

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the many highlights and successes we have enjoyed over the past few weeks.

**Year 11 Mock Exams:** Our Year 11 students have shown remarkable maturity and dedication as they completed their mock exams this term. Their behavior and commitment to our expectations have been exemplary, and the early indications from the results are very encouraging. We are currently compiling and analysing the data, which will inform our plans for the spring term. Students will receive their results envelopes during an assembly in the first week back after the holiday—a great way to ensure the students start the new term with the focus and determination they will need in the run up to their final exams.

**Certificate Presentation and Awards Evening:** On the 12th November, we hosted our annual Certificate Presentation and Awards Evening, celebrating last year's fantastic GCSE results. It was wonderful to welcome back our former students, hear about their new adventures, and share in their successes. Caroline Green, CEO of Oxford City Council, delivered an inspiring address and added a personal touch, being the proud aunt of one of the students. The evening was a joyous occasion, and it was heartwarming to hear how much the students miss their time at Langtree.

**High School Musical Rehearsals:** Excitement is building as rehearsals for our upcoming production of *High School Musical* are well underway. It's fantastic to see so many students participating, with older students taking on leadership roles to mentor their younger peers. Performances will run from 18th to 21st March.

**Creativity Day:** This term, Creativity Day offered each year group unique opportunities to learn and explore.

- Year 7 visited Windsor Castle, impressing castle staff and members of the public with their excellent behavior and insightful questions.
- Year 8 immersed themselves in French and Spanish culture with plays, food tasting, and flamenco dancing.
- Year 9 enjoyed a trip to London to see *Back to the Future*, which was a real hit.
- Year 10 participated in finance education sessions and team-building activities, including catapult-making with Beardog.
- Year 11 spent the day at Henley College, gaining valuable insight into Post-16 education options.

**Debating Success:** Our debating teams, led by Ms. Thorburn and Ms. Smith, continue to make us proud. Competing against selective and independent schools most of whom were sixth form students, our teams consistently rise to the challenge. A highlight this term was one of our teams qualifying from the local heat of the ESU Churchill Debating Competition—an incredible achievement.

**Woodcote Rally Donation:** I was delighted to attend the Woodcote Rally Presentation evening, where Langtree received a £500 donation from this year's event proceeds. This generous contribution will help fund the planting and picnic benches for a new terraced seating area behind the DT studio—a space we hope students will enjoy for years to come.

**The Scorpion Incident:** Friday, 6th December, saw an unexpected visitor in our geography class—a scorpion! Ms. Painter managed to safely contain the scorpion. The scorpion, who we initially named Jimmy and was later more formally identified as of Mexican origin, likely travelled home with a student's family in their holiday luggage. This was certainly a memorable day, and I'd like to commend all involved for their composure in handling the situation.

**Christmas Music and Drama Evening:** One of the standout events of the term was our Christmas Music and Drama Evening, which showcased the incredible talent and creativity of our students. The evening featured stunning performances from our choir, function band, and orchestra, creating a festive atmosphere and filling the hall with seasonal cheer.

Drama groups from Year 7 delighted the audience with their devised Christmas performances, while individual and group musical acts demonstrated the breadth of skill and dedication across all year groups. It was wonderful to see our students come together to celebrate the festive season and share their hard work and passion with the school community. A huge thank you to all the students and to Ms Pimm and Mr Bradley who worked so hard to make the evening such a success—it was a truly magical way to round off the term.

On a more down to earth matter, I would also like to inform everyone of some potential minor disruption next term. As a result of the recent flood damage several floor coverings need to be replaced. Therefore a number of carpets, areas of Lino and floor tiles are being removed this week and the new vinyl flooring will be laid in the February half term. This delay is essential to allow the concrete subfloor to have a chance to dry out completely before the new flooring is installed.

Before I conclude I'd like to remind parents and students of the new rules regarding wearable technology that I wrote to you about recently ([link to letter](#)). These rules come into force when we return.

