langtree magic. And hey – Langtree even received recent accolades in *The Tattler* (no less!), being listed as one of the best 10 senior schools in the UK that money can't buy!

But somehow Rick has managed to do all this, achieving order and consistency as well as fairness – but all the while preserving the warmth, friendliness and humanity of Langtree, which makes our school such a special place - where individuals feel valued and a family atmosphere pervades. Truly an incredible job, which has been so well done. I would therefore like to publically thank Rick, on behalf of all the governors of Langtree School, past and present – for all he has done over the past 13 years. And I think I additionally speak on behalf of many Langtree parents for saying an extra thank you to Rick for creating such a warm and nurturing environment in which so many of our children have thrived (mine included) – and for demonstrating so consistently the true meaning of courtesy, tolerance and respect.

Although we are naturally sad to be losing Rick, we are also very proud and delighted that he now has this opportunity to move on to what we hope will be even 'bigger and brighter' things - and truly hope that King Alfred's School will be everything he is hoping for – and that they will allow him the scope to continue to work his magic there.

And we are delighted that our Deputy Headteacher, Simon Bamford, will be taking up the role of Acting Headteacher from next term (September 18) until a permanent appointment can be made. The governors are currently envisaging that we will be advertising the role in September, and then interviewing just before October half-term, which would (in theory at least) allow us to have a permanent appointment made effective from the start of 2019, but this will be subject to confirmation nearer to the time.

But for now, we wish all our Langtree staff, students and their families a well-deserved break – and wish Rick the bright and happy future that he so richly deserves!

**Jan Seal-Roberts**

Please check the website for up to date information. [www.langtreeschool.com](http://www.langtreeschool.com)

I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as the interim Headteacher for Langtree School. Having been the deputy head for a year now I have got to know many students and their parents and am excited about the opportunity to lead the school. I would like to thank Rick Holroyd publically for the thirteen years of leadership that he has given this school and he will be very much missed by the whole community. However, I know we will maintain the values he has instilled in us all.

I would like to thank Rick, the Governors and the Senior Leadership Team for their ongoing support in enabling a smooth transition. We have appointed an interim senior team to ensure we build on the knowledge and capacity of school leadership at all levels. Ms. Burman will be the Acting Deputy Headteacher and Mrs. Holroyd and Mrs. Woods will be Acting Assistant Headteachers. We have also co-opted three of our very experienced middle leaders, Mrs. Davies, Mr. Nonweiler and Mr. Vitty, to the interim senior team.

In the first two terms of next year the Governing Board will undertake a rigorous selection process culminating in the appointment of a permanent Headteacher from January to lead the school into its next stage of development.

From my experience of being a school leader, I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together. Parents make a vital contribution to children's achievements at school, and I want to develop the relationship between the school and parents for everyone's benefit. We will be holding a number of events over the next term, which will provide an opportunity to meet together and discuss the continued development of the successful partnership we enjoy at Langtree. The first such meetings will be the curriculum information evenings which we are holding. The details of these evenings are

- Wednesday 12th September: 6:30pm Year 7 Curriculum Evening
- Wednesday 19th September: 6:30pm Year 10 & 11 Curriculum Evening
- Wednesday 26th September: 6:30pm Year 8 & 9 Curriculum Evening

Please mark the relevant date in your diary and endeavour to come along if at all possible as we will be providing parents and guardians with some very important information to enable you to support your sons and daughters on the next stage of their journey at Langtree. If you prefer, you are also welcome to contact me: sbamford@langtreeschool.com

Langtree School has a history of excellence. I am looking forward to maintaining, and building upon, the ethos and success the school has enjoyed. One of the attractions of the school when I came to look around initially was the friendliness of the whole school community, the core values of Courtesy, Tolerance and Respect and the ethos of "Putting Learning First". I know the high standards expected of, and achieved by, all of us who are associated with Langtree School will continue in September and for many years to come.

