

Autumn 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents, Students and wider community

Another successful and enjoyable term at Langtree draws to a close. Our new year 7 students seem to have settled in and are now fully part of our vibrant community. Our new staff too, are making hugely valuable contributions to school life.

This term started with us celebrating another very successful set of exam results. Our class of 2023 did extremely well in their GCSE and other exams. Only this morning the new league tables have been published, and our Progress 8 score of 0.72 puts us in the top 3 of all 110 secondary schools in Oxfordshire, and firmly in the top 10% of all schools nationally.

As we know it is not only the academic achievement of our students that makes Langtree the flourishing school it is - we have had success on the sports field - rugby and netball have been the main sports this term, and all years have had superb results against other local schools.

Rehearsals for our school production, "Nativity The Musical" picked to coincide with the move to December this year - are in full swing - it is great to hear the performances and excitement permeating through the building as it all starts coming together for the performances on 4th, 5th and 6th December.

Term 1 is always busy with open events. As usual our Open Evening and Open Mornings were exciting and crowded events, with primary school pupils and their families coming from far and wide to witness for themselves what makes Langtree so successful. The answer, as it always is, is our phenomenal students and fantastic staff. The students excelled as tour guides, subject hosts and demonstrators. As always, our staff went over and above in their efforts to show our visitors what an amazing place Langtree is to learn. Parent after parent were telling me how impressed they were with our mature and erudite students and the engagement and openness of our staff.

This term we have also had curriculum information evenings, a sponsored walk (raising over £6000 at the last count), the year 11 geography field trip to Swanage, the year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award group commenced and only yesterday we sent two teams to The Oratory School to compete in the Oratory Rising Stars competition. Obviously we won!

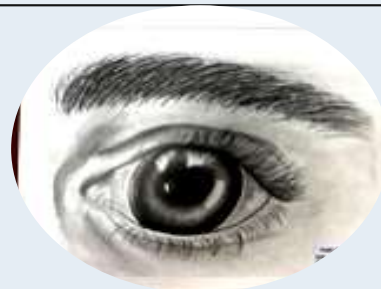
Finally, I am very excited to share with you the fact that we have again been shortlisted for the National Secondary School of the Year Award. I am not sure whether someone in our community is nominating us (if so, thank you very much) or whether Langtree's fame has reached national levels. I suspect we will not win (as we have not paid £325 per ticket to the awards dinner) but it is very nice to be in the final again.

Next term promises to be just as busy, with Creativity day on 9th November, certificate presentation evening for the Year 11 Class of 2023, the year 10 trip to Berlin, Year 11 Mock Exams and of course the school production of "Nativity the Musical"..

So, I wish you all a relaxing break and I hope you are all looking forward, as I am, to next term with excitement.

Simon Bamford—Headteacher

Art—Year 8 pencil studies of an eye



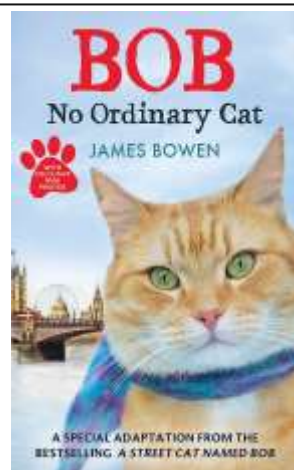


English Department

The Year 7 online Book Group started in earnest this year with our first meeting on Monday 16th October. Our first book was Bob the Cat, which proved very popular with the group, gaining on average 4½ stars! The meeting generated some lovely discussions around the themes and content of the story, as well as its genre; a non-fiction story based on fact. Thank you to all those Year 7s (and their parents!) who attended. It's a lovely thing to be able to read together at home and then discuss ideas in more detail with the group.

If you are in Year 7 and would like to take part next half term, we will be meeting on Monday 11th December to discuss our next book; The Mighty Miss Malone by Chris Paul Curtis.

Please contact Mrs Maunder-Hand for more details:
kmaunder-hand@langtreeschool.com



Romeo and Juliet came to Langtree this week, a special performance for Year 11 ahead of their GCSE English Literature exam. Many thanks to the Guildford Shakespeare Company for their brilliant performance, bringing the classic tale of Romeo and Juliet to life. Year 11, you were also awesome! Completely engaged and appreciative of the performance.



In English Year 10 have been studying poetry from the brand new GCSE anthology. One poem, 'A Portable Paradise' by Roger Robinson has been particularly inspirational for the students and they have been writing their own portable paradise poems.

