



# LGS Headlines

20 July 2016





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## 20 July 2016

### From the Headteacher

Dear Parents

At long last we have reached the end of the summer term and the academic year. As I write these notes, summer has finally arrived in the shape of a 30° heatwave - welcome though it is, I am glad the students sitting exams did not have to contend with that heat!



The end of another academic year always generates mixed feelings for both staff and students. We have been able to recognise the achievements of our students in Years 7-10 through our annual series of celebration assemblies. I have written about these in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter, where you will also find the 'Roll of Honour' listing all those who gained awards.

Contrasting with our celebration and recognition of a year well spent by our students, we say goodbye to a number of staff who are leaving the school at the end of this term. Their reasons for doing so are many and varied - end of fixed term contracts, relocation, promotion or broadening their experience. For one member of staff, it is retirement from teaching after 28 years of committed service to the school - and so we wish Mr Kirton a very happy and fulfilling 'next phase'.

As usual this newsletter contains a number of articles on student activities. I would like to thank our dedicated team of student writers and photographers who have supplied a steady stream of articles and pictures for these editions of Headlines. Special thanks go to our News Manager Mr Aplin, who has encouraged, persuaded and occasionally nagged the students into producing their articles to the often tight deadlines, and to Mrs Milward for her diligent editorial work.

Thank you for your support this year, and may I wish you and your families a very enjoyable summer break.

**Mr J Constable - Headteacher**

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

- Slapton Ley Biolgy Field trip
- Sports Day
- High School Musical
- Opera Trip
- Library News
- Year 9 STEM Maths Challenge
- Year 10 Art Trip
- Year 10 My Kinda Future
- Year 10 Bronze DofE
- Year 10 Oxbridge conference
- Year 11 Transition Day
- Year 12 Towards the future
- Year 12 Silver DofE

**Mr M Aplin - News Manager**

### Autumn term arrangements

#### Monday 5 September

Staff training day - school closed to students

#### Tuesday 6 September

Induction day for new Years 7, 10 and 12. All students in these year groups are expected in school at the following times:

**Year 7** 8.20am - 1.10pm

**Year 10** 9.30am - 12.30pm

**Year 12** 10.30am - 3.15pm

#### Wednesday 7 September

Term starts for students in all year groups; with lessons from period 1.

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Please visit our website at  
[www.lgs.slough.sch.uk](http://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk)





### **“So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye” to.....**

....the members of staff who are leaving the school at the end of this summer term. Some are at the end of fixed-term contracts, others are moving on to promotion posts or relocating.

**Mr Garioch** leaves the Science department to take up a post overseas.

**Miss Sood** leaves the Science department for a post at Little Heath School in Wokingham.

**Mr Nosworthy** leaves the Science department to teach at Holyport College in Maidenhead.

**Miss McCarthy** previously Subject Leader for Physics, leaves the Science department after three years as a part-time teacher of Physics.

**Mrs Mamoun** also leaves the Science department having worked most recently as a part-time teacher of Biology.

**Mr Yap** leaves the Computing and ICT team to teach at St Helen's School in Northwood.

**Mrs Francis** and **Mrs West** have completed their maternity cover in Art for Ms Runswick. Mrs Francis takes up the post of Head of Art at the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe, while Mrs West returns to focus on her family.

**Mr Kitley**, Subject Leader for Physics and Phase Leader for Years 8 & 9, will be taking up a role as Lead Practitioner for Science at Beaconsfield High School.

**Mr Saini** leaves the Maths team after completing a year's fixed term contract.

**Dr Loughran** leaves taking up a Head of Science role at Claire's Court School in Maidenhead.

**Ms McAteer** leaves the English Department to relocate to the south coast.

**Mr Ullah** will be leaving the English Department to become Director of English at Cressex Community School in High Wycombe.

**Miss Seymour** takes up a new role as Subject Leader for Drama at Ditton Park Academy.

**Ms Torres** has returned from maternity leave but will leave us at the end of term for family reasons.

**Mrs Prestshaw**, Subject Leader for English, is relocating to Manchester with her husband for family reasons. She will take up a role as Director of English at Kearsy Academy in Bolton.

**Mr Kirton**, Subject Leader for Business and Economics, retires after 28 years committed service to the school in a variety of roles.

**We would like to thank all our departing colleagues for their dedication to the School and to wish them happiness and fulfilment in the future.**



### **Other staff news.....**

**Mrs Andrews** will be on maternity leave from August and we wish her good health for the remainder of her pregnancy

**Mr Podbury and Miss Curtlin, Miss Moriarty and Mr Broz** will be getting married in the summer. We wish them a very happy wedding day.

**In September we will be welcoming new staff to the school. Some current members of staff will also be taking on new roles in school. A full list will be included in the first newsletter in September**



### Celebration Assemblies

Special celebration assemblies have been held over the last week to celebrate the achievements and involvement of students in Years 7 – 10.

Each assembly followed our 'traditional' format; with students presenting short reports on the events and activities of the year from their perspective, with musical items showcasing some of the talent in each year group.

Commitment to school was recognised with certificates for 100% attendance. Many students were nominated for awards in several subject areas, and received certificates to recognise the breadth of their achievement.

Individual awards were presented for each subject to the students who have been judged by the department to have demonstrated the highest levels of attainment and progress during the year.

Further awards were presented to recognise exceptional attitude to learning, participation in activities beyond the taught curriculum, leadership, performance in music, drama and sport, and giving back to the community.

All our award winners are role models to the rest of their year group in terms of academic achievement and progress, determination, participation, attendance and leadership.

