

At the end of a long and complicated year, I want to say a big thank you to all students for their hard work, to all parents/carers for their support and encouragement and to staff for their unprecedented efforts to maintain the high quality of education, pastoral care and extra curricular provision despite all the challenges.

We have ended the year on a real high; the lifting of restrictions on the 19th allowed us to engage in a modified activities week and some wonderful evening events.

The sponsored walk, postponed from September, was a great success despite the hot weather. Students completed the 10 miles through the beautiful South Oxfordshire countryside in great spirits, and enjoyed the opportunity to socialise with friends, staff and volunteers. Thanks to all who helped out and to Dr Thatcher and Mrs Parker for organising the walk.

On Tuesday we were entertained by the school production, "The Terrible Infants" and Lilly's Tall Tails. A series of scenes rehearsed and performed in year group bubbles. We were blessed with a beautiful evening (and a fly by from one of our year 10s in a glider) and the performances were entertaining, funny and brilliantly acted. Really complex lines and synchronised movements were all delivered with precision and obvious enjoyment. Mrs Pimm, Mrs Child and Mrs Lynch put in huge efforts working with the 68 students (including a number of our recently departed year 11s) to give them the opportunity to rehearse and perform.

On Wednesday we held our year 11 prom. Restrictions meant we had to forgo our usual venue, but the Langtree grounds offered a suitable alternative and the beautiful weather ensured the evening was a great success. Mr Sinnamon planned the evening meticulously (even measuring the extent of the oak tree's shadow to ensure all the students would be seated in the shade) and he marshalled a huge team of staff, all keen to ensure the students were able to celebrate the end of their time at Langtree appropriately. The students looked amazing - beautifully turned out, and arrived in the usual range of vehicles - from tractors to golf buggies, sports cars to motorbikes.

On Thursday we held a series of assemblies to commemorate the end of this challenging year and to say goodbye to two extremely long serving and highly valued members of staff. Mrs Nuala Mote is retiring after 16 years of fantastic work in the food technology department. Her insistence on high standards and unflagging support to ensure the students met them ensured that generations of young people achieved excellent results but, arguably more importantly, left Langtree with very valuable life skills. Also leaving this summer, after over twenty years, is Dawn Challis, our fantastic school business manager. Dawn has steered the school successfully through the pandemic, austerity and academisation and Langtree is now in its best financial position that anyone can remember due to her expertise.

In these assemblies the new senior student leaders introduced themselves. I am very much looking forward to working with all the student leaders next year. They have some wonderful ideas about how we can improve Langtree still further, and I encourage all students to share their suggestions with their tutor representative so as we can hear the all important "student voice".

Finally, I would like to thank all parents for the support and feedback you have provided this year. I welcome all contact whether from parents who are unhappy with a specific aspect of school life or the significant number who have taken the time to write emails or cards to thank all the staff for the unprecedented efforts they have made to teach, support and care for the students during the past year.

We wish the whole Langtree community a wonderful and relaxing summer. We hope you all stay safe and well and look forward to seeing you all again in September, for what we all wish is a more normal school year.

Warmest best wishes

Simon Bamford





## The Terrible Infants

During the final week of term Gill Pimm and the drama department were delighted to be able to welcome a real live audience back to school for an outdoor production of Oliver Lansley's "The Terrible Infants"

Thanks to Oliver Lansley and Curtis Brown publishing for the generous deal for the performing rights, and willingness to let us take some artistic liberties with what is usually a play performed by just 5 actors! This artistic generosity with what is a fabulously eccentric, episodic play, (in that they allowed us to adapt it for such a huge cast), is the only reason we were able to perform a complete play script whilst working in year group bubbles.



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





Thanks to the PTA for running a bar and to Sarah Darkins, Ivy and Toby for running the Cake Tapas.

**Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094**





**Cake Tapas for the School Production**

# Activities Week 2021



**Bristol**



**Sponsored Walk**



**Warwick Castle**



# Activities Week



**Year 7 Team Building**



## Art Project



## Forensic Science in Action







Prom 2021







# Prom 2021





**Year 8** have been very busy in English with their **Theme Park Projects**. The five winning teams from each class presented their ideas brilliantly to the whole year group, - a difficult thing to do in front of 140 people! Well done to everyone who took part - especially the overall winners; Leith Ashurst, Bethany Austin, Erin Abbott and Shima Smith for their Japanese-inspired Theme Park! Congratulations! From The English Dept.