Paradise by Iona

And if I speak of Paradise,
It's something of my own
But, no, it's not set in stone
No, for my Paradise is so much more
It can take all kinds of forms
From the clothes I wear
To the fresh breath of morning air

It's the chance
For every day to be the turning page
Of a book I've not yet read
The potential to be anything
Through the power of my head

I can travel far and wide
High up in the soaring sky
Or
I can stick to the welcoming warmth of inside
Curl up in my cosy bed and hide
Either way
No-one will bat an eye

Yes, my Paradise is freedom
I have the privilege
To be free
And fell
For I am not concealed.

My portable Paradise by Dan

And if I speak of paradise
I speak of the salty smell of the sea
In my own island paradise
In the middle of the Irish sea
With beaches laden with shells
The wind whistles its favourite song
Soft crab baps aplenty
As the soft white sand cushions your skin
A world where nothing could upset you,
A portable paradise

Portable Paradise by Max

And if I speak of Paradise,
then I'm speaking of..... My grandma
Who always told me to follow my dreams
She left a notebook for me to write a diary
To remember how it started

The feel of the smooth edges on my fingers
The new book spell on each page
As the memories flow back to the mind
If you are every struggling to pursue your dreams
Find an empty notebook and just write

Under torchlight, under the sun
warm , cold, mountain or hills
Shine the light onto your page
Awake chasing that dream each morning
Till the sunsets on your goal.

Portable Paradise by Josie

And if I speak of Paradise,
then I'm speaking of winter
And Christmas songs on the radio
With snow falling outside the car door.

Locked away, with the logs
Crackling in the fireplace, the
Smell of cinnamon packing into the room
And presents packed under the tree.

A portable paradise by Dom

The feeling, tingles down my back
As light emerges through the trees.
Small thuds on the dirty track
And the slow cool winter breeze.

Stepping out the sun shines bright
And I breathe a deep breath in.
A hill to climb at such a height
But worth it for the sight.

We start up and snow slowly drops
The colour of purest white.
We're so close to the top
Much to my delight.

We reach the top and we see
An immense, picturesque view
An infinite wood of only green
And it's the best thing I've ever seen.
And if life ever comes to a grind,
The moment always comes to my mind.

Portable Paradise by Wynne

And if I speak of Paradise,
then I'm speaking of the crunch the ground makes on a cold frosty morning,
The smoke pouring out your mouth like a dragon's breath on a wintry day.
But returning home to be welcomed by a flicking fire,

When you lay in bed with just your music and the gentle hum of cats purr,
The familiar smell of you and your house which is lost in everyday life.
The feeling of a weight being lifted off your shoulders as there is nothing to worry about.

And if I speak of Paradise,
Then I'm speaking of the joy of being able to do what you love with no pressure or stress.

A Portable Paradise by Liam

And if I speak of Paradise,
then I'm speaking of a room
a room of soft squishy grey carpet
the carpet lighty complement by the grey
but still some how colourful wallpaper.

The dark purple sofa clashing against the light flaming sun and the bright green glowing trees
The vines spreading down the side of the house like and infection.

The electric guitar leaning against the wall its wire winding down to the amp like a narrowing river
Winding round
the electric guitar patiently and silently waiting to be played.

KS 3 Art Sketch Book Covers



KS 3 Art Sketch Book Covers

Langtree School Catering Team – success on a plate!

The Catering team (led by Amanda) has undergone significant changes with the new catering contractor, ABM Catering starting in September. In addition to that, we're incredibly proud of them for **maintaining their '5 Scores on the Doors' this month**. The team have worked tirelessly to work with new people, new recipes and new suppliers; they could have been excused if they had dropped a ball. They have carried on with absolute integrity and we think they've smashed it!



Left to right: Amanda (Catering Manager), Andrea (Baker extraordinaire), Ane-Mary (Chief bottle washer),

Lala (Queen of Grab and Go), Nav (Operations Manager, ABM), Lisa (Main Cook), Brian (Primary School provider and support)

You may have heard your child talking about the new 'Hydration Station'. This is chilled water that only contains fresh fruit to flavour it; bring your own water bottle to top up free of charge during the day.



Our students are enjoying the change in meals with meal take-up significantly increasing. Main meals have a new, fresher look and taste to them.

The team are increasingly creative at making meals accessible to those students who would like to take their meal outside to eat. Prices are now clearly displayed, making choices easier. All perfect for the Year 10/11 who may want to eat off site.

"Grab and go" continues to be popular with an ever-increasing variety to choose from at both break and lunch time.



We have a new till and queueing layout and are working on improving the flow through the canteen. This has significantly improved since the first week of term. Thank you to all the students for bearing with us while we've developed the best system. When they do get to the till there is a fantastic array of sweet rewards for them to choose from.