In my remarks I reminded students that if their only motivation is to win prizes or awards—or to gain particular roles in school, or jobs in the future, they may set themselves up for disappointment. It is much more important to be able to say to themselves "I did my best and I am happy with how I performed" - and that requires an honest awareness of their own strengths, determination and a positive mindset, and teamwork - the ability to support others and willingness to be supported.

**Mr J Constable - Headteacher**



Our highest awards went to our

### ***'Students of the Year',***

who represented the best levels of commitment and dedication to the school.

**Year 7**      **Christopher McLean**  
**Vashika Yarlventhan**

**Year 8**      **Rushil Shah**  
**Carolyn Carty**

**Year 9**      **Isaac Ma**  
**Yasmin Button**

**Year 10**      **Ishmaam Chowdhury**  
**Rajdeep Nagra**



*The 2016 'Roll of Honour' on the next three pages lists the names of all the award winners.*

**Congratulations once again to all our Award winners for their achievements!**



### House competition winners

The results of the House competition were announced at the final whole-school assembly on the last day of term.

As always there was a wide range of events included in the House competition, including drama, sport, music and various events held during the year.

The Achievement Point totals; from Years 7-9 are included; the House competition therefore covers a complete range of academic and extracurricular activities.

**Congratulations therefore go to this year's overall winner in the House Trophy competition .....**

## Harvey House!

I would like to thank all those who have been involved in organising or supporting House events, the students across the year groups who have acted as House Captains, and those members of staff who have been House Leaders over the last year.

Thank you for your hard work in making the House system such an integral part of life at Langley Grammar School

**Mr P Adams - Assistant Headteacher**

### House point totals

H	K	R	S	V
1st	5th	2nd	3rd=	3rd=
464	343	393	371	371



**Coming soon.....**

### Our new LGS website!

We have been working with our website providers **e4education** to refresh our website. The updated design should 'go live' at the start of next term in September.

We hope you will appreciate the features of the new site, which will adapt itself to different formats for PCs and laptops, tablets and phones.

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**From the Design Technology subject team - a plea for help!**

### Textiles Club - Donations request

If you have remnants of fabric, buttons, ribbons, lace, costume jewellery (especially beads) or unused wool, we'd love to use these in our Textiles Club. Also, if someone works in the upholstery trade, perhaps you have access to off-cuts of wadding to stuff cushions? Colourful and plentiful resources would help to inspire our students to be even more creative. Please help if you can.

**Mrs Young - Textiles**





# Roll of Honour 2016

Award		Year 7	Year 8
<b>Outstanding Attitude to Learning</b>	The students with consistently highest <b>Attitude to Learning</b> scores	Nayha Ahmad Samuel Jessopp Daniel Hudson Deeksha Lakshmareddy Manpreet Basra Avnika Heer	Carolyn Carty Parth Gore Kai Patel Chinmay Bharatia Rushil Shah
<b>Breadth of achievement</b>	All-round academic achievement; students who have achieved the most nominations in their academic subjects.	Maya Lad Amrit Reece Birring Rithika Annapurnapa Zainab Shaikh Aswathy Sajina-Suresh Simran Bath	Ahan Kelkar Brandon Zerkhfaoui Anagha Patil Adam Mistry Robert Reed
<b>Achievement points</b>	Highest number in the year	Mitul Koria	Rushil Shah
<b>Participation Award</b>	Involvement in the widest range of extracurricular activities.	Simran Bath Danyal Choudhry Samuel Jessopp Shagana Tharajah Rida-E-Zahra Aleem Rohan Dinesh Rebecca Wright Aran Perinpam Amrit Reece Birring Atmaja Mohanty	Laiyla Rahmann Harishath Navakumaran Carolyn Carty Adel Yassin Tania Pannu Kaviyah Premakumar Vikramjit Grewal Rishika Chodha Brandon Zerkhfaoui
<b>Leadership Award</b>	Taking responsibility eg organising teams or events	Rushil Nair Nayha Ahmed	Gajaan Sugumar Mehakjot Singh
<b>Community Award</b>	Giving back to the school or local community through volunteering, charity work etc	Avnika Heer Dhruv Shena	Rushil Shah Sneha Kaluvakollu
<b>Performance: Drama</b>	Drama performance outside the curriculum	Joshua Old Rebecca Wright	Shathusan Pirapakar Vidhi Pandey
<b>Performance: Music</b>	Music performance outside the curriculum	Alicia Liu Samuel Jessopp	Navin Virthana Shobana Mahalingham
<b>Performance: Sport</b>	Sport performance outside the curriculum	Eesh Mishra Avnika Heer	Harishath Navakumaran Carolyn Carty



