



# Easter 2026 Newsletter

As the rains have abated and blossom has started to appear, we reach the end of a short and busy Spring Term. Since our return from the February break, the energy around the school has been fantastic. From the slopes of the Alps to the stage of the West End, our students have truly lived our motto: *Putting Learning First, while having a fair bit of fun along the way!*

## Term Highlights: What a Ride!

**Fresh Powder in the Dolomites.** Our Year 10 skiers returned from their trip over the February break with tired legs but huge smiles. Whether they were "pro" status by Friday or spent more time getting to know the snow up close, their conduct was exemplary. A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their week to make this happen.

**Drama & Culture** Earlier this month, our drama and PE students headed into London for a matinee performance of *Dear England*. *It was a brilliant opportunity to see world-class staging in action, and the discussions on the coach back about team dynamics and pressure were as insightful as some classroom based learning.*

**The Great Debate** Congratulations to our various debating teams. Following their success in the regional heats in late February, they represented Langtree with incredible poise and razor-sharp logic. Watching them hold their own against (and regularly beat) sixth form students from grammar or independent schools was a proud moment for us all.

We also held our inaugural debate showcase where parents, family and friends were able to witness the team's phenomenal prowess first hand. The evening was an entertaining, educational and enlightening event and testament to the rhetorical skills of a large number of our students.

**Sports Desk** It's been a busy few weeks on the courts and fields. Our Under-15 girls' netball team finished their season on a high with a thrilling win against Chiltern Edge. The grit shown in the rain last Tuesday was a testament to their team spirit!

**Community:** Our fantastic PTA "Friends of Langtree School" organised an exceptionally fun quiz night. The questions were varied and challenging thanks to Mrs Sidhu - the "Price of things in 1981" and the GCSE questions rounds were eye-opening. Mr Chick hosted the whole evening brilliantly and the PTA bar ensured everyone was kept suitably refreshed throughout the evening.

The following day the sun shone as we weeded, planted trees and generally tidied up our site in our regular **Love our Langtree** day. Its always gratifying to work together to make everything look significantly better. I cannot wait until our new cherry trees start blooming - huge thanks to Jules Woodall for coordinating the whole event and to Sarah Walker for her expertise and support in sourcing the three new trees.

**Academically:** There has also been a great deal going on. The year 11s are approaching their final term at Langtree and focusing on the upcoming exams. Year 10 are just finalising the first week of their exams and looking forward (maybe) to the 2nd week which starts on June 8th. Our Year 9s have just been advised of their KS4 options - I was very impressed with the attention and maturity with which they undertook these important decisions.

Our drama students performed brilliantly for the visiting examiner. He seemed hugely impressed with the quality of the acting, staging, lighting and sound design. Our Leisure and Tourism students have had their exam results already and all achieved a minimum of a level 2 pass (equivalent to a GCSE grade 4) and many achieved merits and distinctions.

At the time of writing we are very much looking forward to the annual Langtree Talent Show. This is normally a joyous celebration of a diverse array of talents possessed by our students. Impressively the whole evening is advertised, co-ordinated and arranged by the student leaders and profits all go to support the Year 11 Prom evening.

Finally, the process of reopening the drama studio and other closed areas is a protracted one. We have had to commission engineers reports, building company tenders, MP visits and a full summary of our financial position. The outcomes of these processes have now been submitted to the Department of Education and we remain hopeful that they will quickly authorise the funding of the repairs needed to ensure that the school can fully reopen. Depending on how quickly the department respond we remain hopeful that this will be in September at the latest.

## Looking Ahead: Summer 2026

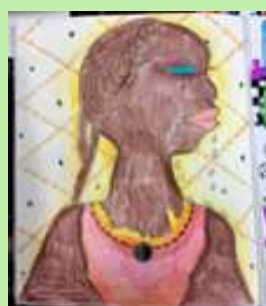
While we hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break, here are a few dates for the fridge door:

- **13th April:** Summer Term Begins (Week A)
- **4th May:** Bank Holiday (School Closed)
- **5th May:** GCSE PE Moderation
- **8th-10 May:** KS3 Surf Reward Trip
- **22nd May:** End of Term 5

**Simon Bamford, Headteacher**

## Art Work: Year 8 Chris Ofili artist study/inspiration

Christopher Ofili, CBE is a British painter who won the Turner Prize in 1998. He has used resin, beads, oil paint, glitter, lumps of elephant dung and cut-outs from magazines as painting elements. Ofili's work has been classified as punk art.



