



It is hard to believe that we are now half way through the academic year, although it is good to see that the days are getting longer and that the dark mornings of January seem behind us.

The coming of the spring should remind us all that the GCSE examinations are coming around quickly now.

Our GCSE Drama students have already taken their Non Exam Assessments (practical examinations) this week, and all excelled in these formal assessments.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students the very best in all of the GCSE examinations to come and hope that the Elevate sessions they had yesterday has inspired them all to redouble their revision efforts in the half term break and the important last lap of their time at Langtree. I am always mindful of the pressures the exams place on our young people and encourage them, and their parents, to talk to us if they feel that this pressure is having a negative effect on them.

After school revision sessions are now underway. If you are the parent of a Year 11 student, do remind them to look out for information posted on further sessions after the half term break. In addition, Year 11 students should all be making use of GCSEpod in their revision; do let us know if your son or daughter is having difficulty logging on.

Parents of Year 10 students are reminded that internal exams begin on April 17th, and GCSEpod will be an invaluable part of the students' revision for these examinations as well.

It has been a very busy term for our students, with a wealth of extra-curricular trips and visits offered to so many students. Yesterday Years 7s went to the Lyceum Theatre to see the magical Lion King musical. Year 8s went to Bristol for a history trip to see the SS Great Britain. Year 9s were in school trying to solve the science department Whodunit using forensic science techniques. While our KS4 students were in school looking incredibly grown up in their interview outfits, being interviewed by local business leaders, putting together CVs and honing their revision skills.

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 also took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge, we await their results with much anticipation.

It has always impressed me that there is such a rich programme of extra-curricular activities in our small school and I would like to thank the staff for all their additional work to make these events happen, as well as our students for being such wonderful ambassadors for the school wherever they go.

It is now time for our skiers to depart to Italy, where the snow conditions are excellent. We wish them all a safe and memorable week on the slopes! In addition, I do hope that all our students can enjoy some time with family and friends over the forthcoming half term break. Bring on the spring!

Simon Bamford

Headteacher



Year 8 Creativity Day Bristol



Holocaust Memorial Day

Year 9 and 10 historians participated in the Holocaust Educational Trust's survivor webcast to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2024. Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is marked each year on 27 January, the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau. Students had the pleasure of listening to the testimony of Hedi Argent MBE who recounted her experience of living in Austria under Nazi occupation.

She described her memories of anti semitism in the playground and the poor treatment of her father. Her father lost his job as a lawyer, was forced to scrub public toilets with a toothbrush and their house was requisitioned as part of the Nazis policies against Jewish people. Hedi also recalled the night of the November Pogrom in which Nazis escalated their persecution of Jewish people in a night of violence.

Fortuitously for Hedi and her parents, they were able to secure safe passage as refugees to Britain, however many of her friends and family were not so lucky. Hedi described her survival as a miracle.

Hedi talked to the students about the importance of being welcoming and kind to others. She described a number of occasions in which strangers showed generosity of spirit towards her and her family and showed the courage to go against the grain. I do hope that your child will be able to share these stories with you and you can discuss the importance of integrity and kindness to others.

If you would like to find out more about Hedi and her testimony you can visit <https://www.het.org.uk>

Mrs Jarvis

Head of Humanities



Debate Competition

Our debate team have recently competed in both Oxford Union and Cambridge union debate competitions. Our teams won several of their debates and it was a great opportunity for them to stretch their vocabulary, critical thinking and speaking skills - they're also now quite fluent in Latin argumentation terminology! - they did amazingly and we are very proud of them.



Project Africa Scouts Tuck Shop

Thanks to all those students who supported the Project Africa Scout Tuck Shop last week; a great success as always. The scouts are working hard on individual fundraising projects plus bigger community events like a quiz night, barn dance and the Whitchurch Art Cafe coffee shop. They are running the community coffee shop in Woodcote on Saturday 9th March. See you there!



SPORTS RESULTS—TERM 3

Date	Sport and Year	Opponents	Result	Noteworthy achievement/ Player of the Match
10/1	U16 Girls Football	Wallingford	Won 2-1	POM: Rosie K
10/1	Yr 7 Boys Football	Swan School	Won 5-2	POM: Ollie J
11/2	Yr 7&8 Girls Football	Small Schools Cup	Won: 2-1	POM: Ana D
16/1	Yr 11 Netball	Wallingford	Won: 22-8	POM: MiaH Polly G
17/1	Yr 10 Boys Football	Carterton	Won 4-3	POM: Louis H
17/1	Yr 7 Netball Yr 7 Netball	DGS DGS	Lost 12-0 Lost 3-2	POM: Ava K POM: Ana H
18/1	Yr 10 & 11 Girls Football	County Cup Final	Lost 6-3	POM: Ellen S & Alice B
19/1	Yr 9 Boys Football	Burnham School	Postponed	
23/1	Yr7 Netball	Wallingford	A- Won 6-0 B- Lost 7-5	POM: Zoe Y & Tabby L
24/1	Yr9 Netball	DGS	Lost	POM: Libby D
24/1	Yr8 Netball	DGS	Lost	POM: Olivia M
30/1	Yr8 Netball	Icknield	Won 27-0	
6/2	Year 11 Netball Tournament	Area Tournament	A- 1st place B- 6th place	POM: Rosie G POM: Mia H

Berlin Trip 2023

In December last year, myself and other history students from Years 10 & 11 visited Berlin to learn about aspects of 20th Century Germany (there might have been some Christmas shopping too).

