



LGS Headlines

February/March 2015





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From the Headteacher

Dear Parents

As you will see from the right hand side of this page, this is a bumper edition of Headlines! Due to the term dates we have had just two newsletters since Christmas. I hope you will find time to read the accounts of all that has happened this term.



In a fairly short term our students have participated in an astonishing variety of activities. We have seen an outstanding production of 'Blood Brothers' and an excellent Spring Concert. There have been day visits to universities, concerts, historic sites and areas of geographical interest. There have been Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, a visit to France, the Year 7 residential and work experience in Germany. There has been sporting success including winning County championships, and fancy dress for World Book Day. Some of these events are described in the student pages of this edition. Clearly this amazing range of activities is only possible through the dedication and commitment of our staff who are so generous with their time.

The School will see some significant changes in the short and medium term. We have two newly appointed deputy headteachers, starting at different times in the summer term. There are changes to our admissions arrangements from September 2016 which will help to increase the School's focus on the local community and cater for a future expansion to 6 forms of entry. Our inclusion in the Government's flagship Priority Schools Building programme will address the serious structural issues in our main 1956 buildings. There are further details on these changes included in this newsletter.

Many of our students will be sitting public examinations shortly after the Easter break; we hope they will use the holiday and their last few weeks wisely and we wish them every success. Our best wishes to all of you for the Easter break.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

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

- Senior Production Blood Brothers
- Spring Concert
- U 19 County Champions
- PGL Netball Weekend
- Year 12 Surrey University Visit
- Year 12 Careers Network Event
- Year 12 Aachen Work Experience
- A Level Music Trip
- Year 11 Oxford Maths Trip
- Year 11 Art Visit
- Year 10 Charity Week
- GCSE Music Trip
- Return from the Western Front
- Year 9 Careers Event
- U 14 County Champions
- U14 Girls County Cricket
- Year 8 Netball Winners
- Year 8 Football
- Year 8 Geography Trip
- Year 8 IBM Event
- Slough Youth Parliament Update
- Library News
- World Book Day

M. Aplin (News Manager)

The summer term starts on Monday 13 April at 8.20 am. There will be normal lessons from the very start so all students should come properly prepared.

Diary dates for the Summer will be published in the next edition and can be found on the school website.

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



Staff update

At the end of this term we say goodbye to two members of staff.

Mr Dawson Whitman is retiring from his role as technician in the Design Technology department. Mr Whitman has provided support for teachers and students alike in the resistant materials workshop over the last 8 years and many students past and present have valued his advice and guidance on techniques and use of the machinery. We wish him a long and happy retirement .

Mrs Rachel Smith leaves us after just under three years as Deputy Headteacher. During that time she has overseen the development of many aspects of school life. One of her most significant achievement has been the development of our student safeguarding team and the systems we have in place to support students emotional wellbeing. We know this has had a profound impact on a number of our students across the school. Mrs Smith takes up her new post as Headteacher of Beaconsfield High School in the summer term, and we wish her every success.

Parents will also be aware that Mr Berwick Mitchell, Deputy Headteacher, will also be leaving the school at the end of the summer term. We have appointed two new Deputy Headteachers following a recruitment process just before February half term:

- **Mr Chris Thomas** joins us at the start of the summer term. Mr Thomas is an experienced Deputy Headteacher, currently working at Woolwich Polytechnic School and with previous experience at John Madjeski Academy in Reading, and Oxford Academy.
- **Mr David Harding** will join us immediately after the May half term break. Mr Harding is currently Assistant Headteacher at Heathside School in Weybridge.

These starting arrangements will enable our two new Deputy Headteachers to receive an effective handover of responsibilities prior to Mr Mitchell leaving at the end of the summer term. We look forward to welcoming Mr Thomas and Mr Harding to the school.

The School Council were involved in these appointments; Council members from all year groups spent an hour with candidates on the second day of the process and were thoroughly professional interviewers. We are very grateful to them for their input.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

Admissions to Year 7 in September 2016

Following a period of consultation, our confirmed Admissions Arrangements for entry to Year 7 and Year 12 in 2016 will be published on the school website by 15th April in line with the School Admissions Code. Thank you to those parents who responded following the publication of the proposals in the last newsletter.

The arrangements include the introduction of a Local admission Area covering postcode areas SL3 0, SL3 7 and SL3 8. Applicants with a permanent address within these areas will be offered a place at the school provided they achieve at least the eligibility score of 111 in the 11+ entrance examination. Places for applicants living in the wider Admission Area will be allocated places based on rank order in the 11+ examination. For further details, please refer to the school website where all the relevant information will be available after the Easter break.

Please note that online registration for the 11+ test for 2016 entry will open on Friday 1 May and closes on Friday 19 June. No applications for testing will be accepted after this date.

Buildings update

The school has been included on the list of 277 schools whose condition needs will be met through Phase 2 of the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP2). This will involve the replacement of the original 1956 buildings which are suffering from significant structural issues.

This is excellent news which will lead to greatly improved accommodation for our students over the next few years. However, we have very little information from DfE so far. All we know about the next step is the following extract from our notification email:

"The PSBP2 team will.....arrange a site visit as part of an initial scoping study. PSBP2 will run from 2015 to 2021 and work on successful schools will be scheduled across the whole lifetime of the programme. Our aim is to communicate the programme of work for all schools in autumn 2015, so that you will be clear when you can expect work on your project to begin."