# Roll of Honour 2016

Award		Year 9	Year 10
<b>Outstanding Attitude to Learning</b>	The students with consistently highest <b>Attitude to Learning</b> scores	Faheem Anwar Amar Gahir Jannah Anwar Hana Hussain Isaac Ma Yasmin Button	Vianca Shah Leila-May Lawrence Conor Sims Tharushi Wijesiriwardena Tara Lee
<b>Breadth of achievement</b>	All-round academic achievement; students who have achieved the most nominations in their academic subjects.	Shivani Pathak Chandana Vithanala Devina Uppal Nimrit Sohal Amar Bharbhania Hira Hussain Monique Sahnian	Ismaam Chowdhury Tara Lee Rajdeep Nagra Vianca Shah Amirthah Gnanathileeban Sneha Chaubey
<b>Achievement points</b>	Highest number in the year	Shereen Ahmad	_____
<b>Participation Award</b>	Involvement in the widest range of extracurricular activities.	Muskaan Singla Abinav Shukla Amar Babhania Hana Hussain Pranav Sahni Shimona Verma Yash Gupta Jasmine Panesar Nico Ferrari Nimrit Sohal	Hannah George Anthony Abraham Shivani Member Amar Patel Aleena Khan Kartik Kanthi Neha Yellembalse Gian Sangha Anna Andrei Nanak Rana
<b>Leadership Award</b>	Taking responsibility eg organising teams or events	Hira Hussain Isaac Ma	Mathusica Srikantha Vikaran Panesor
<b>Community Award</b>	Giving back to the school or local community through volunteering, charity work etc	Jannah Anwar Alejandro Patel	Vianca Shah Akshatsai Chintapatla
<b>Performance: Drama</b>	Drama performance outside the curriculum	Hiruni Ranasinghe	Ece Erden Wasif Haque
<b>Performance: Music</b>	Music performance outside the curriculum	Alejandro Patel Devina Uppal	David Dhanraj Hannah George
<b>Performance: Sport</b>	Sport performance outside the curriculum	Yash Gupta Monique Sahnian	Kartik Kanthi Meera Kangathasan



# Roll of Honour 2016

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
English	Megha Basu Alvin Vince	Carolyn Carty Youssef Birbiad	Pooja Anand Duvindu Weerakkody	Leila-May Lawrence Pryanka Sood
Maths	Ateeb Rehman Idrees Nasar-Ullah	Phil Yu Methisika Arunthavarasa	Mitali Chavan Mustafa Kaderbhai	Karan Bhangoo Yash Parikh
Science	Zainab Shaik Vishaka Yarlventhan	Adam Mistry Rayyan Shirazi	—	—
Biology	—	—	Faheem Anwar Pranav Sahni	Ishmaam Chowdhury
Chemistry	—	—	Fayotomi Goodluck Zaafir Ali	Vianca Shah
Physics	—	—	Anjali Desai Jannah Anwar	Amar-Rajinder Degon
ICT	Zainab Shaik Aparajita Prabhu	Carolyn Carty Kishan Tailor	Yash Gupta Kaaviya Thayalan	Leila-May Lawrence
Computing	—	—	—	Rajdeep Nagra
Philosophy & Ethics	Simranjeet Hayer Edvin Vincent	Rushil Shah Bharneedharan Surendaran	Kaaviya Thayalon Rahul Balakumar	Ameeta Muker
French	Kanisa Jegatheeswaran Rithika Anapurnapy	Carolyn Carty Sanjana Chahal	Shereen Ahmad Anitha McClean	Mathusica Srikantha
Latin	Shakeel Madoorsoodun Sanvi Kirloskar	—	—	—
German	Riya More Reshmi Gajendran	Kithana Balachandran Daaniyal Ahmad	Fayotomi Goodluck Kaaviya Thayalan	Vianca Shah
History	Aswathy Sajina-Suresh Milind Bakshi	Bharneedharan Surendaran Adam Mistry	Zainab Thasim Yash Gupta	Leila-May Lawrence
Geography	Zainab Shaikh Saumya Vaidyanathan	Rushil Shah Riya Ganger	Hira Hussain Esha Verma	Ishmaam Chowdhury
Music	Christopher McClean Joshua Old	Chinmay Bharatia Rushil Shah	Reenal Shah Harry Way	Rishithan Srimugunthan
Art	Mitul Koria Aswathy Sajina-Suresh	Carolyn Carty Methuisika Arunthavarasa	Devia Uppal Simrun Chandale	Breanna Vakeria
Drama	Simran Bath	Soumya Chaphekar Tanvir Virdi	Shenuri Amaya Yasmin Button	Rajdeep Nagra
Product Design	Daniel Wilkes Sankeerat Sidhu	Tanisha Vadgama Sneha Kaluvakollu	Jasmine Panesar Tanmay Lad	Mohammad Rahman
Food Technology	Avnika Heer Anjali Dhushyanthan	Adam Mistry Shreyaa Ramadore	Shereen Ahmad Simrun Chandale	Sren Malra
Textiles	Huda Abdul Halim Vashika Yarlventhan	Shruthy Thayalan Laiiyla Rahmaan	Isaac Ma Charin Wimalasena	—
Physical Education	Idrees Nasar-Ullah Anisha Thind	Carolyn Carty Harishath Navakumaran	Monique Sahnun Ryan Sandhu	Zoe Shai
Business Studies	—	—	—	Sneha Chaubey
Classical Civilisation	—	—	—	Leila-May Lawrence Conor Simms Anna Andrei





### Governors' report - July 2016

Visits by Governors to see Langley Grammar School in action are central to the Governors' ability to develop and implement a meaningful strategy for the school, to monitor the quality of education and pastoral care being provided, and to prioritise issues.

Each visit has a specific focus and over the past year Governors have seen a huge range of teaching styles and techniques to which students are responding with impressive levels of interest and confidence. iPads and other digital technologies are being integrated into the learning process across the school, supporting that all-important student/teacher dialogue.

The Student Council members provide articulate and perceptive insight into the life of the school from the student perspective. They are quick to share highlights but have the confidence to flag issues and concerns with an unexpected level of maturity. Throughout the school, students are very open in talking to us about their learning experience, but also about many other aspects of the school including the wide variety of opportunities in sports and the creative arts, their responsibility to other students in the school, their voluntary work with other schools.....

