



LGS Headlines

December 2015





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18 December 2015

From the Headteacher

Dear Parents

We have reached the end of another long and busy term. As always I am immensely proud of all that our students and staff have achieved both in terms of academic achievement and progress, and all the other activities celebrated in Headlines.



At the end of a term it is always sad to say goodbye to departing members of staff - and this term to one of our longest-serving Governors. We wish them well in the future.

It is always pleasing when the school receives Awards in recognition of the provision for students and staff. This term we have been re-designated as a lead school in the national Network of Excellence for the teaching of computing, and have regained the International School Award. More details are to be found in this edition of Headlines. These awards recognise our wider curriculum and the standard of teaching, and complement recognition of the academic success of our students. The Sunday Times 'Parent Power' Top 200 table ranks schools based on combined GCSE and A-Level results; Langley Grammar School retains its position just outside the top 100 at 111th.

There is much to celebrate at this school and I hope you will enjoy reading about just a few aspects of school life in this last edition of Headlines for 2015.

I do hope that you and your families have a very happy and enjoyable Christmas season, and my best wishes to you for the new year ahead.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher



Merry Christmas

In the student pages of this issue.....

- International Schools Award
- Christmas Carol Concert
- Year 7 Shakespeare Workshop
- Year 9 Clothes show trip
- Year 11 History trip
- Year 11 Shakespeare Show
- Senior House Music
- Physics Trip

Mr M Aplin - News Manager

A reminder.....

2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Spring term starts on Monday 4 January at 8.20 am.

This will be a normal school day — so students will need to come prepared!

For information about dates for next term, please visit the school website.

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Please visit our website at
www.lgs.slough.sch.uk



Good bye to.....

At the end of this term we are very sad to say goodbye to **Ms Sally Gibbins**. Ms Gibbins teaches Biology, and was acting subject leader during Mrs Morgan's maternity leave. She has been Deputy Head of Sixth Form for the last four terms dealing very effectively with a range of pastoral and academic issues. Ms Gibbins is leaving for family reasons and in January will take up a part-time teaching post nearer home. She is a well-known and respected teacher in the upper years of the school and will be sincerely missed.

On behalf of the staff and students I would like to thank Ms Gibbins for her contribution to the school and our students, and to wish her every success in the future.

Congratulations to.....

Mrs Nadia Button has been appointed as our new Student Support Manager, succeeding Mrs Christine Hardy who left the school a few weeks ago. Mrs Button has been acting as our Receptionist for the last few months and will be familiar to many parents already. She take up her new role at the beginning of January, when she will be the main point of contact for parents and students in the Student Support Office

The Deputy Head of Sixth Form will be shared for the rest of the year by **Mr Mark Aplin** and **Miss Felicity Northcott**. Mr Aplin is a Sixth Form tutor, and Miss Northcott has a number of years experience as a Head of Year and Phase Leader prior to her maternity leave.

Mr Dan Mace has been recently appointed as a Principal Examiner in Geography for Pearsons, who run the Edexcel examinations. Having members of our teaching staff who are involved in the examinations system is enormously valuable because of the insight and knowledge they are able to feed back to their subject teams.

Ms Claire McAteer spent two weeks in Australia earlier this month as part of the Great Britain team at the Tag Rugby World Cup. Sadly no medals to bring home, but a fantastic experience for her.

Governor update....

In February we will say goodbye to one of our longest-serving governors when he reaches the end of his current term of office. **Ken Richardson** joined the Governing Body back in 1992 and became Chair of Governors in 1999 just before Dr Alan Robinson announced his retirement as Headteacher. He continued in this role until October 2015, overseeing the appointment of two headteachers, the school's conversion to academy status and the investment of over £8 million in the school site and facilities.

Before his retirement, Ken was a professional engineer and project manager of multi-million pound construction projects for the military in the UK. He used this knowledge to steer the Governing Body through the construction of the new buildings that were built in recent years—the Sports Centre, the 2006 block and the Sixth Form Centre.

Ken's three children all attended Langley Grammar School and his commitment to the Governing Body stems from his wish to give something back to the school after their very successful education.

Ken was succeeded as Chair of Governors in October by **Mrs Roma Garrett**. Roma was until recently an elected parent governor with a son currently in Year 11, and is now co-opted to the governing body in her role as Chair.



