

May 2023 Newsletter



It has been a very exciting half term where we have seen the culmination of Year 11's hard work and efforts as they started their GCSE examinations and a full range of activities and events showcasing the talents, skills and abilities of many of our pupils.

We are extremely proud of our sporting successes, charity work and the variety of achievements by our young people.

Our under 13 girls football team won their quarter final of the National Small Schools tournament. They are off to Yorkshire to play their semi final tie.

The year 10 drama students have produced some outstanding short plays to show the examiners next week. I was lucky enough to see some of the dress rehearsals - the plays are clever, thought provoking, amusing and moving.

The Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Award students told an invited audience all about their recent expeditions. It sounds like they learnt a great deal - not least the importance of accurate map skills.

The Year 11 students all dressed up and enjoyed their Leavers Day. Mr Sinnamon made a huge effort to plan a day of fun activities and decorated the school hall for the leavers lunch. The students made a surreal sight in their colourful and creative fancy dress.

We are looking forward to a busy Term 6 to end the academic year, including a number of trips and visits in our end of term Activity Week, Sports Day, Year 11 Prom and Year 10 work experience.

Simon Bamford

Headteacher

Year 7 Matisse inspired still life



Under 13 Girls Football One step away from a National FINAL

The under 13 girls (Year 7 and 8) football team recently travelled to Lincoln to compete in the quarter final of the National Small Schools competition. After the long journey, the girls worked together to produce a winning performance of 2-0. It is the first time Langtree School have made it this far in the competition. The semi final will be played in Harrogate after half term. We wish all of the girls the best of luck!



Mr Henderson retires from teaching at the end of this term, after a 40 year teaching career.

Mr Henderson joined Langtree in September 2014 and immediately made a big impact on the musical life of the school. Concerts, Soirees, Ensembles, Choirs, Orchestras, and of course Whole School Productions, most recently Bugsy Malone. Previously productions of Pan, Little Shop of Horrors, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Joseph were hugely enjoyed by the whole school and wider community. We all wish Mr Henderson a long and happy retirement and hope that he will continue to be a regular visitor to Langtree





Yenworthy North Devon Surf Trip 2023

After dinner on the first evening we got to do a low ropes course which was great fun and we all burnt off loads of energy from the 5 hour bus journey there! My favourite part was squeezing through the tyre tunnel because we all got a bit stuck and had to help each other out.

On Saturday we drove to Putsborough beach, got into our wetsuits and then went down to the beach. I really enjoyed getting taught the surfing techniques before going surfing in the water with my partner. It was really fun catching waves, learning to stand up and then falling off the board.

On Saturday evening we played the Web of Life game which was a wide game played outside in the grounds where you were different species in the food chain having to hunt down other animals. This was very fun and if we weren't tired out by the surfing we were after all the running around! We then had hot chocolate and marshmallows by the fire and were entertained by Will telling stories.

On Sunday, we got to the beach and went surfing. We all managed to stand up on the boards and it was very fun. After getting changed we had lunch and some chocolate cookies and Mr Vitty bought us all Calippos. Then we got in the minibus and went back to the lodge to have cream teas before we finally left.



Thanks to everyone involved in organising the surfing trip. I had a great first time surfing and would love to go surfing again. I had a great time and made so many new memories.

By Iona Butterfield
And
Isaac Sentinella



Langtree students join the Oxfordshire mathematics masterclass



During the Autumn term four year 9 students were nominated to join the Oxfordshire Mathematics Masterclasses. The masterclasses are designed to encourage, inspire and engage young people in the art and practice of mathematics. These highly interactive sessions introduce students to aspects or applications of maths which are not usually covered in the school curriculum.

All four students had a brilliant experience which they have each written about below.

Mia Collins

Dylan, Laurie, Melissa, and I had the opportunity to go to Oxford University on five different Saturdays for some extra math's workshops. They covered various topics such as Vectors, which included a game to see who could get to the end of a racetrack first. While in a session on counting and chances, which was all about probability, we looked at things like Pascal's Triangle. There were various other interesting sessions too.

It was a great experience!

Melissa Loyd

Four of us went to the maths institute in Oxford where we attended 5 masterclasses. The building was very modern and grand, it had many areas of geometric designs. The people in charge were very welcoming and made sure everything ran smoothly. There were 5 separate master classes, each about a different topic. The lessons consisted of new and interesting topics, they involved lots of independent and group thinking as well as fun activities, with worksheets that you could take home. All the lecturers and helpers were very kind and explained the subjects very well. In each class was about 20 to 30 students so the classes were very interactive and a lot less daunting than I had thought. Overall, the experience was 10/10 and it showed me that there was more to maths than I had thought before.

Dylan Mole

On Saturday 21st January I arrived in Oxford at 9am (the masterclass started at 9:30). As I entered the lecture room, I was met by the kind, funny and interesting lecturer. The first session was on vectors and during the session, we played a car racing game related to vectors. The game was as follows: $1,1 = 1$ square right and 1 square up; $-1,-1$ meaning one square left and one square down. On your turn, you could add or minus either or both numbers by 1 more or less then your vector on your previous go.



Laurence Mills

From the 21st of January to the of 11th March I was lucky enough to be invited to the Junior Maths Masterclasses being held at Oxford University, in the beautiful Andrew Wiles Building. It is a very large and modern building that is mostly underground. These masterclasses were all about problem solving and finding solutions to different puzzles that would be set for us. Every Saturday we would have a different teacher and different problems to solve, ranging from calculus to entrance exam questions to counting. I feel very lucky to have been invited to this opportunity and would definitely want to go again next year.

