



October 2022 Newsletter

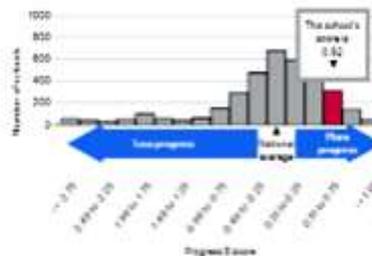
In contrast to the news nationally and internationally, life at Langtree feels stable, calm and more normal than it has for quite some time. Attendance is back to pre-covid levels, above all, the atmosphere in lessons is settled and productive. Our new year 7 students have impressed us with how quickly they have settled in and have become valued members of our school. Our new student leaders, mentors and other older students are demonstrating their leadership skills and proving to be excellent role models.

Specific highlights of the term were the open evening and open mornings for prospective parents - the first we have been able to hold unrestricted, for a number of years. As always our students were the school's finest ambassadors, showing parents and primary school pupils all that is good about Langtree - from the learning they are doing in lessons, their confidence and ability to talk about the school when acting as tour guides and showing off the best Langtree has to offer in so many facets of school life.

There have been MFL bake offs, a sponsored walk and, this week, a huge amount of food donated through our harvest festival appeal. Every year, as the week goes on I worry that we have not publicised this event enough, and perhaps we will not get the food that The Wallingford Food Bank so desperately needs in order to provide for those struggling members of our community. However, even in these most difficult of times you always come through. This year there seems to be even more food than ever before. Thank you so much for your extraordinary generosity. While I am on the subject of the financial problems being experienced by so many at the moment, please be aware that we are doing everything we can to support members of our community. We constantly strive to keep costs down - please do contact us if you are struggling to buy uniform, resources or to pay for trips and visits.

The other very pleasing thing to note about this half term is the return to a full programme of extra-curricula clubs, fixtures and societies. I think there is the biggest variety of activities outside of lessons that we have ever offered. We enter more sports teams into more fixtures than any other school in the district - and win far more than our fair share of them too! We have the full range of traditional clubs - choirs, drama, orchestra, Christian Union, book groups, LGBTQ+ and a wide range of sports clubs. However, we have added cubing and chess, debating (KS3 and KS4 groups), history film and Dungeons and Dragons clubs. Truly something for everyone - please do join a group, or if there is a club you would like to see that does not currently exist - do let us know and we will see if we can start one. Everyone one is always welcome at all clubs.

Finally, we are extremely proud of the excellent exam results that the class of 2022 achieved. Put into context nationally our results were well above the national average, the DfE has just published the provisional results for the exams of 2022, so I thought I would share their graphic showing where Langtree sits in the context of all secondary schools in the country, for the progress made by our students. As ever though we believe results are only one aspect of the excellent education that Langtree provides.



Wishing everyone a restful break during this half term. Simon Bamford, Headteacher.



Year 8 Perspective Art



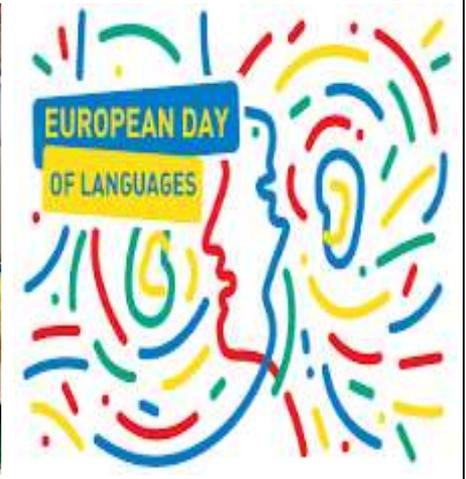
Year 7 Portraiture



Year 7 Art Book Covers

European Day of Languages

Mrs Tontini and her brilliant helpers sold European themed cakes for Macmillan Cancer Research and raised £100.83. Thank you to all those involved.



Music Department—Instrument exam successes

Nancy Dudman	Singing	Grade 1	Jacob Pimm	Drums	Grade 2
Liam Robbins	Piano	Grade 3	Madeleine Pimm	Clarinet	Grade 3
Hannah Bates	Saxophone	Grade 8			