On behalf of the staff and students I would like to wish Ken a very happy 'second retirement' and Roma every success in her new role.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher



Senior Prizegiving

The Senior Prizegiving event on Thursday 17 December 2015 was an opportunity to celebrate the A Level success of our former Year 13 students who left the school last summer.

A Level certificates were presented to each student individually. The previous Head Boy and Head Girl, **Will Harris** and **Sukhbir Khosah**, were given special awards in recognition of their role.

There are two further special awards presented at this evening. The **Headteacher's Commendation** recognises the achievements of a student who has achieved at a high level despite some very particular personal challenges. This year the Commendation went to Hana Stewart, who gained very good grades in four subjects and is now studying Psychology at Royal Holloway University.

The **Hilary Jemmett Award** recognises students who have made an outstanding contribution to the school community and particularly to the Sixth Form. Hilary was a student at Langley Grammar school in the early 1980s. She was seriously disabled and sadly died shortly after leaving the school; her parents donated a plate in her memory.

The recipient of this year's Hilary Jemmett Award is **Ethan Beer**. Ethan only joined the school at the start of Year 12 but made a very significant contribution to music, drama and technical support. Ethan achieved excellent A Level grades and is now gaining experience in the music industry before applying to continue his musical studies.

We would like to wish all our former students every success in the future.

ParentPay

If you use Internet Explorer as your browser, you should note that from 12 January 2016, Microsoft will no longer support older versions of Internet Explorer. You will not be able to login to ParentPay if you are using an unsupported browser.

From 12 January 2016 the minimum supported browser versions for accessing ParentPay will be:

- Chrome 35 or higher
- Firefox 30 or higher
- Internet Explorer 9 or higher
- Safari 6 or higher.

You can find out more through a message on the ParentPay home screen. It's usually easy to update your browser by visiting the website of your browser provider and downloading from there; some browsers will allow you to update from the browser menu.

Mr G Trigg - Business Manager

Charity fundraising

Our students have demonstrated real commitment to a number of charities over the years. During this autumn term, a over **£8,000** has been raised for three main charities:

We have supported **Afrikids** for over ten years now. Afrikids is an internationally award-winning child rights and community development organisation working in northern Ghana to alleviate child suffering and poverty.

Afrikids believe strongly in sustainable development and is unusual in that it has an exit strategy through which its UK office will close in 2018.



Afrikids has traditionally been the 'Sixth Form charity' and this term, the **Sixth Form Charity Week** raised £1,532. The students also donated the surplus from their Year 11 Prom - a further £542. In addition, the recent non-uniform day for the whole school raised £1025. That makes a fantastic total of.....

£3,099

www.afrikids.org

Another charity which the school has supported for many years is **LEPRA**, which works in a number of countries to change the lives of people affected by disease, poverty and prejudice.



Year 7 students have supported this charity through their annual 'Zumbathon' workout, which this year raised an amazing

£3,195.81

www.lepra.org.uk

Finally, and close to home, **Year 11** students are set a challenge every year in their PCS (Personal and Citizenship Studies) lessons to work in groups and raise money for **BBC Children in Need**.



This year's range of projects included sponsored sporting activities, car washing and cake decorating and across the whole year group, the students raised.....

£1,768



Network in Teaching Excellence Award

Embedding the new computing curriculum has been an interesting and demanding time for many schools.

Langley Grammar School has been at the forefront of this important work. Our contribution to supporting local schools has been recognised by the *Network of Teaching Excellence in Computer Science*, in our redesignation as a Lead School this year.

The support offered to local schools by **Mrs Stacey Jenkins** as part of her Master Teacher and Specialist Leader in Education role has been diverse and crosses the key stages.

The support has included working with: local nursery schools and EYFS students, numerous primary schools; looking at ways to incorporate computing using kinaesthetic or 'unplugged' activities as well online and computer based activities, to more specific programming training for teachers of key stage four.



Mrs Jenkins has run training workshops for trainee teachers many who are just embarking on their teaching career, for example, Learn Direct trainee teachers at Uplands Primary School and PGCE trainees at Brunel University. She has also had the opportunity to work with staff at Arbour Vale School and be creative on how to incorporate computing for students with special educational needs.

Overall it has been a fascinating and positive journey.

