

It is fair to say that school life is thriving. Both in and out of the classroom the students are participating, learning and moving forward, both as individuals and with their studies. So that is the focus of much of this newsletter – the great things that have been going on in school and the breadth of experiences our students have been able to access. Two theatre trips have given students the opportunity to see live performances, we were able to meet parents face to face at the curriculum information evenings, we were able to run, an albeit limited, open evening for prospective parents and we held a Duke of Edinburgh introduction evening for year 9 students and their parents who are interested in getting involved in that opportunity.

That said, we have to recognise that the last two weeks of term were challenging in terms of attendance for some. As we have corresponded on several occasions, and is often seen nationally in the news, Covid cases amongst the students have not been uncommon and there were a number of other nasty colds doing the rounds. Our actual covid infection rate in school peaked in the penultimate week of term and decreased steadily over the last week. I would again like to thank parents and students for being sensible over the break as early indications show that the worst of the outbreak has passed with attendance being back up to normal on the first day back.

However the outbreak has meant that many students have missed time out of school, though we have been able to support them with remote learning. The impact has not just been on students, and I am sure that it will not have gone unnoticed that at any one time we have had a number of staff off school, either with child care issues due to Covid infections or with Covid themselves. This has caused some disruption to teaching, but we have been able to minimise the impact. It has been so pleasing to see the manner in which the whole school community has coped, and actually great progress has continued to be made despite these bumps in the road.

I would like to wish all students and their families a successful term 2, a safe bonfire night and hope we can start to look forward to what we all hope to be a more festive Christmas than we were able to enjoy last year.

Simon Bamford
Headteacher



Val Nowell—Remembered

Sadly in early September Val Nowell, a long standing member of the Langtree and Woodcote community passed away. Val joined Langtree School in 1966 as a languages teacher and never really left, being both an exams invigilator and a Langtree School Governor after retiring from teaching at Langtree. Val was a positive, cheerful and supportive teacher, invigilator and Governor who will be greatly missed.

An appreciation: Valerie Nowell

Valerie was born in 1942 in New Malden in Surrey.

Val went to school at Holy Cross School in New Malden then Wimbledon County School for Girls before university at Goldsmith's College. Her interest was in teaching and mainly the teaching of foreign languages.

Val was a teacher first at Raines Foundation Grammar School in Stepney, and from 1966 at Langtree School in Woodcote. She was employed at Langtree until retirement (except for periods of maternity leave).

Val used her language skills not only at school but also on school trips to Cancale and Bellême, as well as on holidays abroad.

Ghyslaine, from the exchange school in Bellême, has recently emailed to say that: "Val was indeed a very good friend and a very proficient colleague". Ghyslaine goes on to say that: "She excelled at French and spoke and wrote my mother language as well as any French people. She has been a guideline and a model to me since the beginning of my career and I have tried to follow in her footsteps to teach as well as she did. I wish we could have met more often."

At Langtree, Val became Head of Department, and after retirement acted as an examination invigilator and School Governor. She organised regular "girls nights out" for her ex-Langtree colleagues.

Val was involved with Woodcote Volunteers, an organisation that arranges transport for local people.

As well as being a teacher, Val was a great wife, partner and very supportive mother. She and Frank have two children (Oliver and Harriott) who were at Langtree before going on to Henley College and university.



Sponsored Walk October 2021

A slightly damp sponsored walk this year, but enjoyable non the less. So far we have raised £5900. Please make sure that sponsor forms are returned to school as this allows us to claim back any gift aid donations. Please also return any outstanding sponsor money to school as soon as possible.



Climate Action event at Stowe School

Last Friday, I was given the opportunity to visit the Stowe School Climate Action event with 14 other Geography students from my year. During the trip I was able to hear many famous climate activists speak about the issues surrounding global warming and mainly, what we can do as a school and as individuals to fight them.

