



Summer 2025 Newsletter

A Brilliant End to a Busy Year!

As another academic year draws to a close, I'm filled with immense pride and gratitude for everything we've achieved together. The past few weeks, in particular, have been a whirlwind of activity, showcasing the very best of our school community.

We've successfully navigated the GCSE and other examinations, and we anticipate positive outcomes for all our Year 11 students. They navigated the rigors and stresses of the exam period with maturity and dedication and we are very hopeful that their efforts will be rewarded with the outstanding results they deserve.

One of the undeniable highlights of any school year was the Prom, a truly memorable celebration for our Year 11 students as they marked the end of their time at Langtree. It was, as always, a fantastic and well-attended event, but this year felt particularly special. Almost every student attended and stayed until the very last dance, demonstrating an incredible sense of unity and enjoyment that typified this cohort. It was wonderful to see them celebrate their achievements and friendships in such a spirited way.

Our annual Sports Day was another resounding success. The day was incredibly well-organised by the PE department, showcasing our school at its very best. We witnessed fantastic competition among our athletes and a truly great spirit among both competitors and supporters. It was a testament to the positive atmosphere and healthy rivalry that defines our sporting events and PE department generally. The Sports Day winners were BLUE.

During the last days of this academic year we were also able to celebrate Langtree Challenge achievements with students and their parents at a presentation evening, congratulations to all those who received a Bronze, Silver or Gold award.

Behind the scenes, our Inset Days were successfully completed, ensuring our staff remain at the forefront of educational best practices. This included productive sessions dedicated to our School Development Planning and attendance at the prestigious Festival of Education at Wellington College. These opportunities are vital for supporting ongoing staff development and learning, ultimately benefiting every student in our care.

On the subject of school improvement, you may have noticed the exciting progress with our science lab renovation project. This project is now fully underway, and we are eagerly anticipating the complete upgrading of our labs. These enhanced learning environments will undoubtedly benefit our students, providing them with cutting-edge facilities for scientific education and investigations.

And finally the traditional end of year activities week is currently drawing to a close, offering our students an incredible range of experiences beyond the classroom. Our Year 7 students embraced the outdoors at the Youlbury camp, developing teamwork and resilience. Many Year 8s embarked on exciting cultural journeys, with trips to either Brittany or Barcelona, broadening their horizons and experiencing new cultures firsthand. Similarly, our Year 9 students explored the rich history and charm of Amsterdam and Bruges, creating lasting memories. Meanwhile, our Year 10 students gained invaluable insights into the professional world through their work experience placements, taking their first steps towards future careers.

A special mention must go to the group of students who remained in school during Activities Week. They engaged in a truly fantastic range of activities centered around the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. This immersive programme allowed them to delve into a significant historical event, fostering a deeper understanding of its impact and importance.

My sincere thanks go to all the staff who meticulously planned, organised and attended this diverse range of activities, ensuring that every student had an enriching and memorable experience. Their dedication makes Activities Week such a special part of our school calendar. It shows again their willingness to go so above and beyond what is expected of them at the end of a busy and tiring school year. I am so grateful to every member of staff who have done so much to make it a success and to all the students whose trust, gratitude and maturity make the hard work of organising these things so rewarding and worthwhile.

We are sadly saying goodbye to several members of staff this summer, Miss Couchman and Ms Taylor from the TA team, both are looking to further their careers within education, Ms Taylor is starting her training to become a teacher of art and design. Mr Whelan is moving to another school expanding his experience by teaching A' level PE and taking on department responsibilities. Mr Jupp is stepping away from teaching math's into a different role but, still linked to education. Mrs Morel after many hugely successful years at Langtree, Mrs Morel is moving schools to Cranford House. We also say goodbye to Mrs Hayward our Attendance and Admissions Officer, who having joined Langtree in 2002 is retiring. We will miss each and everyone of those who are leaving us, but also wish them all the very best as they leave Langtree for pastures new.

As we look forward to a well-deserved summer break, I want to express my sincere thanks to all our parents and carers for your continued support, collaboration, and trust. Your partnership is invaluable, and together, we create the vibrant and thriving community that defines our school. To our students, thank you for your hard work, enthusiasm, and for making Langtree such a special place to be.