Mr D Harding - Deputy Headteacher

Christmas spirit

Sayonara, until we meet again,
Ending the year happily and then,
A joyful exchange of gifts tomorrow,
Shalom, parting is such sweet sorrow,
Onto the future, we must progress,
New Year's Fireworks will certainly be at their best!
Salutations, to the past, to this year, what's been done,
Greetings to the future, to next year, what's to come,
Run around the tree, open presents just for you,
Enter Christmas spirit, motivate us as you do,
Encourage us to spend time with all those we hold dear,
Teach us to enjoy our holidays, and fill them with cheers,
Ignite within us, a flame of happiness so bright,
Next to us all, so we can be warmed by the light,
Gone is the year, yet we'll still start anew,
Study the first letters, for my message to you!

Faheem Anwar 9H

Langley Laureate





Photography Competition

Written by Ms Stanton

Our first Instagram photography competition this term focused on the theme of "Autumn", with students from all years invited to submit original photographs. The brief was to try to capture the Autumn theme in a creative way. A selection of the best entries were posted on the *@lgsartists* Instagram account. The **winning picture** and the **five runners-up** are shown below

Further Instagram photography competitions will be held throughout the year and details about the next one will be issued at the start of next term.



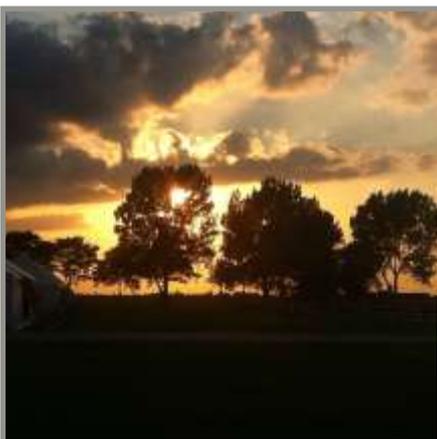
The winning picture, by Mathumitha Sivabalan, Year 10



Madhubani Datta, Year 12



Sreemallika Ramireddy, Year 10



Faheem Anwar, Year 9



Huda Abdul Halim, Year 7



Kaaviya Nimalarupan, Year 7



International School Award

Written by Mrs Sihota

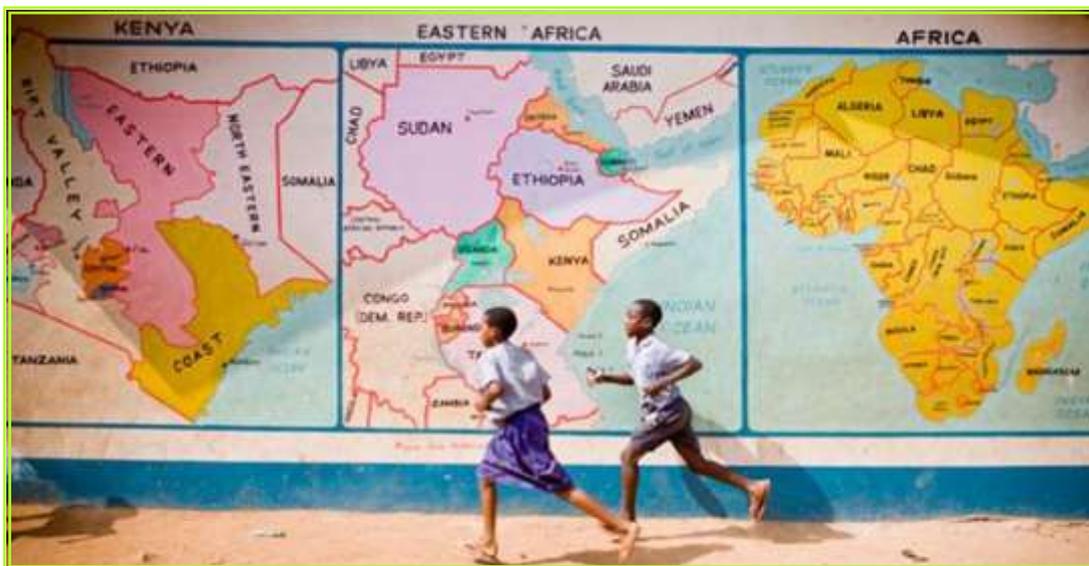
The *International School Award* is managed by the British Council and provides a framework for schools to forge links with partner schools around the world, enhance their curriculum and prepare students for life as global citizens.

