



May 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students

May has always signalled the start of the exams season for students sitting externally assessed examinations mainly in year 11. The season usually starts with the completion of non examined assessments (NEA) or coursework as it was once known. NEA remains in a number of subjects at both GCSE and other courses and can mean completion of an ongoing process or work that is required to be completed in a very specific timeframe. Subjects such as PE, drama, DT, art, food technology and modern foreign languages have all be completing NEA over the past term and I know that there is a sense of relief when this element of courses is completed so that students can fully focus on their written exams and staff can assess the work ahead of submissions to the exam board or visits by externally appointed moderators. Without trying to overly influence the moderator, I have to say that the standard of work is exceptional this year.

We also held our Celebration Day, our chance to mark the end of our Year 11s' time at Langtree. The students fully brought into the event - arriving in a weird and wonderful array of costumes. We had assemblies, memories of their time here, lunch and games on the field. This year the PTA also funded an ice cream van which was, unsurprisingly, popular on one of the rare warm days so far this year. We all wish these students all the best in their exams and in their Life after Langtree.

Year 10 are now to become the senior pupils in the school and Ms Burman, the Pastoral Team and the Senior Leaders are reviewing the student leader applications. We look forward to interviewing them for these important posts. These roles provide students with a fantastic leadership opportunity, where they can serve the school and its wider community. We look forward to Year 10 'stepping up' and being the role models for the other pupils in the school.

This week we held a Music Recital Evening - a chance for all students to showcase their talents and perform, sometimes for the first time, in front of a supportive audience. The singers and musicians all performed beautifully. Thank you to them for being willing to play their pieces so beautifully and to all those who came along to support.

Just last night I was honoured to attend the presentation evening for our year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students, about forty students completed their expeditions last week and this was an evening where they were able to tell us about their triumphs, their failures and, most importantly, what they learned from the experience.

Can I ask all parents to read the Weekly Bulletin which comes out every Friday. I am aware that if you are reading this you probably already do so. A lot of work goes into making this a compact digest of highly useful information.

As we move to the second half of the summer term and, hopefully, some warmer weather, (it is pouring down as I write this) can I remind parents to support their sons and daughters with protecting themselves from the heat and sun.

- Stay out of the sun where possible - particularly in the heat of the day
- Bring a refillable water bottle - we supply fruit flavoured water for free in the canteen and drink regularly
- Wear sunscreen, a hat or cap and sunglasses if outside (eg during PE)

If it gets uncomfortably warm (30 degrees or above) we will allow students to wear PE kits to ensure they are not overheating. A message will be sent home in this instance.

I would like to mention how much we enjoy welcoming visitors to the school. They are always hugely impressed by the friendliness and maturity of the students, the purposeful atmosphere in lessons and the exciting activities students are engaged in. This term we have had a Trustees Open Day (Trustees is the new name for governors). There were a couple of information sessions, a chance to meet some students to discuss their views on the school and an opportunity to sample the food from ABM - the catering company the trustees appointed in September.

The trustees are a wonderful group of highly effective people who work hard to support the school in so many ways. We are always keen to find new governors - particularly anyone with a legal or financial background - if you would be interested in finding out more about this rewarding but voluntary role do contact me.

We have also had visitors from the Mend the Gap project. These are groups appointed by Network Rail to work with communities affected by the electrification of the railways in our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We are working with two projects that are very student-led, should allow us to do some work to benefit the school and will also increase student's awareness of environmental issues.

Parents may be aware of the challenges involved in the recruitment of teachers and support staff in the current climate. There simply are not enough people training to become teachers or people willing to work in schools. This issue is often exacerbated in areas such as ours due the additional cost of housing with some school staff relocating away from these areas when seeking to purchase their first home or simply reducing living costs.

We are extremely lucky, and almost unique, at Langtree to have a full teaching staff of subject specialist teachers and a wonderful team of support staff in a variety of roles. As Langtree is such a nice place to work with fantastic young people and supportive parents, staff enjoy working here and generally stay for long periods of time. However, we are always keen to find new people and show them the benefits of working in schools - whether at Langtree or elsewhere. Please see [the poster and come along to our open morning](#) if you have ever considered working in schools.