New members of the Orchestra - Sophia, Madeleine, Jacob, Bella and Juliette





Date	Sport and Year	Opponents	Result	Noteworthy achievement
20/9	Year 11 Hockey	Wallingford	Lost 1-0	POM: Ella B
27/9	Year 8 Hockey	Wallingford	Team 1 = Lost 6-3 / Team 2= Won 12-0	POM: Emily L POM: Iona B
28/9	Year 7 Hockey	Wallingford	Team 1 - Won 3-1 / Team 2 - Won 4-0	POM: Siri B POM:
29/9	Year 9 Hockey	Wallingford	Lost 3-1	POM: Ellen S
4/10	Year 8/9 Rugby	Wheatley Park and Chiltern Edge	Lost 15-0 - WP / Won CE 10-5	
5/10	Year 10/11 Rugby	Chiltern Edge	Won 15-7	Giacomo B
5/10	Year 7 Hockey	Icknield	Team 1 - won 7-0 / Team 2 - won 3-1	POM: Chloe J POM: Olivia T
6/10	Year 7 Rugby	Chiltern Edge	Won 45-25	Gideon L
7/10	Year 10	Cranford House	Lost 9-2	POM: Tilly W
7/10	Year 9	Gillotts	Lost 3-1	POM: Freya H
11/10	Year 8/9 Rugby	Wallingford and Icknield	Lost 15-0 Wall / Lost 25-0 -Ick	
11/10	Year 8 Hockey	Icknield	Team 1 - lost 5-2 / Team 2 - won 6-1	POM: Emily L POM: Holly W
12/10	Year 10/11 Rugby	Wallingford and Icknield	Lost Wall 12-7 / Won Ick 10-5	
12/10	Year 7 Hockey	Cranford	Team 1 - Won 5-4 / Team 2 - Lost 6-1	POM: Chloe J
13/10	Year 10 Hockey	Gillotts	Lost 3-1	POM: Lucy B
18/10	Year 8 Hockey	Gillotts	Team 1 - Drew 1-1 / Team 2- Won 4-0	POM: Emily L POM: Maddie S
19/10	Year 9 Hockey	Wallingford	Won 5-0	POM: Ellen S



The Battle of Hastings.....Year 7 History in action.



On an autumnal day in 1066 (well, maybe 2022) Harold Godwinson (aka Freddie M.) positioned himself at the top of Senlac Hill (aka, Langtree playing fields). His soldiers were in a tight shield formation and could see the Normans, with their cavalry and archers below. At 9.30am, William (aka Joseph H) carrying a flag given to him by the Pope ordered his archers to unleash a storm of arrows. Realising that this had little impact on the shield wall, William sent his knights and foot soldiers to smash through the English shield wall. Unfortunately for William, the steep hill meant that his horses couldn't charge quickly. His foot soldiers were absolutely exhausted before they had even started fighting!.



For two hours the battle raged. The two sides stood toe to toe, hacking, slashing and stabbing (proverbially) at each other. William' s men just could not break through the shields that were stretched across the hilltop.

Talk to your children to see if they can recall the end of the story... How did William become the victor of the Battle of Hastings, 1066?



Drama Club:

Over 70 KS3 students have participated in Drama Club this term! Wow! We've also enjoyed the support of 7 Year 10 helpers - Elin, Eleni, Nina, Luch, Erin, Lily and Bethany.

Mrs Pimm and Ms Wilford would like to thank everyone at Club for your incredible enthusiasm and crazy, wonderful Imaginations!

There are just three more Drama Club sessions, on 1st, 8th and 15th November. These will be extended to run until 4.30pm. (if any student needs to leave at 4.15, though, that is absolutely fine)

On 16th November, the Drama Club, orchestra and chorus will perform an Arts Evening at 7pm in the school hall.

Drama Club will take a break after this event, as the Drama department begins preparation for the whole school production in mid-March.

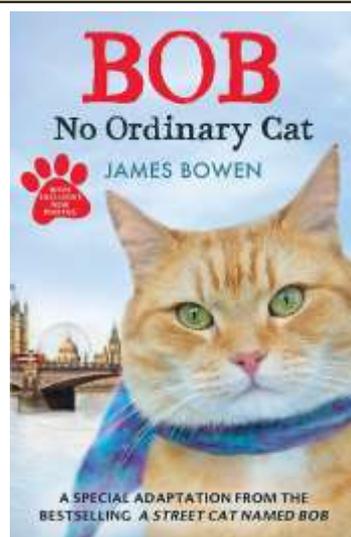


Year 7 Brilliant Book Group

We kicked off our new Brilliant Book Group this term with Bob the Cat! The book group was a real success. Everyone who attended - pupils and parents - thoroughly enjoyed reading James Bowen's non-fiction biography, "A Street Cat Named Bob", and in some instances, couldn't put the book down.

Ellie said; "I really enjoyed being part of the group - "A Street Cat Named Bob" was a great book. I read it in two days because I enjoyed it so much! I'm not normally a cat person, so I wouldn't have chosen this book normally, but I read it for the Book Club and I'm really glad I did!"

The group really encouraged some lovely discussion and debate about the book. Is this really a book about cats, or something more? Reading the book at home with parents, really helped Year 7 engage with their reading, and was a wonderful way to celebrate the joy of reading together.