The award has three certified levels: Foundation; Intermediate and Accreditation. In January 2015 the school was awarded the intermediate certificate, followed by the full award in June 2015.

To achieve the full award, the school had to provide evidence of embedding international learning in the school and curriculum. We also had to work with an international partner schools on a range of projects and share educational practice.



The school which we partnered with for the award was The British School in New Delhi, India. This is an international school following the iGCSE and IB curriculums. We worked on projects from global issues during registrations, economics and maths. Some of the projects involved collaborative planning and delivery by the teachers and a sharing of work afterwards. Students really appreciated the different perspectives their peers in India had about the same topics. We plan to sustain these relationships and extend the partnership to other subject areas.



An audit of the opportunities that our students are given to widen, deepen and develop an international perspective, showed an impressive range of opportunities we offered. These ranged from assemblies, fundraising activities, trips, teaching, project work to name but a few. There are a few subject areas in school where Internationalism is embedded into the schemes of work, where students are given the chance to research and discuss different cultures, economies and perspectives. A number of departments were involved in delivering projects and activities with students, which contributed to the award, including geography, PCS, RE, maths, economics and English. We hope to continue offer opportunities to develop internationalism in our students supporting them to become more tolerant, independent, open-minded, reflective and principled global citizens.



Carol Service

Written By Anitha Mclean (9V)



On Wednesday 9th of December, members of the several LGS music groups such as the orchestra, choir and jazz band were joined by Castleview primary school for a night of lessons, carols and Christmas cheer. The Carol service always brings families and friends together- to celebrate the birth of Christ and appreciate the wonderful music that Langley has to offer. The concert was well attended with a packed out St Mary's church.

The evening was started off with a warming performance of 'Once in Royal David's City', which was beautifully sang by the choir, and once the audience joined in, there was an orchestra of voices! Then, we were all welcomed by the Reverend Bruce Russell before launching into the 9 lessons and several carols to follow.

Students from year 7 to 13 took it in turns to read aloud the lessons and tell the story of Christmas, whilst the orchestra, choir and jazz band played songs such as Good King Wenceslas, Silent Night, Tidings of Comfort and Joy, Noël Nouvelet and Hark the Herald Angels sing.

The evening was rounded off with the 9th lesson-read by Mr Constable, The Blessing and an organ 'Fanfare' by former student and organ voluntary Liam Condon. Mince pies and mulled wine were handed out, and donations were made graciously to St Mary's church and the various charitable projects that it supports in Langley. The service was a truly spectacular event and our thanks goes to the students and teachers for all their help, as well as everyone who supported Langley and attended the evening.





Year 7 Shakespeare on Stage

Written By Sankeerat Sidhu (7V)

On 2nd December, year 7 took part in the LGS Shakespeare on Stage Competition as part of their study in English: The Fathers of English Literature-Geoffrey Chaucer and William Shakespeare. Each form were asked to select a scene from a Shakespeare play and perform it on stage in its original guise. Needless to say, the performances were exceptionally entertaining.

To begin with, year 7 were welcomed into the Hall by Mrs Chowdhury and introduced to the judges, Ms Prestshaw and Mr Thomas. After the introduction, the first performance began with 7K performing a medley of lines from *Romeo and Juliet*, setting an excellent tone and standard for the rest of the afternoon.

The audience were delighted by the use of staging in 7S's performance; the excellent acting and use of props by 7V; the gripping atmosphere created by 7R and 7H's smooth and very entertaining performance from *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Each form successfully memorised and delivered each performance in Shakespearean English which pleasantly surprised our judges with how well they tackled the characters and events.



Each form performed like professionals, but, as we all know, there can only be one winner. The decision for the judges was very difficult.

Nevertheless, a decision had to be made and **the winner was7H!**

A well-deserved victory: according to the judges, 7H's performance showed "*excellent character development and acting - delivery was practiced and convincing. The use of the chorus added to their score for staging as this was used effectively, both visually and audibly. Interpretation showed excellent understanding of character and motivation*".