Finally, if you have got this far you are clearly invested in Langtree so could i ask you to consider signing up for [Easyfundraising](#)? The next time that you shop online you can help our school for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to our PTA when you use easyfundraising to shop with them - at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and FREE!





Year 7 Book Group book review

This term in the year 7 book group, we've been reading *Just Like Everyone Else* by Sarah Hagger-Holt. The book is all about the struggles of growing up, surrogacy, the gay community and openly being yourself even when it's hard. This is displayed in the story as the protagonist, Aidan, loves to run, and spends a lot of his time racing in fell running competitions, which links to the underlying message of 'you don't always have to run away if things get tough'. We discussed our opinions on surrogacy, what we thought about the way the characters were portrayed, and how the book could so easily relate to everyday life. My overall opinion of the book is that it was a good read as it gave a powerful message to the world, and just seemed generally like the kind of chaotic reality that would normally happen in real life! I would probably rate it an 8.5/10 because of this and would definitely recommend it to anyone looking for something new to read.

By Zoe, 7LWh



The English Department have been running an "Extinction Project" story competition.

The competition winners were:

1st place: Libby D.

2nd place: Spencer B.

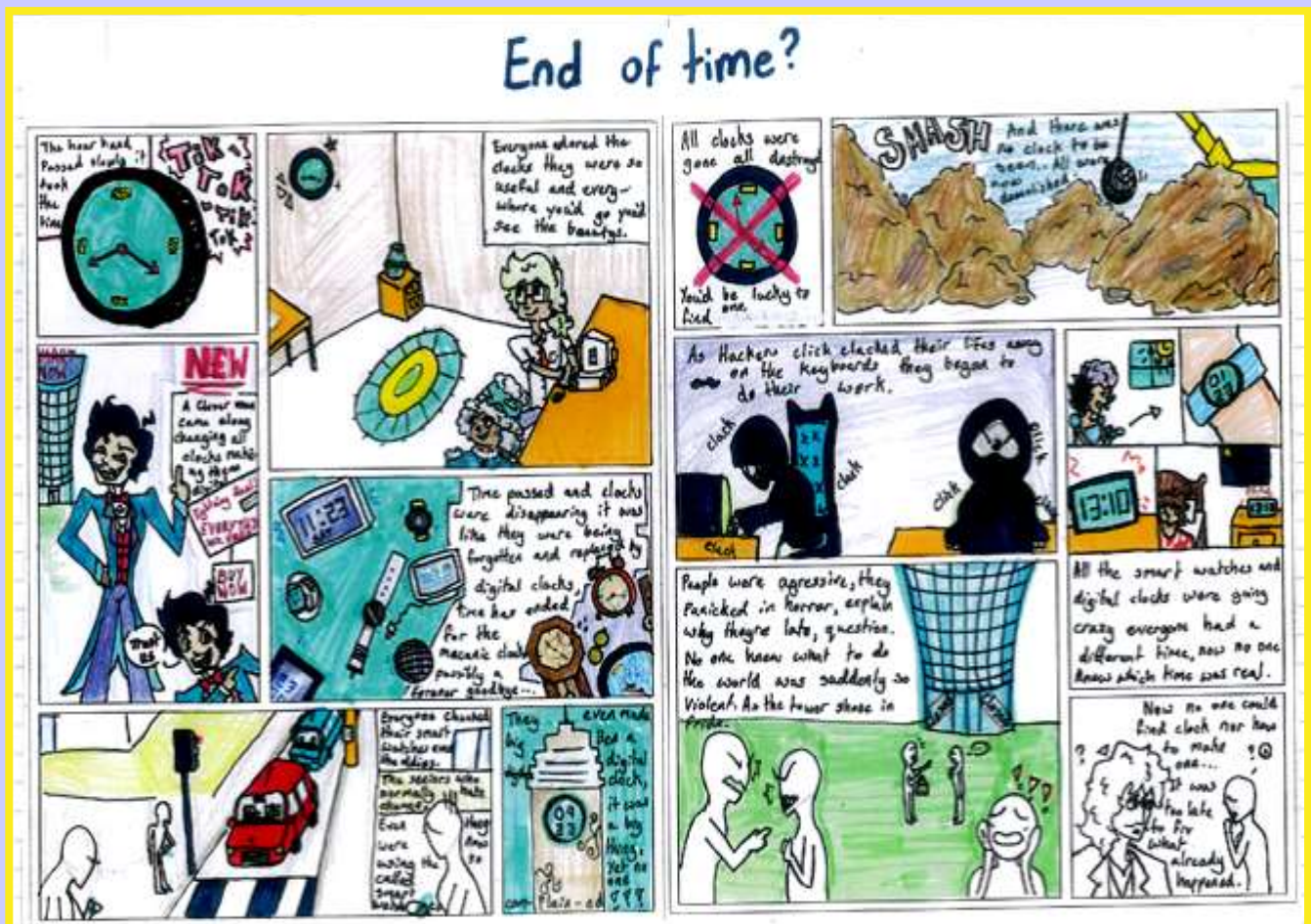
3rd place: Isla L.