As we wrap up this term, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff, students, and parents for their hard work and support. Langtree continues to thrive because of our shared commitment to providing the very best for our students. I wish you all a restful and joyful holiday season and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.

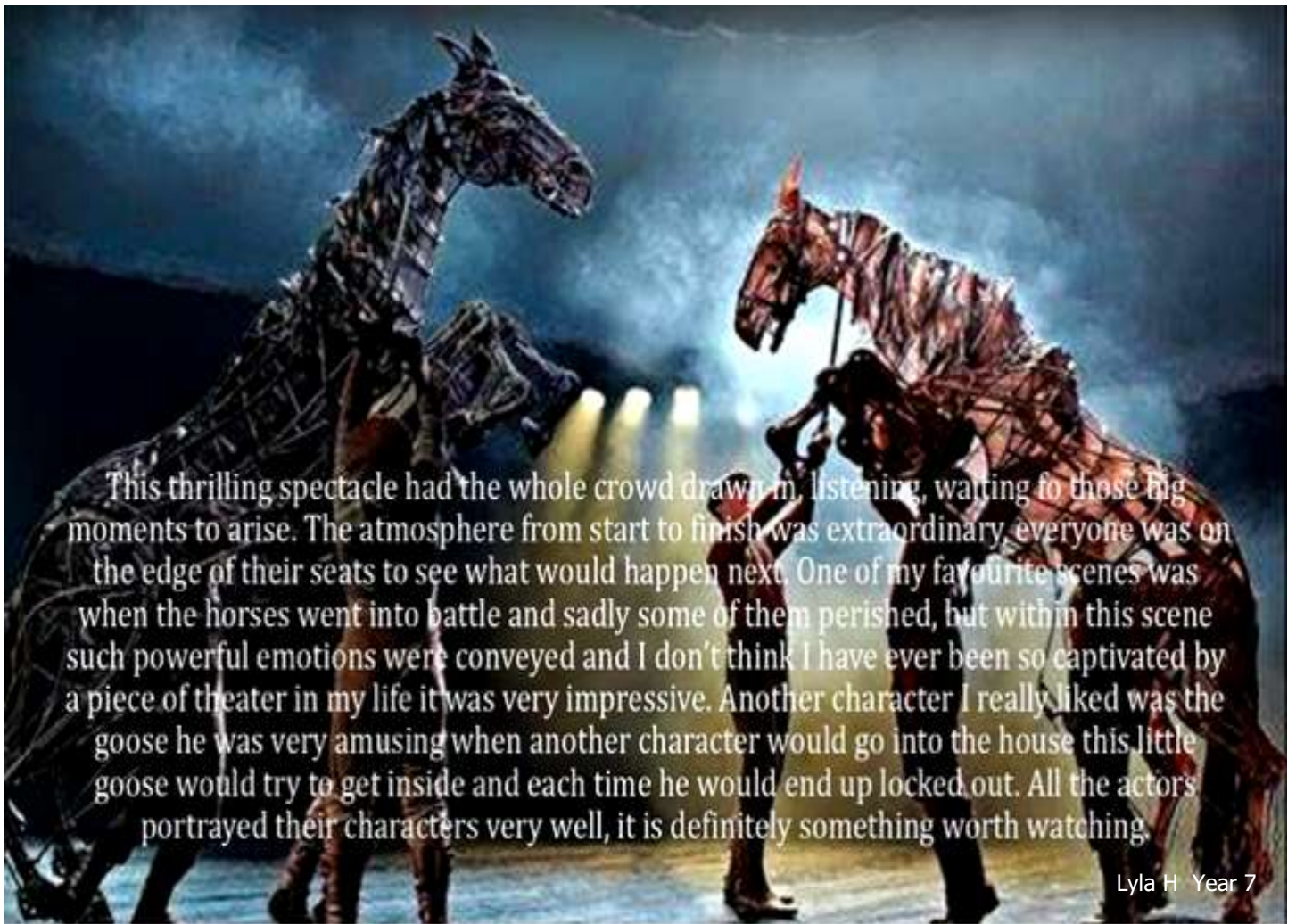
Warm regards, Simon Bamford. Headteacher.



