

# Christmas 2021 Newsietter



The last term of 2021 has been a cracker (sorry about the terrible pun!). Every day, I am so proud of our fantastic students and staff and the amazing things that happen. Despite all the issues, it has been a very successful time - we have kept covid absence relatively under control.

Students have been in lessons working productively and parents have been so supportive of the school in their application of the various mitigations. As always, the staff have been amazing in covering for absent colleagues, setting work for isolating students, teaching fantastic lessons and still finding time to organise theatre trips, presentations, oral exams, music concerts, writing competitions, science days, computing challenges and designing Christmas card competitions.



The PTA have again been hard at work thinking of original and covid secure ways to support the school in these difficult times. From the "Love our Langtree" day, to the highly challenging and enjoyable Car Treasure Hunt to the new List Wish site which has been so successful in providing departments with little (and not so little) extras that make life at Langtree so much more educational and enjoyable. Thank you to everyone who has bought an item through this new and innovative scheme. I am delighted to say that the Sponsored Walk raised £7773.00, thank you, for your ongoing support with this event.

This week we have had a colourful Christmas Jumper Day. There was a wealth of wonderful woolies, stacks of strange sweaters and a plethora of phosphorescent pullovers. It was lovely to see so many students getting involved. £356 was raised for "Save the Children"

During the last week of term we delivered a large number of stuffed hampers to some senior members of our community - to quote one letter of thanks "The fabulous food parcels delivered today are a lovely reflection of the generosity of you, your parents and the school staff to brighten our Christmas"

At the time of writing I am looking forward to Christmas Dinner. The hall is being decked, the tables laid out and the smells coming from the kitchen are making my mouth water. As is traditional, staff and Student Leaders will be waiting on the students and I am sure there will be a carol or two!

The highlight of the week so far was the wonderful Christmas Concert on Tuesday evening. Unfortunately the audience had to be restricted to invitation only and we abandoned the interval and kept the windows open to ensure the evening was as safe as it could be. I am extremely grateful to Mr. Henderson, not only for the hours of preparation he put into rehearsals but also for being willing to hold the event at all. There were solo performances, duets and several pieces each from the Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Orchestra all performed expertly, flawlessly and with obvious enjoyment both from the students and Mr. H.

It only remains for me to wish all our families and friends an enjoyable Christmas and a very happy new year. I hope you all stay safe and are able to enjoy the festivities despite the restrictions. Thank you for all the support you have provided for the school throughout this challenging year and let's all look forward to great things in 2022.

Merry Christmas to all

Simon Bamford

Artists of the Term Josie Hurst (top left) Ella Silva-Tully (bottom right)





## The Langtree Wish List

Thank you, an incredible total of nearly 150 items purchased and donations made via the PTA's new website in just 3 weeks! The items purchased and the donations made have topped £2500. We simply couldn't make this a success without you all and we are truly grateful. What a brilliant start to this worthy fundraising initiative for our school – this really is the Season of Goodwill, THANK YOU! If anyone would like to have a look at the site, it can be found here: <a href="www.langtreelw.co.uk">www.langtreelw.co.uk</a> and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all at the PTA!"





## Away from Langtree...... climbing mountains in Scotland

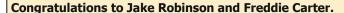
In October half term, my family went to Scotland for a week a trip we make every year. Over the week, we do lots of fun things like go-karting and mountain climbing. This year my uncle, who's a mountaineer, took me to climb up Ben Nevis, which is the highest mountain in the UK. The weather had been really bad the day before, so we nearly had to cancel it.

I woke up very early in the morning to finish packing my backpack, then I had my breakfast and took a bag of dry blueberry mini-wheats to nibble on while driving to our starting point. It would take about an hour to get from Aviemore (the place where we were staying) to Fort William where Ben Nevis is. After parking our car and getting our gear out, we started the climb. Ben Nevis is 1345 metres tall, so it would take 7-8 hours to climb it.