Langtree PTA

Last Saturday 14th October yet again saw a fantastic team of parents, students and a headteacher arrive for our autumn 'Love Our Langtree.'

We were delighted to have 16, enthusiastic and hard working individuals weeding and planting wild flower bulbs in the courtyard areas, trimming hedges and trees, as well as clearing leaves and debris following the autumn winds.

We all agreed we can really start to see how our termly tidy ups are making a sustained difference to the school and we hope you think so too!

One generous member of the LOL team has donated two fabulous planters, which are now situated outside the main reception. We hope these make a welcoming sight :)

For anyone who would like to offer a couple of hours to this extremely rewarding enterprise, our next Love Our Langtree will be in the new year. We always promise a cuppa and fantastic biscuits too!

Please contact Jules Woodall juliet_white@hotmail.com if you have any questions, want to get involved or wish to make a plant or other donation. Thank you as always, to Woodcote Garden Centre for supporting us





Rehearsals for Nativity are in full flow! Our amazing cast are working so hard and we are so proud of them. With this level of talent and enthusiasm, our audiences are in for a huge, Christmassy treat!

Make sure you save the date (4-6th Dec). Keep an eye on the weekly news bulletin for announcements about when tickets will go on sale! See you there,

Mrs Pimm & Mr Bradley



Theatre Visit—"Life of Pi"

It was wonderful to be able to take 50 of our students to see 'Life of Pi' this term, at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking.

This touring production is straight from the West End, and we were so impressed by how the actors, puppets and designs worked together to create such a powerful impact.

Tabby enthused, 'I loved how they did the scene changes with the boat, and the projections throughout. It was so imaginative'.

Will added 'I loved how realistic the animal puppets were in their movements. It was an amazing show. Five stars!'.

Mrs Pimm



Sports Results Term 1

Date	Sport and Year	Opponents	Result	Noteworthy achievement/ Player of the Match
18/9	Year 9 Boys Football	John O Gaunt	Lost 3-1	Goal scorer Isaac B
19/9	Year 10 Hockey	Wallingford	Won 2-0	POM: Alice B
26/9	Year 10 Hockey	Gillotts	Lost 2-0	POM: Kristen L
27/9	Year 8/9 Rugby	Wheatley Park	Lost 30-25	POM: Gideon L
27/9	Year 7 Hockey	Icknield	Team 1- Won 4-1 and 1-0 Team 2- Won 2-0 and 2-1	POMS: Tabby, Ava, Ryleigh, May
28/9	Year 11 Boys Football	Larkmead	Lost 0-1	
3/10	Year 8 Hockey	Wallingford	Won 5-0	POM: all players!
3/10	Year 8 Hockey	Gillotts A & B	A—Drew 2-2 B—Lost 1-3	POM: Chloe J POM: Rosie C
3/10	Year 9&10 Girls Football	Holyport	Drew 1-1 in the game Lost 2-0 on pens	POM: Betsy S
3/10	Year 8 Boys Football	Woodgreen	Drew 0-0 Lost 3-0 on pens	POM: Coby L
4/10	Year 7 Rugby	Icknield	Drew 40-40 (8 tries each)	POM: Asher B
5/10	Year 7 Hockey	Gillotts A & B	A—Lost 4-1 B—Lost 6-0	POM: Tabby L POM: May J
5/10	Year 11 Rugby	Icknield	Lost 17-12	POM: Casper C
11/10	Year 7 Rugby	Wallingford St Birinus	20-5 Lost 40-0 Lost	POM: Bear B POM: Roo H
11/10	Year 9 Rugby	Wallingford St Birinus	Lost 14-38 Lost 12-28	POM: Riley C POM: Lawrence W
12/10	Year 9 Hockey	Icknield	Lost 4-2	POM: Holly W
12/10	Year 11 Rugby	Wallingford St Birinus	Won 27-5 Won 12-7	POM: Connor B POM: Casper C
18/10	Year 8 Hockey	Gillotts A & B Gillotts B	Won 5-1—A Won 2-1—B	POM: George A POM: Caitlin K
18/10	Year 8 Hockey	Wallingford A&	Won 3-1—A Won 4-1—B	POM: George A POM: Rosie C
19/10	Year 10/11 Rugby	Gillotts	Lost 36-26	POM: Whole team





Success away from Langtree

Congratulations to Harley who continues to have great success in the boxing ring, winning another competition this term with a unanimous win in the final, another gold medal to add to his collection.

