



This term we have all been coming to terms with the tragic news of the death of a former student. Sam Godwin passed away of bacterial meningitis on 8th March. Sam was working as a chef in the area and had plans to head off to university. Sam's brother is in year 11 and he, his friends and Langtree staff attended Sam's funeral this week. The church was packed, a fitting send off for a great young person, full of life and with so much potential. Our thoughts are with all of Sam's family and friends at this unbelievably difficult time. We are hoping to have a permanent award in Sam's name and to host an event to raise awareness of the horrible disease that took Sam.

We would like to share our admiration of the amazing staff and students who made our school production of High School Musical an unforgettable hit! With over a quarter of our student body involved, the energy, talent, and school spirit were evident to every single person lucky enough to see it. From the stars belting it out on stage to the backstage legends, costume designers, set builders, tech team and the ever-patient staff guiding the way—you all rocked it! You danced, you sang, you acted your hearts out, and most importantly, you reminded us that we're truly all in this together. Thanks for bringing the Wildcats magic to life and leaving us all singing and smiling!

We have had fantastic success in two, relatively new, ventures for Langtree. Ms Maunder Hand put together two teams to represent the school in the National Literacy Trust Reading Champions Quiz. Of the 28 schools entered in the recent regional heats our teams came 2nd and 4th! We have also entered a wealth of National debating competitions. This is normally the domain of independent and grammar schools - we are often the only state school involved. Invariably too our year 10 and 11 students are competing against teams of sixth formers. Despite all these barriers the teams have done incredibly well across different competitions and debating formats - one of our teams even qualified from the regional heats to the next round.

This term Year 9 have also finalised their options choices. Mr Nonweiler, Ms Godfrey and all the year 9 tutors have arranged a full programme of events to ensure students and parents were informed about the various subjects we run in KS4 and the students gave the process the time and thought it needed to ensure they are all studying the best range of courses for them.

Year 10s are currently engaged in a week of exams. We have split the traditional exam fortnight across two separate weeks to reduce the pressure on them and allow them to focus their revision on half their courses at a time.

And my final thought is to our year 11s who are completing their final full term at Langtree. They are a fantastic group of students who have worked hard throughout their time with us. I hope they spend time over Easter revising hard so as they can get the grades and success that they deserve in their GCSEs and other courses.

Wishing you a restful Easter holiday. Simon Bamford, Headteacher.

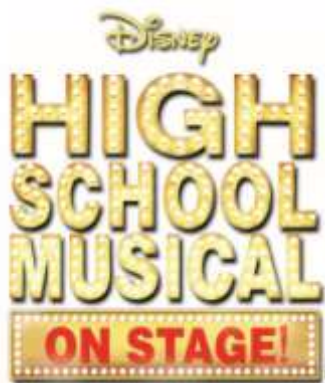




'I loved performing 'we're all in this together' as it felt like we were all together and we were a team and I could completely be myself' Arthur W Year 7.

I'm so proud to have been a part of Peter Pan, Buggy Malone, Nativity and The High School Musical. I loved being part of this year's show as it was my final one. I love the feeling of after weeks and months of hard work to show and share with the audience. I love being a part of the shows as it makes me mix with a variety of years which I wouldn't of talked to if it wasn't for the shows. Mrs Pimm and Mr Bradley are so talented at what they do and every year they pull off marvelous performances while making rehearsals enjoyable and memorable. Anon Year 10.

"An energetic performance with plenty of laughs. Wonderful to see how supportive the performers were of each other - great performance and teamship. Kudos to those who took part and to their friends who came to support" Cast Parent.



"Wow - it was such an absolute treat to be able to attend your wonderful production of High School Musical. From the great number of beaming youngsters on the stage to our left, to all the 'techy crew' waving their arms together on the balcony to our right, and all those in between, giving it their all and clearly having a total blast, not to mention the extraordinary layout of the performance area, this really was an amazing event! And the music was quite exceptional too! As Gill said at the time, this was surely a performance that the students (and probably the staff) will remember for ever! Everyone was smiling, the quality of the singing and the enthusiasm and energy coming from the performers was in my view the best yet, and the youngsters themselves surely couldn't have given an ounce more! I cannot begin to imagine the amount of work that it takes to involve so many people, and to get such a terrific performance out of each and every one of them - but honesty, this felt like Langtree at its very finest - and I know that I was not alone in being very very impressed." Langtree School Trustee



I loved taking part in the performances of High School Musical - it was so exciting to perform on the stage in front of the audience. The whole experience - auditioning, rehearsing, the matinee to the primary school, and all the performances was incredibly fun. I am definitely looking forward to taking part in the show next year as I enjoyed it thoroughly. Tess Year 7.



Taking part in the Langtree school play was one of the most exciting experiences I have had at my school. It was very encouraging to come out of our comfort zones to try new things. In my primary school in Yr6 I was able to be a main character but a small part in The Langtree play was way more amazing. We had a variety of things we could to help out in the play so even if you didn't want to be an acting role you could still help with lighting, sound, etc. I met lots of my friends from doing the play. It's a great way to meet new people. The play is dedication and an experience that I would definitely like to do every year I spend at Langtree. The other thing that makes this a wonderful experience is Mrs Pimm and Mr Bradley helping us reach our full potential on and off the stage at every rehearsal. Seb Year 7



"Thank you so much for this massive chance to let my light shine we won't ever forget how well we have done and worked together well done everyone thank you for trying and putting so much effort!!!!!"  
Sophie Year 7.