The pictures on the right are the 5 joint winners of the PTA e-cards competition.  
 From the top: Sonja K. Chloe P. Iyla H. Yvie S. Aurelia L.  
 There is still time to purchase any of the 80 entries.  
 You can scan the QR code or use this [LINK](#)







This thrilling spectacle had the whole crowd drawn in, listening, waiting for those big moments to arise. The atmosphere from start to finish was extraordinary everyone was on the edge of their seats to see what would happen next. One of my favourite scenes was when the horses went into battle and sadly some of them perished, but within this scene such powerful emotions were conveyed and I don't think I have ever been so captivated by a piece of theater in my life it was very impressive. Another character I really liked was the goose he was very amusing when another character would go into the house this little goose would try to get inside and each time he would end up locked out. All the actors portrayed their characters very well, it is definitely something worth watching.

Lyla H Year 7



I really enjoyed the trip because the actors were so good at becoming the characters they were meant to be, also the sound effects and the set together made you feel like you were in a real war zone. The actors were so good that after a bit of time you didn't really see them you just saw the animal the person was operating. The trip was brilliant as I sat with my friend watching it and we both thought it was amazing. The bangs from the bombs in the play were incredibly loud which I thought gave the performance a bit more wow in it. By Thomas N. Year 7



### Year 7 Drama Trip The Snow Queen

On the 3rd of December, 50 or so Year 7s including myself, went to the Reading Rep Theatre to see an adaptation of The Snow Queen for the stage. The story itself is a children's classic by Hans Christian Anderson, author of Hansel and Gretel. The playwright Anna Wheatley came into school a couple of years ago to do a drama workshop.

The play itself had a cast of 4 actors and actresses, 3 who played more than one role. The use of space, lighting and sound was excellent as was the use of props. I particularly liked the bird puppet, the reindeer made from cardboard and crutches and the use of a scooter. My favourite costume was the Snow Queen and I also liked her sudden appearance. by Scarlet H, Year 7

Last Tuesday, some of Yr7 went to the Reading Rep Theatre to see a wonderful performance of the Snow Queen. It was a fabulous performance of the traditional fairy tale. I particularly loved the character of the reindeer, which was played by two people, one of whom was on crutches (he was the legs).

The actors were very good and so were the costumes, especially the Snow Queen when she made her dramatic entrance at the back of the audience, which shocked everyone!

Everybody who went thoroughly enjoyed the festive retelling of this classic fairy tale, the Snow Queen. By Tess H, Year 7





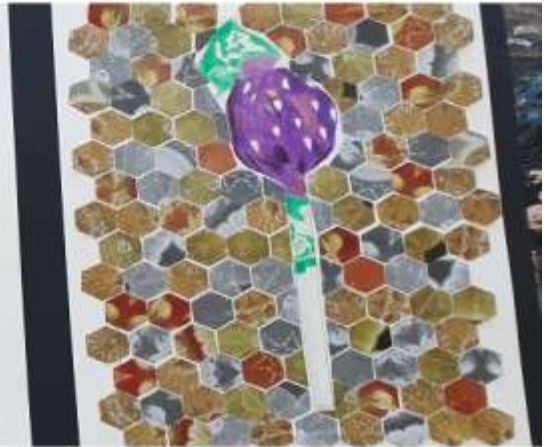
**Christmas at Langtree 2024**  
**Senior Citizens Christmas Party**  
**Christmas Hampers**  
**Christmas Concert**  
**Christmas Lunch**







Year 11  
Leavers Class  
July 2024  
GCSE Art Work







Year 11  
Leavers Class  
July 2024  
GCSE Art Work





## MFL CREATIVITY DAY—Year 8

On Thursday 14th November, year 8 pupils took part in various activities linked to Modern Foreign Languages. Students started with an inter-house quiz about French and Spanish culture. They then enjoyed watching a highly interactive play performed first in French and then in Spanish by The Flying Theatre Company. While some students had the opportunity to learn how to dance Flamenco dancing under the expert guidance of Danielle Yglesia (another special guest for the day), others were able to show their singing talent with German, Spanish and French songs led by Mrs S Williams.