The first part of the mountain is several hundred stone steps. Then there is a steep bit and a bridge crossing a stream. That bridge is about a quarter of the way up. Then you go up some more steps and round a big rushing stream to the halfway loch. We stopped there for something to eat, and to eat some of our toffees that we had in the side pocket of our backpacks. Then we continued the climb. It got a lot rockier on that bit, there was a zigzag path that we followed. Then the cairns came into view, cairns are small piles of rock that you could follow to find the top. There were a few small patches of snow, but the weather was relatively good.

We reached the summit, and I felt on top of the world! (Well, on top of the UK actually) This was my first time climbing up Ben Nevis, but my uncle's fifth or sixth time. We ate our lunch before starting the climb back down to get to the gift shop at four o' clock.

Philipa Holman Year 7



Jake and Freddie are part of the Wasps Academy rugby player development programme. An excellent achievement for them both.

Jake also plays for Henley Rugby and was recently captain of the U14's match against Marlow that resulted in a decisive win for Henley 13—1.



## Anti Bullying Week—ODD SOCKS DAY







As part of the English curriculum this term, Year 7 have been developing their imaginative writing skills. **Anais Lamb** is the worthy winner of the inaugural English Department 500(ish) Words Competition. Find out why our judges loved it at the end of 'Fire and Flame'.

## **Fire and Flame**

A gentle heat stings my eyes and yet I can't look away. Spellbound by the glowing embers floating off, illuminating the black of midnight. The flickering flames making shadows dance on the wall. It's hypnotising. People are screaming nearby but I'm deaf to their cries; I'm too focused on the fire surrounding me. Locked in place by desire, even as my clothes blacken and my skin goes raw. I stopped caring about myself a long time ago. The blaring sound of sirens awakens me from my dream and pulls me back to the cold shell of reality. I need to leave.

"The criminal commonly known as 'xfyre' has struck once more. The police are baffled at the lack of evidence found at the scene of the crime. Unfortunately, no one survived so we have no clue what he or she looks like. Stay tuned for more details and possibly the answer to the question on everyone's mind: Will they strike again, and if so, when?"

The TV goes black. "You did well. £1000 has been transferred to your account." He says, handing me a white envelope. "Here is your next assignment. You will be based in Spain - tickets have been taken care of - 2 days will be allowed to prepare. Once you have reached your destination, you will have 1 week to complete the task." He pauses "Will this work for you?" I nod knowing it's not really a question. "Good" He smiles "You may leave. Your time starts now." Already tearing the envelope, I get up and leave; smiling in anticipation for my next activity.

Stepping off the plane, the heat of Barcelona hits me hard. I take off my dark green hoodie and put it away in my carry-on bag. Suddenly, the rich smell of gasoline fills my nostrils. "I love the smell of petrol!" I think to myself. "Deep and deadly"

Skimming the crowd for first sight of my target, I think. "This is going to be the best elimination yet! Even better than when I slit the throat of that sexist businessman. His blood went everywhere - must have been a pain in the ass to clean." I laugh to myself; once again picturing the crimson liquid spilling from his veins and arteries, pooling on to the floor. I step forward and approach the luggage check - having done this so many times I'm not even remotely worried about the guns and arsenic in my suitcase - "Welcome to Spain. Next ,please" The lady smiled. Without returning the smile, I grab my bags and walk toward the nearest taxi. "Hotel Lunar Vertex, por favor."

The person I have been told to 'make disappear' is - from what I can see: about 46, male, average height and weight, black hair - short -, brown eyes, always wears suits, no glasses, arrogant, rude, proud, rich and very stubborn. This is going to be interesting.

He will be at a fancy restaurant at 5:30 on the dot; I will be his server. After he orders, I will 'season' his drink with my favourite: Arsenic. Personally, I have no clue why they want him dead. Probably a business opponent or someone above them in the league. Nonetheless my job is to kill, not to ask questions.

"And what drink would you like with that sir?" I ask in my best sing-song tone, my fingers curling around the small glass bottle in my pocket. "Diet coke. Make it snappy." My face dropped; I don't know why I even tried. I leave and get his stupid coke, twisting the cap off the little flask as I do.

Many thanks to our judges Mrs. Maunder-Hand, Ms. Burman, Mrs. McDonald and our Head Judge (and parent) Mink Elliott. Mink is the author of several books including: 'Annie Beaton's Year of Positive Thinking', 'A Mother Dimension' and 'Just Another Manic Monday'.