Our visits give us the opportunity to meet members of the teaching and support staff who not only deliver the safe and stimulating learning environment which is a hallmark of Langley Grammar School, but also invest much personal time in the extensive extra-curricular activities on offer to LGS' students. Amongst the staff we are fortunate to have some highly qualified practitioners whose ability to share best practice and mentor newer members of the team is pivotal to ensuring that our students receive a very high standard of education across all subject areas.

Our visits have underlined the need to continue to press for a complete overhaul of the 1956 block, which is not only very 'tired' but needs improving to cope with classroom changeovers and the density of student through traffic. We are also conscious of the need to upgrade our IT capacity and hardware. Feedback from students, parents and staff on other areas requiring improvement is welcomed by the Governors – please contact us through the school email address [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk) for the attention of the Clerk to the Governors.

From the students themselves came an issue which we would like parents to think about – their future choices. Many of them express considerable parental pressure to go on to university, and in some cases to study a specific discipline. The world is changing, and whilst university will be right for some, today's bright young people have choices. We would urge parents to explore with your children some of the other options that are giving students fast-track access to interesting employment through apprenticeships and first class training programmes. Some of today's most successful leaders have followed those paths. LGS's first class careers service is there to help.

As the summer holiday begins, the Governors take the opportunity to wish staff and students a fantastic break, and to thank everyone for the part they play in making Langley Grammar School a great place to learn and work.

**Sarah Branquinho - Community Governor**

**Coming soon.....**

#### **Our new LGS website!**

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**Mrs Young - Textiles**



# Photo Competition

This term's student photographic competition was on the theme of 'Spring'. With a good range of entries from across all year groups in the school. The Senior Leadership Team judged the entries, selecting three winners and a further three to be highly commended.

**Winner**  
**Alice Palmer, Year 12**



**Winner**  
**Rebecca Wright, Year 12**







# Photo Competition



**Winner**

**Anitha McLean, Year 9**





# Photo Competition

**The pictures below were all highly commended.**



**Watch out for next term's competition theme.....**





# Slapton Ley Biology trip

*Written by Amber Dhoot (12N)*

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 6:30am biology students from Year 12 met up at the front of the school to finally go on the much awaited Slapton Ley biology field trip. After a minor delay, we were on our way towards the sunny, coastal spot. The journey took around 5 hours with a stop at a service station.

When we got there we were shown our rooms, separated into two groups and introduced to our mentors – Chloe and John. That very same day the groups got stuck into their biology field work; their first task was to compare the effects of increased sunlight on biodiversity looking at the north and south sides of a forest. This field work proved very valuable as some preconceptions that the groups had about sunlight were found to be incorrect: the results that we, young biologists, found helped to back up theories found in textbooks but more importantly put them into context right before our eyes.

The work each day involved creating hypotheses, discussing possible risks, sampling and observation work. Each field trip was accompanied by a lesson afterwards to analyse the results using statistical tests which is a specification point of the A-level biology syllabus. After this we had dinner for about an hour and then we had free time (which we spent in the common room and games room facilities on site).

The trip provided the right amount of information and discovery which kept things interesting throughout. It was also really refreshing to take some time away from suburbia to learn at settings like the beach on day 2 and the forest on day 1 and 3. The work in the forest on day 3 was a personal favourite as we went down to a small stream and looked at freshwater ecology, comparing the organisms in a 'riffle' and a 'pool', it was really enjoyable to identify the different organisms in our groups and the natural beauty of the stream was an added bonus.

In summary, the trip was a really good experience where we got to learn about biology in a country/coastal context, we learnt a lot about the Slapton Ley ecosystem and we developed important skills that are the makings of every good biologist.





# Sports Day

*Written by Karishma Khosla (9S)*

As the end of the year draws closer so does sports day and on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 it had finally arrived. Sports day is a day of sports, sun and pure fun and this year did not fail to impress.

Everyone showed immense amounts of support and enthusiasm towards their house and no one gave up – they kept going, fuelled by the support and motivation provided from their peers. The level of skill and stamina demonstrated by multiple students was admirable and showed the variety of different strengths our student body possess.

But by the end of the day everyone was growing more and more impatient for the result. Each house became more and more competitive as they were desperate to win those last few races and earn those last few points to add to the grand total. Of course the relay events were last, the most fun and also the most intense race of the day. The results of these races really could change the results of the total outcome. And the very last event was the teachers' relay, definitely one of the best events of the whole day.

It's no surprise of course to hear that the results were close. At the end of a brilliant day, after 112 events the results were as follows:

**5<sup>th</sup> place – Villiers**

**4<sup>th</sup> place – Seymour**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place – Kederminster**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place – Robinson**

**1<sup>st</sup> place – HARVEY**







# Sports Day

*Written by Karishma Khosla (9S)*

A special congratulations to Harvey House for all of their efforts and hard work, it clearly paid off. But also a just as important congratulations to all the other houses who also gave it their full effort – after all it's not just the winning the counts but the taking part too.

Well done to everyone who represented their house and participated in an event and also everyone who supported their house members by cheering them on all the way through. Finally, on behalf of the student body, we would like to thank all of the P.E department for organising such an enjoyable day for us and also all of the other teachers who were involved with the organising of this years sports day.





# High School Musical

*Written By Ece Eden (10V)*

Every year over the past three years, Langley Grammar School has put on a production and this year has been no exception. This year's musical was High School Musical, which I'm sure many of us were already familiar with. There was a vigorous audition process after the musical was announced and a week later, the cast list was posted.

