



Joseph did knock upon the door of the inn. Only to be told: "Sorry, you can't come in, the government has ordered us to close. We're in tier 3."

Covid has done so much to make this term one of the most difficult I can remember - but the Langtree community has risen to this challenge. The staff have been sensational; coping with everything from radically different teaching styles, redesigning lessons, reconfiguring schemes of learning and dealing with changing goalposts in terms of exam requirements and Department for Education guidance. Parents have always been supportive, sometimes gently questioning (as I would always want them to be) but always with empathy and intelligence. We have particularly valued the unsolicited messages of support – thank you. The governors have been outstanding - always happy to give up their time to advise, discuss, challenge and support. The students, however, have impressed me most of all - coping with everything we have asked them to do with maturity, courtesy and a good humour that never fails to make me smile.

At the end of an exhausting term, we would normally be celebrating with music concerts, senior citizens parties, Christmas lunches and a whole host of other festive fun. This year has, by necessity, been a somewhat more muted end to the term. However, there is still so much to celebrate and hopefully the wonderful photos and articles in this bulletin testify to the resilience and outstanding spirit of our amazing students.

This is typified by one of our year 11s who has been in a wheelchair for most of the last two years who I have just seen walking, albeit unsteadily and on crutches, but walking past my office window. If I ever worry about the difficulties in my life I just reflect on how courageously and stoically he has dealt with his challenges and it puts everything else into perspective. He typifies the Langtree Spirit and I am so full of admiration for what he, and so many others, have achieved even under the most difficult of circumstances.

Have a fantastic Christmas and I think I can speak for everyone when I hope for a slightly more normal 2021!

Mr Simon Bamford
Headteacher



Christmas Hampers 2020

Thank you to everyone who donated items of food for the Christmas Hampers this year, we have been able to create lots of lovely hampers and deliver them within the local community. We are hugely grateful to the CO-OP in Woodcote for helping us by providing the bags for the hampers, along with a £20 voucher, which was used to buy more food items for the hampers.



Donations arriving.....



being sorted.....



ready to go.

Mr Sinnamon and Mrs Belcher ready to deliver some of the hampers.



Thank you

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



Music News

Obviously with the COVID restrictions in place the Music Department has not been nearly as busy as it usually would be at this time of year. Gone is the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and the Christmas Extravaganza!

Gone also are Choirs and Orchestras. No singing or playing instruments in curriculum music lessons.

This is not to say that there has not been any music making at all. I was thrilled to welcome back our dedicated team of peripatetic music teachers who have bravely continued to teach in rooms with the windows and doors open, socially distanced, sanitised, wiped down, and wearing masks.

I have also been able to enjoy carrying out performing assessments with the Year 11 GCSE musicians - again at a good social distance, sanitised, wiped down etc. I have been so impressed with how these students have coped with the changed working arrangements preparing all their performances and compositions at home. And they're really good too.

"If you can't sing or use musical instruments, what on earth has been going on in music lessons?" This is a much asked question. Key Stage 3 have been studying a completely new curriculum that has included the study of the lives and music of Black musicians ranging from the Tudor trumpeter John Blanke to the "King of Pop" Michael Jackson and including many others on the way. We have also been creative with body percussion sounds and sounds found in their bags; pens, rulers, zips - I won't go



on! Lastly we have been investigating the music of poetry. So plenty of exciting activities. Fortunately I have been able to continue to deliver music technology virtually unchanged and the computers have been a fantastic resource for delivering the Year 10 GCSE specification.

