

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the school year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the many wonderful experiences and achievements that have marked this year. It has been a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable moments that have enriched the lives of our students and strengthened our school community.

One of the highlights of our year was the much-anticipated Activity Week. Our Year 7 students embarked on camp, where they engaged in team-building activities, outdoor adventures, and developed new friendships. The enthusiasm and resilience they displayed were truly commendable.

Our Year 8 students had the opportunity to explore the rich culture and history of Cancale, France. Their trip included visits to Mont Saint Michel, immersion in the French language, and some time at a theme park. This trip got off to a rocky start with damaged coaches and then a puncture.

Year 9 students had the unique opportunity to travel to both Barcelona and Amsterdam. In Barcelona, they marvelled at the architectural wonders, delved into the local art scene, and enjoyed the vibrant Spanish culture. Meanwhile, in Amsterdam, they experienced the city's historical significance, artistic heritage, and modern attractions. These trips were invaluable in providing our students with a wider perspective of the world and its diverse cultures.

Our Year 10 students took a significant step towards their future careers by participating in work experience placements. This practical experience allowed them to gain insight into various professions, develop new skills, and understand the demands and rewards of the working world. The feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the dedication and professionalism of our students.

Yesterday's Sports Day was another tremendous success. The energy and enthusiasm of our students were palpable as they competed in various athletic events. The spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork was evident throughout the day. I am grateful too to the parents who were able to attend and who helped to making it a memorable event for everyone involved.

Last night's musical performances by our choir, orchestra, and function band were the perfect finale to a wonderful year. The talent and dedication of our students shone brightly as they delivered captivating performances that left the audience in awe. Music has a unique way of bringing people together, and last night was a testament to the talent of our students, Mr Bradley's hard work and the power of our school community.

As we look back on this year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible efforts of our students, staff, trustees and parents. Together, we have created a nurturing and dynamic environment where every student can thrive. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting and enriching school year.

Simon Bamford  
Headteacher





We're finally at the end of July and ready for summer (where have you been?!?). The Langtree PTA has had a busy year raising much needed additional funds for Langtree school and its students.

Here's a brief summary of what we've done to support the school this year and some examples of where your donations have been spent! (This is not intended to be a full financial breakdown; that will be provided at the AGM (**14th October 2024, 7pm. Venue tbc**)).

### The events

We aim to run one big event each school year: this year we had our infamous Quiz Night on 22nd March and made approximately £1,150 in profit. A great night was had by all, including a fun "Barbie dress up" at the end!

As well as running our own events, we support school events by providing refreshments. The biggest earner this school year was supporting the 'Nativity!' performances at Christmas, raising £2,354.88, of which approximately 50% will be profit.

We also organise non-fundraising events such as "Love our Langtree", currently run by Jules Woodall. The aim is to gather volunteers once a term to help tidy up the school grounds, with sweeping, weeding and planting activities.

### The spending

So, where does all the money go? As well as buying stock/equipment for our own events, Mr. Bamford provides us with a school wishlist which includes teacher requests. The list is reviewed at PTA meetings and funding is approved where the Committee/meeting attendees agree. Here is a list of requests we have approved this year, in no particular order.

- £60 for termly History film club
- £270 for **Drama's 'Stage in a box'** pictured
- £400 for an Art projector
- £50 for a small mixing desk for Music
- £132 for an LED light for Science
- £600 towards netball posts
- £280 for ice-creams (Year 11 leavers' treat)
- £80 for condom demonstrators for PSHE lessons
- £100 for perennials for the front border near Reception
- £300 towards the Year 11 Prom disco
- £130 for a Food Tech license
- £400 for a PE cupboard
- £250 to Mr. Bamford for assorted achievement trophies
- £100 to the Literacy Library.



### Other donations

We also receive donations from other sources, which this year included £2,372.82 from the Co-op fund.

The PTA has signed up to various cashback sites (The Giving Machine and Easyfundraising) that provide us with an income if you purchase items using them.

### Future events

17th September - next PTA meeting, 7.30pm, venue TBC

28th September - the PTA will organise and run the Woodcote coffee shop. If you can provide any cake donations, please contact the PTA ([pta-secretary@langtreeschool.com](mailto:pta-secretary@langtreeschool.com))

11th October - big fundraising evening run by Hayley Scott and her team from The Forensic Experience. Tickets will go on sale in September.

14th October - AGM, 7pm, venue TBC

A big thank you to everyone who has supported or volunteered for us; we are very grateful. If you want to help or get involved, please do let us know: PTA Secretary ([pta-secretary@langtreeschool.com](mailto:pta-secretary@langtreeschool.com)), PTA Chair ([pta-chair@langtreeschool.com](mailto:pta-chair@langtreeschool.com))





# Class of 2024 Prom





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Activities Week 2024 in School





Year 7 Camp 2024







*Year 8 France 2024*





# Year 9 Hol I and 2024









# Be INSPIRED by Langtree Alumni

Laurie Stevenson left Langtree in 2018. Laurie is currently working towards a PhD studying sustainable food development in insect protein. Part of this study involved taking over a restaurant for a one off event.

