

Term 2 Newsletter

Normally this newsletter would go out at the end of term. However, this has become more of a welcome back and Happy New Year than a traditional Christmas message. This is partly because Mary Taylor-Lane, who compiles these excellent newsletters and the weekly bulletins, was away on the school ski trip at the end of last term. I have not yet heard a full report of the trip but I understand that, though the outward journey was challenging, the trip as a whole was excellent and the students had a fantastic time. As one parent wrote "my son had the experience of a lifetime and appears to have caught the skiing bug, which will no doubt end up costing us a small fortune! This was an experience he will undoubtedly remember for a long time to come."

Running the ski trip, postponed from last February, was another sign that things are definitely returning to normal. This term we have also been able to hold a Whole School Assembly for Remembrance day, creativity day trips to a range of exciting locations, numerous theatre visits, the geography field trip, a taster day at Henley College for our year 11 students, the School Christmas Dinner and a whole range of other extra-curricular activities that Langtree is rightly renowned for. We know how important these experiences are in ensuring students gain cultural capital, develop as rounded individuals and enjoy their learning in its broadest sense.

Among the highlights of the term were definitely the two music and drama evenings. Firstly was the Music concert and Drama Club evening where we were treated to some beautiful music and the results of the Drama Club "Extraordinary Drama from Ordinary Objects" inspired by a box of random bits left behind by Ms Pimm's builders! Then in the last week of term the Christmas Extravaganza again showcased the musical talent that Mr Henderson nurtures and develops so beautifully and the creativity of our Year 7s was demonstrated in a series of vignettes from the winning groups in the Christmas plays produced in their drama lessons.

As ever our students and families have given generously to support our annual hamper appeal with over 30 boxes filled with treats for the senior citizens of our community. Unfortunately we had to cancel the Christmas party due to several bugs sweeping through the school at the end of term. Hopefully the hampers they received compensated in some small way.

At the end of term we said goodbye to two wonderful colleagues - Ms Warren, Modern Foreign Languages Team Leader, has moved on to Gillotts School and Ms Stewart, our long standing Design Technology technician and teacher, has relocated to Devon. We wish them well in their new endeavours. We are delighted to have recruited Ms Cordillet, an exceptional teacher of MFL to take over the running of the Languages Team.

For those who are not aware, and I am not the best at being overly self congratulatory, Langtree was nominated and shortlisted as Secondary School of the year in the national Education Today Awards. I am still not sure how "Little Old Langtree" achieved such national recognition. I suspect a parent, governor or student nominated us and the selection committee examined various aspects of the school. We did not win. but even to be recognised as one of the top five schools in the country was a phenomenal achievement and, I believe, a fitting recognition of how hard our staff, students, parents and governors work to provide a brilliant environment for our young people to thrive in.

While I am on the subject of the School Governors I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them all for the sensational and largely unheralded job our wonderful School Governing Board do. They are all volunteers but put an incredible amount of time, effort and expertise into checking policies, discussing strategy and overseeing the financial position of the school. In addition to their statutory duties they all put in a great deal more to ensure the school continues to run smoothly and improves wherever possible.

I would also like to highlight the work of our magnificent PTA - this wonderful group of parents and teachers support the school in a huge variety of ways - from managing the bar at performances and parents evenings to gardening on "Love our Langtree" mornings. Before the pandemic they also ran some very successful quizzes, race nights, bingo evenings and other flagship fundraising events that made a significant amount of money for the school. They now have two new co-chairs who I know would be delighted to hear from any parents, grandparents or others connected to the school who may be able to help - in either a large or very small way - to support the PTA to rebuild after the difficulties of the last few years.

On the subject of fundraising, the final total raised from the sponsored walk was £9255.70, than you to all the students, staff and community volunteers who took part in any way to make the walk possible. Christmas Jumper day raised £302.12 for Save the Children.

Finally, I would like to thank you all, parents, pupils and friends of Langtree, for your continued support and to wish you and your loved ones a New Year of health and happiness.

Simon Bamford
Headteacher

Christmas Extravaganza Concert



Christmas Hampers

Thank you for all the donations towards our hampers this year.