Have a wonderful, restful summer, and we look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting academic year!

Simon Bamford
Head Teacher

Langtree School Science Fair 2025

This year's science fair had a wider range of interesting and well researched topics including 'Can AI Understand Emotion', Evolution in birds and Tracking animals.

The winning project looked at Chemical reactions, this project included hands demonstrations the reactions studied. Rowan and Seb

The runner's up project researched the problems of E Coli in rivers-students Asha and Pippa

The science department was kindly assisted in the judging by parent scientist Mr Huggard

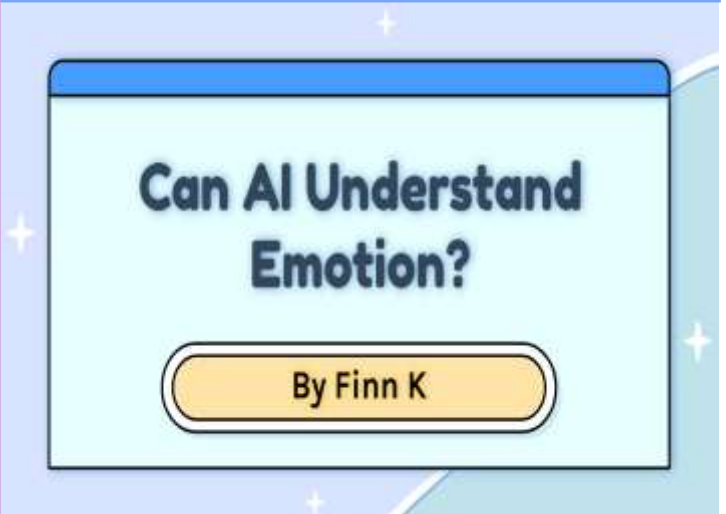
To view the entries click on each slide



Scarlett H

Tracking animals

How to do it



Science Lab Renovation

We have done it AGAIN

Following on from the age group winning success of Aaliya last year we have done it again.....

We are thrilled to announce the winners of the 11 to 14 age group of the 2025 My Environment My Future (MEMF) School Competition are Hugo Murphy, Nicholas Gupta, Charlie Absolom and Casper Poulton.

Students across the UK showcased their innovative ideas for Building a Sustainable Future! This year's competition invited students aged 11-18 to redesign a local space or building, focusing on sustainability in materials, energy use, and community purpose.



Click on the slide to view the project



PE Department

A group of enthusiastic **Year 9 Sports Ambassadors** visited Checkendon Primary School for an afternoon filled with fun and energetic sporting activities. Our students took the lead in planning and delivering a variety of exciting games for the Reception and Year 1 pupils. The younger children listened attentively, participated with enthusiasm, and enjoyed every moment in the sunshine. A huge well done to our fantastic Langtree students for their creativity, leadership, and positivity!





Gardening Club hosted a successful end of term cream tea for parents and a few staff. They made fresh scones and served them with strawberry jam made from strawberries grown in the school garden.



And relax... the summer holidays are here! The Langtree PTA has had a busy year raising much needed additional funds for Langtree school and its students. Here's a 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 13th October 2025, 7.30pm.**)

Money in/Events: The PTA held their own fundraising event in October 2024 – a Murder Mystery themed evening run by the wonderful Hayley Scott from the Forensic Experience which raised over £800.

We've supported the school by selling refreshments at their events including the Carol concert in December 2024, the wonderful performance of "High School Musical" in March 2025, and various other presentation evenings, which have in total raised over £2,400.

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. We also fund the plants supplied at these sessions. Photos below.