"I loved being a part of High School Musical, especially as this is my first ever show in Langtree! Being a part of this production with all the other year groups allowed me to make new friends and get to know some of the teachers that helped which was really nice. I was a Skater Girl/ Brainiac in the show. I loved the quick dress changes between the roles but my favourite part was when everyone sang the songs together! When Mrs Pimm gave us the photo cards to congratulate us, I was shocked when we were told how many people came to watch the show! I can't wait to take part in next year's production!" Samantha Year 7.



I really liked being in High School Musical. It was lots of fun, and even though the rehearsals were tough, especially in the two final weeks, it was worth it. I think it was really well cast, and my favourite character was Mrs Darbus (the drama teacher) and when she argued with Coach Bolton it felt really real. The songs were very catchy, and they're still going round in my head even now, over two weeks later. The best scene for me, personally, was on the last night when Sharpay got splattered in the face with a plate full of squirry cream, although I felt a bit sorry for Livi. The actors playing Sharpay and Ryan worked really well together, almost like real siblings (I have one myself, so I should know). I definitely want to do it again next year, although I think it's going to be hard to top.  
Scarlet Year 7.



## World Book Day Activities

We had a fantastic World Book Day this year, where the majority of staff and students came to school dressed as their favourite book character. A selection of activities - all aimed at celebrating books and the joy of reading - were available throughout the day of which a number of pupils participated. Well done to all those who entered the World Book Day Guess Who and in particular, the winners of the Book Bingo (Amber P, Will F, Max C, Anastasiia L, Daisy P and Ella F).





## The Langtree School PTA—your PTA

The PTA has been busy since Christmas, with a focus on supporting school events and raising much-needed funds.

At the beginning of March, the 'Love our Langtree' (LOL) team sprang into action on a sunny Saturday afternoon clearing brambles and adding plants to the fabulous planter built by the Prince's Trust students. A huge thanks to everyone who volunteered and watch out for a summer term date to be set. If you'd like to get involved, or if you wish to donate equipment / plants, please contact Jules Woodall. (juliet\_white@hotmail.com)

From plants to 'High School Musical': we were kept busy providing the bar to support the recent performance evenings. Thanks to all my wonderful bar staff and everyone who purchased from us; it was fun to do and a great opportunity to meet new parents. If you think you can spare a few hours every so often for events like this, please do let me know - Andrea Finlay (pta-chair@langtreeschool.com)

We were also pleased to be able to help the Year 11s with their Talent Show. Funds raised on the evening will be put towards the Year 11 Prom. We look forward to also supporting the Year 11 celebration day where we can.

Our next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday 29th April, 7.30pm, at 'The Red Lion' in Woodcote. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



## Love Our Langtree

The beautiful sunshine provided a perfect backdrop for the spring Love Our Langtree on Saturday!

With a team of 16, we were able to work on a lot of the usual areas around the school, as well as completing the task of clearing the brambled area by the bungalow and adding plants to the fabulous planter built by the Princes Trust students - Now outside the sports hall entrance. A huge thank you to all the parents, students and siblings who, as always worked really hard. Love Our Langtree is now into its third year and the difference is becoming really noticeable! The next LOL will be in the summer. Do get in touch if you would be able to spare a few hours and would like to get involved - No gardening skills needed! For more information or if you wish to make a plant donation please email Jules Woodall: juliet\_white@hotmail.com





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### Year 8 Online Book Group

This term, the Year 8 online book met to talk about Deborah Meaden's "Money". This was a very different read to the ones we've been used to; a non-fiction text that explores the definition of money and ways in which it can be made, spent and saved. We also learned a thing or two about cryptocurrency and bitcoin! Aimed at 12year olds, it was a really useful and important text and one that the group agreed was something they are likely to refer to again in the future. It was great to read a different genre of text. Next term, we're excited to read the fantasy novel, Terry Pratchett's "The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents".

If you'd like to join us, please contact Mrs Maunder-Hand; kmaunder-hand@langtreeschool.com



### National Literacy Trust Reading champions Quiz 2025

On Friday 28th March, two teams from year 7 and 8 took part in the National Literacy Trust's annual Reading Champions Quiz.



More information can be found [HERE](#). The teams entered the regional heat against 25 other teams from across the country, and had to answer 8 rounds of quiz questions all about reading and books. The questions were not easy, consisting of topics such as copyright laws, illustrators, authors names, character names, anagrams, film clips and so much more.

Our teams were both incredible, coming 2nd (Team B) and 4th (Team A) overall with Team A sharing a winning prize of £80 in book tokens. What an achievement! Well done to those who took part. Team A: Amy W, Zoe Y, Aurora S, Pippa S-S, Oliver J (reserve) and Team B: Duncan W, Blame M, Tess H, Isabel H, Evie C (reserve).



## 2024 – 2025 Term Dates

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 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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