



LGS Headlines - Dec 2016



Dear Parents

Welcome to the last edition of Headlines for 2016 - and the first of a revised design and layout. I hope that the new format will still provide you with an overview of all the exciting things that have happened at Langley Grammar School over the last few weeks.

Our school news items written by students are now appearing regularly on the school website, and you can access each of them from the links on the next few pages if you are interested in finding out more. Please see the box below for more details of how to do this.

The autumn term is always a long and tiring one for both staff and students alike. This year we have changed the timings of the GCSE practice examinations to allow Year 11 students more time in the Spring and Summer terms to concentrate on preparation for their final examinations. Students coped well with the intense examination period and will be receiving all their results back at the beginning of the new term. Moving the Year 11 practice examinations has also allowed us to bring forward those for Year 13, who will begin their practice examinations on Tuesday 3 January.

Amidst all the busyness of the term we have found time for a range of activities both in and out of school. Junior and Senior House Drama and Music competitions, the Carol Service, and a range of visits have provided the students with some fantastic opportunities. We also held the first of our events to mark our 60th anniversary, with a 'Back to the 50s' themed Focus Day in November.

It has been a challenging term in many respects but our students continue to excel in their academic work and in other respects, and our staff support and encouraged them effectively. We now have a well-deserved break and I hope that everybody in the Langley Grammar School community will enjoy the Christmas period and have time for some genuine rest and relaxation.

My best wishes to you and to your families.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

Student news in Headlines

We have made two main changes to **Headlines**, although there is much that will still be familiar to you. Firstly, we have changed the layout and style to more closely resemble the website. Secondly we have stopped including articles written by students to describe school activities. Instead, these now appear on the school website in the Latest News section. **Headlines** now contains short summaries of the most recent news items, with a link to take you to the website to read more. To access the website article you can 'Ctrl-click' on the Read more.... link or visit the **Latest News** section of the website homepage.

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Staff news

At the end of term we inevitably say goodbye to members of staff who are moving on to new roles elsewhere.

This year has been very challenging for most schools as the national shortage of teachers in some subject areas becomes even more apparent. Schools in Slough have found recruitment particularly difficult as we face a combination of circumstances including high housing costs and our proximity to London where salaries may be more attractive. Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry have been shortage subjects nationally for some time, with high quality staff in Biology and English also increasingly difficult to find.

We are therefore grateful to a number of teachers who have been on supply with us this term from agencies, helping to address difficulties in recruiting to longer term roles in Science, Computing and English. **Mr Mohamed Haisum, Mr Rizwan Hussain, Mr Andrew Rankine and Mr Stephen Jones** are all moving on to new posts next term and we wish them well.

Two members of the teaching staff who have been here a little longer are also leaving:

Ms Naomi Kenner will be returning to her native Australia, having taught Philosophy & Ethics, Geography and English over the two and a half terms she has been with us.

Mr Paul Nemeth leaves the Philosophy & Ethics team to take a post of Head of Religious Studies at Kendrick School in Reading, having contributed significantly to the support of students and staff in the time he has been with us.

We also say goodbye to **Mrs Emma Caldwell**, one of our lunchtime supervisors, who has also been supporting the Science technician team.

We wish all three of them well for the future.

At the start of next term In January we will be welcoming Mr Vishal Patel as Subject Leader for Physics, and welcoming back Mr John Oakley who will be teaching Computing and ICT. Ms Pritpal Mudher will be joining the Science team, and Dr Oliver Tromans will be teaching Philosophy and Ethics. We will update you in January with any further staffing news.

NCS Champion School

We are delighted to have been awarded Champion School status in recognition of the enthusiasm and dedication of our students who participated in the National Citizen Service (NCS) Summer Programme in July and August 2016. More than 95 students participated in the scheme – a record for the school and the highest number from any school across Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire.

The Langley Grammar School students joined over thirty thousand NCS graduates across the UK who completed the part-residential programme run by The Challenge - the UK's leading charity for building a more integrated society and the largest provider of the NCS in the country.