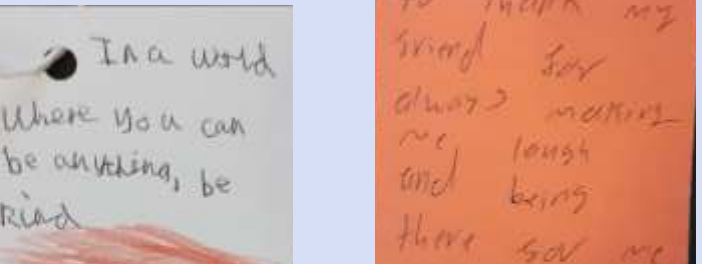
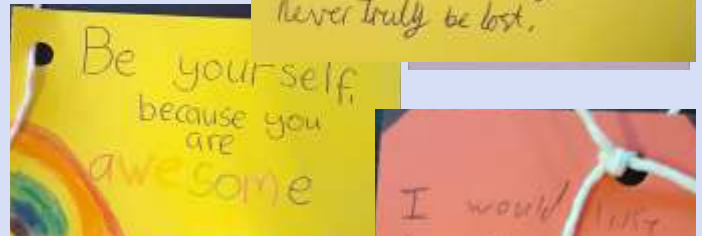
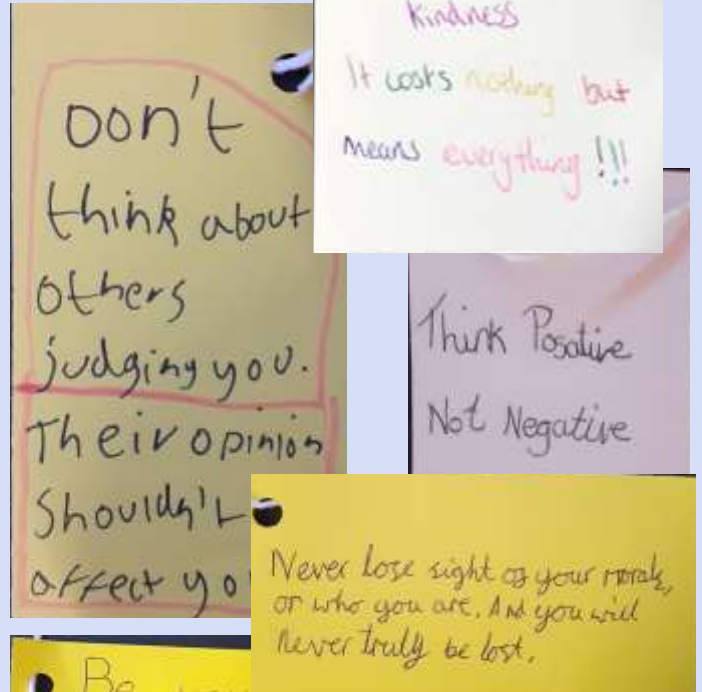
There has been a massive reduction in students doing instrumental performing examinations for the obvious reason, however I am pleased to be able to report Jane Vincent passed Grade 5 violin, Ani Archer passed Grade 5 piano with merit and Fyodor Coey passed Grade 6 with merit, Isabella Vorster passed Grade 3 singing with merit, Beth Bentley passed Grade 2 singing with merit and Stepan Coey passed Grade 7 cello with distinction, congratulations to them all.



Kindness Tree



With so much worry this term, we thought it would be good to reflect on some positives. Year 7-9 students were invited to write a nice message or a positive thought and hang it on our kindness tree. As you can see, our students have left some lovely messages to spread some cheer and remind one another that we will get through these challenging times.