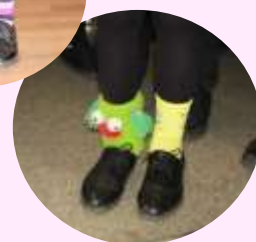
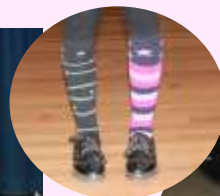
All the students enjoyed an Art session led by Mrs S Thomas. The Spanish session offered a collaborative Challenge: To work together in house groups of 4-6 people, to recreate one of Gaudi's Lizard features (El Drac) at Park Guell; an excellent introduction to Gaudi's Art for those who will go to Barcelona in July. The French session Focussed on Matisse's work. Students' task was to design and put together a frame inspired by Matisse's Cut outs.

The day was a great day to celebrate Modern Foreign Languages and develop students' cultural knowledge. Thank you to all who contributed to its success and enthusiastically took part ! (S Cordillet)





**ODD SOCKS DAY**—anti bullying Week students and staff wore ODD SOCKS to symbolise **individuality and uniqueness**. Just as socks come in countless colours, sizes, and patterns, so do people! Odd Sock Day sends a powerful message: being different is okay, and those differences should be celebrated, not criticised.



### Year 7 and Year 8 Online Book Group - December 2024

It's been another successful term for the "Online Book Clubbers".

The Year 7 group met on Monday this week to discuss "The Mighty Miss Malone" by Chris Paul Curtis, whilst the Year 8 group met to discuss "Other Words for Home" by Jasmine Warga.

"Miss Malone" was a popular choice for all the Year 7 Book Clubbers, as they enjoyed learning about 1930s America through the eyes of the feisty protagonist, Deza.

The Year 8 Book Clubbers found "Other Woeds for Home" an interesting read as it's a novel that deals with big issues (the Syrian civil war, love and identity for example) whilst written entirely in verse. The book opened the group's eyes to a new form of writing, (taking some of them out of their comfort zone a little) and taught them that not all fiction needs to be prose.

Next term, Year 7 will be reading the adventure story, 'Where the River Runs Gold' by Sita Brahmachari whilst Year 8 will be reading "Number the Stars" by Lois Lowry.

We will meet online during the last Monday of half term, 4.30-5pm. If you'd like to come along to the next group, please contact Mrs Maunder-Hand ([kmaunder-hand@langtreeschool.com](mailto:kmaunder-hand@langtreeschool.com)) in January.



**Debate Club Roundup** - Senior debate training has taken place every other week. Students have taken part this year in the ESU Made, and we entered two teams in the ESU Churchill Public Speaking competition - with one team making the semi finals to be held in January.

Here they are with a practice British Parliamentary style debate. The motion was: This house believes that the Naughty list is discriminatory.



**Children in Need 2024 raised an impressive £1007** from the home clothes day, a bake off challenge, cake sales and a staff v student table tennis event, thank you to everyone who donated and took part.

**Bake Off 1st: Lyla H.**

**2nd: Lillian P-H.**

**3rd: EmilyM.**





In English, Year 7 have just read a beautiful book called 'October, October' by Katya Balen. The protagonist is a neurodivergent 11 year old who has to move from the wild woods to live in London with her estranged mum. To help her settle into life in the city, October's mum arranges for her to mudlark on the River Thames. *Please don't buy your younger children this book if they are coming to Langtree; it will be on our curriculum for a bit!*

7RJo loved having a look at some real treasures found by a mudlarking parent - thank you Mrs Taylor!