We encourage our students to look beyond their A Level studies and present themselves as confident and well-rounded individuals who are independent and creative, responsible and caring. NCS offers students the chance to develop themselves in these ways and to give back to their communities. We are delighted at the level of support for NCS from our students, and we know they have gained a great deal from being involved

Our students' impact has been far reaching. After working with local charities and partner organisations creating social action projects with a difference, for causes ranging from Alzheimers Dementia Support to the Cox Green Community Centre; our NCS graduates are now equipped to continue their efforts outside the programme



Presenting the School with a plaque Zoe Clark, NCS Relationship Manager said: *"I have been working with Langley Grammar School over the past couple of years and have been overwhelmed by the support and contribution from both the school and the students. This award is recognition of their positive contribution to Slough. As the student alumni continue to grow, they should feel proud of the positive legacy they leave among their younger school peers."*



Charity fundraising

Responsible and caring

These are two of the words in our school ethos statement, which sets out characteristics we would like to see developing in Langley Grammar School students. We have certainly seen this attitude demonstrated in our charity fundraising activities over this term.

The autumn term normally sees our fundraising directed mostly towards supporting particular international charities, with continued support for the national campaigns around Remembrance and Children in Need.

Year 7s raised money for **LEPRA** by taking part in a sponsored 'Zumbathon'. Over the last five years, this has become Year 7's 'own' charity, providing a focus for some team building and fun while benefitting a good cause. LEPRA is a UK registered international charity focusing on people who find themselves trapped by disease, poverty and prejudice and we help them to improve their health, lives and livelihoods.



Driven by a focus on leprosy, LEPRA's purpose is to enable children, women and men affected by neglected diseases to transform their lives and overcome poverty and prejudice. Working on the ground in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique they treat, educate and rehabilitate, and through this give a voice to people living on the margins of society.

We are still waiting for the final total from LEPRA, but we are expecting it to be at least **£2,000**.

This will mean that over the last 5 years working with LEPRA, Year 7 students alone have raised around £15,000.



We have always supported the **BBC Children in Need** appeal by selling the merchandise and organising some smaller fundraising activities.

In recent years, Year 11 students have adopted this cause and have worked in their PCS (Personal and Citizenship Studies) lessons to decide on, plan and carry out some specific fundraising projects.

Once again the students took this very seriously, planning a range of activities including SOMETHING, SOMETHING ELSE and SOMETHING ELSE.

These activities raised just over £950 - well done to Year 11 students!

Added to the proceeds of the merchandise sale, we have been able to donate **£1,230** to Children in Need.

We have also raised £170 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. The Sixth Form charity week was reported in in a previous edition of Headlines and raised around £740.

Together with our main activity described on the next page, our students have collectively raised approximately £6,500 for good causes this term.

Well done!



Flushing away poverty.....

For our whole school fundraising we decided to twin our toilets.....

Did you know that across the developing areas of Asia, Africa and South America, 2.5 billion people – one third of the world's population – do not have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the toilet?

The impact is enormous – diseases which could be easily prevented instead claim millions of lives, especially among children. The organisation Toilet Twinning (www.toilettwinning.org) is linked with the major international relief organisation Tear Fund and provides support for sanitation development and hygienic education programmes in arrange of developing countries.



The principle is simple – for every £60 raised (the average costs of providing materials for a latrine) we twin one of our toilets with one already provided through the programme; the money raised goes to extending the programme elsewhere in that or a nearby community. We receive a photograph of each of the latrines we are twinning with GPS coordinates to enable us to identify the community location. The money then supports the development of similar facilities and hygiene programmes in the nearby area.

Through a series of assemblies we challenged the students to simply donate in exchange for a non-uniform day.

***We have raised over £2,200.
Fantastic!***

This is enough to twin 36 toilets and make a real difference to communities – helping to flush away poverty, family by family, school by school.

Next term we will decide which countries we are going to support and where to display all the photographs! To find out more about Toilet Twinning, please visit the charity's website.

www.toilettwinning.org

WE ARE TWINNING OUR TOILETS

1 in 3 people worldwide don't have somewhere safe, private or hygienic to go to the toilet.

Please help us to raise money so that we can twin our toilets and help people have access to safe sanitation, clean water and hygiene education.



www.toilettwinning.org





Student absence

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents about the procedures for reporting an absence or requesting leave of absence from school.

