

As I write this first newsletter of the new decade I can hear our year 11 students excitedly waiting for their mock interviews. We are extremely grateful to the governors, parents and friends of the school who have given up their time to help our students practise this valuable skill. This comes at the end of a busy term for this cohort which started with their mock exams and they are now busy working on the improvements necessary to ensure they are successful in the actual exams.

Langtree's run of incredible success in sport continues. Last night the netball team came second in the district tournament and earlier this term the year 7 5-a-side football team won the district tournament which meant they qualified for the South of England competition. Up against the best teams from across the whole of the South of England - including ones that had flown in from the Channel Islands, the girls won their group, were victorious in the semi-final only to be beaten in the final. But for "Little Old Langtree" to be officially the second best team in this part of the country is an absolutely outstanding achievement.



It is not just in sport that we achieve success. Last night's talent show demonstrated the breadth and depth of our students skills. Where else can you see pogo sticking, trombone solos, an Ozzy Osborne song and the victorious year 10 boys dance routine on one bill?

Today we witnessed a performance by the Langtree entry into the Rotary public speaking competition, "Youth Speaks", Ramiya, Elanor and Rob presented a well-researched, beautifully balanced and confidently delivered argument about the pros and cons of stem cell research. Unfortunately they were not able to deliver this publicly as their heat was cancelled due to the other schools withdrawing but I want to find an opportunity for them to showcase their amazing work to an audience.

This term we have also won a cyber security competition, had three teams qualify for the Student Investor Challenge semi finals (out of the 9 215 teams that entered) and came second in the Geographical Association Schools Quiz. There are numerous other student achievements celebrated in this newsletter and our weekly bulletin.

We are also extremely proud of the way the students have taken to our various environmental initiatives this term. Following discussions with the school council environment committee we took the decision to dramatically reduce the amount of disposable packaging used in the canteen. Previously many students had their meals served in disposable (albeit biodegradable) containers. Students now have the option of either bringing in a takeaway container from home or having their meal served on a plate. As well as reducing the amount we send to landfill this move has increased the number of students sitting down 'eating properly' as well as decreasing the amount of litter around the school. In addition our students have recycled over fifty thousand crisp packets. This says a great deal about their commitment to the environment, but perhaps less about the healthiness of their diets!



As the term comes to an end, we wish our Year 10 ski group fun and fresh snow. For all other members of our school community, I do hope that you manage to have some enjoyable and restful family time over the coming week. We look forward to welcoming our students back to Langtree on Monday 24th February!

Mr Simon Bamford, Headteacher.

**Artist of the Term: Holly Bassett 9Nwa**



# 'The Tempest'

A remote island...

A sorcerer with a grudge...

Magic and mayhem...

By William Shakespeare

87 students  
In the cast  
16 musicians  
Many more helping with  
set, costume, lighting and  
sound

Save  
the  
Date



Open Air Performance at Langtree School

30<sup>th</sup> June—2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Follow us on Twitter @ Head4094



**Prom Concert—Talent Show**



The Bear's name is "Fuzzy" and now belongs to Lia Orman.

£96.00 was raised for MIND



# Cake Sale

Cake sale on Friday 24th January

Save Australia! Every donation goes towards the Australian bushfires.



**RAISED £80.70**



From One Small Spark A Bushfire Grows

Take any cakes to Mrs Belcher's office on Friday morning.

Please check the website for up to date information. [www.langtreeschool.com](http://www.langtreeschool.com)

**Cybergirls** is a national competition that runs throughout the UK. We qualified for the South East Semifinals, held in the IBM offices in Winchester.

We came fifth in our semifinal which was split across three venues in the South East. The three venues were connected by a live leaderboard.

The questions were sorted into 4 categories: Networking, Logic and Coding, Cryptography and Cyber Security. For example, Cryptography is encoding and decoding.