Highly Commended: Sienna A, Harry J, and Joe G.

Best Graphic Story: Claudia S.

Graphic Story Highly Commended: Chris W.

The winning graphic story is below and the winning story is on the next page, we hope you enjoy them both.



Extinction Project - Extinction of women by Libby D

Men. The most advanced species ever. Or some say that. Although in everyone else's defence there are the only species that exist. As of right now that is. However, it hasn't always been that way. One day other species ran this earth, women.

Men live alone on this planet. They like it that way.

They walk the streets. The same daily routine for most of them. Get up, go to work (for those who still work, that is), leave work, go to the pub, repeat. Many men decided it wasn't necessary for them to work after the project. So now many just stay at home, sit around the house and wait for dinner. Women used to keep men in line so now they are just out of line, just lost. Or at least I would say lost...

Men love this new world. They don't see a problem with it but of course they don't, they don't see anything. They don't see the piles of socks, they don't see the world's mental health deteriorating and they certainly don't see the world dying around them.

MENamotics. Most under 8 dying after just moments after catching it, spewing blood and vomit as they went. Everyone had been told to stay inside yet no one was. Why? Because it's not that serious they say. The government is just trying to scam you, they say. Who's they? Who else? Men. Although they think that they'll be fine, others aren't. Without women the population was dwindling down and with no way to reproduce, keeping the population numbers stable was crucially important, yet they were plummeting. Quickly like a bullet train leaving the station with no intentions to return. This was the aftermath of the government's plan. What plan do you say?

Back in the early days of 2028 Menamotics struck. The nation was devastated, terrified and many stressed. As the nation panicked the government, of all which were men, decided as the population was rapidly decreasing that they would take the matter into their own hands and divide us. Into two separate grouped populations. Men and Women. Men stayed put on our original earth surrounded by lush greenery, love and the hope of survival.

Women however didn't get so lucky. We were banished. Far away with nothing but the clothes on our back. Abruptly woken up at the crack of dawn one Thursday morning to leave. We were poked and prodded to wake us, only to then later on be tied up by our hands and feet, tapped at the mouth and crammed into the back of a van. Around 300 women per van piled on top of one another. Waterfalls of sweat trickled down our backs. The spines of the women who were dumped to the bottom began snapping. You heard their ribs shatter like glass vases and blood curdling shrieks that echoed could be heard for miles.

We were sent to womenarus. Although it technically wasn't a separate planet it was a separate world. The way we were treated, the resources we were given and just the way we lived. No access to showers, clean clothes and only provided two sanitary products per month forcing many to sit in their own blood for weeks. We were kept in camps. Kept there unable to leave between a square of barbed wire. The people who kept us there. Who were they? Men. They treated us badly. Some, worse than others. Was it the politer you were the better you got treated? No. Was it the older and more fragile you were? No. It was the prettier you were. If you were blonde and skinny you were definitely treated nicer. No. No one talked about how people were treated and the differences but everyone knew. They just did. It was hard not to notice the fact that if you were blonde or especially blonde and skinny you'd be first in line, special food orders and even more you got real mattresses. I am aware that that doesn't sound like much of an advantage but trust me it was. If you were just an inch of the ground that inch meant a better sleep. That you were unable to hear the scurry of rats beneath you. There were some disadvantages though. Although being higher up was good so the rats couldn't pull at their split ends it also meant they were the first ones the guards saw. The first there beading eyes fell on.