Mr Simon Bamford  
Acting Headteacher  
Langtree School

# PTA raise £8010 in 2017 / 2018

Wow what an incredible year we have had! With the support of the parent community and the Langtree staff the PTA committee have been able to donate an impressive **£8010** to the school (Sept – July) benefiting all of our children in so many ways. Money has been raised through fundraising events; this year we had the fun Bingo Night and Race Night; through providing refreshments at all school events and also to several generous match-funded donations from parents.

## THANK YOU EVERYBODY WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED!

Some of the items we have funded include: a Trampette, Reading Pens, a Digital SLR Camera, a Weather Station, Lacrosse equipment, Chromebooks x 16, a Survivor Talk, a Lathe, Tabula Drums and we have recently donated £1000 for outside seating for the children during break times.

The committee have had a lot of fun and we feel extremely proud of what we have achieved.

Our next fun-raising event is on the **30<sup>th</sup> November – Quiz Night with a Twist!**  
Please put the date in your diary and get ready for another fun and successful night.

We are always looking for new parents to join us, so please come along and get involved.  
The next PTA meeting is on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September** and we will be holding our AGM on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October.  
Both at The Highwayman Inn, Checkendon. 7.30 pm.

Joining the PTA does not mean committing to a lot of time or effort – it is surprisingly low key and the more people we have to share the load the better. You may want to simply offer to help at an event or two or just help with refreshments – whatever you can do will have a big impact so do please come along and join in the fun and success!

Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094

# Activities Week

Year 7 Camp

Year 8 France

Year 8 and Year 9 Workshops



## Year 7 Camp

Once we had arrived at Youlbury Scout camp, we went straight into having our lunch. We were excited for the week ahead and raring to go for the amazing activities that were ahead of us. Our first one was abseiling. To get us ready for this, we got harnessed up and ready for the high ropes!!! As we made our way there, our hearts were racing with adrenaline. We were so ready. As we looked up at the looming tower, it was quite intimidating but we knew we could do it. The instructor then asked who wanted to go first our hands shot up, we ran up the stairs to the top of the climbing with our harnesses on and let the instructors make us safe. We leaned backwards over the side of the wall and started abseiling down. It was so fun!



After everyone had gone and the activity ended, it was time for the next one: orienteering. It was exciting and we used maps to find points around the camp. After the busy activities, we ate dinner, had an evening activity and settled down in our tents. It was going to be a long night...



Now we had got into the swing of things we knew what to do. On Tuesday, the morning activities we had were leap of faith, crate stacking, zip wire and aerial trek. They were all so fun and although we may have been slightly scared, it was worth it for the feeling of victory afterwards. That night was better and much quieter!!! But all we could think about was the morning which was when we had the 3G swing ...

We woke up our stomachs churning with excitement. We ate breakfast (not much) and got harnessed up and ready for 3G. We both went to the top and when we pulled the rope, we screamed and just enjoyed the ride. Our stomach did flip and we were thankful we had had a small breakfast! After that, we had Jacob's ladder which was hard but had a great sense of pride when we conquered it. Then, we had lunch and climbing and high all aboard. High all aboard made sure we used teamwork and determination to help each other lean out on a wobbly pole.



On the last full day, Thursday, we had firefighting and archery in the morning, but after lunch, there was something different. We had Woggleopoly. This is a huge game of the Scouts version of monopoly and when you land on something, you do a team building activity to roll the dice again and if you complete the activity you win money. We were so happy as we won woggleopoly with the most money and the Scouts told us it was the highest score a group has ever had! Mrs Davies (our team leader) was very proud!

That night there was no evening activity but instead.... a disco!!! It was so fun screaming, singing and shouting until late with our friends. We said goodbye to some who won't be joining us in Year 8 but it was a really good way to reflect on the week and celebrate our time together.

Friday morning, we had to pack all our stuff, clean up and get ready to go home! To pass the time before the coaches arrived, we went on a small walk through the nearby countryside which included a really beautiful view of the Oxford spires. We had a picnic lunch and got on the coaches ready to get back to our families.