I really enjoyed listening to Michaela Strachan talk about her travels over the world to experience the true impact of our lifestyles on the natural world and animal species, and I also found it so interesting to hear the Former Olympic 400m swimmer Neil Agius of Malta speak about his record breaking 52 hour unaided swim across the Mediterranean Sea this summer to observe the impact of plastic pollution in our oceans on sea life.

From this event I have taken away a head full of positive ideas of how we can make change, and so much of what I learnt could really benefit the future of our school in reducing our carbon footprint. For lunch at the event, we were able to make a healthy, zero waste meal with celebrity chef Max La Manna, and this inspired me to think about how we could achieve these sorts of meals more often in the Canteen and what impact it could have on the environment and our health. Using locally grown fruit or vegetables in the production of school meals in the canteen would hugely affect the amount of emissions produced by food miles. Of course, this can be difficult to fully achieve immediately, but over time, little by little as a school we could change our output of emissions considerably.

We all know about deforestation, but I often find myself questioning: "Why are we constantly using up exercise books and paper sheets when we are so lucky to have multiple trolleys full of Chromebooks?" With over 600 students in our school, our demand for new exercise books is everlasting, yet every time a new one is handed out, more trees are suffering. It could make a massive influence on our carbon footprint and a huge reduction in our paper use if we were open to switching to online learning which could lead us to creating our own future of digital education, completely paper-free!

Probably the biggest thing I have come away with from this event is the idea that there is always something everyone can do, no matter how big or small. Listening to John Sauven (director of Greenpeace UK) give an inspiring talk made me realise that the slightest changes in lifestyle can impact for the better, and it takes us all to change, even just a little, in order to see change on a wider scale.

Hazel Joyce, Year 10

Overall the entire day was an amazing experience. Some examples of activities we did included listening to some influential Greenpeace activists, asking as many questions as we pleased, experiencing virtual reality simulations and having a zero-waste lunch. The day ended with a delicious, sustainable vegetarian food-truck dinner whilst listening to students from Stowe School perform a concert. All of this was in the setting of an impressive ornamental house and grounds.

The important conversation and fun day out was more than I could have hoped for.

Jessie Shin, Year 10.



I feel very fortunate that we were able to run the trip and take part in such a fantastic event. The day gave them a taster of what it's like to learn in a more lecture based environment as well as working alongside sixth formers from Stowe and the other visiting schools in discussion groups about climate action modelling and ways to reach net zero by 2050. Some also had a taster of food that they were less used to - with a mixed reception! It was great to see them all getting stuck in, giving it a go and making the most of the new experiences. Our students were a credit to themselves and to Langtree and I look forward to sharing our experience and ideas from the day with the rest of our school community.

Mrs Brockwell





So the day finally came when I had to run 26.2 miles around London and I'll be honest I didn't want to do it..!

Having had a real good training block up till the end of the summer holidays I was feeling good and ready. Then disaster struck, I was diagnosed with shin splints (issues with the shins that make it really hard to run) the only cure is rest so I stopped running bar two 5km runs for about 5 weeks, I was not ready for this..!

After getting the train at 6:50am on Sunday morning to Blackheath, I arrived to see thousands of people, hot air balloons and all sorts around.

The wait had begun. I found 6 of my old football teammates who were running too and I decided to go with them.

The event start and we were off, ticking of the miles 1, 2, 3 up to 14 then my shin splints were hurting and my quads were cramping, I had to slow down. I still had nearly half to do, but I kept going, walking, jogging those final 12 miles.

The cheers from the crowd calling your name was an inspiring feature. The fact that I'd managed to raise over £2700 willed me on further. Then I turned the final corner on to the mall and that was that finished..!



Comfortably the hardest thing I've ever done but I've done it. I've been asked "Would you do it again?" No chance, it was a one and done thing for me. A bucket list item I can now tick off.

A massive thank you to everyone who sponsored me, tracked me and supported me over these past few months.

Quest for Learning is a charity based in Didcot that helps students catch up with their learning and with everyone's help they are able to help so many more people now than they could of before.