Money out: We've funded a number of requests and initiatives this year and continue to work very closely with the Staff at the school to see how we can positively contribute to the children's school experience. Here are a few examples: -

- Light boxes – for product Design/DT – approx. £220
- Telescope for Science students – approx. £120
- Shelving to support language materials – approx. £60
- Year 11 Talent shows – approx. £122
- Year 11 Disco – £300
- Year 11 leavers' day ice cream - £230
- LAMDA Acting exam fee for Pupil Premium students - £463.50

By far the biggest contribution the PTA has made is for the Science Labs refurbishment. The PTA has been fundraising for this project for at least 5 years and those during Covid times will remember several lockdown quizzes run specifically to raise money towards this initiative. The project is now well underway, and our £8,000 donation will go towards buying new equipment to kit out these new high-tech labs.

Future events: 16th September - next PTA meeting, 7.30pm, The Red Lion, Woodcote

13th October - AGM, 7.30pm, venue TBC

18th October - 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)

A big thank you to everyone who has supported or volunteered for us; we are incredibly grateful. If you want to help or get involved, please do let us know: pta-secretary@langtreeschool.com or pta-chair@langtreeschool.com



Year 10 GCSE Citizenship

Despite a hectic and busy term 55 of our Year 10 Citizenship students took part in our **'Big Sleep Out!'** which took place this Monday 21st July at the school. The primary purpose of the 'sleep out' was to raise money for homelessness and give the students the opportunity to experience what being homeless is really like. The students, with staff support, spent the night sleeping outside (without tents) rather than in their own beds. This experience, while not replicating the full experience of being homeless, was very challenging for both students and staff alike!

The students did so well and I think many now understand and appreciate how difficult life for the homeless really is. All of our Langtree Community are welcome to sponsor the students on Scopay, all money will go to Launchpad.

The opportunity to sponsor our Year 10s will be available on Scopay till mid-September

For more information about the charity Launchpad can be found through this link: <https://launchpadreading.org.uk/>



Year 9 have been writing their **Extinction Project** stories for our **English Department Creative Writing Competition**. One of our Trustee's, Jan Seal-Roberts, judged the top three from each English class and was blown away by the quality of the writing. She picked her top three with the following feedback:

In third place I would put Story no. 13 – the Grandfather's Guitar, which I felt painted a good picture of life with the humanity drained out of it. It had great structure and excellent description – and was very evocative about what society without humanity might be like. Great work! (3rd Place Sophia T)

In second place, I would put Story no. 4 – Liliya, the Daisy and the Boy, which I felt offered a really interesting structure, although it doesn't really offer an explanation, leaving things intriguingly open. The story includes some great imagery, with the boy in particular being suitably enigmatic, alongside really good movement in the overall structure. This was a really great read! (2nd Place Hugo M)

But in first place, I would put Story no. 5 – The Glass Garden, which is truly excellent! Not only is this story extremely thought-provoking, but it really made me feel, as the reader. It demonstrates a great use of rhythm, juxtaposing short sentences with longer ones, and has terrific progression, with increasing motion and emotion as the person gradually changes as the story develops – not to mention some terrific lines. (1st place Sophia C)

To my view, this is a truly standout story, so please pass on my warmest congrats to this writer – they should be very proud!

Well done to all our writers - you really made the English Dept proud! To read the 3 winning stories click [HERE](#)

The Drama Department

Year 7 have spent recent weeks having a taster of theatre forms from around the world.

Here are pictures of students having fun with the colourful, non-verbal communication style of Chinese Jingju, telling the 9th century story of Yey Shen (the original Cinderella).



Year 8 have finished the term developing their set design skills to design for 'other-worlds'. They were challenged to use a combination of blocked colours, structure, scale, angles and perspectives to create the atmosphere of another world. Have a look at some of their wonderful designs, which they created using our Stage in a Box resource.



Year 9 have been exploring comedy in their Drama lessons, including how to make a scene funny; learning about a wide range of comedy genres and the psychology of why we laugh. Have a read, below, of a piece of original stand-up comedy written by William A, using the techniques of misdirection & schadenfreude - it's very funny!

"I was in Tesco's the other day. It was like being at Wrestling Mania! They were putting the yellow stickers on and I saw an old lady move that quickly that she jumped down and k.o'd a 4 year old girl!

So I grabbed some popcorn off the shelf and sat down to watch.