## PTA Quiz

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the PTA Quiz Night on Friday 13th March. A fabulous evening of quizzing was had by all! We put our brains to the test with everything from the price of everyday items in 1980, to GCSE exam questions (where many of us realised we, 'must try harder'), to Harry Potter trivia and a tricky "Which came first?" round.

The "Two Truths and a Lie" round was a particular highlight, revealing some unexpected gems about our teachers. Who knew that if you ever needed a qualified taxi driver in Australia, Mr Bamford was your man?

Special thanks must go to Angela Sidhu for creating the quiz and Ian Chick, our fantastic Comper for the evening. And to those members of the committee who set up, ran the bar and cleared up at the end.

The evening raised just over £730, all of which will go towards supporting the school in buying much needed resources and equipment.



## Love our Langtree

Blue skies and sunshine made for a great morning for the spring Love Our Langtree. We gave a warm welcome to some new year 7 families, as well as the LOL regulars too. With a 20 strong workforce, we were able to plant 3 beautiful flowering cherries on the edge of the playing fields. We hope that in a few years, these will create some welcome shade for the students in the summer term.

In addition parents and students worked really hard weeding, edging, clearing leaves and litter picking. Everyone worked with so much energy and enthusiasm, really making the most of the morning. Thanks to Mr Bamford for ensuring there was as ever, the best tasting LOL tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits! Love our Langtree has now been running for over 3 years and the difference around the school is really noticeable. Do take a look at the spring bulbs coming up at the front of the school! If you'd like to get involved, or have any plants you'd like to donate, please contact Jules Woodall - [juliet\\_white@hotmail.com](mailto:juliet_white@hotmail.com)

Keep your eyes peeled for future PTA events. Coming along and giving your support not only helps raise money for the school but gives everyone a chance to get together with friends, meet new people and generally have fun!

If you have any questions about the PTA or want to find out how you can get involved, then join us at our next meeting on Tuesday 21st April, 7.30pm at The Red Lion in Woodcote or email Andrea at [pta-chair@langtreeschool.com](mailto:pta-chair@langtreeschool.com)

Happy holidays everyone!



**The English Department have had a packed term....**

It's been a busy debate season! During the February half term, our students had a brilliant day at the ICYD Oxford Regional, hosted by the Oxford and Cambridge Unions. They had the opportunity to debate at the Oxford Union, one of the most famous debate chambers in the world. A fantastic experience and we are so proud of them.



We entered two teams of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils into the **National Reading Champion Quiz** run by the National Literacy Trust. Both teams performed brilliantly, coming 4th (Team A) and joint 12th (Team B) out of 29 teams. Their knowledge of books and poetry was unbelievably good - so impressive to see. A big shout out too to our Year 11 mentors, Ted S and Max E, who have been helping to prepare the teams for the quiz every week since Christmas. We're very proud of you all! Hopefully, see some of you again next year! Team members were: Tess H, Scarlet H, Elsie D, Daisy P, Millie G, Pippa S-S, Pollyanna D and Caroline H "

A huge thank you to all our **Reading Buddies** this term; both Year 11 mentors and Year 7 readers. We've been running our programme since Christmas, and have had a number of really engaging sessions, where Year 11 have listened to their buddy read, set them reading targets each week, and given lots of words of reading encouragement. Thank you so much Year 11 for all your help - you've been wonderful mentors to Year 7 and we will miss you as you go on to sit your GCSEs next term. Reading Buddies will continue after Easter, but with a new set of Year 10 mentors. We look forward to welcoming you and will have the brioche ready!



Mrs Maunder-Hand



**Children and young people who read in their free time said it helps them:**

**56.6%**  
to relax

**41.0%**  
feel happy

**50.9%**  
learn new things

**32.8%**  
understand the views of others...

**32.8%**  
...and about other cultures

**26.0%**  
to be confident



# World Book Day 2026



## Student Rights

In hallways bright with lockers lined,  
Where futures form and thoughts unwind,  
Where lessons mark the passing hours,  
There beats the drum of young brave hearts.

We are not shadows on a chart,  
Not test scores filed and torn apart,  
Not uniforms in silent rows,  
We are the minds that question why it is so.

Within these walls of brick and glass,  
Where seasons turn and students pass,  
We claim the right to speak our mind,  
With words both bold, and reason, kind.

