



LGS Headlines

31 January 2016





From the Headteacher

Dear Parents

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2016. There are relatively few student articles in this edition, reflecting the fact that the first few weeks of term have been quite focused, especially for those year groups taking public exams this year.



Year 11 and Year 13 students have undertaken 'mock' examinations giving them valuable experience of the format of the GCSE and A-Level examinations while working under intensive pressure. The results of these examinations will inform the strategies teachers use with their classes in the next few months for the final preparation phase. The students themselves will hopefully have learnt valuable lessons about effective revision and how to manage the competing priorities which are inevitable when preparing for a range of subjects. We wish them well as they focus their efforts over the next few months.

Looking to the other end of the school, I am coming towards the end of a series of meetings with our Year 7 students where I have heard all about their highlights from their first few months at Langley Grammar School. Together with the surveys recently completed by both students and parents, these meetings have confirmed that our newest students are settling in well and making the most of the opportunities we provide for them.

We do value the significant contribution made by our parent governors. As some terms of office have now come to an end, we have three vacancies for parent governors on the Governing Body. Further information is provided within this newsletter and on the school website and I do hope some of you will wish to stand.

With best wishes for the rest of the term ahead.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

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

- Junior House Music
- Years 7 & 8 Pantomime trip
- Year 7 Maths Challenge
- Shakespeare Schools
- Geography Northern Ireland Field trip

Mr M Aplin - News Manager

Dates for your diary - February

- Thu 4 Feb** Intermediate Maths Challenge
Yr 13 PTC (school finishes 3.05 pm)
- Mon 8 Feb** Yr 10 Charity Week begins
Yr 12 mock examinations begin
- Tue 9 Feb** Yr 11 PTC (school finishes 3.05 pm)
- Wed 10 Feb** Deadline for applications to Sixth Form
- Mon 15 Feb** **Half Term break to Fri 19 Feb**
- Thu 25 Feb** Yr 11 Art Gallery visit
- Fri 26 Feb** Yr 12/13 Globe Theatre visit
- Mon 29 Feb** Yr 11 Sixth Form interviews begin
Yr 8 mid-year examinations

For more details of school events please visit the calendar pages on the school website, where you will also find the finalised term dates for 2016-17.

Langley Grammar School
Reddington Drive
Langley
Berkshire SL3 7QS
01753 598300
school@lgs.slough.sch.uk



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



Parent Governor election

I am writing to you to invite you to stand for election as a parent governor, or to support another parent to do so. We currently have three vacancies which we are seeking to fill. The Governing Body, with the Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school. Governing bodies have three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the Governing Body's work. However, in order to maintain a spread of skills and expertise across the Governing Body we would particularly welcome nominations from parents with expertise in construction/facilities or project management or previous governance experience

Further details of the parent governor role can be found on the [Parent Governor information and nomination form](#) available on the school website. If you would like to stand for election please complete the nomination form and return it to the School no later than **Friday 5 February 2016**. You must include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 150 words; you must also have your nomination endorsed by another parent of a child currently at the school. Paper copies of the nomination form can also be collected from School Reception.

As outlined in the information, nominated candidates who are not currently serving on the Langley Grammar School Governing Body must attend a briefing meeting at the School before confirming their intention to proceed with the process. This meeting will take place on **Tuesday 9 February at 5.30pm**.

It is anticipated the election process will be concluded by early March allowing appointed nominees to attend the full governing body meeting scheduled for Tuesday 15 March at 5.30pm.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

Slough School Sports Network

On Tuesday 7 December, 19 LGS Year 10 GCSE sports leaders supported the Slough School Sport Network with the running of the Year 8 Sportshall Athletics competition. There were 19 teams from 10 schools in attendance and so it was a very busy morning!

From the outset, the sports leaders were a great support to myself and my colleague Eddie in the running of the event. The sports leaders ran the different activity stations, which involved demonstrating and explaining to the participants what the activity involved, keeping a record of scores and also acting as timekeepers. In addition to that, the leaders helped to set out and clear down equipment. They did all of this with a great attitude, smiles on their faces and conducted themselves in a very professional manner. Essentially, we couldn't have run the competition without them!

The leaders in attendance at the event were:

*Anthony Abraham
Anna Andrei
Ross Barrett
Jagjeet Gill
Jaslina Gill
Varun Giritharan
Yuktha Gubbala
Jeevadarshan Gurumoorthy
Abhiraj Kane
Amrita Narula
Priya Patel
Zevesh Patel
Nanak Rana
Simran Rattu
Arjun Sandhra
Vianca Shah
Michelle Sharma
Soufyan Soogun
Abinanden Venkatramen*

The LGS PE department were also a great support to us (as always!), helping us to set up the sports hall ahead of the event and to clear down afterwards. It's always a pleasure to host events at LGS; the PE department make fantastic hosts and we know that leaders will always do a great job.

Laura





Junior House Music

Written By Zainab Thasim & Simrun Chandale (9V)

This year's house music was once again one we won't forget. The day was full of outstanding acts and cheesy presenting, which we're sure everyone enjoyed. One of the favourite acts was Robinson's group performance in which they sang and played a great version of 'Photograph' - by Ed Sheeran with additional beat boxing. Another amazing piece was Seymour's group composition which was a creative and catchy band performance.