During the lead up to the 7th and 8th July (the show dates), each and every member of the cast was expected to be dedicated and determined during the rehearsal process because we didn't have very long left until the show. The rehearsals were during lunchtimes and after school meaning that we had to be committed and ready for last minute calls. Despite this, each and every rehearsal was challenging and fun to all the cast members as we stretched our abilities as well as learning and developing new skills that I'm sure will help us across our curriculum subjects. Personally, I gained lots of confidence during this process and formed tight bonds with new people across younger year groups which I'm sure will stay with me until year 13. For some people, it was their first time singing on stage and it gave them the opportunity to grow in confidence and flourish!

The two Sunday rehearsals leading up to the shows were very productive and we came into school from 10am until 4pm to go over the show and run scenes. The first day of the performance was very exciting and scary for most of us but once we got on stage and saw the audience, our energy and our characters kicked in and we had the time of our lives! The last performance was the best and the most energetic as well as emotional because it was the end of this journey that some of us had been through since year 7 as this was the last musical we would do with Miss Seymour. Overall, it had been an amazing and rewarding experience and the skills and friendships we all gained were worth the effort and dedication.

Our thanks in particular to Miss Seymour for all her efforts as the director. We are all very sad she is leaving us, she will be sorely missed.







# Art Exhibition







# Opera Trip

*Written By Pryanka Sood (10V)*

On the 4th July, LGS- in partnership with OperaFirst - offered music students the opportunity to attend an opera at Wormsley Estate, performed by Garsington Opera. The opera was 'Eugene Onegin,' by a Russian composer, Tchaikovsky; it tells the story of two sisters, their search for love, and what happens when they finally find it.

Having had a workshop prior to the day about the performance, we were all excited to attend. We knew the storyline and all the themes - all that was left was to experience the real thing, since very few of us had been to an opera before. We all arrived at school at 3:30pm - despite it being INSET day - to board the minibus. Some of us decided to catch up on the sleep we'd given up for the Opera as we drove, stopping along the way to buy donuts. When we arrived, a little later on, and had discovered where to park, we went for our picnic in the tent reserved for us. We were all amused to learn that there are, apparently, no bins in the countryside - and in said countryside, it is perfectly acceptable to drink juice straight from a carton. We all enjoyed our lunches and headed into the theatre at around 6 o'clock.



The first character to sing was Tatyana, and then her sister, Olga. As they sang, we were pleased to find that the translation of the Russian lyrics appeared on a small screen, so we'd understand what was going on. There were some tunes we knew, having heard them during the workshop, and some new songs - but all were incredibly impressive, even for those of us who knew little about opera, and had the audience cheering throughout. One of the most memorable was the 16 minute letter writing song, that was sung as Tatyana tried to express her love to Onegin. Despite the fact that none of us could understand why she couldn't just get it over with - how many different ways can you say 'I love you?' we all thought it was an amazing display of talent. The interval was after two acts - full of intense emotion. Some of us were interviewed, and all agreed we'd come to see an opera again. Being asked questions spontaneously meant that we had to "just pretend to know what we were talking about," but our enthusiasm was unmistakeable.

The second half passed much more quickly than the first, and even though we knew what happened, it was fascinating to see the ending in all its dramatic glory. We watched as - spoiler alert - Lensky died, and Onegin, filled with grief, went travelling. We glared as we saw Onegin return to beg for Tatyana's forgiveness, though he'd once rejected her. And we applauded as the opera came to a close - distinctly lacking in the 'happily ever after' element and the performers bowed. Opera - being a story told by music - is so different to any other art form, and so was a great new experience for all of us who attended. We are all so grateful for having been offered this fantastic opportunity; it is an experience we will remember.



# Library News

Langley Creative Writing Group and Library Book Group travelled to Ranelagh School on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June to see the author Tanya Landman.

When she was a child Tanya Landman's ambition was to be a monkey and to have a prehensile tail. Tanya spent hours in the back garden, with a skipping rope tied around her waist, wishing very hard but she did not transform into a monkey. This was the first of many disappointments! Her careers adviser warned her she would have to be brilliant at Science to be an astronaut – another illusion shattered.

Tanya spent a short time as Press and Publicity Officer for Bristol Zoo but quit after creating gridlock in the roads surrounding the zoo and causing a near riot of toddlers. Fortunately that was the day she met her husband – a Punch and Judy Showman.

Tanya began writing after she started a family. She thought she had become an established writer when "Apache Warrior" was published. However, a year later, after attending multiple literary events, she had won no prizes. Tanya's publisher took Tanya and another writer (the one who had just beaten her in a prize giving event) out for a meal and Tanya was feeling so crushed and angry that, when the publisher asked her how she was feeling she said she felt like murdering somebody. The publisher's response was to suggest she write a murder series for teenagers. Tanya followed her advice and wrote a series of ten books.

*"I really enjoyed it. She was very good at interacting with us"* **Amolika Bansal**

*"Tanya Landman was funny and her tale on her inspiration to write the murder mysteries was very amusing"* **Alicia Liu**



At the end of the Winter term, year 7 entered a poetry competition, run by Young Writers and we were delighted when several students' work was selected for inclusion in the anthology, 'Winter Wonderland'. What we were not aware of, however, was that Young Writers had decided to select the best two poems from all the entries nationally, so it was a fantastic surprise when our very own Esha Sudera was selected as the national girl winner. As you can imagine, this is a huge achievement, with Esha's work having beaten off several hundred competitors to be selected. Huge congratulations to Esha, who I know is only going to go from strength to strength with her writing.

*"The past can be beautiful, but it's no place to live"*





# Year 10 Art Trip

*Written By Nanak Rana (10V)*

On Tuesday 5th July, twenty-one GCSE Art Students visited Brighton Pier to help them get knowledge and information for their final project; "By the Sea".