**Year 10 GCSE Food  
Chocolate Brownie plate styling challenge**



**Project London Marathon**

Mr Clark—Head of PE has a place to run the London Marathon on 3rd October 2021 supporting "Quest for Learning".

I write to you with 75 days of training left before the marathon and it's been a bit up and down. Having started strongly the training tailed off at the end of May with other commitments and ill fitting trainers. However with a switch to the older trainers this gave me fresh impetus to kick start the training and at the time of writing I am on a streak of 23 days in a row of running 5km or more, which has really got my focus and enjoyment back. I have the whole summer holidays to increase my distance without the distractions of work, childcare, lifts etc...!

I'm over 50 runs for the training programme now with over 32 hours of running completed over 345km. (That's further than running from Langtree to Plymouth where I was born 314km) plus I've climbed over 2659m which is higher than Mount St Helens in the US.

So please if you do feel you can sponsor me anything you can offer will be greatly accepted by Quest for Learning on their challenge to help students catch up following the pandemic.

Support Mr Clark [HERE](#) Learn more about the charity he is supporting: Quest for Learning [HERE](#).



**Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094**



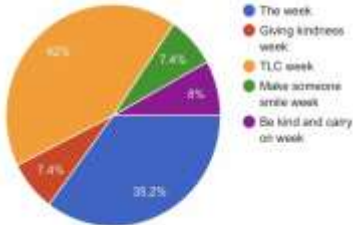
## Year 8's Kindness Week

The original concept we had was based on an initiative the staff did for one another, where the teachers drew names from a hat, and had to carry out a random act of kindness for that person subtly for an entire week. The year 8 student council representatives and Mrs Godfrey discussed the idea of rolling out a similar initiative for Year 8s and after some sorting and planning, it went ahead. Students drew a name from a hat, and proceeded to do a random act of kindness for that person each day for a week. Student council representatives were put to work going around each morning during tutor time and collecting information about what random acts of kindness people were doing for one another!



What would you like the Year 8 kindness week to be called?

162 responses:



To decide on the perfect name for our random acts of kindness week, each Year 8 tutor group chose a name they wanted it to be called. The following names were chosen: The Week, Giving Kindness Week, TLC Week, Make Someone Smile Week and Be Kind and Carry On Week. We then sent out a google form for everyone to vote for their favourite name. The winning name was the name that 8HQ had submitted - TLC week!

Lots of people have been doing things for kindness week and have been going round and giving gifts to people as a way to be kind to each other. Examples include drawing pictures and friendly messages on objects and buying each other gifts!



People have also been baking cookies, giving compliments and saying kind things to people. In 8RGo they wrote kind notes for each other to show kindness!

8EMo even decorated their tutor whiteboard and surprised their tutor Mrs Morel with lots of kind messages on her whiteboard.

Written by Alex Holman, Andrew Hewer, Freddie Carter, Monty Hoff and Francesca Clark





## Music News

After many years of teaching the flute at Langtree, Kathy Laughton has moved away from the area and retired her flute teaching. Particular thanks from all the flute students past and present and also from the whole school community for everything that she has contributed to concerts and shows. She will be missed. I am pleased to welcome Samantha Moore as the new flute teacher in September. We also will have a brass teacher starting in September - Stewart Lewins.



Thanks to Mrs Coley for arranging the sand blasting of two brake drums! These will be used as percussion instruments and you will be able to hear them in our next concert. Here Jack demonstrates...

A fond farewell to the Year 11 GCSE musicians. They have been a great group to teach and have risen nobly to the difficult challenge of music in COVID times.



There has been yet more music examination success. Laurie Mills (Grade 2 clarinet), Misha Gamayunov (Grade 6 tenor horn), Hope Knox (grade 3 flute), Isaac Sentinella (grade 3 cello), Louise Carson (grade 5 flute) and Jasmine Hogg (grade 7 flute). Well done everyone.