Mink said: 'I love this insight into the mind of a cold, heartless killer for hire! The tension created through such evocative, atmospheric descriptions is fantastic. I really feel as though I'm right there with this hit person. Short sentences mixed with longer, more descriptive ones remind me of crime fiction masters Elmore Leonard and James Ellroy - simple, effective and coming at you like hot, fast bullets. I really love how the author finishes on a cliffhanger, not spoon-feeding us with the action, but letting the reader's imagination run wild. Fantastic story, brilliantly, confidently written. Bravo!'

Congratulations to our runners up: Ted Shakespeare, Eleni Chatterjee, Ella Silva-Tully and to all our Year 7s who created wonderfully imaginative stories.

### Theatre trip—"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time.

On 2nd December, students from Year 9, 10 & 11 went to see the production of Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time at the Troubadour Theatre. We universally loved the performance, and all of our students represented Langtree beautifully, and made the staff on the trip feel very proud.

## Here are some reviews from some of our Year 9 students:

The show was really awesome, especially the part when Christopher was at the train station, because the design was so

cool. There were bright flashing lights and the words from signs and adverts everywhere on the walls and floor, with lots of voices and announcements overlapping and getting louder. It made you able to sort of understand how Christopher felt.' - Lili Borak

'I really enjoyed the way they used lighting, especially on the floor to show how Christopher's brain was presenting the world to him. It really helped me empathise with how confused and scared he was and guided us along his thought process really effectively' Nina Burbea

'I really enjoyed the was Christopher gradually set up the train track on the stage, because it represented the stages of his plan to get the train to see his mum - and when the train started moving around the track it should that his plan had begun' - Jack France



## World Town Planning Day—schools competition

This year, a global competition took place organised by <a href="RTPI">RTPI</a>, and Langtree school participated! The sustainable community competition encouraged all students to ponder the question: "What can we do to make our towns more environmentally friendly?" The brief was fairly simple, design a town that addresses current urban issues and is fully sustainable and that is exactly what we did.

Before I tell you more about what we did, you're probably wondering what RTPI is and what they do? RTPI stands for the Royal Town Planning Institute and they focus on promoting the profession of planning in the UK and abroad. They are the people behind the whole competition.

We were told to design our sustainable community near to where you live, this meant that you had to think about what you could do to make a town near to where you live more sustainable rather than some imaginary far off land that would have the ideal location for doing such. In my case, I maximised the potential for renewable energy to be generated from a nearby river instead of using wind turbines as I live in a valley.

You could enter the competition in pairs or by yourself and you could submit either a poster or a set of slides as your entry so you had a bit of choice as to how you worked and what you produced depending on your personal preferences.

Given that COP26 was taking place around the same time, it made perfect sense to base the context on the principles of the conference and it encouraged applicants to focus on how their town could combat climate change, increase urban regeneration and instigate innovation, just like you would for a presentation at the COP.



For our context we were to imagine that it was 2031, and that we're a keynote speaker at a future climate change conference, like the next COP, presenting our idea to a collection of delegates, this meant that our design had to be refined and well thought through, addressing any issues we thought were prominent in the current unsustainable system of town planning.

Part of our challenge was to think about how individuals could reduce their carbon footprint and lead a more eco friendly lifestyle. Physical environment is where individuals live. People interact with their physical environment through the air they breathe, the water they drink, the houses they live in, and the transportation they access to travel to work and school.

So we thought about where the water came from, how it got there, what it was packaged in and how to make that better. We thought about the standard of living and the best way to build relatively cheap, space efficient housing. We thought about the best systems of transportation and the effects they may have on the environment and chose the one we considered to be best.