These two, where pieces complemented by the judge as where other pieces such as Villiers house song, Harvey houses group song and Kederminster's soloist act. After many performances, the time had come for the results, and the hall was full of anticipation and suspense; the results were:

1st – Seymour, 2nd – Villiers, 3rd – Robinson, 4th – Harvey, 5th – Kedermister.

Just before the awards were announced, we were also pleasantly gifted with the surprise performance of many of the teachers singing and dancing up on stage. Everyone sang along and the festival spirit was bouncing off the walls.

This year's house music was an amazing experience and a definite joy to do, with everyone smiling, having fun and enhancing their musical talent and creativity.





Year 7/8 Pantomime Visit

Written by Navin Vithana (8R)

On Wednesday 16 December, the Year 7s and 8s had a sensational time at the Wycombe Swan theatre. The trip to the theatre was one of enjoyment as it was nice to go somewhere other than our next lesson. We finally arrived but then began the chaos of where to go. As we all bundled into the theatre and took our seats we waited with anticipation for the start of the show. Our seats were at the top balcony enabling us to have a great view over the audience.

Finally the show began and it was breath-taking. The level of dramatic ability used was amazing and the props and effects were just electrifying. All in all, the show was fantastic and was even better when Craig Revel Horwood (of 'Strictly Come Dancing' infamy) starred as Captain Cook. Personally, I had a great time and thought it was amazing and I'm sure, everyone enjoyed it just as much. Unfortunately, the show had to end and we had to go home but it was a great opportunity and I would like to thank the teachers who organized this trip as it was amazing.

The pictures attached were from the internet as we are not allowed to take photos of the acting during the actual performance.





Year 7 Maths Challenge with Castleview

Written By Daniel Way & Viknesh Vijeyanandaraja (7H)

On the 9 December 2015, Castleview School pupils came to Langley Grammar School to experience a maths challenge hosted by Mrs Williamson. We started off with an introduction and set off on the Christmas-based maths challenge.

It started off with a race of answering 15 questions, each time having to run clockwise of the hall after answering each question and getting it checked. It started off hard but eventually everyone got used to it and we were having fun and learning in our teams. However, on the 14th question everyone caught up with each other but they weren't able to answer the difficult question. So, in the end we called it a draw as we ran out of time.

Finally, we ended the maths workshop with a Christmas puzzling Brainteaser! This challenge was about a hidden code and it had sums for each letter which a letter for each answer. In the end, the hidden message was – pulling a cracker! We had a lot of fun in the end though! Thanks to the staff for organizing it for us.





Shakespeare School Festival

SHAKESPEARE
SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

YOUR PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

"A tale of sound and fury" – A Murderous Macbeth

Macbeth Produced and Performed by Langley Grammar School

SOUTH HILL PARK ARTS CENTRE

12th November 2015

Appraised by **KATE HUGHES**



Congratulations to the cast and crew of Langley Grammar School on their wonderful production of Macbeth at South Hill Park Arts Centre

This was an accomplished and original production, and I'd like to highlight a few key elements which really stood out for me.

- The cast created a great sense of status and power, particularly when the crown was passed around by the weird sisters and snatched away just as it seemed secure.
- The opening sequence was terrifying, setting the mood for a dark and intimidating story: the ensemble becoming the the weird sisters through a slick movement sequence was great.
- You really committed to the violence of the play with amazing fight choreography throughout. The final battle sequence was bloody, vibrant and a fitting climax.
- Your setting for the play was very maturely handled and gave the story an extra edge.



I'd also like to commend the cast on the extremely effective and powerful choreography throughout which hugely impressed me.

This production was bold, challenging and dynamic. Huge congratulations to all the cast and crew who made it happen.

I hope to see Langley Grammar School in the Festival again next year.

Kate Hughes

Shakespeare Schools Festival Venue Director

'BE NOT AFRAID OF GREATNESS'

TWELFTH NIGHT

ssf.uk.com



Year 12 Geography Visit to Northern Ireland

Written by Amrita Heer (60) & Sara Haque (6B)

On Monday 18 January, the Year 12 Geographers met bright and early at Heathrow Terminal 5, ready for an exciting trip to Northern Ireland. After landing at Belfast City Airport just a couple of hours later, most of us had not visited Ireland before and so we were all keen to see what the area would be like. Immediately recognising their popular crisp brand to be Tayto crisps and coming to terms with the slight drop in temperature, we all pretty much adjusted straight away. It was then when we met up with our welcoming drivers from Bushmills Education Centre. They drove us to the Business Park where we began our fieldwork on crowded coasts around Belfast Docks and saw the Titanic Quarter where the Titanic was built. The visitor centre is built to resemble the size and shape of the Titanic itself, representing Northern Ireland's heritage and culture. On arrival, we were all keen to explore the centre before having dinner after a long day of travelling. We ended the day with an evening lesson exploring what we had seen at Belfast Docks and also an introduction to what we would be doing on the following days.