We would all awake when they opened our tents. The rattle of the zip haunted us all. The beams of light that glimpsed from the moon woke us all up almost every night. We could feel the men, the guards staring at us. Everyone was aware of what they were doing, it made everyone uncomfortable, a little dizzy and ill but what were we going to do about we were just women after all. We had nothing. We were seen as nothing. Nothing at all. No power nor authority. Just us. Women.

One day another van came. This time it was smaller, not by much though. Three men emerged from the van and began pounding on our front gate. They gained entry to our camp and strutted right over to our main guard, Blizzard or that's at least what we called him.

They began to talk but during their conversations both of them looked puzzled as if none of them actually knew what was going on. Their conversation was dull you could tell by their facial expressions. Blizzard stormed off into the camp's hut and bellowed over our loudspeakers that 334, 921 and 635 (we were no longer allowed to be called our name. It was embarrassing and shameful. They had taken everything from us and now they had taken our identity as well) must report to the hut immediately or else. 334 was my friend. She tied her shoelaces and ran to the hut.

"Report back later ok."

That was the last time I saw her. That was the last thing I said to her. She never returned to the camp. None of them did. We all wondered for years what happened to them but we never found out. I only found out once I was reunited with 334 (Jenni) when I had escaped. The best day of my life.

Turns out, they were driven across the country through the terrain of Switzerland. Up and down, round and round. Once back on normal earth they were taken out of the van and saw green for the first time in years. She said it was mesmerising, the best moment of her life in a long time. The day took a turn for the worst though the minute she stepped into the laboratory. All three girls were pinned down on a medical bed by their ankles. Duct taped to the beds with ropes around their hands. They were poked with needles as their DNA was stolen and taken from their bodies. This DNA was combined with the ones of men in hopes to recreate the population but all went wrong quickly...

The DNA mixed wrong and then was created a colombianons. The one creature in the world that can not be destroyed. Is it harmful? No. This doesn't mean that they're not scary or petrifying to look at but with this new variation of humans the government thought it was best for the grouped populations to be combined once again and so they were. Many were reunited with loved ones although some women still live in camps, the unlucky ones with no loved ones or the ones the guards wanted to keep around, the mattress girls. They stay there under strict no leaving policies, our society has improved but there is still much farther to go. However, the one thing we can all conclude from this "project" is that men suck and women are definitely the more advanced species in this world and every other one. Past, future and present.



Year 9 Lino Printing



UK Junior Mathematics Challenge – 2024

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 eight Gold Awards, for William A, Jamie B, Sophie C, Hanna C, Philippa Gy, Giddy L and Sophia T in Year 8 and Oliver J in Year 7. A further 14 silver awards and 16 bronze awards were achieved. Congratulations to all who participated! Mr Jones

WILLIAM	Gold		
JAMES	Gold		
SOPHIE	Gold		
HANNA	Gold	RHEA	Bronze
PHILIPPA	Gold	LUCY	Bronze
OLIVER	Gold	SOPHIA	Bronze
GIDDY	Gold	JACOB	Bronze
SOPHIA	Gold	WILLIAM	Bronze
GEORGE	Silver	CHARLOTTE	Bronze
LOLA	Silver	ELIZA	Bronze
GRIFFIN	Silver	COBY	Bronze
ASHER	Silver	STELLA	Bronze
BENJI	Silver	HUGO	Bronze
Emily	Silver	ELLIOTT	Bronze
NICHOLAS	Silver	MATTHEW	Bronze
AURELIA	Silver	HARRY	Bronze
HARIETT	Silver	YVONNE	Bronze
SARA	Silver	SIMONA	Bronze
JULIETTE	Silver	ZOE	Bronze
AURORA	Silver		
BONNIE	Silver		
DUNCAN	Silver		

Away from Langtree.....

Olivia competed at the Young Farmers Annual Rally in many categories such as Floral arrangements, planting a hanging basket in 30min, fruit and veg art (make an animal out of fruit and veg), photography, woodwork (she made a beautiful oak boot jack), a team obstacle course, face painting, go kart building and racing, and she pulled extremely hard in a very serious tough competition of Tug of War. Her team did very well and she is now aching but very pleased with her effort and results. Henley Young Farmers came 3rd out of all the Oxfordshire clubs.



