

Summer 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Mrs Holroyd, in one of her excellent word of the week presentations highlighted the fact that the Chinese translate the word crisis into two symbols 危机. These, individually represent the words 'danger' and 'opportunity'. So many of our students have taken the 'opportunity' that the shutdown has presented to work, create, exercise and generally embrace the situation with a positive mind-set.

Over the coming months and years many people will look back and write much more eloquently than I, about just how unusual, challenging but often positive the last few months have been. We will all have our own memories and experiences to share. As a Headteacher I want to take the opportunity, in what has been undoubtedly difficult times for many, to highlight what I have been fortunate enough to see that deserves celebration.

Nowhere is this more beautifully demonstrated than the wonderful end of term virtual concert that Mr Henderson has compiled from the wonderful clips that our students have sent him. The video showcases the amazing depth and variety of musical talent shown by so many of our students and you can enjoy the [whole concert here](#).

From the very first day of shutdown, I have been humbled by the dedication our staff have shown to delivering the best education we could. Their collective sense of responsibility makes me proud and grateful that they work at Langtree. No matter what circumstances they faced at home within families, or like yourselves juggling work and home schooling they have kept going. They haven't missed a beat, adapting to the evolving ideas of the leadership team, staying together as departments and supporting each other, while always being there to help and assist any student who contacted them. Across the staff, there is not one of them who has not taken their responsibility for the students' learning and supporting families with the utmost dedication.

Another group that deserves a massive thank you is our PTA. Diana Hathaway, our PTA chair has stepped down as her daughter leaves Langtree this summer (we have managed to persuade her to stay on for 'one more year' in each of the last two years). Diana and her team have transformed the PTA into a hugely effective body and she will be sorely missed. Anyone who fancies joining this group of lovely, friendly and supportive parents should drop by and see them at any of the events they support so beautifully or email them at pta-chair@langtreeschool.com. One of the other casualties of the lockdown is the fundraising opportunities they run so effectively - so please take a few minutes to view their [video here](#).

September 2020 – Provisional Plans

I sent a letter last week outlining our provisional operational plans for September. When we add updates of any great significance, we will alert all parents to this.

Start of Term

We will be opening in a phased manner over the first three days of the term. Students will start the school year as detailed below. Year groups will have a briefing about how the new routines will operate and spend some time with their Form Tutor. They will then start normal lessons in the afternoon and on subsequent days.

- **Thursday, 3 September – Years 7 only**
- **Friday, 4 September – Years 10 and 11 start (year 7 in normal lessons)**
- **Monday 7th September - Years 8 and 9 (other years in normal lessons)**

We recognise that this "soft start" may cause some issues, particularly for years 8&9 who are starting one day later than previously advised. However, we hope that it is recognised that getting all students operating in the school successfully under the new conditions, is vital for a safe and productive start to the term.

With the summer holiday is nearly upon us. I am going to take some time off and try to switch off, I may even leave my phone and email at home. I promise that I will take a rest from writing for a couple of weeks at least! It will be great to now focus on and complete the final arrangements for everyone being back in school in September for what we all hope to be a much more normal school year.

Enjoy your summer break.
Simon Bamford





Goodbye Year 11 Orchestra Members

Traditionally in the final concert of their time at Langtree we would have featured the musicians who had contributed so much during their time at Langtree as members of the Langtree School Orchestra (the other LSO!)

This year at the sadly cancelled Easter Concert we would have said goodbye to eight dedicated musicians who between them had put in hundreds of hours of practices for the dozens of concerts, productions and other performances both in and out of school.

In my time at Langtree there have been 92 members of the orchestra and I am proud to be able to say thank you to the following students who have given so much not only musically, but who have been such excellent company in rehearsals, lessons and performances.

They are (orchestral member number in brackets) - Reuben (34), Caitlin (35), Hannah (36), Asri (37), Daniel (39), Alice (44), Dorothy (45), and Freya (82).

*"Another sunrise with my sad captains
With who I choose to lose my mind
And if it's all we only pass this way but once
What a perfect waste of time"*

Thank you. Mr Henderson



Year 10 Visit to The Bate Collection in Oxford

On Friday 13th March in what proved to be the last educational visit of the year (though we only suspected it at the time) the Year 10 music group visited the Bate Collection in Oxford.

The Bate Collection is one of the University of Oxford museums. It is housed in the Music Department and it holds a large collection of historical musical instruments of all types including strings, woodwind, brass, percussion and keyboards.

This is a visit GCSE musicians have been on before and it gives the students the opportunity to see historical instruments and to have

a go at playing them. Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus situation we weren't allowed to try any "blowing" instruments. However everyone was able to have a go at playing the old keyboard instruments - spinets, clavichords, virginals, harpsichords, and fortepianos. These keyboard instruments were all the fore-runners of the modern piano. These included a harpsichord played by Handel and a fortepiano played by Haydn.