'Clothes Show' Visit

Written By Shivani Pathak & Leila Zahedi (9V)

On Monday 7 December, some Year 9s and a few years 11s, had a thrilling day at the Clothes Show in Birmingham, which seemed a long way, but in reality was fine. When we arrived at the Clothes Show our moods were immediately lifted even further, as we were lucky enough to witness a fascinating catwalk with lots of well-known models. The catwalk consisted of several themes: pure, black, water ocean, fire and many more, which were all unique yet interesting. As the models strutted their stuff, we were able to see Fourth Impact performing live. Being big fans of the X factor, we were overjoyed when we saw them!

Although the main focus of the trip was to be inspired by the actual catwalk, the celebrities who were there were very welcoming and talked to us a bit about the wonders of the textiles industry. We were lucky enough to meet Joey Essex, after a long and tiresome one hour of waiting in line, but we thought it was worthwhile as we got to speak with him.



After that, we had a couple of hours of free time left, and we decided to visit the shops. They had high branded shops such as Barry M, Maybelline and many more. They were selling items for surprisingly cheap prices, anyone who loves makeup and hair products would definitely love it there! It was very crowded and there was almost 5000 people there in an attempt to try and find a bargain!

Going to the Clothes Show inspired us to take textiles for GCSEs as we experienced the fascinating things that the textiles industry can offer you. Thank you to the teachers who organised a thoroughly enjoyable trip.



Year 11 History Visit To Bletchley Park

Written By Branita Sekaran (11V)

On the 10th December, all the Year 11 History students took a day to visit Bletchley Park – the most spectacular place to venture around the intelligence behind warfare where we had an amazing opportunity to see what it was really like behind the curtains as Britain fought in the Second World War.

Bletchley Park is the home of the code breakers and it is a very popular place now where the top secret hackers used to work day after day. Half of the group were taken on a tour to see many of the buildings such as the Huts 3 and 6 exhibitions where the enigma messages sent by Germany's army and air force were tracked, decrypted, translated and analysed to then be sent to the British government who would make use of the messages.

In addition to the tour, we also took part in an interactive session where we experienced what it would be like to be a code breaker. Using interactive resources, we had to decipher a Morse coded message in German which then had to be translated and put together by all the groups. When we put the information together it told us where the German ships were in the sea!

When we were given time to view the Museum in Block B, we also saw Hitler's 'unbreakable' Cipher Machine and a beautiful gallery that told us everything about the story behind Hitler's coding machine which was particularly different to all other coding machines.



A section of the gallery also focused on the work of Alan Turing who worked at Bletchley Park from September 1939 to December 1942. He was the head of hut 8 and he worked on the Enigma and he managed to work out a solution to the German's enigma code.

The famous movie, 'The Imitation Game' was also directed inside Bletchley Park and we were allowed inside the Mansion Exhibitions to view the setting and some of the key props that were used in the actual movie!

Finally, we would like to thank all Mr Langford, Mr Wolters, Mr White and Mrs Clark, who all took time from their schedule to take us on this wonderful trip.



Year 11 Shakespeare Show

Written by Akshee Arora (11R)

On the 1st and 3rd of December, 18 GCSE drama students were fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to perform our TIE performances to local primary school children.

TIE stands for Theatre In Education, and as part of our drama controlled assessment we were required to create a 20 minute performance in the style of TIE. The performances were required to inform the audience (year 5s and 6s) about bullying. The acts that were chosen to perform were chosen purely because of variety and to ensure that our audience didn't fall asleep half way through!

TIE was most definitely the longest controlled assessment we've had so far, which required not only a lot of time but also a great deal of commitment. Groups would regularly rehearse - our group rehearsed every Wednesday after school, as well as lunchtime rehearsals, despite most of our group living an hour away from school; and I know that this was probably the case for most groups. Then two weeks before the performance dates, the groups were notified whether they were to perform to the primary schools. After that, rehearsals seemed to double and now, looking back, I can say that our efforts certainly didn't go in vain.



On the 1st December our drama studio was filled with Castleview students eager to learn and participate in our performance, which was an excellent sign and a great way to boost our morals for the upcoming Thursday, where we had to perform at Ryvers. The performance at Ryvers was not only to educate the students about bullying, but this performance was going to be assessed. And so, one after another all groups performed and, without a doubt, every member gave it their utmost. But apart from the full marks that every participant received, to which we are still humbly grateful for, it was the experience of performing to a large group of young, new eyes that made it an unforgettable trip.