It was a memorable week that we will always look back on and remember. We were sad to go home but it was an incredible experience with our friends and we even made some new ones on the way...

Thank you to all the members of staff who came with us on camp, and to the staff at Youlbury for a fun week.

By Hannah and Frances (7AD)



## Music Department

### Steel Pan Workshop

21 GCSE music students took part in a steel pan workshop on Wednesday 27th June. They learnt the history of steel pans and calypso music of Trinidad and Tobago. The students were taught the technique for playing the pans and learnt a traditional calypso arrangement. The highlight of the workshop was learning an arrangement of Uptown Funk for the pans. The sound was amazing!



### Summer Concert

On Thursday 5th July the music department orchestras and choirs performed a variety of Summer and other music to a packed audience. Highlights included the Senior Choir's performance of the Bare Necessities, the Junior Choir's performance of Summer Nights from Grease with Ella James and Ned Garrett in the leading roles. Mr Holroyd and Mrs Burman nobly stood up to join the Junior Choir in Summertime Blues! The Junior Orchestra gave a spirited performance of a movement from The Seasons and Tournon. The Senior Orchestra gave masterful performances of the Wallace and Grommitt theme, Sousa's Liberty Bell and Mission Impossible. There were excellent solo performances from Gleve Sporle, Isabelle Chandler, Georgina Benham, Stef Archour-Dorado, Freya McDonald, Amelie Wilson, Toby Weller and George Scurr. We were also privileged to hear the first performance by the recently formed flute ensemble under the excellent directorship of our flute teacher, Mrs Kathy Laughton.

The grand finale was a performance by both orchestras of George Gershwin's Summertime.

The retiring collection raised £181.23 to buy spring bulbs to plant round the site in memory of Hilary Protheroe.

**Attendance** at Orchestra and choir rehearsals is very high with very few students missing rehearsals. However the following students are praised for their dedication and excellent health! Ed Swift and Gleve Sporle haven't missed a single orchestra rehearsal all year. Alby Hoff hasn't missed a single choir rehearsal. And since the inception of the Senior Choir Freya McDonald, Rama Evans, Millie Dorey and Anna Lewis have not missed a single week. Well done and thank you to these students for their outstanding support.

Over 20 music students have taken graded **music examinations** this term. Early results are looking very impressive. Full news next term.

Many thanks to parents for their unstinting support with music at Langtree. Have a great summer.



## Chinese Teachers Visit Langtree

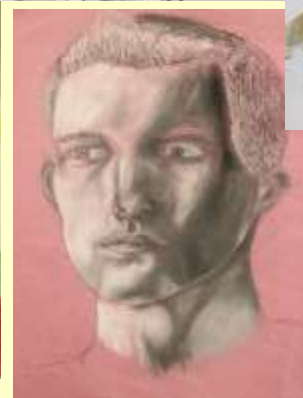
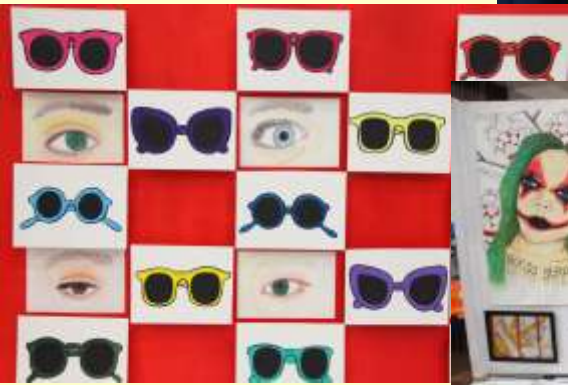
We were delighted to host teachers from China for a week during term 6, they took part in a number of classes, taught some Chinese calligraphy and spoke to students about education in China. Our students were horrified to learn that in China school starts at 7.00 am.