Year 11 Ski Trip Italy December 2022



After the huge disappointment of being unable to travel at Easter, the Year 11 Ski trip was worth both the wait and the journey.....



| SPORTS RESULTS Term 2 | | Opponents | Result | Noteworthy achievement |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|---|
| 2/11 | Year 7 Hockey | Gillotts | Team 1 - Lost 3-1 Team 2 - Won 4-1 | POM: Chloe J POM: Emmy R |
| 8/11 | South Oxon Cross Country - All Years   | Year 7 Girls - 2nd Overall Caitlin Kinloch 2nd individual Year 7 Boys - 4th Overall - Pip Lord 2nd Ind Year 8/9 Girls - 1st Overall - Emily Lewis 3rd Ind Year 8/9 Boys - 4th Overall (3 runners only) Josh Sudbury 2nd and Will Kent 3rd Ind Year 10/11 Girls - 1st Overall - Poppy Chick 1st Ind Year 10/11 boys - 3rd Overall. Amazing job everybody, some great performances in not very nice conditions   |   | |
| 15/11 | Year 10 Hockey | Wallingford | Won 2-0 POM: Mia H |  |
| 15/11 | Year 11 Hockey | Icknield | Won 5-4 POM: Lola B-S | |
| 17/11 | Year 9 Mixed Hockey | Venue: Wallingford School | |  |
| 24/11 | Year 10 Hockey | Icknield | Won:3-1 POM: Elise W | |
| 29/11 | Year 9 Girls + 10/11 Rowing | Icknield | Year 9 Girls Relay Winners Year 10/11 Girls Relay 2nd | |
| 30/11 | Year 10/11 Girls Football | Chiltern Edge Icknield | Won 4-0 Won 4-0 |  |
| 1/12 | Year 10/11 Girls and Boys Badminton | Icknield DGS | Girls- 2nd overall Boys- 4th overall |  |
| 1/12 | Year 7 Football | Chiltern Edge Icknield | Won 3-0 Won 7-0 | Pom: Ana D |
| 6/12 | Year 8 Mixed Hockey Tournament | Wallingford x2 Gillotts Icknield x2 | Year 7- 1st place Year 8- 2nd place | Massive congratulations to both teams. Special mention to our year 7 team who played up a year and WON the competition. |
| 7/12 | U16 Girls County Cup Quarter Final | Cherwell | Lost 8-3 against a VERY strong Cherwell team | POM: Aoife M |
| 8/12 | Year 7 Girls Football | Wheatley Park | Won 12-2 | Grace C (5), Lucy C (4), Ana D (2), Caitlin K (1) Pom: Grace C & Ana D |

Huge Congratulations

to the following Year 10 students who have been accepted onto the work experience placement scheme at Oxford Playhouse Theatre!



Students had to write an application to compete for a place with students from schools all across Oxfordshire!

Well done to:

Monty, Rebekah, Sian, Erin, Lyla and Eleni.

#beinspired

Visit from the Cabin Pre-School

Congratulations to Josie, Connie, Tabitha and Jill in Year 9, who have created a devised piece of Theatre-in-Education, for the target audience of children aged 3 - 5 years old. The piece focused on sharing and how to be a good friend. On the 29th November, we were delighted to welcome children from the Cabin pre-school as an audience. The girls performed their drama piece with great skill and energy - doing an amazing job of putting the children at ease and including them in the performance. They loved it! I am very proud of our students, for helping us to re-connect with the Cabin and representing Langtree so skilfully.



Drama Club, Orchestra, Senior and Junior Choir— November's Arts Evening.

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome our audience for the Arts Evening in November.

Featuring original drama pieces devised by the KS3 Drama Club,

plus performances by our student orchestra, and Senior and Junior Choirs - we enjoyed a great evening of entertainment.

Congratulations to all who took part - you did yourselves proud!

Mrs Pimm and Mr Henderson



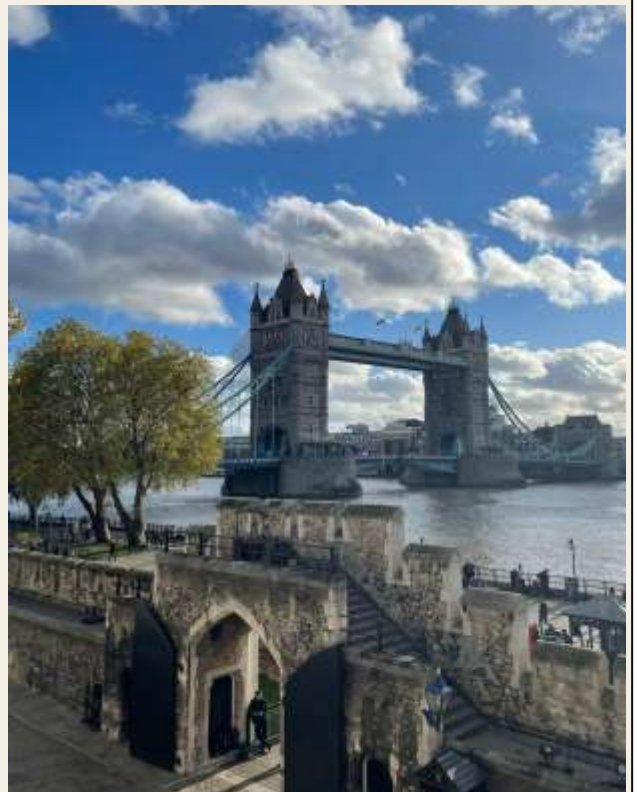
Prince's Trust students visited a rewilding project near Gallowstree Common to learn about farming and conservation, followed by some practical tasks and crafts, hedge laying and planting, hurdle-making and constructing beetle banks. Their hosts Clive and Veronica shared their experiences in the industry and were very impressed with the Langtree students who took part in the visit. *"Thank you all for coming on Friday and today to see our rewilding project. We really enjoyed showing the pupils round and were most impressed with how hard they worked and how well they bonded as a team and seemed to enjoy the experience"*