Is a real shame that we haven't been able to run choirs and orchestras this year. However I would like to place on record my thanks and appreciation of the following Year 11 members of the orchestra for their contributions during their time at Langtree. Since I started the orchestra at Langtree there have been over 100 members of the orchestra - the number in brackets represents their joining number. Hazel Gainsford (46), Theo Warren (47), Jane Vincent (48), Anna Rowson (49), Euan Coveney (50), George Scurr (52), Jasmine Hogg (56), Izzy Chandler (57), Ani Archer (58), Ramya Evans (87) and Jamie Best (90).



**Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094**



## Away from Langtree.....



My name is **Isaac Sentinella**. I am in 7FHo and I have recently obtained a PADI Open Water certificate in a dry suit. A PADI Open Water is a certificate that allows you to scuba dive anywhere in the world in your depth range. Mine is 12metres because I am still a junior but when I turn 15 I will be able to go down to 15metres because I will automatically have it upgraded to adult. A dry suit is a sort of wetsuit but it keeps you dry rather than wet. It does this by sealing air around your body and you can wear warm clothes under it.

I had my first dive at the NEC in a shark tank. It was a fantastic experience! I then decided to take the PADI course and completed the e-learning in the summer last year. In the pool I did 8 dives. The pool was lovely and warm. We then went to Vobster (Somerset) to complete my open water dives over two days. I did 5 dives and learnt how to navigate underwater and share my air if something goes wrong. I dived through a plane wreck and saw some big fish. In the future I would like to become a Marine Biologist and will be paid to dive! Come and have a chat if you want to learn.



**Leah Coley** has recently qualified for the ice skating British Championships! Leah has qualified for the British Championship qualifier on July 28th which will be held at the National Ice Arena in Sheffield. Leah has worked extremely hard to achieve this and with lockdown and all the rinks closing they have had to adapt to other ways of training. Leah competes in both single figure skating and pairs figure skating with her and her partner Jacob ranking number one in the country last year and being accepted into the GB squad. Leah started skating at the age of just 7 at Oxford ice rink and took to it like a duck to water (or I should say a penguin to ice) she has competed all over the country at various levels including internationally. Leah has worked so hard over the years gaining herself 7 Gold medals, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze medals in single skating and a Gold medal in pairs.



**Kaspar Green** has been asked to take part in the British Champs rowing competition. Kaspar started rowing at Wallingford rowing club last summer. So like many sports, training was affected by the various lockdown issues. However back on the river the club has enjoyed some glorious days, and Kaspar has gained confidence and fitness.

Kaspar's first competition was in a crew the year above him, J15 Quad at The Marlow regatta at Dorney lake, and with his



J14 crews in a Quad and an Octo. The Henley Quad just beating them, the competition was on. Next came the Marlow town regatta where his J15 crew celebrated a win in their coxed Quad, but unfortunately due to a blade break the J14 Quad had to pull up, so the competition against Henley is still there to be corrected. Next Friday the crews are off to the Nottingham water sports centre for the British Rowing Championships, which will be a fantastic opportunity and experience.

**Bella Barter** is leaving us end of July to join the Royal Ballet School in London. Recently Bella has spent time filming for Matilda— 41 days so far of rehearsals and filming, still a few more to go over the holidays, it has been a great experience. The film should be out in Dec 2022 !! The Royal Ballet School at White Lodge in Richmond Park, is very hard to get in, as they accept a very small number of children and in Year 9, sometimes there are no spaces, or they may accept one or two. This year there were 900 video applications for the Royal Ballet School for Lower school at White Lodge and Upper school at Covent Garden, out of the 900 they chose 100, and then invited some to a live audition, which Bella was asked to attend, along with a 10 minute zoom interview with the head go education. Several weeks later Bella was offered a place !!! From September each day she will do 4 hrs of education and 4 hrs of a Ballet/dance and training. Later this year as a year 9 student she will take part in the Nutcracker as the Royal Opera house from Nov to Jan, which is very exciting.

We wish Bella the very best in her new school.