On the Tuesday, we explored rural unequal spaces. This day highlighted to me the clear spatial inequality you see as you move away from Belfast. After an early start for breakfast, followed by a carousel of locations around different villages we stopped in Coleraine for a quick lunch before finishing our fieldwork for the day. We then had a well deserved dinner when we got back, meeting with the other group and discussing what we had been up to. This was followed by an evening lesson to collate and discuss our findings from the data and free time for a competitive game of Irish snap.

During the evenings, Mr Nelson had organised competitive team games for us all to take part in, giving us a chance to have fun together without having to worry about work. A huge amount of effort was put into creating unique games to get everyone involved, including Quidditch, an intense obstacle course and a personal favourite – balloon popping! Keeping us entertained and competitive after long days was a huge challenge to take on yet Mr Nelson did exceedingly well. Congratulations to Team Aplin who were the overall champions at the end of the week and a special thank you to Mr Nelson for making our evenings so enjoyable.

On Wednesday, we visited Portrush and Portstewart to explore and evaluate sea defences and the success of various holiday resorts in the area. It was fascinating to see the ways in which coastal development was managed by the local council and people, and the unique opinions of one of our minibus drivers brought the fieldwork on paper to life! We also looked at a sea wall, where Mr Pascall showcased a never seen before talent of his, being a Ninja Warrior as he scaled the sea wall! We then measured waves and the angles of beaches as primary data to help us to come to conclusions on hypothesis' we formed earlier in the day. All that can be said was that it was very wet, very cold and some people were caught pouring water out of their wellies at the end of the day. But it goes to show just how great the trip was and how interested we were in everything we were doing that most of us barely even noticed that we had the whole of the Atlantic Ocean in our wellies! We then stopped at Morelli's, a local ice cream parlour that makes their ice cream on site, for lunch and some delicious desert! Upon returning to the centre, we typed up all of our data and decided whether or not our hypotheses had been proved. Post dinner and another evening classroom session we did more team building activities with Mr Nelson with the other staff supporting.



Year 12 Geography Visit to Northern Ireland

Written by Amrita Heer (60) & Sara Haque (6B)

On the Thursday, we clambered along the sand dunes on the heritage coast, doing fieldwork along the way to reach Giant's Causeway. This was many people's favourite part of the trip! We were so excited to see such an amazing piece of coast, and when we saw it, it didn't disappoint. When we approached, it didn't look like much but when we were standing on the 40,000 columns of basalt rock, all perfectly geometrical, formed by a volcanic eruption that scientists believe was 6 million years ago, we felt like we were standing on a piece of history. It's amazing how it has remained unchanged, and the rocks all still look impressive even after man has been walking on it for so long. They are much taller than they look in pictures with the tallest ones reaching 12 metres tall! Standing (and slipping!) on the rocks was the highlight of the trip for most of us.

When we arrived at the centre after such an exciting day, we all realised with a start that it was our last night together in Northern Ireland! Some people were distraught! Everyone came together in the common room to have a fun evening of karaoke together. We all sang new songs, like Love Yourself by Justin Bieber, and the teachers banged out the old classics like Wonderwall and Push It by Salt and Pepa, needless to say, we all laughed a LOT.

On our last day together in Northern Ireland we practiced some exam questions based on what we had studied and researched all week, this was a really useful session despite the tiredness. Then we were then given the option to either go back to Morelli's to get some ice cream or to go on the high ropes outside of our education centre and do rock climbing. It was a nice break from the hard work we had done all week and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We were then taken to Belfast where we were allowed to do some shopping (or in many people's cases, some serious eating).





Year 12 Geography Visit to Northern Ireland

Written By Amrita Heer (60) & Sara Haque (6B)

After shopping in Belfast's famous Victoria Square shopping centre, we were taken to the airport. It was time to say goodbye to Northern Ireland. It was an interesting experience, being an airport with only one gate for such a long period of time, but we found things to do, namely Irish snap and yet more shopping!



We arrived home safe and sound back at Heathrow at around 9pm on Friday, all tired and a bit upset that the trip had come to an end so quickly, but it really was an amazing trip, and even though we were working extremely hard, the teachers made it extremely easy for us to have a good time and enjoy ourselves.

I'm sure everyone who went on the trip would like to thank Mr Mace, Mr Aplin, Mr Pascall, Mrs Jenkins and Mr Nelson for coming with us and making it their priority to see that we learnt everything we needed to and had a good time whilst doing it!





ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15



PRESENTED TO

Langley Grammar School

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION
THAT YOUR SCHOOL AND PUPILS HAVE MADE TO
THE LOCAL COMMUNITY BY TAKING PART IN
NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE

Signed

Stephen Greene, Chair of NCS Trust

POWERED BY





INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD 2015–18

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Langley Grammar School

HAS BEEN ACCREDITED FOR
**OUTSTANDING DEVELOPMENT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION
IN THE CURRICULUM**

1 SEPTEMBER 2015

Ciarán Devane

Ciarán Devane
Chief Executive, British Council