Liz Stead Year 7



### Cyber Discovery, GCHQ Event.

On Thursday 6th February, Mrs Morel took the year 10 GCSE computer science group to a "Cyber Discovery pop-up event". Once we arrived, we took part in the "CyberStart Game" for the morning, solving cyber security challenges. After lunch, we separated into teams of 4 to compete against each other in a "capture the flag" event, working together to solve cyber challenges of varying difficulty. The winning team received two books each, written by cyber security experts.



the UK's premier investment competition

**The results are in for the Student Investor Challenge 2020....**

**Out of the 9,215 teams that played this year, only 500 teams have been shortlisted to enter the semi-final of Student Investor Challenge**

**and 3 of those teams are from Langtree Y11 Business!**

The London Institute  
of Banking & Finance

Student  
Investor

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## Sports results - Term 3

(SOM – student of the match)

14/1	Year 7 football v Matthew Arnold	Matthew Arnold	Won 3-1	Pavan Sandhu SOM Ben Chapman 2 goals
15/1	South Oxon Swimming Gala	South Oxon Schools	Year 8/9 Boys 4/6 Girls 7/8 Year 10/11 Boys 4/4 Girls 5/5	Silas Mendez - Heat Winner Lottie Moghul - Heat runner up
16/1	Year 9 Girls Football County Cup	Icknield	Lost 4-1	Lydia Godfrey
21/01	Year 9 Netball	Wallingford	A - lost 16-6 B - lost 11-6	
22/01	Year 7 Girls Football	St Gregory The Great	Won 9-0	Aoife Murphy SOM scored 6 goals!
23/01	Year 11 Netball	Wallingford	A won 15 -5 and 10 -5 B drew 5-5 Lost 10-8	Brilliant performances by both teams
28/01	Year 9 Boys football County Cup	Oxford Academy	Won 4-2	SOM Lewis Brindle 2 goals Harry Roberts 1 Thomas Redfern 1
29/1	Year 8 Netball	Icknield	A - Team lost B - Team lost	Mary Jones Hannah Rainsborough
30/1	Year 7 Girls Indoor Southern England Finals	Teams from all over Southern England who won their regional tournament	Finished second overall	Aifoe Murphy Mia Hatt
30/1	Year 9 Netball	Icknield	A lost 29-4 B lost 22-9	Sydney Spearing & Holly Strange players of the match
4/2	Year 11 Aea Netball	Area Tournament	A Team Finished 3rd in group B Team finished 4th in group	
4/2	Year 10 Football - County Cup	Icknield	Won 1-0	Kit Davies scored Angus Cusack SOM
5/2	Year 8 Football - Vale Cup	St Birinus	Lost 5-0	Memphis Whitwam SOM
11/2	Year 7 County Cup Football	Oxford Spires	Lost 5-1	SOM Jimbo Davies Tireless effort in midfield
5/2	Year 10 Netball	Wallingford	A Team Lost 20-9 B Team Lost 13-4	
11/2	Year 10 Area Tournament		Finished 2nd overall, only lost 1 game.	All played very well. SOM Evie Arthur, Eve Sumner,
12/2	Year 7 Netball	Icknield	A Team lost 5-0 B Team Won 2-1	Alice Greenwood Megan Antonio
12	Year 7 Netball	Wallingford	A team lost 4-1 B team on 3-1	Rosie Gillion Chloe Winters

**Year 9 Boys football County Cup**



**Year 7 Boys football County Cup**



**Year 7 Girls Indoor Southern England Finals**

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### Spoken Word Workshop with Anna Wheatley

We were utterly thrilled to welcome playwright, author and spoken word artist, Anna Wheatley to Langtree in January. 24 of our Year 9 students spent the morning shouting, feeling, crafting spoken word pieces about things that matter to them. Subjects ranged from the climate emergency to homophobia, to the invisibility of youth. Anna was so inspiring, energised and encouraging. We are so proud of the moving powerful words our young people shared, WOW! Thanks to Anna and Rabble (formerly RBL) Theatre Company for offering our students this unique and free experience.

Mrs Pimm and  
Mrs Shakespeare.