Animal bone, sheep claw and oyster shell *'There are thousands of bones and shells on the foreshore – waste from people's dinners! Oysters were really cheap in Victorian London and eaten by the poor.'*



Clay pipes *'These are EVERYWHERE on the foreshore – they are the cigarette butts/used vapes of the time. They were smoked between the 1500s to the 1900s, so all of these are over 125 years old! They were popular in London from 1700s onwards so they may even be 300+ years old!'* Mrs Taylor

Book your own mudlarking experience at Thames Explorer Trust. Click on the image to be directed to their website.



### Romeo and Juliet at Langtree School

On Monday 4th November, we were delighted to welcome back The Guildford Theatre Company to Langtree and, yet again, they did not disappoint! This amazing company specialises in bringing Shakespeare to life within school settings. To recreate a sense of how the original plays were performed, our wonderful site team set up the hall 'in the round' allowing the audience to sit within arms reach of the actors. The students were literally in amongst the action which created an immediate and very intense experience.

The actors skillfully brought the timeless tragedy to life before our eyes and, once the performance was over, we had the privilege of a question and answer session with the actors and crew members. The students were really buzzing afterwards and commented on how well the actors portrayed their characters and how it helped them to see the play in a less daunting light.

My colleagues and I were delighted to see them so engaged and enthusiastic!

Ms Quinn - KS4 English Lead






## Computing: Bebras Challenge Success!

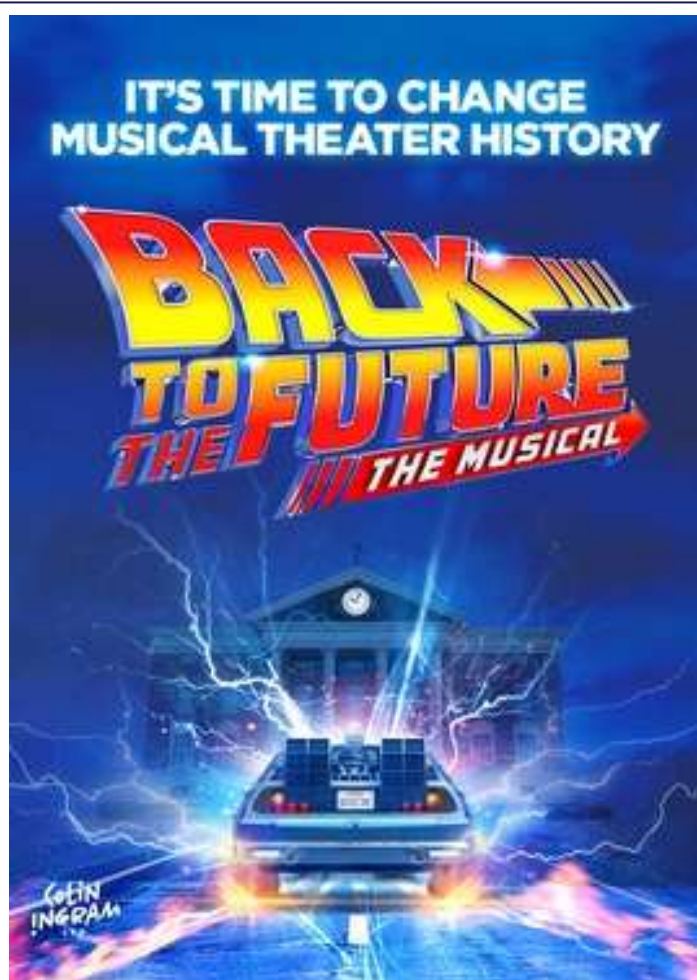
The Computing Department decided to enter the Bebras Challenge for the first time in November this year. The Bebras Challenge is an annual event, organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation and delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford and its goal is to introduce computational thinking to students of all ages.