So thank you all again. Garry Clark Head of PE.



Quest for Learning
inspiring young minds

Sports Results: Term 1 - 2021 - 2022

28/9	Rugby Y10/11 boys	Gillotts	Lost 44-0
29/9	Rugby Y8/9 boys	Wallingford	Won 44-36
5/10	Rugby Y10/11 boys	Icknield and Wheatley Park	Beat WP 7-5 Drew Ick 5-5
6/10	Rugby Y8/9 boys	Wheatley Park and Icknield	Beat Ick 20-5 Lost WP 25-10
7/10	Rugby Y7 boys	Wheatley Park and Icknield	Drew WP 15-15 Lost Ick 15-5
12/10	Rugby Y10/11 boys	Chiltern Edge	Won 39-7
12/10	Football Y8 boys	Fitzharrys	Lost 8-1 Aedan Griggs scored
13/10	Rugby Y8/9 boys	Chiltern Edge	Won 38-5
14/10	Rugby Y7 boys	Chiltern Edge	Won 45-25

At the time of writing the results of the girls matches was not available—these will be published when available.





Music Department News

Toby Weller (Year 11) passed Grade 5 cello and Joe Palmer who left last year passed Grade 5 drums. Well done to both students.

It has been a pleasure to start extracurricular activities again this year. Orchestra, Senior Choir and Junior Choir have rehearsed this term. There has been a Piano Club too.



Senior Choir



New members of the Orchestra

I was thrilled that Ben Hopwood brought his bagpipes in to play to his Music Technology group.

A big thank you to Mrs Powell for the donation of a double bass and keyboard to the music department.

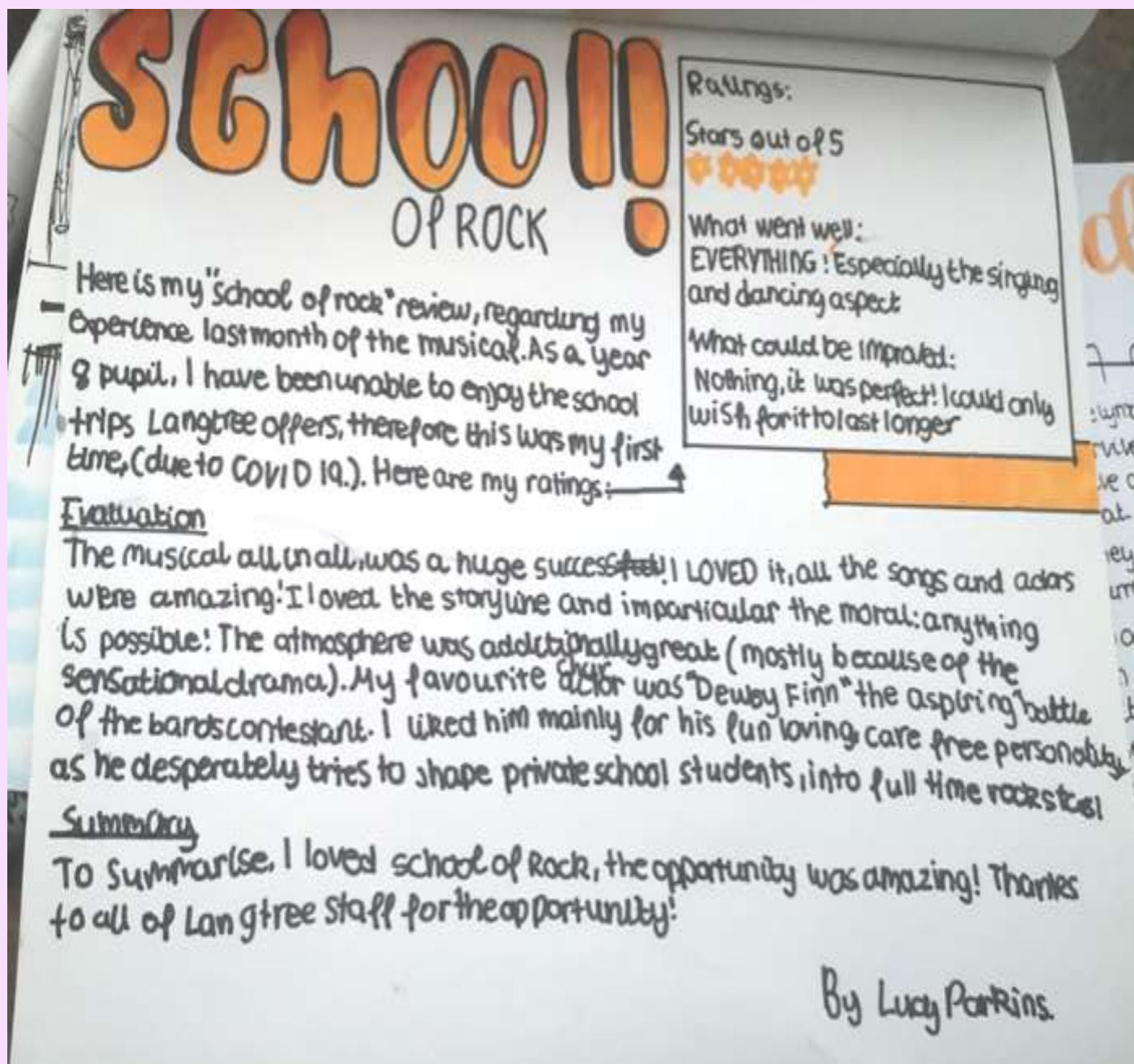
Finally a massive congratulations to the Year 11 GCSE musicians who gained some exceptionally outstanding results - 66% Grade 8 and 9 with 7 Grade 9s!