Our book for next term is

"The Goldfish Boy" by Lisa Thompson.

The group will take place on **Monday 12th December online, at 4.30-5pm.** If you are in Year 7 or you are a parent of a Year 7 who would like to read our next book and join the group, then please contact Mrs Maunder-Hand (kmaunder-hand@langtreeschool.com). Let's celebrate our reading together!

In Literacy this term, Year 8 has been completing a persuasive writing project. Here are two examples of exceptional work from our pupils. The whole class has learned how to use persuasive language effectively, which has resulted in a number of impressive, and passionate pieces of writing, all focused on a topic of their choice. Well done Literacy team!

Save the whale sharks before it's too late!

More than 50% of the whale shark population has declined because of tourism and diseases caused by the feeding of whale sharks for money. Why should the whale sharks be bribed with food that does not have enough nutrients just to be touched and teased by people on holiday for their amusement? How would you feel if you had to be teased and fed instead of their natural hunting?

More than 1000 whale sharks are illegally poached for their meat as it is in high demand from places like China. Here, they use whale shark meat and skin to make bags, and fins and oil are sold for food. It is sold on the black market and the punishment is a fine up to £10,000 all over the world. More than 6000 whale sharks die from tourism stress.

It is damaging food chains and destroying our planet!.

You don't need a handbag that's been through all this pain, stress and hunger!

You can help stop this by donating to a charity, and, of course, **not** buying that handbag!

5 key things **you** can do to help:
Do you want to help save the whale sharks ? Every single one of us can make a difference to the life of a whale shark. Respect the Oceans; when you go to the beach, don't leave your litter. Also, reduce your Seafood Consumption by choosing sustainable seafood and only eating fish twice a week. Never buy or eat Shark Fin Soup and do not buy or use Shark Products. If we all learn as much as we can about sharks and see them in their natural environment rather tourist parks, then we can save the whale!

Here are some links if you want to help these poor creatures

<https://friendofthesea.org/marine-conservation-projects-and-awareness/whale-shark/>

Other websites are PADI
<https://www.sealifetrust.org/en/>

<https://www.visitsealife.com/conservation/sea-life-trust/>

Mattie Svendsen

Greyhound racing

Do you think greyhound racing is all fun and games? Well if you do, we are about to expose the real truth about greyhound racing. Do you want these loving, beautiful and extraordinary kid -friendly pets to be hurt and abused?

Greyhound racers treat these beautiful, amazing dogs like a machine by locking them up in kennels and cages 23 hours a day. That's only one hour's escape from the kennel. Horrifically, some are locked up for 24 hours! Does that sound right to you?

These cruel owners start racing these hopeless, depressed and gloomy dogs at 18 MONTHS; this can lead to the dog suffering lameness in their legs on and off and can even lead to the damage being permanent. That's permanent damage to the dog's legs! They can also endure with the tortures of arthritis.

There have been 15,000 injuries including broken backs, legs ,head trauma and electrocutions recorded between April 2008 and January 2018 and more then 1,000 dogs have DIED on the TRACK since 2008 and 2019! These heartbroken dogs are being treated like this all for money.

Can you even believe that these poor dogs don't make it past four or five, because of injuries so they have to get put down or die. There are so many greyhounds in shelters that other dogs in the shelter have to get put down so there is room. This is unbelievable!

These beautiful, kind and loving creatures are being abused by the minute we have to do something about it. You could rescue a greyhound to help. That would make such a significant difference in this loving dog's life. Greyhound racing can put out a fire in a dog's heart and then throw them away but you can bring back the fire and make an outstanding difference in these poor dogs' lives.

Help a dog now!

Here are some websites if you want to help: **Greyhound trust** or make a donation to **peta**

This could transform a dog's life!

Alana Halabi

Black History Month

Racism—Isabelle Read

Let's talk about education

It's not in all generations

We don't wanna hear discrimination

This is our nation

"I can't breathe"

I'm not free

Why do we have to leave

Racism isn't something to believe

We can't stand your bigoted beliefs

It's not a joke

It's not a laugh

It's something we need to pass

Prejudice views will not always last

Have we got no feelings?

Have we got no thoughts?

Are we aliens to you?



Karting Success....