Congratulations to all Langtree students in Years 7 & 9, and Year 11 GCSE Computer Science students who took part, alongside 60,000 other students in the UK, and 3 million world-wide.

Of those students that entered, a whopping 30 were awarded a 'Gold' Certificate which places them in the top 10% of entrants nationally, which is a significant achievement.

Please see the list of names below:

Year 7	Year 9	Year 11
Max C Isla D Finn K Alfred K <b>Daisy P (also awarded joint "Best in School" for this age group)</b> Anton G Gabriel M-L Constance B Jessica P <b>Tess H (also awarded joint "Best in School" for this age group)</b> Pippa S-S Josh B Sienna W Luke W	Hugo M Emily E Aurelia L Charlotte F <b>James B (also awarded "Best in School" for this age group)</b> Yvie S Jacob F Ted J Bonnie W Nina H William Ab Pippa G Gideon L Olivia M	<b>Aidan W (also awarded "Best in School" for this age group)</b> Max R 



### Back to the Future review

I thought Back to the future the musical was fantastic. My favourite part was when Doc introduced a new time travelling car and the best song was when they went into the 21<sup>st</sup> century because of the costumes, sound effects, lighting and how the actors used the stage. My favourite character was Doc because he has crazy and ridiculous ideas for science experiments and his ideas were amusing. I thought the lighting was brilliant and produced some amazing effects like when the car went back in time, you could see the colours flashing by as if the car was moving. I felt the actors used the space of the stage very well which helped to create the effect that you were there and in the action.

Elodie— Year 9

## Our Windsor Trip

Our Windsor trip was loads of fun. In the morning we participated in history based activities including a workshop by the education department of Windsor Castle, where we learnt about the development of the castle and then took a tour of the castle in the morning. Walking round the castle was very interesting and we enjoyed seeing the huge Doll's house.. We watched the changing of the guards and there were lots of people as it was King Charles' birthday. After we had been to the castle we all went to the chapel where we saw the grave of Queen Elizabeth II



and other past monarchs like Henry VIII. In the afternoon, we walked the streets of Windsor and carried out a Land use Survey, counting the different shops and learning about what are chain shops and what are unique shops. All in all we had a really good trip and learnt a lot.

Charlotte McC and Cara H Year 7





# Daily Mail

## BATTLE OF THE SOMME

Why is the First World War still remembered? The Battle of the Somme was a major battle between the British and German armies in 1916. It was one of the bloodiest battles in the history of warfare, with over a million casualties on both sides. The battle was fought over a 25-mile front, and the British suffered heavy losses, including the capture of the German gun 'Glorious'.

# The Informer

## Havoc in Ypres

Yesterday, at 11.00pm, a powerful gas attack was launched after the French reaction at Ypres. It is thought to have been the work of the German troops as it had to cross the line.

The French soldiers were thrown into panic when they spotted a thick yellow-green cloud drifting their way. The gas caused soldiers to experience coughing, choking and burning sensations on their skin.

The chemical used is thought to have been chlorine gas. This is the first time any form of deadly chemical has been used in battle, leading to a commission of the war - soon set up by the Germans.

# Rationing the Nation: Tightening The Belt For Victory

Britain moved to ration 160 commodities in 1942

As the war progressed, the British government had to ration many commodities. This was done to ensure that the most essential goods were available to the population. Rationing was implemented for a wide range of goods, including food, clothing, and household items. The government used a system of ration books and coupons to control the distribution of these goods.

# Breaking News

## NEW WEAPONS END THE WAR

A new weapon has been developed by the British Army. It is a powerful anti-aircraft gun that can shoot down enemy bombers. This new weapon is expected to end the war by destroying the enemy's air force.