The trip got off to a shaky start. Following our early 2am departure from school, our coach developed a puncture only 10 minutes away from the airport. Fortunately, an empty coach passing by stopped and took us the rest of the journey - credit to the teachers for not losing the plot at this point: it could have been a very short trip! After a morning of travelling, we arrived in Berlin, went for lunch at the Central Station and then embarked on a tour of the city. This included sites like the Brandenburg Gate, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews, and the DDR museum which featured interactive recreations of East German life. We then went for much needed dinner and in the evening, climbed the Reichstag dome where we took in the views from the top. After a long day, we went back to our hotel and welcomed a good night's sleep.

The second morning started with a lot of excitement surrounding the pancake maker at breakfast. Our main activity of the day was visiting Sachsenhausen concentration camp just outside of Berlin. This was a very sobering experience as we learnt about the shocking ordeals endured by victims and the awful conditions they faced. Following this we went to the Olympic Stadium where the 1936 Summer Olympics were held and Jesse Owens famously won 4 gold medals. For dinner we ate German currywurst, which not everyone was sold on but it was good to try some local cuisine. We then spent some time (and money) at the long-awaited Christmas market where there were a variety of different seasonal goods on offer.

On day three, we went to see the remains of the Berlin Wall, which came down in 1989. We then took the tram to see the Stasi prison, Berlin-Hohenschönhausen, used after WWII in East Germany and learnt about the lives of prisoners and interrogation techniques used on them. We visited Checkpoint Charlie, where the notorious confrontation between US and Soviet tanks took place and then grabbed dinner before heading off to the airport. After a smooth journey home, we arrived back at Langtree just past 1am on Saturday.

Here are some of the highlights for other students:

"I really liked the Christmas market! It was nice to have some free time looking around." - Sophia B

"I really enjoyed the Reichstag and seeing the architecture, all the memorials were very moving as well. Personally, I really liked the currywurst." - Lucy M

"On a serious note the memorials were very emotional and impactful, but the churros at the Christmas market were pretty good as well." - Polly G

"I liked the prison" - Jimmy AG

I would also like to take the opportunity to say a massive thank you to all the teachers on the trip, I had a really great time!

Megan A 11NPo



History Film Club

Film club is a club run by Miss Jarvis on Thursday lunchtimes. In it you watch films linked with history so you learn about the past in a fun way. So far this year, we have watched three films which I would recommend.

The Imitation Game is a film set in England during the second world war. In it you follow a man called Alan Turing who is trying to crack the German codes with the Enigma machine to save England and the woman whom he loves. This would complement the learning of Year 9 students.

I rate this ★★★★★ - Because I found it serious and romantic.

The Help is a film about a struggling female author in the 1960s during the civil rights movement who writes a book and some newspaper reports about African American maids, all about their point of view on the white house owners they work for and the lack of equality and hardships they go through on a daily basis. This would complement the learning of Year 8 students.

I would rate The Help - ★★★ - It was funny and sometimes very dramatic.

Jo Jo Rabbit is a 2019 film set in the second world war 2. After recovering from an injury he finds a jewish girl in his mothers attic and tries to learn more about the world outside Germany accompanied by his imaginary friend Adolf hitler as the war rages on.

I would rate Jo Jo Rabbit - ★★★★★ - Because it was comedic and very sad and suriops at times.

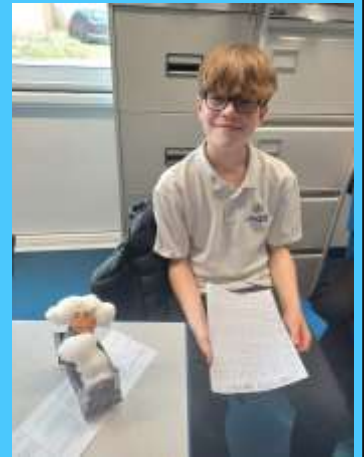
My favourite was "JoJo Rabbit" as it was very funny seeing Adolf Hitler doing pretty random things in Jo Jo's mind but was also very good at showing the darker side of things. A bonus was that it taught me quite a lot about German culture and propaganda at the time.

All students in Year 7 to 9 are welcome to Film Club - why don't you come and try it!

Matthew Year 7



Year 8 students researched British industrial inventors and evaluated their significance. They also created eggcellent eggs to accompany their speeches.



2023 2024 Term Dates Calendar

Start / End of terms and inset days

Holiday	February Break – 9th February – 18th February	
TERM 4	Monday 19th February	Start of Term 4
	Thursday 28th March	End of Term 4 (As normal 3pm)
Holiday	Easter Holiday – 29th March – 14th April	
TERM 5	Monday 15th April	Start of Term 5
	Friday 24th May	End of Term 5 (As normal 3pm)
Holiday	May Holiday – 25th May – 2nd June	
TERM 6	Monday 3rd June	Start of Term 6
	Friday 21st June	Inset Day
	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

The Langtree School Academy Trust Company, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales, company registration number 07980335. Registered Office: Langtree School, Woodcote, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 0RA.