The right to learn in safety's care,  
No whispered threat, no mocking stare,  
No fear that walks the corridors,  
Respect should stand at every door.

The right to ask, to disagree,  
To share our own identity,  
To wear our culture, faith, or name  
Without the sting of taunt and shame.

The right to fail and try once more,  
To knock on knowledge's heavy door,  
For growth is born in trial and error,  
Not just in being called 'the best'.

The right to fairness, clear and true,  
In rules applied to me and you,  
No hidden scales, no favoured few,  
Justice in what teachers do.

The right to gather, dream, create,  
To organise, collaborate,  
To raise our voices, calm but strong,  
When something here feels truly wrong.

And hand in hand with every claim,  
Responsibility walks the same,  
To listen well, to seek the good,  
To build the school as students should.

For rights are not a rebel's cry,  
But roots that help a school stand high,  
Where every learner's worth is known,  
And every voice has space to grow.

So let classrooms always be,  
A place of shared humanity,  
Where young hearts learn, and leaders start,  
And justice lives in every heart.

Issy C, 7JAL

## And in Drama...

Year 11 Drama GCSE Performance exams took place this term. All of our students excelled in their performances or designs. They can be very proud of themselves



Our Year 7s have enjoyed exploring Alan Ayckbourn's play 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations' this term. This culminated in them using our Stage in a Box resource to create their own set designs for the play. It was wonderful to see such excellent engagement, creativity and collaboration!





## YEAR 10

The ski trip is your last chance to go on a school trip with your friends and enjoy a well needed break before revision for mocks and GCSES start. It is a unique opportunity that many people won't have had before, extremely fun, and very welcoming for beginners. You will be left with lifelong memories of all the amazing experiences from the trip, and you certainly won't regret going!



## We built friendships!



*Spending a week away from regular routine, meant that we had to share rooms with other students, ski and hang out with them too. This led to people becoming unexpectedly closer.*

*On the slopes we were put into groups depending on experience, this meant that we weren't always able to be with our friends - however, it did mean that we built new friendships with other students and had a great time skiing together.*

# ACTIVITIES

Besides skiing, there were lots of activities for us all to do in the evenings such as ice cream tasting, ice skating, a restaurant meal followed by a torchlit walk and being let into the local town for shopping. These experiences were really fun and meant we had further time to hang out with our friends instead of spending the evening on our phones.



The ski trip was a great experience whether you had been skiing loads before or were a complete beginner. From the skiing, to the evening activities, and even the travel itself, everyone had an amazing time. The trip allowed us to grow closer as a year group and build new friendships.



## Sports News

Year 8 Boys Football had a win against Icknield Community College.



House Teams competed in the Inter House Cross Country Competition.



# Langtree School 2026 - 2027 Term Dates Calendar

Please note that these are the dates for the start and end of term for 2026 / 2027. Dates for the INSET days to be added.

<b>TERM 1</b>	Tuesday 1st September 2026	Inset Day - no students in school
	Wednesday 2nd September	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 students - Induction Day
	Thursday 3rd September	Start of Term 1 for all other students.
	Thursday 17th September	School closes at 12.30pm (Open evening)
	Friday 18th September	<b>SPONSORED WALK - all students expected in school</b>
	Friday 23rd October 2026	<b>END of TERM 1 for students (As normal 3pm)</b>
<b>October Break – 24th October – 1st November 2026</b>		
<b>TERM 2</b>	Monday 2nd November	Start of Term 2
	Friday 18th December 2026	<b>END of TERM 2 (Half day school closes at 12.30pm)</b>
<b>Christmas Holiday – 19th December – 3rd January 2027</b>		
<b>TERM 3</b>	Monday 4th January 2027	Start of Term 3
	Friday 12th February 2027	<b>END of TERM 3 (As normal 3pm)</b>
<b>February Break – 13th February – 21st February 2027</b>		
<b>TERM 4</b>	Monday 22nd February	Start of Term 4
	Thursday 25th March 2027	<b>END of TERM 4 (As normal 3pm)</b>
<b>Easter Holiday – 26th March - 11th April 2027</b>		
<b>TERM 5</b>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Term 5
	Monday 3rd May	May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
	Friday 28th May 2027	<b>END of TERM 5 (As normal 3pm)</b>
<b>May Holiday – 29th May – 6th June 2027</b>		
<b>TERM 6</b>	Monday 7th June	Start of Term 6
	12th July to 16th July	Activities Week
	Tuesday 20th July 2027	<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: [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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