As the audience were trailing out, a little girl hugged me and said - and I promise you, I will never forget those few words - "I want to go to Langley Grammar and perform just like you guys!" I guess that was the moment I realised the pride that comes with being a Langley Grammar GCSE drama student. Yet, we would never have encountered this feeling of pride without Miss Seymour and Mrs Andrijasevic and their reams of feedback. Thank you!



Senior House Music

Written By Amber Dhoot (6N)

On Tuesday 15th December, Senior House Music, an annual celebration of the talented musicians of the upper school and Christmas, took place and featured a great selection of performances from the houses: Harvey, Seymour, Kederminster, Villiers and Robinson.

The first act to take the stage was a band of year 11 students from Harvey house. They pulled off an eclectic mix of music styles in their medley - hip hop, pop, Christmas songs and rap - there was something in there for everyone! The audience also enjoyed a beautiful classical music piece featuring the trombone and the piano, a piece by year 10 students Hannah George and Anthony Abraham and later even listened to an original composition by Gurveen Nagi and Ranjana Nair.



The second house to perform Seymour house and they did an excellent job in their band performance, the solo piece was also memorable and entertaining, thanks to Zabu Win for his enthusiasm in his rendition of 'Give me love'.

Highlights from Kederminster house include the faultless performance of 'Chemical Blast Zone' featuring John Carlton, Amrita Heer, Larry Tenakoon and Alex Chan. Also a fabulous classical piece by Haddon Lionel Ganippa and an entertaining rap by Saab Sehmi were part of the K variety.

Next up to perform was Villiers, after the handover of the presenting roles to Pratyush Jain and Aidan Button, their acts went quite smoothly! We enjoyed a great version of 'Colors', featuring year 10 students Ece Erden and Leila May-Lawrence. Also, we listened to a very brave performance of 'Take a bow' by Madhubani Dutta, a year 12 student.

Last but certainly not least, Robinson house were to perform! Featuring a jazz performance by Rebecca White, Alice Palmer, Abiram Sathyakumar, Marian Ennin and Nimita Kodam; a piano solo by Madhavan Muraleetharan a composition by Misha Gadher and Manav Kher and a group performance called 'Robbers'. Robinson house certainly brought a new level of celebration to the competition.

The scores, although all houses did very well in the competition and had an act for every category, were as follows...



- 5th Seymour**
- 4th Kederminster**
- 3rd Harvey**
- 2nd Robinson**

1st Villiers - leading by 1 point!



A big thank you to the judge Matthew Batsman who not only had the tough task of judging all the wonderful performances but also offered some helpful and constructive feedback.

Also thank you to the teachers who helped organise the event, the house representatives, the presenters, the students performing and the audience for making Senior House Music 2015 a fantastic event.



Yr 12 Physics Conference

On Friday 27th November, the Year 12 physicists of Langley Grammar met at the Institute of Education in London, ready for an exciting day of physics lectures!

Although many of us had some preconceived judgements about how interesting the day would actually be, and what we would gain from it, I would, personally say that almost everyone was surprised.

The day kicked off with the introduction of medical physics, a subject we do not hear much about at school. With heart wrenching tales of how many prematurely born babies used to suffer due to the lack of knowledge and ability to see into their brains, the lecturer, Clare Elwell of UCL grabbed the attention of everyone in the room. It didn't end on a bitter note, however, she explained how she, with the help of her other medical engineers, came to many solutions which have saved the lives of many babies all over the world!

We then attended a lecture titled "Is Your City Smarter than a Cucumber?". It was safe to say that we were all perplexed as to what the lecture would actually be on, and I would say that even after the lecture, we were all STILL perplexed as to what the lecture was on.

Although some may argue that "Well, I'm going to talk to you about death, destruction and the end of the world, basically" may not be the best start to a lecture, I feel that the students, and teachers that accompanied us would all say that this was one of our favourite lectures of the day. Matthew Genge of Imperial College London guided us all through quick, yet extremely in depth descriptions of how, why and where natural disasters occur, the effects they have on people and how we can use physics to minimise these effects.

It was a great day, jam packed with physics knowledge and information, presented in a way that didn't send us all immediately into a slumber, I'd say that it was a great success!



Imperial College
London