Luckily Jane was able to have a go at a viol, the precursor of the violin.

The visit was really interesting, fun, and educational despite the spectre of Covid-19 hanging over us. As we left Joe informed us that all football matches had been cancelled and the following week so had school!

Mr Henderson



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

Virtual Sports Day

This year due to lockdown the PE department held a virtual sports day. The challenge was simple, upload a photo or a video of you completing one of the athletics events taught online over the last 8 weeks to SMH. The PE department then went through the videos and gave points to each submission up to a maximum of three per student. The competition was extremely close with 57 students from year 7 uploading pictures and videos and the results were as follows:



Year 7:

- 1st Place - NM 31 points
- 2nd Place - LWO 22 points
- 3rd Place - FH 19 points
- 4th Place - EM 18 points
- 5th Place - HQU 13 points

Year 8:

- 1st Place - DCH 19 points
- 2nd Place - ST 18 points
- 3rd = Place GCL and DB 14 points

Year 9:

- 1st Place - MR 11 points
- 2nd Place - GP 8 points
- 3rd Place - CB 6 points
- 4th Place - NW 4 points

Great work from all of you who sent work in, we were very impressed with your efforts.



Key Workers Sports Day

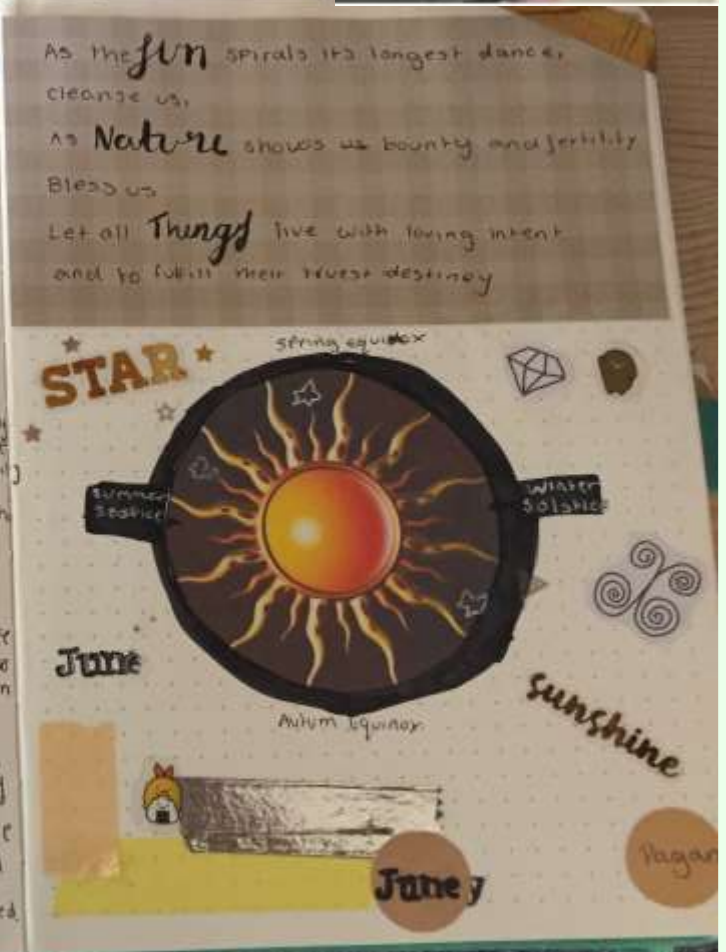
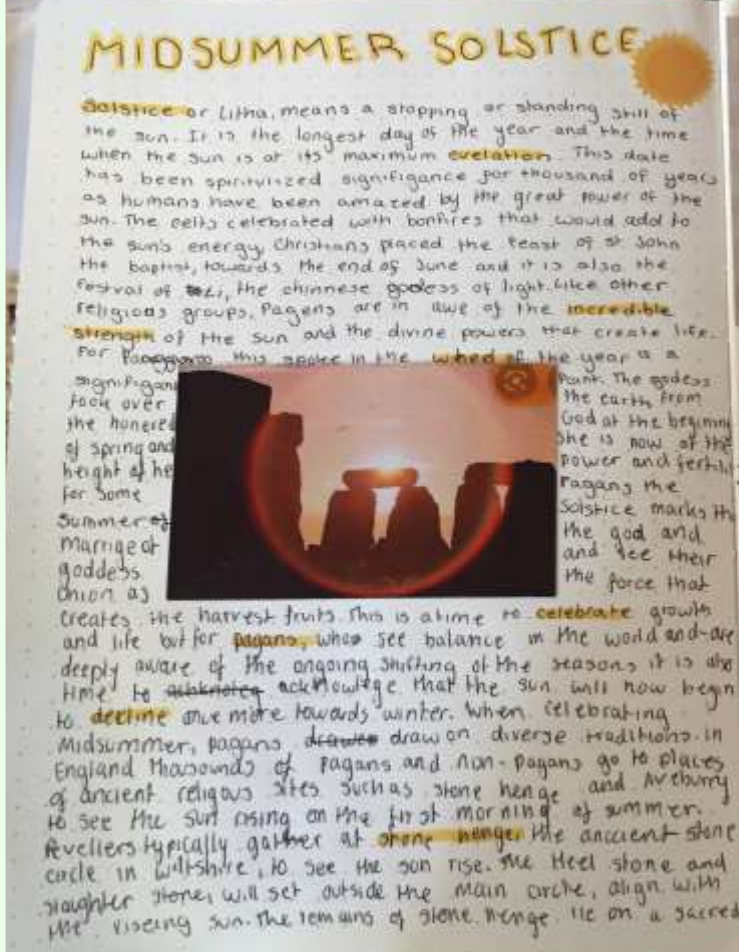
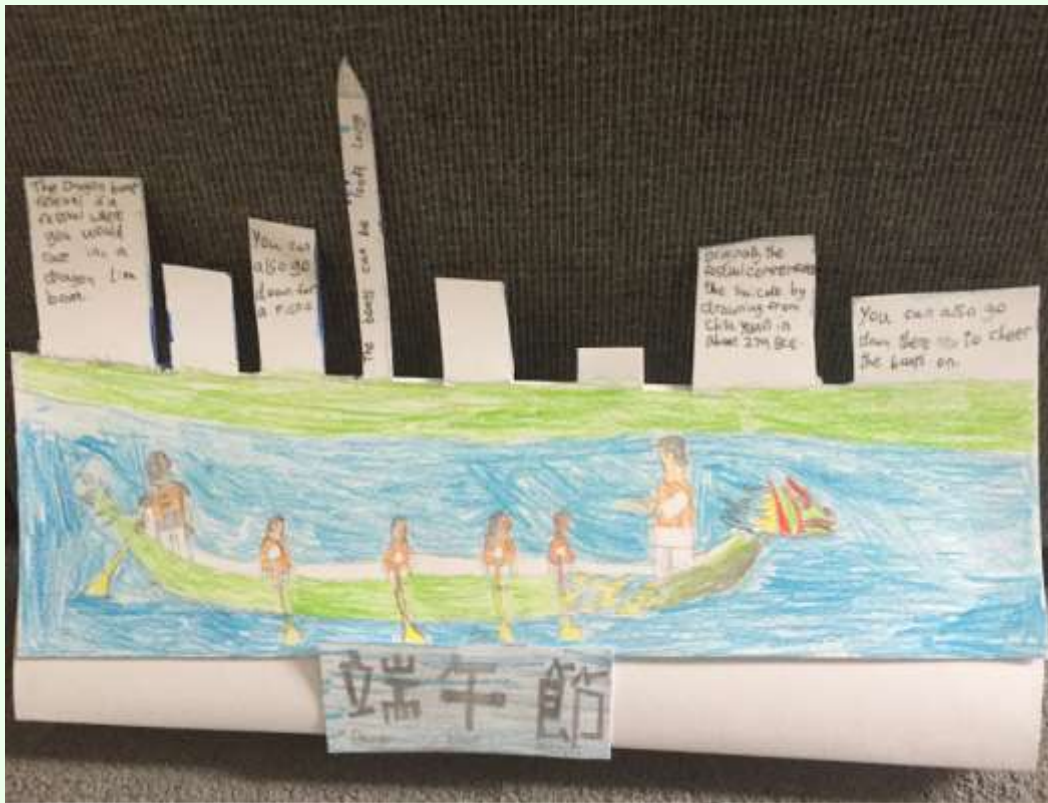
Mr Sinnamon and Mrs Davies ran Sports morning for the key worker students in school. The students were split into 2 teams—Mia's team were the ultimate winners.



Year 7 Ethics Superstars

The Year 7s were asked to describe what happens during any religious celebration that takes place in May and June anywhere in the world in a creative and imaginative way. We had some amazing creations and ideas. The following students produced some incredible work and deserve a special mention.

Olivia Lafferty, Scarlett Allen, Theo Holland, Mia Hatt, Thomas Allen, George Godfrey, Niamh Mackrory, Megan Antonio, Chloe Winters, Shima Smith, Josh Smidt, Lili Borak, Ava Kent, Panna Borak, Deliah Dorey, Lucy Bigmore, Archie Lowe and Hugo Jones—Special mention to Hugo for his incredible Obon animation!



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Although we were unable to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in the way in which we would have liked or planned, Langtree students were still able to commemorate by designing and producing their own VE day bunting. We saw some wonderfully creative displays and students who were able to, interviewed their relatives who contributed to the war or who remembered the day.