A high level of attendance is expected to help our students make consistent progress in their work; parents have a very important role to play in ensuring that their sons and daughters attend school regularly and punctually. We monitor student attendance thoroughly and where there is a concern we will take appropriate action.

Reporting a student absence

If your son or daughter is unwell

- The absence of your son or daughter must be reported to us - for each day they are unwell - before 8:30am to ensure that the registers are accurate.
- Please call Student Support who have a facility for leaving messages if someone is not able to answer the phone. You must state your child's name, form, the name of the person making the call and the reason for the absence.
- On the first day back a note is required from you explaining why your son or daughter was away - this is expected even though a phone call will have been made during his or her absence.
- Medical evidence may be required if your son or daughter has accumulated several absences.

If your son or daughter has a medical appointment

- Medical appointments should wherever possible be made outside of the school day, although we do recognise that this is not always possible.
- **Before** the appointment, a letter from you must be provided to Student Support stating that your son or daughter will be absent.
- If the appointment is early in the morning and you have not been able to notify us in advance, a call should be made to Student Support, followed by a letter of explanation when your son or daughter returns to school.

Leave of Absence requests

For any other type of absence you will need to complete a **Leave of Absence (LOA)** form which can be downloaded from the school website:

<http://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=137&type=pdf>.

The form is titled 'LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST' and features the school crest in the top right corner. It contains several sections: 'Student Name' and 'Form Group' at the top; 'Absence Dates' with 'From' and 'To' fields; 'Date of student's return to school' and 'Number of school days requested'; a 'Reason for Absence' section with a large text box for explanation; and a bottom section for the Headteacher's name, signature, and date, along with a section for the parent's name, address, and telephone number.

Unless there are very good reasons for not doing so, LOA forms must be **submitted two weeks** before any absence. Requests which are late without reason, or which are made during of after an absence, will **not** be granted.

A proper Leave of Absence request is required for reasons such as music exams, religious observance outside school holidays (such as Eid and Diwali) and certain family occasions. This is not an exhaustive list and leave of absence is granted in **exceptional circumstances only**, and at discretion of the Headteacher whose decision is final.

Failure to follow procedures will most likely result in your son or daughter's absence being treated as unauthorised and this will be recorded as such on their attendance record.



Snapshots of summer

Earlier this term students submitted entries for the termly photographic competition. The theme was 'Summer'. The entries are judged by the Senior Leadership Team, who decided a winner and two other entries to be highly commended.



Winner Breanna, Year 11

Commended
Aditi, Year 8

Commended Shreen, Year 11





LGS News Headlines

Bright sparks concert

LGS GCSE and A Level Music students went to the Royal Festival Hall for an amazing experience of live orchestra.

[Read more.....](#)



Safe Drive Stay Alive

Year 12 students attending the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' tour had no idea just how much the messages would change our thinking.

[Read more.....](#)



Year 9 Geography field trip

Year 9 students took part in two geography field study visits to the Olympic Park and Canary Wharf.

[Read more.....](#)



Planting for the future

On Focus Day, we decided to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the school by planting 60 trees around the site....

[Read more.....](#)





LGS News Headlines

Oh no they didn't..!

Year 7 students went off to the production of Cinderella in High Wycombe as part of their drama studies topic on pantomime.....

[Read more.....](#)



Christmas markets

Year 10 Business Studies students were set the challenge of presenting Christmas-related marketing and business plans to their peers.....

[Read more.....](#)



Title

We entered students from Year 7, 10, 12 & 13 for the Bebras UK Computational Thinking competition run by The University of Oxford....

[Read more.....](#)



NCS Champion School

We are now an NCS Champion School in recognition of our students who participated in the National Citizen Service (NCS)

[Read more.....](#)





LGS News Headlines

Royal Opera House

GCSE Music students visited the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to watch an amazing performance of 'Il Trovatore'

[Read more.....](#)



London theatre visit

*GCSE and A Level Drama students caught up with *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* at London's Gielgud theatre.*

[Read more.....](#)



Junior House Music

Students in Years 7 to 9 participated in our annual Junior House Music competition.

[Read more.....](#)



Volunteering

The School recently received a certificate from The Duke of Edinburgh Programme

[Read more.....](#)