On Friday 23rd September Jake Humphrey took part in the last two rounds of the Wera Tools British Karting Championship at PF International (the home of British Karting) in Lincolnshire. Jake had a great weekend competing in the last two rounds of the championship. Rounds 5 and 6 took place over the weekend. Points and two dropped scores from all the rounds added up and he has finished the championship 10th overall in Junior TKM class. This is a fantastic achievement in his first year of competition in the British Karting Championships. This puts him 10th in the country for his class. This means he has been seeded 10th and can run with the number 10 on his kart for the next year. Congratulations Jake.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

At Langtree our Duke of Edinburgh group is run by The Eyot Centre in Henley. Recently a large group of our students were presented with their Bronze awards in Henley town hall, a smaller group of Langtree students were also presented with their Silver awards having continued to take part in the scheme. The Duke of Edinburgh Award develops skills and confidence that will be invaluable to you in life after school. It gives young people the chance to make a difference to other people's lives and you get recognition for undertaking activities you enjoy. You will be fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last you a lifetime.



BRONZE



SILVER

Wallingford Air Cadets

Rhys attends 966 Wallingford Air Cadets twice a week and as part of his training was invited to attend RAF Benson on Friday 7th October along with three other cadets.

He had some pre flight training including how to jump out and use a parachute. He then had a 30 minute flying lesson that including taking control of the plane and talking to air traffic control as a pilot.

As well as taking control his favourite part was when the pilot did a barrel roll with him and also looped the loop.



Harvest Festival 2022

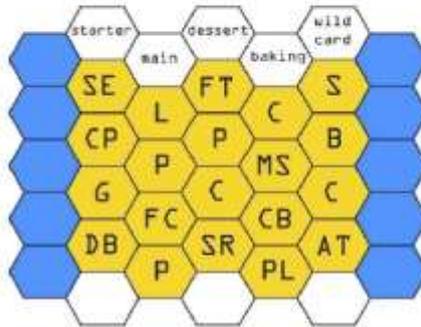
Thank you
for all your donations



Summer Block buster Cooking Challenge!!

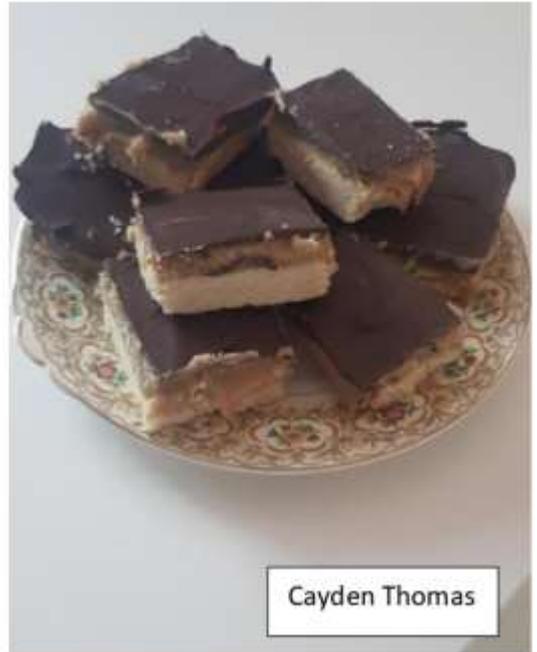
GCSE Food - Aim: To cook your way across the grid.....

Here are some of the dishes cooked by the year 10s over the summer holidays





Ammy Edwards



Cayden Thomas



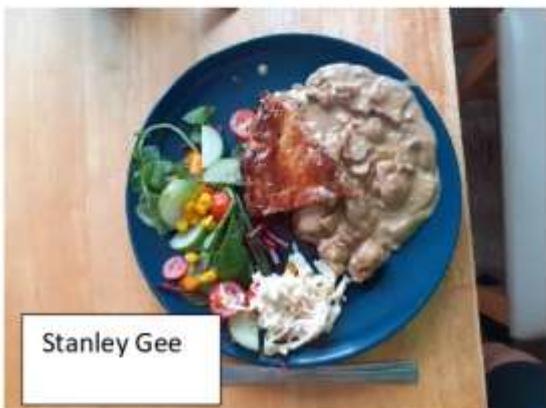
Polly Gillion



Rosie King



Ava Kent



Stanley Gee



Thomas Wibberley



2022 – 2023 Term Dates

Friday 21st October	End of Term 1
October Break – Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October 2022	
Monday 31st October	Start of Term 2
21st November to 2nd December	Year 11 Mock Exams
Monday 5th December	INSET DAY
Friday 16th December	End of Term 2 (Half Day)
Christmas Holiday – Monday 19th December 2022 – Monday 2nd January 2023	
Tuesday 3rd January	Start of Term 3
Thursday 9th February	End of Term 3
Friday 10th February	INSET DAY
February Break – Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February 2023	
Monday 20th February	Start of Term 4
Friday 31st March	End of Term 4
Easter Holiday – Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April 2023	
Monday 17th April	Start of Term 5
Monday 1st May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 26th May	End of Term 5
May Holiday – Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023	
Monday 5th June	Start of Term 6
Friday 23rd June	INSET DAY
Friday 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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