The Tower of London Trip—Year 7

On Creativity Day, the History department took all of Year 7 to the Tower of London. At the start of the trip, we saw Wakefield Tower, unfortunately Mr Wakefield was not with us on that trip so his tutor group – 7IWA – took a picture by the tower. Later, we went and saw the ravens who live in the tower but sadly, they were being kept in their aviary because of Avian (bird) flu. After that we went to the jewel house to see the crown jewels. The first things we saw here were the swords and other weapons which have belonged to many different monarchs over the past centuries. As we saw the main crown jewels, we went on slow-moving travelators which people had fun on. Some of them included: St Edward's crown, The Sovereign's Orb and Sceptre. We also saw the Koh-I-Nor diamond, which was the largest of its time, on Queen Elizabeth II mother's crown. Year 7 also went and looked around the White Tower where we saw William the Conqueror and Charles I armour. As we neared the end of the Tower of London part of the trip, we went down a spiral staircase to the basement of the castle and finished by eating our lunch.
Emily Elkin

After we visited the Tower of London we had to walk to the Tate modern. As we were walking along the Thames the wash from a boat splashed on us and got our feet wet. After walking along the river for a while we crossed a bridge. There were lots of cars and lorries on the road and each time they beeped their horns at each other we all started cheering. We caused nearly every car on the bridge to beep their horns so that we would cheer. On the way there we saw a street performer who as he saw us passing started singing baby shark. Everyone sang along and it was hilarious to watch. Once we reached Tate Modern we split into groups and went into the turbine hall. In the hall we saw a large art piece called the Woven Spider Web (or Brain Forest Quipu) which looked like a giant dream catcher. Then we went up the long escalator and entered the gallery. The first thing we saw was the paintings by Gerard Richter. The way he accomplished his unique style was by applying layers of paint and then wiping a squeegee across the canvas. In the next room we saw The Snail by Henri Matisse. It is a colourful abstract work that challenges you to see the intended picture. The next piece we came across was the Cy Twombly display which is a red scribble (paint) across a large canvas. Co-op Monochrome till receipt is a piece by Cael Floyer which is simply a co-op receipt in which every item bought was white. Finally, in a dark room we saw a film with all the characters, which were carefully painted puppets, on strings controlling their every move.
Yvonne Smart



The essay was written by Pip Lord (7CJu) and got him to the final of the **STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory School Science Prize**. He was one of 15 finalists to be invited to the celebration event at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory on Wednesday 7th December. Pip wrote of the event: *The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory has an amazing laser facility with extremely powerful lasers for scientific study in areas such as atomic physics, medical diagnostics, biochemistry and environmental science. The finalists were taken on a special tour to see one of these - which meant dressing up in a lab coat, shoe covers and a hair net to protect the sophisticated equipment! There were also other exhibits such as a selection of weights showing how much a kilo on another planet would weigh on Earth, depending on gravitational pull. After the tour the finalists and their families went to the lecture theatre to watch each finalist's video presentation which they had to submit the week before (I'm holding a guitar in this photo because I talked about how the sound involves physics). There was then a presentation by a scientist from Boulby Mine Laboratory, which is deep underground so the research into dark matter is not affected by cosmic radiation. At the end of the event the winners were announced and all the finalists were given a certificate. It was a really exciting and interesting evening.*



Why I love science

By Pip Lord, year 7

Langtree School

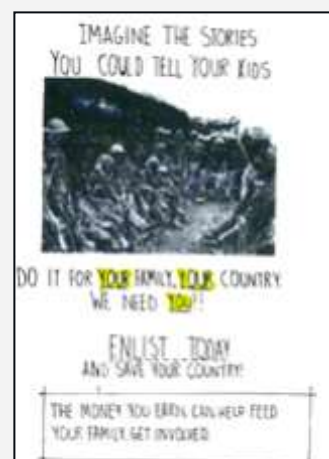
Science is part of everything we do, from cleaning our teeth to travelling to school on the bus and digesting our dinner! Lots of the things we do and have invented might not seem like science, but actually without science our world wouldn't exist, and it is science that helps us make things better.