### Geography Association Quiz

On Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, six students succeeded in showing that Langtree holds high standards when it comes to geographical knowledge at the Geography Association Quiz held at Reading Boys Grammar School. The students representing the school were: Niamh, Ashley, Erin, Jasmine, Alby and Daniel. A grand total of eighteen teams were in attendance, two of which were our very own Langtree Teams 1 and 2. Each team had three members; one from Year 8, one Year 9, and a captain from Year 10. They were up against the very best private and state schools from Berkshire and south Oxfordshire, for example Trinity School who won in 2019 and St Bartholomew's who won in 2018. However, tough competition and the historic Reading Boys school hall did not faze our students!

The quiz kicked off with a complicated first round in which the competitors had to name the country that belonged to flags that were shown on the projector. It sounds simple, but wait until you have a go with the example below! (Without using the internet):

Langtree Team 1 performed extremely well on this round with an impressive 20 out of 20 marks, Team 2 following closely behind with 17. Three more rounds followed - one of which was identifying UK landmarks from a small revealed part of a picture. Solid preparation helped our students in this bumper point round - 5 points per correct landmark identified from one revealed square - and surprisingly when the scores were revealed at the end of round three Langtree Team 1 was first place!

Following were 4 more tough rounds that included country capital anagrams and Geography in the news that had both teams scratching their heads. How well would you have done? Here's a sample question to try (without the internet!) 'The Australian Government dropped lots of what vegetable on areas affected by wildfires to feed kangaroos whose food sources had been destroyed?'

Finally, after seven rounds the scores were revealed. The tension in the hall was palpable as quizmaster Mr Gunson read out first, second and third places. Both our teams were doubtful Langtree would make a podium place after the particularly difficult 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> rounds... But, missing out on 1<sup>st</sup> place by THREE POINTS... Langtree Team 1 came second with 117 points!

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## Music Examination Success

I am pleased to celebrate the success of the following students who passed music examinations in the Christmas term. Dominic S, Rebecca, Caitlin Parmar-Sheppard, Alice Carsen, Daniel McCarthy, Leith Ashurst, Toby Best, Hazel Gainsford, Hope Knox, Izzy Chandler, Annabel Jarvis, Lloyd Singleton, and Josh Clark

Dominic and Rebecca passed Grade 5 theory with the same mark! Toby passed two exams. Izzy got Grade 6, Caitlin Grade 7 and Lloyd distinction at Grade 8!

What wonderful achievements. Well done everybody.

Mr Henderson



## Piano Soiree

Eighteen pianists took part in an informal concert of piano music on Wednesday 5th February in the Music Room. We were treated to a large variety of music. Congratulations to all the performers - Eleni Southby, Tilly Westcar, Grace Picton, Chris Wahlen, Caelen Ashurst, Bethany Cox, Theo Warren, Hannah Bates, Josh Clark, Leith Ashurst, Lola Bint-Savage, Finn Walker, Louise Carson, Toby Best, and George Scurr - for their fantastic performances.

If any student wishes to start playing a musical instrument, please come and talk to me in the music department.

Mr Henderson



## The Langtree Challenge

The Langtree Challenge was launched in September 2014, the first awards evening took place in May 2015.

In January this year we held our latest awards evening, giving 48 Bronze, 31 Silver and 15 Gold Awards to students from all year groups, some of whom are pictured below.

Since the first awards evening in May 2015 there have been 341 Bronze, 209 Silver and 71 Gold Langtree Challenge Awards given to students.

Congratulations to all the award winners.



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### **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

## **2019 – 2020 Term Dates**

### **February Break – Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2020**

Monday 24th February	Start of Term 4
Monday 2nd March - Thursday 12th March <b>Year 10 Exams</b>	
<b>Friday 3rd April</b>	<b>End of Term 4</b>
<b>Easter Holiday – Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April 2020</b>	
Monday 20th April	Start of Term 5
Friday 8th May	May Day Bank Holiday (moved for VE Day Anniversary)
Friday 22nd May	End of Term 5
<b>May Holiday – Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2020</b>	
Monday 1st June	Start of Term 6
<b>Friday 3rd July</b>	<b>National Inset Day</b>
<b>Mon 13th - Fri 17th July</b>	<b>Activities Week Y7 Camp / Y8 France / Y10 Work Ex.</b>
Monday 20th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 21st July	End of Term 6 (School closes at 12.30pm)

### **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 un-named 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.

## **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.