With thanks to the Cambian News and reporter Debbie Luxon, we have reproduced the article written about this event.

## Would you eat insects for lunch?

That's the question student Laurie Stevenson asked last week at a one-off event for the Dyfi Wildlife Centre - a four-course insect dinner. The plucky 22-year-old asked diners to say 'grubs up' to the meal which included a 'bug-ger', critter fritters, fly-lafels and a James and the Giant Peach tart. However rather than grimaces, the room nearly full of diners who paid £35 each for the unique experience, wore smiles as they tucked into the food incorporating mealworm, cricket and locust flour.

On welcoming the guests Stevenson said: "It's a credit to each of you that you're here tonight because this is something that's so out there, not everyone - and I mean not everyone - would have wanted to come tonight. "That shows you are forward-thinking, progressive and open-minded and we need others like you." The whole point of the meal, explained chef Stevenson, was to prove that including insects in our food habits doesn't have to be 'Bear Grills-like skewered locusts' - that it can be tasty, and even good for you.

She explained that insect flour has three times the amount of protein as steak - 100g of beef steak provides roughly 20g of protein, whilst 100g of insect flour provides an average of 60g of protein.

Whilst helping you get your daily dose of protein which helps build muscle, gives you energy and may help lose fat, farming insects is also less impactful on the planet. Studies have found insect farming uses up to 90 per cent less land, 80 per cent less feed and 2,000 times less water to produce, and creates up to 2,700g less greenhouse emissions than protein grown through conventional livestock like sheep, cows and pigs.

## So what does this actually taste like?

Diner Alex Randall said of the critter fritters: "It tastes like a normal fritter, it doesn't taste insect-y.

"There's no antenna sticking out, it tastes spicy."

The diners' feedback at the dinner on 5 July will be used in Laurie's PhD at the University of Surrey in 'optimising the safety and nutritional quality of insect protein ingredients'.

All the food included a supplement of insect flour - for the tart, Stevenson replaced one-third of wheat flour with cricket flour.

## So why were these diners putting themselves through the bushtucker trial?

A diner who works in sustainability and environmental management said: "I'm keenly interested in understanding sources of food.

"I know insect proteins are far less energy-dense than animal proteins and it's a far more sustainable way of feeding the planet.

"The fritters were lovely - I could imagine them eating them myself dipping them in hummus - you wouldn't know they were insect-based at all.

"The fritters were lovely - I could imagine them eating them myself dipping them in hummus - you wouldn't know they were insect-based at all.

Louis Chow, a mechanical engineer, said it was his first time eating insects: "I go to the gym often so wanted to learn more about different protein consumption.

"I've been told insects are efficient and I like trying new things.

"I don't believe the tart has insect in it - there's no difference between this and any other tart. I would have it again."

Karen Proctor, a Powys-based dietician, came to learn more about sustainable sources of protein for her clients: "I've long been an advocate of eating more sustainable sources of protein including plant proteins from pulses but I really do think insects are the way forward in terms of good quality protein that can be sustainably farmed and harvested.

"A lot of people especially when they get older struggle to get sufficient amounts of protein in their diet, something like insect flour could be a really easy way to stir into things they're cooking - currently I suggest whey protein but insect protein could be even better.

"We're in a climate emergency and we need to change the way we eat and I think this is a way forward - we need to get around people's aversion to eating insects and this kind of event is a good way of showing there's nothing scary about it."

Over the dinner attendees discussed sustainable food sources including some people's partiality for roadkill (according to one, there are many quiet roads full of pheasants who don't get out of the way quickly enough).

## Who else is doing this?

Singapore's Food Agency recently approved 16 insects safe for human consumption including four types of crickets, two grasshoppers, a locust and honeybee, three types of mealworm, a giant rhino beetle grub and two types of moth. But this isn't a new phenomenon, 128 countries have 2,205 insect species as part of their diets, with hundreds of types consumed in Thailand, India and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Countries like Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark are leading the way in Europe in beginning to commercially farm insects for human consumption. Several companies already farm insects in the UK including two Stevenson used for her ingredients - Crunchy Critters and BugVita. More locally, several diners had already eaten at Pembroke's [Bug Farm](#) which boasts the UK's first full-time edible insect cafe and restaurant.

The attraction, opened in 2015, doesn't 'farm' bugs on a commercial scale but serves bug-based dinners at their Grub Kitchen as well as researching insect farming for food, feed and land management. Grub Kitchen serves insect dishes including VEXo Bolognese, a bug burger and cricket cookies, as well as non-insect dishes for those who'd rather not. They also sell food to take home including cricket insect powder, whole crickets and cricket cookies.

Sarah Kay-Purdon, a diner at the Dyfi Wildlife Centre who had visited the Bug Farm, said: "I'm vegetarian most of the time, I've eaten meat twice this year. "I want to rebel against the squeamishness that puts people off exploring insect protein. "My dogs have eaten insect protein their entire lives and I think it's something people could do more of. "The meal tonight is very tasty - you could have fed this to anyone."