As we arrived in Brighton, we began to take pictures of any landmarks or views that we found visually and aesthetically interesting, such as the entrance to the Pier, and the Arcade. This allowed us to get original photographs for our sketchbooks which we would later work with. Due to Brighton being a popular tourist destination, there were many seaside gift shops that we could visit to help capture the essence of the beach, such as shells, postcards, and rock candy. Through this, we were able to explore the different colours and textures associated with the ocean, and could present this visually in our sketchbooks and art pieces.

Towards the end of the pier, we approached a small amusement park which had traditional rides such as a carousel, and a Helter-skelter. As this was on the coast, and contained a variety of different and interesting shapes, we were able to produce some observational drawings from it. Along the coast, there were an array of independent art galleries which produced and sold their own art, many of which were based around London, Brighton, and the seaside, which meant we were able to capture artist inspiration from this work to use in our own. Many of the gallery/shop owners were very hospitable and welcoming, and allowed us to take photos and explore the stores.



Towards the end of the trip, we had lunch on the beach which allowed us to relax and continue with our observational studies. This had been an extremely useful day which made us explore different areas and landscapes, while viewing artists' work for inspiration. Our thanks to Miss Stanton & Francis for organising the trip for us.





# Year 10 'My Kinda future'

*Written by Siddharth Shukla (10H)*

On the 6th July, 75 Business students attended a workshop run by MyKindaFuture. This organisation help students explore their career options post-education, be that apprenticeships, college, or university and graduate employment.

The day comprised of many activities, both giving us a chance of utilising our current knowledge and to develop new ideas through creative methods. The workshop began with the visitors familiarising themselves with the students, the introduction of each member gave the students an insight in the disparity of jobs available in the Telecommunications industry. With jobs ranging from advertising to inventing new methods to researching, not only were there desk-based jobs available but also jobs involving outdoor work were exposed to the students.

MyKindaFuture had organised a workshop which consisted of 4 main events, each one examining the students' knowledge about Business Studies which they have obtained over the preceding 9 months. Out of the 4 events, the first involved students designing the layout for a website on paper; allowing many students to think creatively and understanding how important it is to think originally. Along with designing a website, the students were given knowledge about how the WorldWideWeb was introduced and how it soon became a necessity for businesses to get a website in order to expand.



The next event entailed the students working in an innovative manner, this involved the students coming up with a new wearable product. As with every product, an advertisement must be created; similarly the students were asked to generate an advertisement which involved: the name of the product, a slogan, a possible celebrity which could endorse the new product. Many neoteric products were introduced by the students and the volunteers from MyKindaFuture were rather stunned due to the creativity of the students.

After this event, the later event involved students considering the type of phones they should have available in Three stores. Placing them in realistic situations where they have a budget, the students were asked to choose from a variety of phones. After the choices being made, the students were questioned to justify their choices. This allowed students to apply their business studies theory in a practical situation, a majority of the students chose the same selection of phones and gave a similar reasoning as to why they had chosen those particular phones.

Finally the last event allowed students to see the practical side of the telecommunications industry, the volunteers from MyKindaFuture had many people who worked for Three. The volunteers had professions in the telecommunications company, however each had a different role to play in order for the company to function effectively and expand. The final event was run by people who would place phone masts, the volunteers presented us with several types of phone masts. The activity consisted of students placing different types of masts on a map. With this, the students learnt one very important lesson: not everyone in the world can be satisfied.

At the end of the day, all the students had an outstanding day. Many were able to apply their knowledge and enjoyed the day thoroughly. We would like to thank Mrs Uppal, Mrs Golding, Mr Mitchell and MyKindaFuture for organising and presenting us all with such an opportunity



# Year 10 Bronze D of E

*Written by Tharushi Wijesiriwardena (10S)*

On Friday last week, a group of year 10s set off to begin the expedition that they had spent the last ten months preparing for; it was the culmination of many tireless hours in and outside of school. In order to pass the expedition section of our Duke of Edinburgh awards, we, as groups had to be able to hike for two days and camp for one night - cooking, navigating, pitching tents and carrying bags about 20% of our bodyweight without any help.

The night before, for many of us, was spent scurrying around, in a desperate attempt to fit all our belongings into the bag that we'd wear for the next two days, once the bag was packed, the excitement started to settle as we thought of the day that lay ahead. As we entered the old gym to draw our routes onto the maps, we were greeted with the threat of a thunderstorm later in the day, almost fully clad in waterproof clothing; group by group we drove to the Chilterns where we'd meet our assessor.



After arrival and an initial debriefing, we started our two day, 40 km hike around the beautiful Chilterns, after a few hours, it seemed that our bags were only getting heavier. With almost an hour to spare, my group spotted the cathedral on our map just metres away from us, my group had arrived at the campsite— or so we thought. Once our initial delight faded, it quickly dawned on us that we were in fact in Hambleden, a different town, two kilometres south of where we were supposed to camp! It'd be an understatement to say we were upset, the realisation that we'd no longer be the first group at the campsite was disappointing, but we trekked back up the hill and found our way back to the campsite at last.

The campsite – though overlooking a magnificent stretch of greenery - was horrible, the toilets (of which there were only two) were over brimming with wet tissue and excrement, with cockroaches and spiders that seemed to frame this disgusting picture. Despite this, all the groups continued pitching their tents, cooking and playing without too many complaints. After dinner, our assessor taught us how to build a fire and when the campfire was set alight, we all sat round to enjoy the warmth and beauty of the fire after an extremely tiring day, most of us played card games, ball games or even toasted marshmallows in the fire!