The History department was very impressed by the student's contributions.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Even though all Expeditions are on hold at the moment we will resume as soon as soon as we are allowed to . . . in the meantime, the DoE have brought out a Certificate of Achievement for all the students who have completed their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections by 31 December 2020. So far, the following Year 9 students have achieved this certificate:

Ben Barter
Oliver Phillips
Luke Ridley
Rebecca Servais
Toby Weller
Beth Westcar



Mrs Wilford invited students to take the

The National Gallery Art Challenge

Take 3 objects to recreate a famous piece of art work

Harry Harding

Girl with a Pearl Earring



Beth Bentley
The Scream



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Drama During Lockdown

Many of our students have enjoyed completing practical acting challenges at home during lockdown - it has been wonderful to see how expressive and creative they have been!



Eleni working on her Veruca Salt monologue - you can see how stropky the character is from her excellent use of facial expression!



Owen enjoyed experimenting with the Italian theatre genre 'Commedia dell' Arte' during lockdown - completing the extra challenge of the practical rehearsal over a video call with friend Hayden. Look at this beauti-

Hannah being Commedia dell'Arte character, Il Capitano. She conveys how proud and boastful she is through her successful use of posture and gesture.



Cecilia working on her Veruca Salt monologue great use of gestures and eyes to convey character!









Beth roped in her sister to help her explore one of the Commedia lazzi, involving Brighella and Harlequin. Such expressive use of facial expression, levels and body language!

Thanks so much to all of the family members who've been such great sports by getting involved in the practical drama work - it has been a treat to hear about it. Mrs Pimm

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Archie Norton - Year 8: Created the following storyboard of "The Monkey's Paw" - a short 19th century Gothic Story by W.W.Jacobs.

EXPOSITION	CONFLICT	RIISING ACTION
 <p>On a dark, cold night at the Laburnam Villa, the White family is awaiting a visitor. Mr. White and his son Herbert are playing chess while Mrs. White knits by the fire. Sergeant Major Morris arrives and regales the family with tales from his 21 years of traveling to vast and exotic places in his tenure as a soldier.</p>	 <p>Mr. White reminds Morris of a story he was telling him recently regarding a strange monkey's paw he acquired in India. It supposedly was bewitched by an old fakir to grant three separate men three wishes. Mr. White wants the paw, but Morris is reluctant, saying it causes trouble.</p>	 <p>Morris throws the paw into the fire and Mr. White rescues it. Mr. White makes his first wish: he wishes for a sum of two hundred pounds (£200). There's a loud crashing noise and the paw moves. The next day, the Whites receive word that Herbert was caught in the machinery at work and killed. The company compensates the Whites with a check for £200.</p>
CLIMAX	FALLING ACTION	RESOLUTION
 <p>The Whites are shaken by how their wish came true and filled with grief from losing their only son. Mrs. White persuades Mr. White to wish that Herbert was alive again. Mr. White finds the paw and makes the wish; all of a sudden, there is a quiet, persistent knocking at the door.</p>	 <p>The knocking becomes louder. Mrs. White wants to run to the door, frantic to let Herbert in, but Mr. White holds her back because he knows the wickedness of the paw and is afraid of what kind of "state" Herbert might be in. She breaks free and runs to the door, but she can't reach the bolt. Mr. White searches hurriedly for the paw.</p>	 <p>Just as his wife gets a chair, climbs up, and slides back the bolt, Mr. White finds the paw and makes his final wish. The knocking suddenly stops. Mrs. White opens the door, but there is no one outside.</p>

By Freja McGourty (Yr 9).
Taken from the poem
"Climbing my Grandfather"
by Andrew Waterhouse



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2020 – 2021 Term Dates

Please note the changes to the start of term

Tuesday 1st September	Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd September	Inset Day
Thursday 3rd September	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students – Induction Day
Friday 4th September	Year 7 students plus Years 10 and 11 students
Monday 7th September	Year 7, 10 and 11 students plus Years 8 and 9
Tuesday 29th September	Open Evening/students finish at 1.00pm
Wednesday 30th September	Inset Day
Tuesday 6th October	Open morning for prospective parents (9am–12pm)
Wednesday 7th October	Open morning for prospective parents (9am–12pm)
Friday 23rd October	Harvest Festival Assembly
Friday 23rd October	End of Term 1
October Break – Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October 2020	
Monday 2nd November	Start of term 2
18th November 2020	7.30pm GCSE Presentation Evening
Wednesday 9th December 2020	Senior Citizens Christmas Party
Thursday 10th December 2020	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Extravaganza Concert
Friday 18th December	End of Term 2 (School closes at 1.30pm)
Christmas Holiday – Monday 21 st December 2020 – Monday 4 th January 2021	
Tuesday 5th January	Start of Term 3
Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams (dates to be confirmed)	
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.
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