# THE DAILY COURAGE

## 20-YEAR-OLD GERMAN SPY SENTENCED TO DEATH

Carl Hans Lohr, 20, was sentenced to death for spying for the British. He was caught in London and found to be passing on vital information to the enemy. The court found him guilty of treason and sentenced him to hang.

# 1 JUL THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

## 574,000 CASUALTIES 19,260 FATALITIES

Ground troops, exhausted after 57 days of fighting, were ordered to attack the German positions on the Somme. The British suffered heavy losses, but the attack was a tactical success. The German positions were captured, and the British were able to advance into the German territory.

# Lord Kitchener's Call to Arms

## The Daily Mirror

Lord Kitchener calls for an addition of 500,000 men to the British Expeditionary Force. He says that the British Army is not large enough to fight the German army, and that the British must call on their reserves to fight for their country.

# The Denyer and South Oxfordshire Standard

## BRITONS

YOU are the backbone of the British Empire. You are the men who are fighting for your country. You are the men who are making the British Empire a great power. You are the men who are the pride of the British people.

# WAR DECLARED

## YOU

WAR has been declared on Germany. It is your duty to fight for your country. It is your duty to stand up to the enemy. It is your duty to be a hero. It is your duty to be a patriot. It is your duty to be a Britisher.

# The Daily Times

## REMARKABLE BATTLE BARRAGE OF BRITISH ARTILLERY

The British artillery has shown remarkable courage and skill in the battle of the Somme. The British guns have been firing for 57 days, and they have done so with great accuracy and power. The British artillery has been a major factor in the success of the British attack.

**The Western Front Association (The WFA)** was formed with the purpose of furthering interest in First World War of 1914-1918. We also aim to perpetuate the memory, courage and comradeship of all those who served their countries on all sides, across all theatres and fronts, on land, at sea and in the air and at home, during the Great War.

Each year students are invited to enter the WFA competition, this year the competition is "Front Page News", above are the Langtree entries. Newspapers were very important during the First World War. Because there was no television, online news or social media, newspapers were the way most people found out what was happening in the conflict. For this year's Project with Prizes, we would like you to create the front page of a daily newspaper featuring an event that happened during the First World War.

You can choose anything that occurred between 4 August 1914, when Britain declared war on Germany, to 11 November 1920, when the first Armistice Day was held to commemorate those who had died in the Great War. Then we would like you to:

Write a front page news item about it. Or: Design a front page including a headline and a picture. Or: A combination of headline, words and pictures. Your front page can be for a national or local newspaper. Newspapers have changed in the last hundred years but you may base your work on newspapers as they are today rather than as they actually were during the war. There would have been censorship during the war - some things were not reported for security reasons - but for this project, you can include anything you think is relevant.



## 2024 - 2025 Term Dates Calendar

<b>Christmas Holiday – 21st December – 5th January</b>		
<b>TERM 3</b>	Monday 6th January 2025	Start of Term 3
	<b>Friday 14th February</b>	<b>Creativity Day and END of TERM 3 (As normal 3pm)</b>
<b>February Break – 15th February – 23th February</b>		
<b>TERM 4</b>	Monday 24th February	Start of Term 4
	<b>Friday 4th April</b>	<b>END of TERM 4 (As normal 3pm)</b>
<b>Easter Holiday – 5th April - 21st April</b>		
<b>TERM 5</b>	Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Term 5
	Monday 5th May	May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
	<b>Friday 23rd May</b>	<b>END of TERM 5 (As normal 3pm)</b>
<b>May Holiday – 24th May – 1st June</b>		
<b>TERM 6</b>	Monday 2nd June	Start of Term 6
	<b>Thursday 3rd July</b>	<b>Inset Day - no students in school</b>
	<b>Friday 4th July</b>	<b>Inset Day - no students in school</b>
	14th July to 19th July	Activities Week
	<b>Tuesday 22nd July</b>	<b>END of TERM 6 (Half day school closes at 12.30pm)</b>

**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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