Kasper Green 9GCL



Pavan Sandhu 8HQU



Bethany Austin. 8NJ



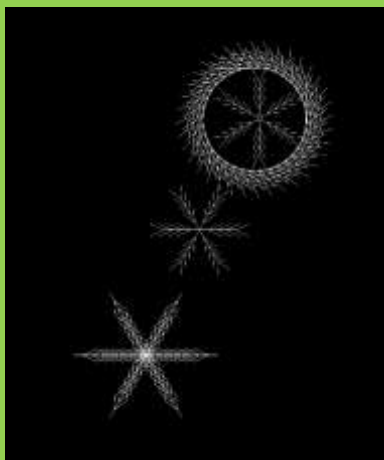
Dominic Servais 9DCH



Chloe Winters 8NM



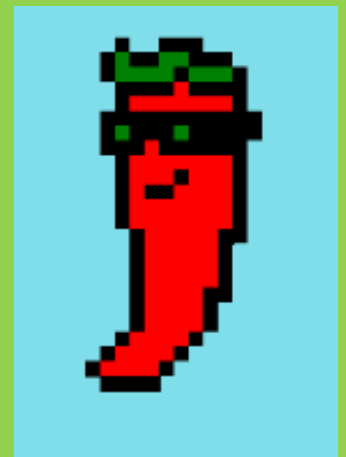
Sienna Beckwith 9NMO



Cale Dosanjh 8HQU

Coding for Christmas

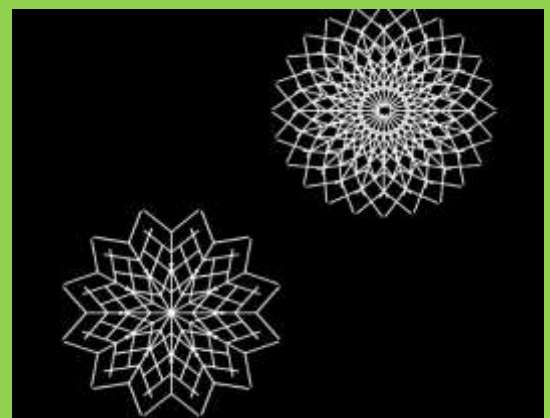
Images created through learning to code using Python in Computer Science lessons.



Zeca Gartner 8NM



Jo Westcar. 8EM



Theo Buisson 8EM



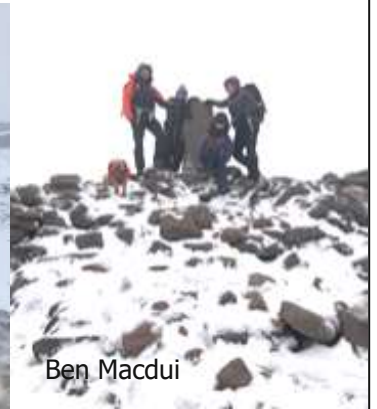
Triumph of the teenage Trooper

Millie Cooke left Langtree School in the summer of 2019, in September 2019 she began 9 months of basic training with the Army at the barracks in Harrogate. During basic training Millie learnt about maintaining and firing weapons, first aid and other skills as well as physical fitness. In August this year at the end of her basic training Millie began her training with the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery at the Royal Artillery Barracks. Horses and riding had become Millie's passion since first trying riding whilst in Year 9. Millie said "I was quite scared on my first lesson but as soon as it was over I begged my mum to let me do it again" Millie was diagnosed as Dyslexia at the age of 10 and found reading and writing really stressful. Millie was presented with the Regimental Sergeant Major's Coin for best performance in her group during introduction to the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. Langtree salutes you Gunner Millie Cooke. (This article has been written using information taken from The Henley Standard 4th December 2020 and permission from Millie and family)



Let your Imagination Run Wild.....

During the October half term break, Alex Holman climbed Ben Nevis, Ben Macdui and Cairngorm, the 1st highest, 2nd highest and the 6th highest mountains in the UK. Alex climbed Ben Macdui the day after climbing Ben Nevis which resulted in really sore legs. Alex raised a brilliant £82.00 in sponsorship.



Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Well, that was not the year we thought it was going to be! All the students were planned and prepared for their Practice Expedition when wham! . . . everything came to a halt. The Duke of Edinburgh organisation were really quick to amend the requirements for the students so that they were able to complete their Volunteering, Skills and Physical components of the Award safely during the lockdown. We are sure a lot of friends and neighbours felt honoured to be asked to "sign off" dog walking, litter picking, weekly home-cooked dinners, cycle rides, developing garden allotments and much more!

As soon as the restrictions were relaxed in September carefully thought out plans were immediately put into place to enable the students to complete their Expeditions safely and we were able to get all the students through the two weekends they needed to do for their Practice and Assessment Expedition just in time, before the second lockdown.

So Congratulations are due: Audrey Snowden for completing her Certificate of Achievement and the following for completing their full award: Ben Barter, Kaitlyn Doran, Carly Gardner, Thomas Dowman, George Greenwood, Rhian Hayes, James Kearsey, Ellie Lomax, Henry Mayo, Ivy McCalla, Hannah Millsop, Ollie Phillips, Samuel Redman, Luke Ridley, Leo Sentinelli, Rebecca Servais, Lloyd Singleton. Nicholas Vitty, Toby Weller and Beth Westcar.