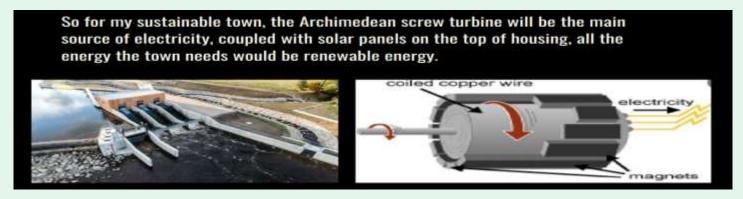
We were also told to think about energy. So we each thought about the best ways to produce energy, the most efficient, the most sustainable, the least expensive, the least space consuming, etc. It encouraged us to research methods of energy production we had never even thought about before and it expanded our views on the current prominent methods of energy production. For my sustainable town, I decided to use Archimedes screw turbines, they were brought up briefly in conversation and I decided to research how they worked and any environment impacts they had, when I realised what an ingenious system of energy production they were, I settled on them coupled with solar panels on all residential blocks.

By this point you may be wondering: "Well that sounds great and all, but what's the point?" Well the point is to explore new concepts for sustainable living and practice creativity and reasoning skills. But on top of this, prizes will be awarded as well. I won't go into too much detail about the prizes as it would be pointless to tease with possibilities now, but, the winning individual or pair will get prize money as well as the winning school, RTPI careers material is also in the prize list as well as the offer of online mentoring sessions from RTPI ambassadors for the top winners. You may also be thinking: "That sounds awesome, but I'm not that great at writing or realistic planning." Well, there's also going to be prizes awarded for the best plan and best community name.

Thank you Mrs. Brockwell for inviting us to participate in this competition and for the honour of writing about it for the newsletter. It is also something that we can use in support of our Langtree Challenge. We also have to thank the RTPI for this awesome opportunity to improve our skills and awareness and for the chance to put our geography knowledge into action. I had so much fun doing this as it is a chance to create a whole new perfect mini world with details that I never would have thought of otherwise. I was able to learn so much from the experience and I am overjoyed to have been able to tell other people about it and although I don't think I will ever have the skills to convey in words the happiness and solace I have felt, I can say that, to me, the expansion of my knowledge in this section of life is something I will be grateful for forever.

Charlotte Binns, 9HQu

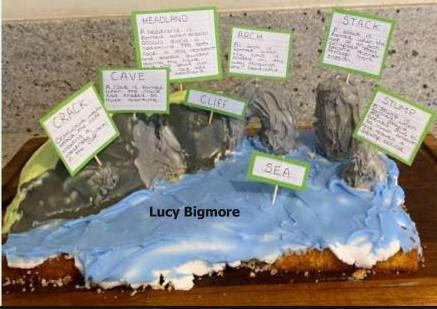
Lucy Parkin and Connie Kolb can be seen pictured their entry opposite—bottom of the page.







**The Geography Department,** have been making models to explain the layers in a Rainforest. And cake was used by Lucy to depict the features of a coastline.















## **Music Christmas 2021**

Thank you to Mr. Archibald and Ms. Green who kindly donated and delivered a Yamaha Clavinova to the Music Department.

## **Christmas Concert**

It was with great excitement that the Music Department was able to present a short Christmas Concert on Tuesday 14th December. This was our first concert for two years! The orchestra was in excellent form as usual performing a mixture of well known film and classical music before rounding off the evening with a medley of four Christmas pieces.

In the middle portion the Junior and Senior Choir also performed with great



In the middle portion the Junior and Senior Choir also performed with great ensemble and panache. Beth Bentley and Hannah Bates sang a lovely rendition of "O Holy Night".

It was lovely to welcome back George Scurr who performed "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" with his brother Tom (Year 8)



Congratulations to all the performers. What wonderful talent, commitment and resilience.

Thank you all.

Mr. Henderson.