Jake has continued to race karts this year taking part in the British Karting Championship this year. Jake's mum writes that *"The championship has been a rollercoaster with 5 rounds taking us all over the country from PFI in Lincolnshire, Glan y Gors in Wales, Shenington near Banbury, Whilton Mill near Daventry and Rowrah in Cumbria. Some real highs and a lot of lows, or as we like to call it character building."*

Highlights from round 1 at PFI was getting Pole Position. Round 2 at Glan y Gors finishing 2nd in the pre-final. Round 3 at Shenington finishing 4th in the final just missing out on a podium. Round 4 at Whilton Mill starting from P10 and finishing 3rd in Heat 2.

Jake finished the season at Rowrah in Cumbria on a high and managed to get a 3rd position in the final, finally getting on the podium. And finished 6th overall in the British Karting championship".



Duke of Edinburgh Award

The presentation ceremony for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards took place on Henley Town Hall this term. The presentations were done by The presentation was done by Abi and Emily who have just returned from representing Great Britain in the Under 19s World Rowing Championships.

The Langtree students gaining their Bronze awards were:

Daniel C, Adam S, Josie H, Kirsten L, Amelie O, Louis H, Gabriel L, Elizabeth D, Betsy S, Evie L, Oliver H, Lillian PH, Sophie P, Freya T, Hannah T, Orry B, Jack H, Cameron J, Laurence M, Jake N, Gustav A, Benjamin H, Dominic J, Jacob V, Aidan W, Emma A, Lucy G, Freya H, Matthew McC, Isaac S.

Congratulations all.

Further congratulations to 4 students gaining their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award: Anna K, Megan K, Poppy C and Lucy B.



Berkshire Scouts— Project Africa—Malawi 2024

I am from the West Pang Explorer Group, and in 2024 myself and 70 other young people are going on an expedition to Southern Africa with Berkshire Scouts.

Five 14-18 year olds from Langtree are currently fundraising to travel to Malawi and work with the charity Joshua to build and renovate a community centre in Milo. Joshua is a British charity operating in Malawi; their goal is to keep orphans in their communities and we will be helping them do this by building a village community centre and refurbishing existing centres and schools.

Southern Malawi suffered a catastrophic cyclone earlier this year and much of village infrastructure was swept away in floods and mudslides and so there is a great need for rebuilding. We will be working alongside local builders and they will be teaching us to make and lay bricks, paint walls and paint educational murals (e.g. the structure of the heart) and make cement (among other things).

The real challenge we each face is raising the £3,750 necessary to cover: all the training we need to be ready, travelling there, food whilst we're there, camping equipment, insurance, and a contribution to project costs. We only have 12 months to raise a very daunting sum of money and we hope that you can help us. Look out for events around the school (such as a monthly tuck shop, a bake sale and a sponsored family run (other events may be run so keep an eye out; we would be incredibly grateful for your support and any donations to our group Go Fund Me (<https://gofund.me/37f1cf58>) are hugely appreciated.

We look forward to sharing news of our exciting journey with you over the next 12 months!

Charlotte Binns (Year 11, Malawi 2024 participant)

Pictures of a community centre built by 'Joshua in Malawi'. We will fund and construct a similar building in the village of Milo and a picture of preschool children who will benefit from the new building in Milo.





2023 – 2024 Term Dates

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 for Year 6 Parents - (Half day school closes at 12.30pm)
Friday 22nd September	SPONSORED WALK
Monday 25th September	Inset Day
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 20th October	End of Term 1 (As normal 3pm)
October Break – 21st October – 29th October 2023	
Monday 30th October	Start of Term 2
Thursday 9th November	Creativity Day
20th November to 1st December	Year 11 Mock Exams
Monday 4th December	Inset Day
Wednesday 20th December	End of Term 2 (Half day school closes at 12.30pm)
Christmas Holiday – 21st December – 7th January	
Monday 8th January 2024	Start of Term 3
Wednesday 7th February	Creativity Day and End of Term 3 (As normal 3pm)
Thursday 8th February	Inset Day
February Break – 9th February – 18th February	
Monday 19th February	Start of Term 4
Thursday 28th March	End of Term 4 (As normal 3pm)
Easter Holiday – 29th March – 14th April	
Monday 15th April	Start of Term 5
17th April to 30th April	Year 10 Mock Exams
Monday 6th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 13th May to 19th June	GCSE Exams
Friday 24th May	End of Term 5 (As normal 3pm)
May Holiday – 25th May – 2nd June	
Monday 3rd June	Start of Term 6
Friday 21st June	Inset Day
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. 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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