The 4 year old used cola bottles as guns and the old lady was using a baguette as a sword. The kid got a concussion and the old woman was dragged out in handcuffs by Mark the security guard.

I only went in there for a Meal Deal but left with PTSD."

Langtree Alumni Special Effects Makeup Workshop

We were thrilled to welcome back Langtree alumni, Sian, who is currently studying for her level 3 extended diploma in Production Arts at BCA. Sian taught the Year 10 GCSE Drama students (and me!) how to make scar wax using flour and vaseline. She went to show us how to apply this and add makeup and fake blood to create scars and wounds. You can see from the photographs here that we are amazed by how realistic our attempts were!

Thank you, Sian, for delivering such an interesting and fun session for my students; we loved it! Mrs Pimm





Leavers
Class of
Summer
2025





Activities Week 2025



Year 7 Camp



Year 8 Barcelona



Year 8 France



Activities Week 2025

Year 9 Holland



Year 10 Active Leaders & Work Experience



School Activities Week

A practical and fun approach to MFL

An effective way to use mobile phones

Year 9 and year 10 have finished their summer term's studies with a video project. It was a rewarding experience that combined creativity, teamwork, and skill development. For year 10 French, the project was focused on the topic of school. Pupils had to write and conduct a survey about their ideal school and what changes they would bring.

Year 9 pupils were asked to write the interview of a French celebrity or make a video about their chosen Spanish festival.

Working in a group allowed them to bring diverse perspectives to the table. Throughout the process, pupils learned the importance of collaboration, communication, and problem-solving, which helped develop their soft skills. Despite the challenges, the project was genuinely fun and offered a great opportunity to apply everything they had learned in a practical, hands-on way.

Please feel free to use the QR code to access the videos



The Langtree Challenge

We were delighted to be able to celebrate with the students who had achieved a bronze silver or gold Langtree Challenge award.

The Langtree Challenge has been designed to recognise the importance of these characteristics alongside academic attainment, and to celebrate the achievement of each individual student in these key life skills. In this way, the Langtree Challenge will encourage students to participate in leadership skills and activities within school and the wider community, which will in turn enhance their employability when they leave full-time education. The challenge is open to all students; it is fully inclusive and the Gold challenge is achievable for any student who can display the attributes mentioned above. Congratulations to all award winner.



Langtree School 2025 - 2026 Term Dates Calendar

TERM 1	Monday 1st September 2025	Inset Day - no students in school
	Tuesday 2nd September	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students - Induction Day
	Wednesday 3rd September	Start of Term 1 for all other students.
	Friday 19th September	SPONSORED WALK - all students expected in school
	Monday 22nd September	Inset Day - no students in school
	Thursday 23rd October 2025	END of TERM 1 for students (As normal 3pm)
	Friday 24th October	Inset Day - no students in school
October Break – 25th October – 2nd November 2025		
TERM 2	Monday 3rd November	Start of Term 2
	Monday 1st December 2025	School Closed - no students in school
	Tuesday 2nd December	Inset Day - no students in school
	Friday 19th December 2025	END of TERM 2 (Half day school closes at 12.30pm)
Christmas Holiday – 20th December – 4th January 2026		
TERM 3	Monday 5th January 2026	Start of Term 3
	Friday 13th February 2026	END of TERM 3 (As normal 3pm)
February Break – 14th February – 22nd February 2026		
TERM 4	Monday 23rd February	Start of Term 4
	Friday 27th March 2026	END of TERM 4 (As normal 3pm)
Easter Holiday – 28th March - 12th April 2026		
TERM 5	Monday 13 th April	Start of Term 5
	Monday 4th May	May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
	Friday 22nd May 2026	END of TERM 5 (As normal 3pm)
May Holiday – 23rd May – 31st May 2026		
TERM 6	Monday 1st June	Start of Term 6
	Thursday 2nd July	Inset Day - no students in school
	Friday 3rd July	Inset Day - no students in school
	13th July to 17th July	Activities Week
	Tuesday 21st July 2026	END of TERM 6 (Half day school closes at 12.30pm)

LANGTREE SCHOOL IS NOW CASHLESS

**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

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