**Author Julia Goulding visited Langtree once again and spent an afternoon with students talking about the writing process, including using song lyrics as story prompts**



# Year 11 GCSE Art Exhibition

Year 11 GCSE Art Exhibition







# Year 11 Prom





# Sports Day 2018



## Rounders Success for the Year 9 Girls

Earlier this term, the Year 9 girls rounders team won the South Oxfordshire rounders tournament, and this resulted in us moving onto the County stage. This County competition took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July at Harcourt Hill Campus, Oxford. There were ten teams in the round robin tournament all of whom were hoping to be victorious.

We didn't get to the best start after losing a very stressful first match against Didcot girls and drawing our second, however we put these matches behind us and continued positively as a team into our next matches. Moving on in the tournament we played well as a team, scoring many rounders and fielding skilfully. This resulted in us winning the rest of our matches against schools like Henry Box, Oxford Spires and Bicester.

When the tournament ended, we had the award presentations. We waited patiently to hear our position in the tournament, we had reached the top three. Our hearts were racing. Third place went to Didcot Girls. Second place Bicester. Which could only mean we had won! Screams of happiness filled the air as we went up to collect our medals and 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy. The scores were recounted on the day and the results stood. Langtree was still in first place. However, another recount was taken again several days after the tournament and unfortunately the scores were changed and Langtree was in now second place. As a team we were initially very disappointed with the news of this new outcome and that we had lost our county championship status so long after the tournament was over. We had put a lot of hard work into trying to win the tournament and had actually beaten the team who were now in first place. Nevertheless, on reflection, we are extremely proud of how we played as a team and the achievement of doing so well by coming second in the County.

Georgia Morrell



## Langtree Students Sporting Success

- ◆ Freddie Woodall and his coxed four were 7th fastest in the British Rowing Championships in Nottingham.
- ◆ Malachi Easton played basketball for the South England Team at the regional development tournament in Manchester. The South England region came 4th out of the 10 regions, their highest ever finish. Malachi played a significant part in the team performance and it was a great experience for him to play against and with the best 13 year olds in the country.
- ◆ Lydia Godfrey has won the County Championship Long Jump competition for her age group with a jump of 4:04m a personal best jump.
- ◆ We would love to hear about any other student successes that take place out side school, please email [office@langtreeschool.com](mailto:office@langtreeschool.com)



## 2018 Science Fair

Finn Bint Savage and Jade Redfern won the 2018 Science Fair competition with their excellent project on Coeliac disease, Lloyd Singleton and Ben Sandham were runners up with their project on the Space Time Continuum, Ned Garrett was also a runner up with his project on the human body, and Veia Zinelli won the peoples choice award with her project on poisonous plants. Well done to all those who took part.



## 2018 – 2019 Term Dates

<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Inset Day 1</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students – Induction Day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Term 1 starts for all other students
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Sponsored Walk
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Open Evening/students finish at 1.00pm
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>Inset Day 2</b>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Open morning for prospective parents (9am-12pm)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Open morning for prospective parents (9am-12pm)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival Assembly
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	End of Term 1
<b>October Break – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b>	
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Start of term 2
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Y11 Henley College Taster day and CREATIVITY DAY 1</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Inset Day 3</b>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	7.30pm GCSE Presentation Evening
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Senior Citizens Christmas Party
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term 2 (School closes at 12.30pm)
<b>Christmas Holiday – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b>	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Term 3
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>End of Term 3</b>
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Inset Day 4</b>
<b>February Break – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of Term 4
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Creativity Day 2
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>End of Term 4</b>
<b>Easter Holiday – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019</b>	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Start of Term 5
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	End of Term 5
<b>May Break – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Start of Term 6
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Activities Week Y7 Camp / Y8 France / Y10 Work Ex.</b>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Sports Day
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Term 6 (School closes at 12.30pm)

### 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 the Headteacher 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 the Headteacher via the Headteacher's 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 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 IS GOING 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.

PLEASE  
PAY  
HERE