On the second day, we were met with many more uphill climbs, footpaths overrun by stinging nettles and endless wheat fields, but the rare moments on top of a hill, overlooking the valley below or in a forest with deer hiding in the undergrowth kept us going. To the relief of my group we arrived half an hour earlier than planned and was told by the assessor that we all passed, he added that our school was the best that he'd ever assessed in his 22 years of experience, so much so that he'd even written an email to Mr. Constable, of course we were extremely proud of ourselves and thankful to our teachers, Mr Podbury, Miss Roughton, Mr Kitley, Miss Sood and Miss Rae who helped prepare us for this expedition and took care of us whilst we were there. I'm sure I write on behalf of all of us when I say that the DofE bronze expedition was an inspiring and valuable trip that has not only helped build our problem solving, leadership and communication skills but helped strengthen our friendships too.





# Year 10 Oxbridge Conference

*Written By Vianca Shah (10K)*

On Monday 11 July, a group of 9 LGS students were selected to attend an Oxbridge Conference at Upton Court. For many it was a surprise to even be thinking of universities at a stage like this but by the end of the day, they had realised how important their GCSES, extra and super-curricular activities are at the moment, which will help shape them into the sorts of people Oxford and Cambridge want in their universities.

The first part of the day were presentations, where the director of undergraduate admissions explained the range of courses and opportunities available. She then handed over to a panel of students from Oxford, studying a range of subjects to explain some of their experiences. Not only did they explain the need for passion for the subject that they chose, but also an insight into interviews and choosing subjects at an earlier stage – such as A levels, which was applicable to the majority of students there. For many they did not believe that Oxford would ever be a university for them, where many students watching would have been in similar mindsets.



Next there were some more presentations explaining the process of applying to Oxford, and some specific dates that would apply. Here the range of facilities available at the colleges in Oxford were also mentioned, along with social groups and communities that Oxford has to keep everybody involved and active. Following this LGS students were split up into separate groups, where they could interact with other schools and university students as well. The activity was to identify the interests that we have currently and what sort of courses may be suitable or apply to us.

As most of the students were only in year 10, these were more generalised activities, as many were unsure of what they wanted to do in the future but allowed us to think about what sort of extra and super-curricular activities we could be doing at the moment, to support our interests. Critical thinking is a key value in Oxford, and often reading around a subject helps with this, and in this activity we planned out the steps to do this. As the Oxford students had explained, taking a curious approach is important, as they want students who are able to think rather than recite facts – and so their interviews are often different to many other universities and what many of the current students described as challenging but enjoyable at the same time.

Half of the students from the schools then went to one lecture, and the other half to another. The aim of this activity was to allow us to experience a university-style lecture, where we have to be listening and engaging in the presentation. The smaller groups then got together and would have to present their topic to a group in the other half – so it was vital that they were paying attention and actively learning. From identifying the key themes of the lecture, we to critically appraise it and identify topics or areas for further independent research – a skill that will have to be developed in preparation for the challenges of university.

The evening followed a similar structure – Oxford was introduced and both parents and students could ask questions to the Oxford students. Often parents have specific ideas about their child's education but what the university was trying to show is that what is most important is that parents support their child in what they have a strong passion and will work hard for. Both parents and teachers form a massive part of a child's journey in education and Oxford stressed the need for parents as well to be actively involved in their child's education.

Amidst this were 2 games where Oxford tested both parents' and students' knowledge of the university. Fortunately in the earlier part of the day many of the facts had been pointed out to the students but there were still many things they found out about the university. Oxford is a prestigious university, recognised internationally but also holds a history behind it – setting it apart from other similar universities.

Finally there was a reception, where students and parents were once again able to talk to university students - the advice helping encourage them and motivate them. Overall it had been a very informative day and had shown us the range of paths available – whether it is or is not Oxford, and the importance of hard work at this stage as well. We would like to thank Mrs Golding for organising the trip!



# Year 11 Transition Day

*Written By Kahinaat Raja (6F)*

On 28th June 2016, Langley Grammar School welcomed and opened their arms to prospective year 11 students who are seeking admission to the Sixth Form. The day was full of events from tours to juggling balls, allowing the students to feel comfortable and to engage with one another.

I, myself had been given the responsibility to make sure the year 11 students felt welcomed along with other students currently in the Sixth Form and I am pleased to say that this was a great success. Being an external student I was able to completely understand how the prospective students might be feeling, after all the journey to becoming an A Level student is a very exciting but at the same time nerve-racking one! Nevertheless the annual Transition Day helps students to open up and it was evident that they had thoroughly enjoyed themselves with each group leader receiving positive feedback (even after the frustrating farmers game which each year no one is able to complete!)



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Head of Sixth Form Ms Makowski, Mr Aplin and Miss Northcott for organising this important day as it truly does make an impact on prospective students by making them feel secure and able to build new friendships. I would also like to thank all of the other Sixth Form students that helped the year 11 students settle in and a message to the year 11 students themselves... Good luck with your results and hope to see you next year!

The day has hopefully allowed you to feel more confident ahead of entering the sixth form in September and eased any worries that you may have previously had.





# Looking to the future....

## Year 12 *Towards the Future* Day

On Friday 11 July Year 12 had the opportunity to further knowledge of life after sixth form with the Towards the Future day. We were able to meet alumni (former LGS students) and hear about the reasoning behind the decisions they had chosen to make. Based on our specific interests, we attended sessions ranging from journalism to medicine meaning there was a chance for each of us to learn more about the professions we are considering. The first-hand experience of the alumni also meant we were able to hear a reliable account of time studying a degree at university.