I have loved science since I was little. I remember my science lessons at primary school which were great fun. We grew sunflowers and made electrical circuits with double A batteries, wires and tiny lightbulbs. In year 6 our circuits were more complicated and included buzzers. I also used to go to Saturday Science Club in Oxford with my brother which was brilliant. There were all sorts of activities like making slime, engineering projects and learning about earthworms. It was Saturday Science Club that made me realise how science is part of everything. I love playing cricket and know that my pace bowling is all about the physics of speed and distance, with my body propelling the ball. Shining one half of the ball on my cricket whites helps the ball swing, with the shiny half cutting through the air more quickly. Physics helps me become a better cricketer.

Another of my hobbies is playing the guitar and this also involves lots of science. When I play Hotel California the hollow body of the guitar amplifies the noise of the vibrating strings, making a lovely sound (when I have tuned the strings properly!). Playing my guitar helps me relax and is a break from school work, so the science behind it makes me happy.

Science is a huge and infinite subject and this is what makes it part of everything in our lives. There is no end to science and you can never learn it all. This makes it incredibly exciting as it gives us so many opportunities to explore and understand how things work, like our universe. It gives us knowledge about our past and our future. Science will help us one day discover if there is life on other planets. It is also what gives us answers to life's questions and helps us create solutions to enormous problems like climate change. For example, electric cars, renewable energy and new materials to replace plastics are all helping to reduce the carbon and pollution we are producing.

Another reason I love science is that it helps us fight disease. The COVID vaccine, cancer drugs and other medicines have saved many lives and scientists are constantly researching cures and making new discoveries. This is why I think it is so important that science is taught to young children so that they understand from an early age how important it is and may then want to grow up and become scientists themselves. I want to be an electrical engineer so I know I need to continue to study science so I can make a difference in the future.



Year 9 History
Year 9 have been looking at propaganda and WWI and created posters that have been entered into The Western Front Association—schools competition Recruitment and the First World War.



Front Line Living History —shared their expertise in all aspects of WWI, bringing genuine artifacts, uniform, medical and first aid equipment. Students were involved in some re-enactment, artifact handling and trying on parts of uniform from WWI.



Battlefields Trip November 2022

After leaving Langtree in the middle of the night and watching the sunrise as we crossed the English Channel to Dunkirk we travelled to Ypres Salient visiting Bellewaarde Ridge, Hooze Crater Museum, Hill 60 and Caterpillar Crater, before arriving at our hostel. Day 2 took us to the Essex Farm Military Cemetery, the Brooding Soldier Memorial near Langemark, the German Cemetery at Langemark

and Tyne Cot Military Cemetery and Memorial, Tyne Cot is the largest British & Commonwealth military cemetery in the world, the resting place of over 11,900 men of Britain and her former Empire. Just 3,606 of the burials are identified. We attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, students from Langtree were able to lay a wreath to the memory of those who did not return. Tabitha read the commendation during the ceremony at the invitation of the Last Post Association. Our final day took us to Poperinge, and Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery ending with a visit to Talbot House the Every Man's Club for tea and cake. On the ferry we watched the sun set as we crossed the English Channel as we headed home.





The Cooking for Life group created beautiful cupcakes and canapés. These were due to be enjoyed at the Senior Citizens Christmas Party, which unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last minute. However, staff were delighted to enjoy sampling the group's creations, which were all beautifully made and very tasty.





2022 – 2023 Term Dates

Christmas Holiday – Monday 19th December 2022 – Monday 2nd January 2023

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| Tuesday 3rd January | Start of Term 3 |
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| Thursday 9th February | End of Term 3 |
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| Friday 10th February | INSET DAY |
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February Break – Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February 2023

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| Monday 20th February | Start of Term 4 |
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| Friday 31st March | End of Term 4 |
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Easter Holiday – Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April 2023

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| Monday 17th April | Start of Term 5 |
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| Monday 1st May | May Day Bank Holiday |
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| Friday 26th May | End of Term 5 |
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May Holiday – Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

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| Monday 5th June | Start of Term 6 |
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| Friday 23rd June | INSET DAY |
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| Friday 21st July | End of Term 6 (Half Day) |
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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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