The Year 10 Cooking for Life Group

Cooked and served take away lunches to staff and students who had pre-order from the menu:

Langtree Takeaway Menu

Friday 10th May ONLY!

Option 1: Chicken noodle stir fry

Option 2 - Curry selection served with rice and naan bread

Option 3 - Mini pizzas with spicy wedges

And there was cake for pudding!



Music Recital Evening

Thank you to all of the students and audience who attended the Music Department Recital evening. It was brilliant to hear your performances and we're all looking forward to more to come.



Area Athletics

Congratulations to all those students who took part in the South Oxfordshire Athletics Finals as part of the Langtree Team. The following students were placed in the top 3 in the final for their event:

Year 7:

Boys:

200m Benji D-F 3rd

800m Harvey B 1st and Oliver J 3rd

Girls:

800m Zara A 3rd

Year 8/9:

Boys:

300m Ryan K

800m Dylan W 3rd

1500m Josh S 1st

Girls:

100m Caitlin K 3rd

200m Emily L 3rd

800m Emily L 2nd

1500m Heather T 3rd

4x100 Relay 2nd - Mya, Emily, Caitlin, Heather

Javelin Eliza K 1st

Year 10:

Boys:

200m Olly O 3rd

400m Seb B 3rd

800m Olly O 3rd

4x100m Relay 2nd - George, Reece, Seb, Olly

Long Jump Seb B 1st

Javelin Aiden W 2nd

Girls:

200m Ava D 3rd

800m Alice B 1st & Ellen S 3rd

1500m Jemimah O 3rd

4x100m Relay 2nd - Alice, Ellen, Inez, Ava

Long Jump Jemimah O 3rd

Discus Ava D 1st



Visit to RAF Benson—Inspiring Girls Event

"I think that the most inspirational person was the lady who competed in the paraolympics, She told us about her career and all the highs and lows. She showed us that anything was possible and that you didn't always need someone to guide you through a career, you can do it yourself and have even more fun." Emily and Alexia

I found the whole experience highly inspiring."