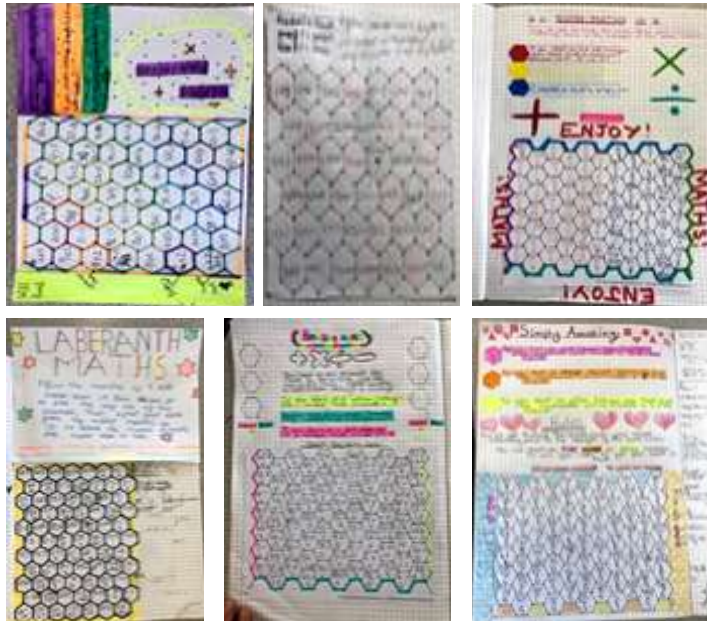




## Maths Challenge

Congratulations to Josh Godwin who won his year 7 class end of term maths challenge, all the entries were fantastic.

Josh worked hard creating a maths puzzle called 'Simply Sensational', our judge was particularly impressed with the encouragement Josh added.



**Science Fair 2021**—this years science fair was a huge success—30 projects and over 40 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 took part. The judges for the fair this year were—Dr Catherine Jarvis (Medical) and Professor Helen Walkington (Geography—Oxford Brookes). The judges were hugely impressed with all the projects, commenting that the work was really interesting, creative and varied.



Winner: Gabriel Lord

The strength of different tree species



Runner up: Harrison Kent



Runners up: Zach Hatton, Jack France and Josh Schmitt.



Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094





## 2021 – 2022 Term Dates

<b>Wednesday 1st September</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
Thursday 2nd September	Start of term 1 for Year 7 students - Induction day
Friday 3rd September	Term 1 starts for all other students
Thursday 23rd September	OPEN EVENING for prospective parents (Half Day)
<b>Friday 24th September</b>	<b>Inset day</b>
<b>Monday 27th September</b>	<b>Inset day</b>
Wednesday 29th September	OPEN MORNING for prospective parents
Thursday 30th September	OPEN MORNING for prospective parents
<b>Friday 1st October</b>	<b>SPONSORED WALK</b>
Friday 22nd October	End of Term 1
<b>October Break – Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2021</b>	
Monday 1st November	Start of Term 2
Friday 17th December	End of Term 2 (Half Day)
<b>Christmas Holiday – Monday 20th December 2021 – Monday 3rd January 2022</b>	
Tuesday 4th January	Start of Term 3
Dates 4th to 14th January	Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams
<b>Monday 17th January</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
Thursday 17th February	End of Term 3
<b>February Break – Friday 18th February – Friday 25th February 2022</b>	
<b>Monday 28th February</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
Friday 8th April	End of Term 4
<b>Easter Holiday – Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April 2022</b>	
Monday 25th April	Start of Term 5
Monday 2nd May	May Day Bank Holiday
<b>Tuesday 3rd May</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
Friday 27th May	End of Term 5
<b>May Holiday – Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022</b>	
Monday 6th June	Start of Term 6
Dates TBC	Year 10 Exams
Dates 11th to 15th July	Activities Week Y7 Camp / Y8 France / Y10 Work Ex (all TBC)
Wednesday 20th July	Sports Day
Thursday 21st July	End of Term 6 (Half Day)

### **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](mailto: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 unnamed 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](mailto: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

**The Langtree School Academy Trust Company, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales, company registration number 07980335. Registered Office: Langtree School, Woodcote, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 0RA.**