## **Term 2 Sports RESULTS**



a. 6. A	<b>\$</b>		•	~4.th
2/11	Facility Davis	Matthew Arnold	Lost 2-1	Louis Pullen
16/11	Football Y7 Boys	Matthew Arnold	Lost 10-0	
25/11		Chiltern Edge & Wheatley Park	Won 6-0 Won 1-0	Goal scorers: Verity (3), Amie (3), Molly (1)
3/12	Football Y7 Girls	Wallingford Lord Bills	Lost 1-0 Lost 2-0	POM: Mya Barrington Groves
9/12		Didcot Girls	Won 11-0	Goal scorers: Amie (3) Emily (3) Verity (2) Molly (2) POM: Verity
4/11	Rugby Y7 Boys	Wallingford St Birinus	Drew 10-10 Drew 20-20	Riley Coleman, Leo Chapman
11/11	Rugby 17 boys	Gillotts	Lost 45-0	Leo Chapman
4/11		Gillotts	A team Lost 3-0 B Team Drew 1-1	POM: Emily Lewis POM: Amie Meakin
11/11	Hockey Y7 Girls	Lord Williams	Won 7-0	Goal scorers: Amie Meakin 5, Ella Silva Tulley 1, Ciara McCormack 1. POM: Emily Lewis
18/11		Wallingford	Won 4-1	Goal scorers: Ciara McCormack 3, Isla Latch 1. POM: Ciara McCormack
10/11	Hockey Y8 Girls	Icknield	Won 3-2	POM: Ellen Satterley Goal scorers: Evie, Ella, Tilly
24/11	Rugby Y8/9 Boys	St Birinus - South Oxon League final	Lost 51-17	2nd place overall in the league
24/11	Football U14s Girls	Wheatley Park & Chiltern Edge	Won 3-0 vs Chiltern Edge Won 2-0 vs Wheatley Park	Goal scorer: Aiofe Murphy (5)
8/12	Football U14s Girls	Didcot Girls John Mason	Won vs DGS 6-1 Won vs John Mason 5-0	Vs Didcot Girls Goal scorers: Mia (1) Delilah (1) Megan (2) Aiofe (2) POM: Lucy Vs John Mason Aiofe (4) Delilah (1) POM: Aiofe
23/11	Badminton U14 boys	Icknield, Didcot Girls School	Girls 2nd Boys 2nd	Alore (4) Delilari (1) FOPI. Alore
8/12	and girls U15 Boys Rugby	Wallingford	Lost 33-10	Josh Livesey (2)
2/12	Rugby Y10/11 Boys	Wallingford South	Lost 35-0	
7/11	U16s Girls Football	Oxon League  Didcot Girls Icknield	Lost 1-0 Lost 2-1	Goal scorer: Hannah
23/11	-	Wheatley Park	Lost 6-1	Goal scorer: Lydia Godfrey
10/11	Football Year 11 Boys Home County Cup	Wallingford -	Lost 3-0	
9/11	Cross Country	South Oxon Schools	Team Results: Year 7 Girls - Winners Year 7 Boys - Winners Year 8/9 Girls - Winners Year 8/9 Boys - 3rd Year 10/11 Girls - Winners Year 10/11 Boys - 4th	Individual Results: Y7 girls Heather Toward 4th Emily Lewis 5th Y7 boys Joshua Sudbury 1st Spencer Bishop 3rd Y8/9 girls Jemimah Ogsten 2nd Aoife Murphy 4th Y8/9 boys George Godfrey 4th Y10/11 girls Lydia Godfrey 2nd Tilly Ogsten 3rd Y10/11 boys Josh Livesey 9th
	Final South Oxon Leagu	o Dughy Doculto		

Final South Oxon League Rugby Results Year 7 - 3rd
Year 8/9 - 2nd
Year 10/11 - Tied 3rd
A fantastic effort from all of the boys, playing much bigger schools both physically and numerically.