In the first week we started vector calculus. Although the complicated name vector calculus was just counting steps on a 2d grid. In the second week we worked on Pythagorean triples. That week we were asked to solve a complex problem about triangles that usually appears in the university's entrance exam. In the third week, we worked on counting in circles. We were working to solve the Josephus problem; it is how to win if everyone stands in a circle and the person to the left is eliminated, one by one, until one person remains. In the fourth week we were asked if you could ever predict anything random. We experimented with random walks on a 2d plane and tried to predict where we might end up. In the final week we were counting using Pascal's triangle and how to win any game using special dice.



MATHEMATICAL
INSTITUTE

These masterclasses were a privilege to go to and I think that all Langtree students should aspire to go. There we learned that maths is more than just solving problems over and over, and we also go to meet new people. I am extremely thankful for Langtree school for providing this opportunity and I am thankful for being invited.

UK Junior Mathematics Challenge – 2023

Some of our top mathematics students in Years 7 and 8 entered the national Junior Maths Challenge competition this April, with some outstanding results.

The Challenges are run annually by the University of Leeds and over 200,000 students across the United Kingdom

participated, with the top 6% receiving a gold award, the next 13% receiving silver, and the next 21% bronze.

Overall there were four Gold Awards, for Noah and Spencer in Year 8 and in Emily and Nicholas in Year 7. A further 11 silver awards and 22 bronze awards were achieved. Congratulations to all who participated! Mr Jones



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

Identity - self portraits inspired by Chris Ofili's work



Student reviews of 'Peter Pan' at Reading Rep Theatre

Peter Pan was an outstanding piece of work made using clever techniques and lighting. Their teamwork was great and their choreography was incredible! I was impressed by the way Tinkerbell was made using small flashlights in the actors hands, and the way that smoke machines were used to create an eerie effect. All these little details came together to make an amazing show and honestly, one of the best I have ever seen. 10/10 stars, and I would recommend anyone reading this to buy themselves a ticket to see the next show!
by Hugo, year 7.

I think the Peter Pan performance was great, the actors were able to portray multiple people and they did it perfectly. There were a lot of funny bits and the non-actors who were working as narrators/lighting made it even better and more interactive. The sound effects added a lot too, because you could tell that Tinkerbell was her even though she was just a pinprick of torch light. The costumes were also very pretty, especially Peter Pan's which looked like jungle vines, a very fitting match. The main pirate, Hook, had a great costume too, and a great voice.
by Florence, year 7

An evening of imagination and adventure, a modern twist on a classic tale.

The cast and production provided a well choreographed performance, the actors showed real talent and entertained us from start to finish. The story had good structure and could have easily made us believe this story was real. The part of the show that stands out for me is when Peter Pan realised his best friend will do anything to protect him, even risk her life for him. The theatre on the evening was inviting, clean and comfortable, and a place I would like to visit again. Seeing productions like this really inspires me to continue my hope to become a performer myself and be on stage.
by Ruby, year 7

I thought the Peter Pan theatre visit was amazing. I liked how several actors played more than one different role different role. My favourite part was the Tinker Bell bits because I really liked how they used the lights as her. She is one of my favourite characters. I also really liked the use of music when they entered Netherland. I also really liked the detail on the map prop [curtain] and the use of all the props.
by Elodie, year 7



Food Department

This term the Year 10 Food Technology group took part in a "Curry Challenge" the results look delicious, and the Year 10 GCSE Food students took on a Food Styling challenge.

All the dishes in both challenges were made from scratch.



Year 9 Lino Prints





2022 – 2023 Term Dates

Easter Holiday – Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April 2023

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| Monday 17th April | Start of Term 5 |
| Monday 1st May | May Day Bank Holiday |
| Monday 8th May | Additional Bank Holiday - Coronation |
| Friday 26th May | End of Term 5 |

May Holiday – Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

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



2023 – 2024 Term Dates 4 further inset days to be added

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Monday 4th September 2023 | Inset Day |
| Tuesday 5th September | Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students - Induction Day |
| Wednesday 6th September | Start of Term 1 for all other students. |
| Wednesday 13th September | Year 7 and 8 Curriculum Information Evening |
| Thursday 21st September | OPEN EVENING - half day for student's, school ends at 1.20pm |
| Friday 22nd September | SPONSORED WALK |
| Wednesday 27th September | OPEN MORNING - for parents of students in Year 6 |
| Wednesday 27th September | Year 9, 10 and 11 Curriculum Information Evening |
| Thursday 28th September | OPEN MORNING - for parents of students in Year 6 |
| Friday 29th September | INSET DAY |
| Friday 20th October | End of Term 1 |

October Break – 21st October – 29th October 2023

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| Monday 30th October | Start of Term 2 |
| 20th November to 1st December | Year 11 Mock Exams |
| Wednesday 20th December | End of Term 2 (Half Day school closes at 12.30pm) |

Christmas Holiday – 21st December – 7th January

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|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday 8th January 2024 | Start of Term 3 |
| Friday 9th February | End of Term 3 |

February Break – 10th February – 18th February

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| Monday 19th February | Start of Term 4 |
| Thursday 28th March | End of Term 4 |

Easter Holiday – 29th March – 14th April

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| Monday 15th April | Start of Term 5 |
| 29th April to 10th May | Year 10 Mock Exams |
| Monday 6th May | May Day Bank Holiday |
| Monday 13th May | GCSE Exams Start |
| Friday 24th May | End of Term 5 |

May Holiday – 25th May – 2nd June

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|------------------------|---|
| Monday 3rd June | Start of Term 6 |
| 15th July to 19th July | Activities Week |
| Wednesday 24th July | End of Term 6 (Half Day school closes at 12.30pm) |

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. Un-named 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.

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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