After lunch a question and answer session took place, first from those currently at university or an apprenticeship, but then from the alumni who now are now employed. Many questions were asked and due to the different array of previous students, all had their own opinion on the matter and their own story to tell.



The Q & A was extremely valuable as it provided us with the honest opinions of people, who not so long ago were in our position and felt the way we feel. One of the alumni, now a pilot for British airways, summed up the whole day rather perfectly, as he said "If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life". The theme of following your dreams and passion shone throughout the whole day.

A huge thank you must go to Mrs Golding (Careers Guidance Manager) who put together the entire programme for us and spent countless hours tracking down the alumni to come and talk to us. We appreciate it as we found the whole day very enjoyable as well as it being extremely valuable.

**Mohinder Nagra (6F)**

## Year 9 STEM Maths Challenge Day

The day kicked off as we boarded the coach to Uxbridge College. We were split into groups and had a brief tour of the place. Everyone was given passes to different activities and talks. There were a wide variety of things to do, all of which inspired and motivated us, but giving us a little idea of what we could do in the future. We were very intrigued by the science part of the day, this meant we were allowed to do fun yet interesting experiments as well learning the theory parts too. Our first experiment was the DNA extraction from strawberries. This was a very surprising experiment, where we were actually able to see the DNA very clearly. We extracted, isolated, and observed the DNA of a strawberry in a matter of minutes. This enabled us to show off our practical skills and was definitely surprising and exciting for us.

There was a wide array of stalls to visit during the day, so we all set off in small groups to explore. Amongst the stalls were 'Giant Drawing Machines' where bicycles were involved to draw huge patterns, and a machine where you could draw a giant version of your hand! There was also a couple of workshops upstairs which were very innovating and exciting, such as 'Fun with Food' where we got to learn about the catering industry and 'Crazy Chemicals', where we moulded wax onto the skin and dropped red dye on top to create a 'gash of blood'. The Stixx stall was very popular, as many of us wanted to get our hands on the long newspaper rods, which were surprisingly very sturdy!

After lunch, we walked around for another few hours, whether it was making torches or immersing ourselves in virtual reality. We even made friends with pupils from another school who were on a Computer Science trip!

However, although the trip was extremely fun, all the stalls, lectures and workshops link back to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and that was the main focus of our day - to look at possible careers involving STEM, or just enjoying the fayre.

Thank you to all the teachers involved, without whom it would not have been such a good day!

**Anitha Mclean, Simrun Chandale  
& Vernujaa Nagandiram (9V)**



# Year 12 Silver D of E

*Written By Shree Desai (6L)*

On the first weekend of July, nineteen year 12s set off on an expedition that they had no idea would be so eventful. The weather was to be cloudy, and rainy and downright miserable, but on the day the skies cleared giving us a nice send-off on what became a wonderful experience. I personally hadn't done the Bronze award so I had a very faint idea on what I was letting myself in for.

At three in the afternoon, we reached the outskirts of the New Forest National Park, all slightly in shock as we were told we would be dropped off in different locations! Each of the four groups had to make their way to their routes using only their maps and surroundings as their pointers to figure out if we were on route or not. Most groups found themselves knee-deep in marshes on the first day, as they were duped by the various tractor tracks who posed themselves as footpaths. In fact my group ended up almost five km in a completely different direction from the intended destination, which really tested our navigation skills. Eventually as each group reached the campsite at six, being greeted by the smiling faces of the teachers, we realised we were in for the long haul. For many of us we went through new experiences; many of us never having pitched a tent before or cooked on a Trangia, especially after having walked about 10 km almost non-stop to our campsite in Ferny Crofts.



On the second day, after making breakfast, we readied ourselves for the long day we had ahead; the skies were no longer the sunny, clear selves, instead having turned grey and gloomy. It is during this day we found exactly how deceiving fields can be; we were walking for almost two hours having thought we passed Brockenhurst, one of the towns we had to cross to get to our destination, but we found that we had just reached the town! However as soon as we had gained that pace, we appreciated the beautiful countryside around us as we saw many species of flora as we walked while having the opportunity to view the many docile ponies, who I had the opportunity to pet. But, we all saw our fair share of farm animals as they were turned out to pasture, causing my friend to take refuge behind the rest of the group as we developed a formation to "safeguard" her.

On our way, we also saw a few other D of E groups, from Chalfont, who themselves were quite worn out, as they were on actual expedition, and we even met their assessors. The low point was when we had just exited the Wilverley Inclosure, and we couldn't find the main road that we had to cross to get into the Holmsley Inclosure, until we realised that it was running above our heads so we had to change our route which involved us walking almost another kilometre. That day, seeing the campsite was a relief, specifically for me at least, as I had so many blisters on my feet that I could barely walk the last hour.





# Year 12 Silver D of E

*Written By Shree Desai (6L)*

Finally, on the third and last day, we woke up and packed for the last time with the vision of being home in our minds. My group got a good start, having started off at a nice pace; we finished almost three-fourths of our route by the third hour, which was giving us such a high, until we reached the nature reserve. It started out having a nice flat terrain until we found ourselves in marshlands yet again, with quicksand around us. On our way to the woodlands to find dry and stable land, I found my leg sinking rapidly in a pool of water until I wrenched it out, finding myself with a twisted ankle. With Mr Pascall, we finally reached the last site where we set off back home, incredulous that the experience was actually over. However fatigued and pained we were, we all had an experience that none of us would forget and would look upon fondly in a few years.