Well done to you all.

Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094



When have rainbows and family ever mattered more?



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Thomas Pye produced these beautiful images as a piece of Drama work created in response to lockdown

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

"An enjoyable day out for all the family"

Everyone knows how traumatic the last year has been. The kids have been running riot, Daddy got cross with the noise and has been living in the garden shed, Mummy turned to the bottle after her first week of home-schooling and now she can't get out of bed. The family is falling apart! But, by far the most distressing disaster was the damning verdict from Boris that Spain was on the 'quarantine list' scuppering your hopes of a family reunion on a golden beach. The horror. But, alas, through the doom and gloom is a flashing beacon of hope, our very own London town.

Easyjet has stolen most of your money so you have to do it on the cheap. Off peak train travel is significantly less draining on your furlough money and the last thing you need is your youngest spilling their orange juice on a suited and booted businessman - you still haven't got over it. A smooth train journey will be exciting for the kids and you won't have the stress of trying to park your bloated people carrier outside a permit zone. Days out should be a treat for the adults, not a nightmare disguised as a fairy tale.

Once you glide into the iconic Paddington station, you are greeted with the bustling, vibrant atmosphere of London. The best part about our capital, of course, is the ability to move all over a seemingly huge city in a way which is not the slightest bit disorientating, through a complex yet delightfully intuitive public travel network. Make sure you ask for a day travel card when you buy your over ground ticket; the best part though is if you have any under 5's they can travel for free with a fee paying adult, so there is no need to fork out full rate for them.

Every little district is like another world, with its own unique character and soul. From the high end boutiques in South Kensington, where long suffering Mummy might just treat herself to a little something, to claw back her smile which disappeared when saw the results of her home hair dye-job. To the political centre of Westminster, where there is always the chance of seeing a really annoying MP who was interviewed on 'Breakfast' yesterday. Remind Daddy to bring his rotten tomatoes!

What about the kids though? Won't they start to get cantankerous after getting over seeing more than six people in one place? No, for there is so much to do! Sea-life is always a favourite. There is nothing like walking over a thin piece of glass with sharks ominously looming below, it is sure to put a smile on the face of any child; and keep them amused so you can read the information without irritating cries of "I'm bored, when's lunch?"

Talking of lunch, County Hall has your culinary options covered. If you are in the mood for a rare sit down meal, which is good enough for everybody to cooperate, try one of the local independent restaurants. If your kids (and husband) are partially adventurous you could give Sagamiya, which serves a fabulous selection of Japanese delicacies, a go. A memorable and unconventional lunch will truly put you in the spirit of a diverse and beautiful city, it is a far cry from the fish finger sandwiches and frozen pizzas you have been living off since the shops ran out of flour.

If however, packing as much into the day as you can is a priority, there are numerous chains and supermarkets to get something quick; how could anybody say no to M&S prawn sandwich?

One of the most notable things about London is the way which people move. Everyone is going somewhere and doing something albeit they are wearing what looks like half the NHS reserve of PPE. Due to the packed timetables of Londoners, you shouldn't have a problem getting on a regular tube back to the station once the kids start having a scrap. Just avoid trying to get anywhere between 5 and 6 o'clock in the evening; believe me, you are better off having a stroll around Hyde Park than risking losing the kids and your dignity trying to cram yourself into a packed tube carriage with 6 bags of shopping and 60 cranky stockbrokers.

There is no doubt that navigating London for 9 hours, with a troop of difficult relatives, is as tiring as watching one of Trump's press conferences during the pandemic. Despite this, maybe, a day out in a historical and culturally rich city doing something as a family will be enough to let you feel revived and refreshed; pulling your family through another tough term without requiring the services of your local depression counsellor. Now you are reminded that there is something more than the grey suburbs you have experienced your existence in for the last 8 months, even if it isn't quite as warm and sandy as the beaches of the Costa Del Sol. It's a long, hard road ahead with no clear end. So take the time out for an enjoyable day out.

Freddie Jones 11DLA





2020 – 2021 Term Dates

INSET DAYS

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)

Please see Mr Bamford's letter 18th December 2020 for the new arrangements for the start of Term 3

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