Stevenson, a former Aberystwyth University student, started by looking into the sustainability of duckweed as feed for livestock: "I'm really interested in food sustainability, particularly protein. "We've got a global protein deficit - we're going to run out of protein.

"We've got enough carbohydrates to feed the world but protein is what's needed particularly in the developing world for food security."

But it hasn't all been plain sailing for the researcher, she's already come up against criticism from those who fear scientists are trying to replace Welsh farming with insect cultivation: "I'm not here to put this as a solution to everything.

"It's got to be a multifaceted approach - we need to consume less meat, particularly red meat, but we can't do that without looking for replacements.

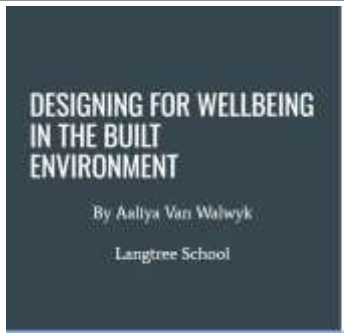
"This is one possible replacement we can use. "Anthropologically we would have eaten insects as part of our diet, currently a third of the global population have insects as part of their diet. "It's also a more efficient way of eating - we eat the whole insect whereas we only eat roughly 40 per cent of a cow."





**Congratulations to Aaliya Van Walwyk in Year 9** who won the national MEMF School Competition 2024 in the 11-14 age category! The competition drew over young people from all across the UK who presented thoughtful and sustainable designs for redeveloping a building or space in their local areas through the lens of wellbeing. The expert panel of judges had a difficult task selecting a winning proposal from each age category. Aaliya's winning proposal, for the restoration of Greenemore ponds, Impressed the judges with their thoughtful proposal, original esigns ideas and the focus on inclusivity for all age groups.

Aaliya said: "I really enjoyed participating in the competition. It allowed me to express my creativity and develop my knowledge on the importance of inclusivity and wellbeing in design. The project was especially interesting to me as I was able to focus it on an area local to me, where I spend a lot of time.



### Primary Schools

This term we have held several Primary School events at Langtree with many of our students running these events or supporting the event, this includes both sporting and academic events. One of these events was the first of what we hope will be an annual Primary Schools Competition—this was a quiz based event with several rounds run by Year 10 students.



Some selected pupils at Langtree school were chosen to help out at Checkendon primary for the preschool, year 1 and 2s sports day. We did lots of different activities with them to test there skills but most importantly to have fun. We ran penalty shoot outs, obstacle courses, skipping competitions and team building activities. Overall it was a great experience and the primary school children said they loved it and so did us selected pupils. Ciara McCormack



### Year 10 GCSE Spanish

Mrs Tontini and her Year 10 Spanish class took their learning outside one day this term to build a Vocabulary Balloon Tower





## The Duke of Edinburgh Award at Langtree School continues to grow in strength.

From the 2022/23 cohort our Bronze completion rate was 70% and all our Silver participants received their award. So far, ten of the current year 9 students have completed their Physical, Skills, Volunteering and Expedition components by we are expecting many more to do so before our internal completion date of 1st September, ready for the Award Presentation evening at Henley Town Hall.

Remember, if there are any pupils in years 10 or 11 who have not yet completed or submitted assessor reports for the Bronze Award, it is not too late! You have until your 25th birthday to do so, although we would like you to achieve it before this! Please get in touch if you need any help or advice or if you are interested in starting the next level.

Year 9 Roll of Honour (so far!) Alfie Bridges Iona Butterfield Riley Coleman Joe Gibbons Noah Hall Lewis Hollow Toby Ryder Maddie Smith Josh Sudbury Verity Woodall. Congratulations to them all.

Kevin Nutt, DofE manager. The Eyot Centre, Henley



**YOUTH WITHOUT LIMITS**

## News from the Book Club—Book report by Lulu Dingsdale

White Bird: The Graphic Novel, by R. J. Palacio (London: Penguin Books, 2019), was the choice for the last session of our book club this year.

The book is set in the present day, and features Julian, a character from a book and film called Wonder, and his grandmère from a chapter in a book called Auggie & Me – both books by the same author. A large part of the story here is a flashback to the second world war, when Julian calls his grandmère and she tells him the story of her childhood.

I have deeply enjoyed reading this graphic novel. I love how text and image intertwine and give us so many layers of meaning about such an important theme. But if you prefer classic novels to graphic ones, there is also White Bird: The Novel (R. J. Palacio/Erica S. Perl). A film version is expected to be released in October in the UK. If you enjoyed Wonder or Auggie & Me, you would enjoy those books. I am now looking forward to watching the film!

I am also looking forward to next year's book club sessions!

Lulu Dingsdale  
(I have used here some images from the book.)







## 2024 – 2025 Term Dates

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 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 |   |
| Monday 4th November                              | Start of Term 2   |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> 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  |   |
| 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   |   |
| Monday 24th February                             | Start of Term 4   |
| Friday 4th April                                 | END of TERM 4 (As normal 3pm)   |
| Easter Holiday – 5th April - 21st April          |   |
| 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                |   |
| 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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