**Cross Country** 



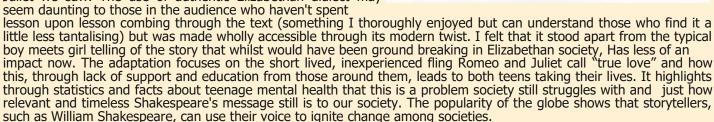




## My visit to Shakespeare's Globe by Ella Hatt

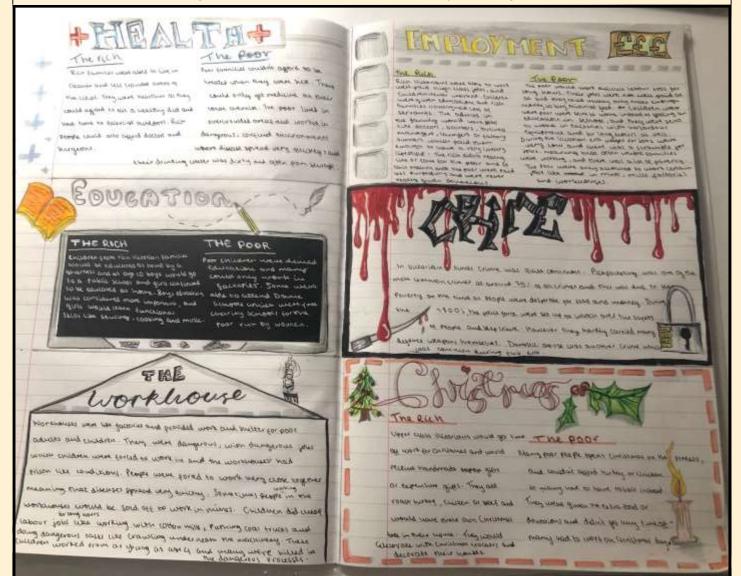
Going into this trip, of course I had some expectations of this place so widely romanticised as the home and legacy of the legendary William Shakespeare. However, when I didn't find myself being instantly transported back to 16th century Elizabethan London (something which I was rather worried would clash with my garish lime green jumper) I was very pleasantly surprised. The mixture of old and new is something very unique to the globe, the hum and buzz of people posing for photos and being ushered in and out by marshals donned in Hi-Vis vests contrasted with the delicately detailed ceiling of the stage and well loved stories that radiate from the globe's iconic walls. To feel included in the theatre's rich and enthralling history without feeling as if our modernity is opposing is something very beautiful.

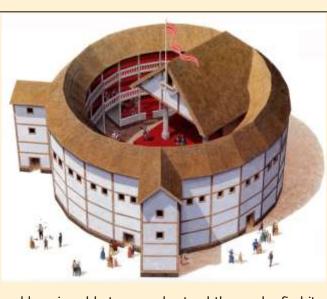
This feeling was also reflected in the adaptation of Romeo and Juliet we saw. The use of authentic Elizabethan dialect may seem daynting to those in the audience who haven't spent



So if you are pondering whether to visit the Globe, I would urge you to go!

An in depth look a **"A Christmas Carol" by Hazel Joyce** resulted in this beautiful piece of English analysis looking at the division between the rich and the poor during the 1800's



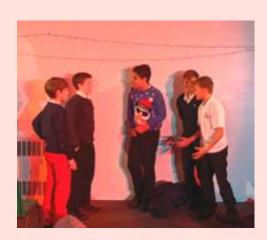






**Year 7 Drama.**Here are a few photos of some of the Year 7 Dramas from their Drama lessons in the last couple of weeks of term. Lots of entertaining, creative characters - from unruly Santa's to a talking brussels sprout! Excellent fun, Year 7 - well done! Mrs Pimm









## 2021 - 2022 Term Dates

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	
Februar	y Break – Friday 18th February – Friday 25th February 2022	
Monday 28th February	Inset Day	
Friday 8th April	End of Term 4	
East	er 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	
м	ay 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	sday 21st July End of Term 6 (Half Day)	

## LANGTREE SCHOOL **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.



## 2022 - 2023 Term Dates

hursday 1st September	Inset Day		
roday 2nd September	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students - Induction day		
fonday 5th September 2022	Start of Term 1 for all other students.		
riday 21st October	End of Term 1		
October	Break - Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October 2022		
fonday 31st October	Start of Term ≥		
riday 16th December	End of Term 2 (Half Day)		
Christmas Holi	day - Monday 19th December 2022 - Monday 2nd January 2023		
vesday 3rd January	Start of Term 3		
BC	Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams		
riday 10th February	End of Term 3		
February I	Break - Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February 2023		
fonday 20th February	Start of Term 4		
riday 31st March	End of Term 4		
East	er Holiday – Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April 2023		
fonday 17th April	Start of Term 5		
Aonday 1st May	May Day Bank Holiday		
riday 26th May	End of Term 5		
Ffin	Holiday - Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June 2023		
onday 5th June	Start of Term 6		
riday 21st July	End of Term 6 (Half Day)		

## 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.

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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