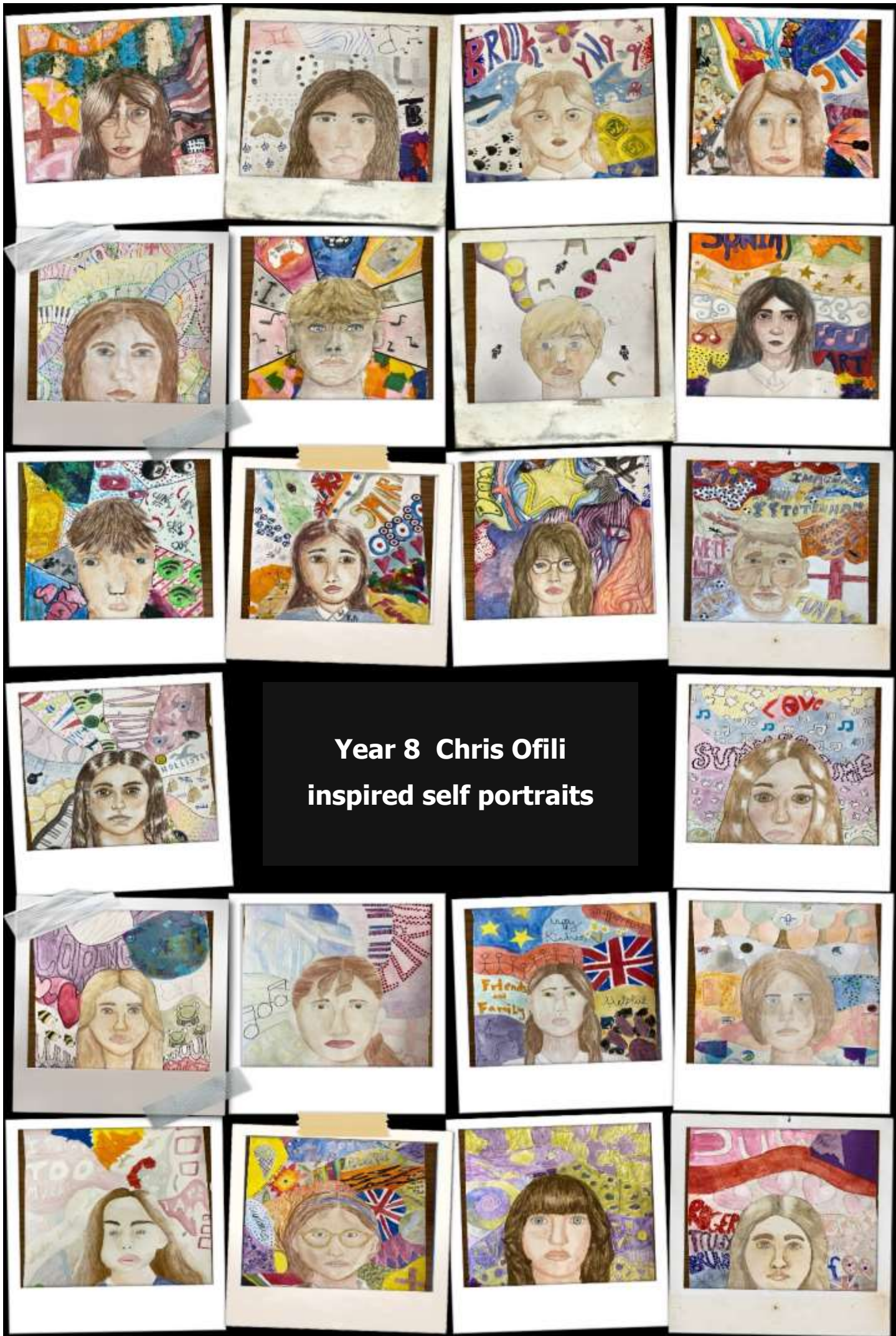
"The lady who rowed the Atlantic told us to never give up, ordinary people can do anything. Even if you get steered off course. Your life is not a movie that has already been filmed. " Jess, Sophia and Aurelia

"The adventurer who talked about self belief alongside stories from her travels." Abigail, Sam and Kimberley

"The Beefeater who told us to be brave and confident and that if you can't, to fake it until you are." Nina and Chance

"My favourite was the Falcon's Parachute Team, they were both very determined and worked really hard to pursue their careers." Ellie





Year 8 Chris Ofili
inspired self portraits

2024 - 2025 Term Dates Calendar

TERM 1	Monday 2nd September 2024	Inset Day - no students in school
	Tuesday 3rd September	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students - Induction Day
	Wednesday 4th September	Start of Term 1 for all other students.
	Thursday 19th September	OPEN EVENING for Year 6 Parents - (Half day school closes at 12.30pm)
	Friday 20th September	SPONSORED WALK - all students expected in school
	Monday 23rd September	Inset Day - no students in school
	Thursday 24th October	END of TERM 1 (As normal 3pm)
	Friday 25th October	Inset Day - no students in school
October Break – 26th October – 3rd November 2024		
TERM 2	Monday 4th November	Start of Term 2
	Thursday 7 th November	Creativity Day
	18th November to 29th November	Year 11 Mock Exams
	Monday 2nd December	Inset Day - no students in school
	Friday 20th December	END of TERM 2 (Half day school closes at 12.30pm)
Christmas Holiday – 21st December – 5th January		
TERM 3	Monday 6th January 2025	Start of Term 3
	Friday 14th February	Creativity Day and END of TERM 3 (As normal 3pm)
February Break – 15th February – 23th February		
TERM 4	Monday 24th February	Start of Term 4
	Friday 4th April	END of TERM 4 (As normal 3pm)
Easter Holiday – 5th April - 21st April		
TERM 5	Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Term 5
	Monday 5th May	May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
	Friday 23rd May	END of TERM 5 (As normal 3pm)
May Holiday – 24th May – 1st June		
TERM 6	Monday 2nd June	Start of Term 6
	Thursday 3rd July	Inset Day - no students in school
	Friday 4th July	Inset Day - no students in school
	14th July to 19th July	Activities Week
	Tuesday 22nd 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 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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