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

Theatre Trip

After more than 12 months of being unable to visit the theatre a trip to see The School of Rock was finally possible, the first of several theatre trips planned for this academic year.



Langtree students and staff gave the show a standing ovation and got up dancing at the end of the show!



Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094

Voting—Student Council Elections 2021



Harvest Festival

Thank you for all the wonderful donations of food for our Harvest Festival. The donations were delivered to the Wallingford Food Bank on the last day of term.

The food bank does amazing work supporting the local community.

The website: www.wallingfordfoodbank.org.uk/ has more information about their work and ways in which to support them.





From the Food room.....

Sizzling stir fries

Platters of crudities

Savoury muffins

Fajitas and tomato salsa





2021 – 2022 Term Dates

(Updated 17th Sept 2021, Changed dates are highlighted)

Wednesday 1st September	Inset Day
Thursday 2nd September	Start of term 1 for Year 7 students - Induction day
Friday 24th September	Inset day
Monday 27th September	Inset day
Thursday 30th September	OPEN EVENING for prospective parents (Half Day)
Friday 1st October	SPONSORED WALK
Monday 4th October	OPEN MORNING for prospective parents
Thursday 7th October	OPEN MORNING for prospective parents
Friday 22nd October	End of Term 1
October Break – Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2021	
Monday 1st November	Start of Term 2
Friday 17th December	End of Term 2 (Half Day)
Christmas Holiday – Monday 20th December 2021 – Monday 3rd January 2022	
Tuesday 4th January	Start of Term 3
Dates 4th to 14th January	Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams
Monday 17th January	Inset Day
Thursday 17th February	End of Term 3
February Break – Friday 18th February – Friday 25th February 2022	
Monday 28th February	Inset Day
Friday 8th April	End of Term 4
Easter Holiday – Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April 2022	
Monday 25th April	Start of Term 5
Monday 2nd May	May Day Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd May	Inset Day
Friday 27th May	End of Term 5
May Holiday – Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022	
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

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 stating the dates of absence and the reason for the absence, the school reserves the right to seek further information about the requested absence

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