We will give you more information when we receive it, which may now be after the election in early May.

Mr G Trigg - Business Manager



International School Award

We are delighted to have gained the Intermediate Level of the British Council International School Award.



The Award recognises the development of an international perspective in our curriculum, including overseas visits and projects with a link school in India. The assessors' report stated:

This is an excellent application and a credit to your school. It clearly demonstrates your commitment to international education and to wishing to embed the international dimension once again into your curriculum.....The work you have done with your partner school is also impressive and provides a great opportunity for you to study some of the global themes you have selected in a contextual manner in order to bring your international learning to life.

Thank you to Ms Sihota and her team of students who prepared the application, and to all those who were involved in any of the activities.



Over the next year we will be working towards the full International Schools Award, which involves setting up additional activities. One of these is a link with Tampines Secondary School in Singapore, funded through the British Council's Connecting Classrooms scheme.



More details will follow in a future edition of Headlines.

Mrs R Smith - Deputy Headteacher

Building Educational Bridges - Singapore

I recently had the privilege of being involved in the British Council's Building Educational Bridges exchange. Ten UK headteachers were linked with 10 principals from Singapore.



The UK heads hosted our Singapore colleagues in November in London; the programme for the week included visits to some schools in London and meetings with Ofsted and the Department for Education, as well as time spent developing an understanding of each other's school systems.

The return leg took place at the end of January where we received a warm welcome (much warmer as we went from below freezing in the UK to 30°C in Singapore!). The programme was broadly similar, with school visits, and time spent at the Ministry of Education and the teacher training institute.

The two systems are very different. The Singapore principals were interested in our ability to recruit our own staff and viewed Ofsted's inspection regime with amazement and incredulity. In Singapore, teachers are recruited centrally by the government and deployed where they are needed.



Singapore's system promotes high standards, and our Government believes that much can be learnt from them. We were interested to learn that the Singapore government has decided that their school curriculum had over-emphasised academic success at the expense of students' wider development. Their focus now is on student-centred education driven by moral values and the development of '21st century' learning attitudes such as resilience. We have much to learn from each other and we look forward to developing the relationship with our new partner school.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher



Governor update

We are pleased to welcome three new Governors to the Governing Body of Langley Grammar School

Following the recent election we are delighted to announce that **Mr Sudhi Pathak** and **Mrs Davinder Sukham** have been elected as parent governors for a term of four years.

We would like to express our sincere thanks all those parents who put themselves forward for election.

Following advertisement and interview the Governing Body has appointed Miss Clare Fitzgerald as a community governor, also for a term of four years. Miss Fitzgerald is a former Langley Grammar School student and is currently senior partner at a firm of solicitors based in Slough.

Governors have also attended a number of school events during the course of the term. Among the comments received after visits to the production of Blood Brothers and the Spring Concert were the following:

“Just a brief note to ask you to extend my admiration and congratulations to the entire cast, directors, musicians and production team of Blood Brothers. LGS’s production was streets ahead of the West End production which I saw some years ago Kate, Shivani, Jonny, Ethan and Daniel gave truly superb and memorable performances, and were complemented by some excellent interpretations in smaller roles – the police spring to mind.It’s about the entire cast and team. - with such limited space, the chorus choreography and slick props changes, for example, were brilliant.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed the concert tonight. There was such a rich variety of music and it was good to see all the year groups involved. I was delighted to hear that the junior orchestra has been established and hopefully will allow younger students to grow in musical ability and confidence as they continue through the school.

“Besides such talented instrumentalists I was impressed by the calibre of the solo vocalists.....The students seem to really be enjoying the experience of performing and this must reflect the support, inspiration and enthusiastic teaching they have received from the staff.”

Mrs L Simmonds - Clerk to the Governors

National Recognition

We have again received national recognition for the value we add to students’ achievements at GCSE.



SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers Network, recently undertook its annual in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England and identified Langley Grammar School’s success.

We have qualified for an **SSAT Educational Outcomes Award** by being in the **top 10%** of schools nationally for progress made by pupils between their key stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results at age 16.



We have been invited to receive our award at a regional celebration ceremony in May.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

‘Langley Grammar School should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their students. There is so much good practice that this school could share, and I hope they will join us at the celebration evening for the chance to network and share strategies with award-winning schools.

‘These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at Langley Grammar School, and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every young person. I am proud that this school is a member of the SSAT network.’



Slough School Sport Network

We recently received the following email from Laura Goodall, School Games Organiser for the Slough School Sport Network.

Slough School Sport Network recently ran a High 5 Netball competition for Slough primary schools at Langley Grammar. Part of the School Games pathway, the High 5 Netball competition saw 25 teams from 17 schools present (approx. 220 children from Yrs 5&6) and is regarded as one of the Network's flagship events.

Langley Grammar provided 8 Year 10 sports leaders and one of the schools Young Ambassadors to act in an officiating capacity for the tournament. They were **Tanya Bittar-Massally, Tia Dhaliwal, Iqra Khan, Mahek Vara, Manini Gangal, Tanvir Nagra, Tasvir Brainch, Nimita Kodam** and **Ruby Sewell**.

The students conducted themselves in a highly professional manner and were ideal role models for the primary school children in attendance. Being an umpire is not an easy job but the students, with guidance from other netball coaches and staff, did a great job officiating the games. With so many schools and school staff present, officiating can be a daunting experience but this did not seem to phase them. The girls worked with a super confident manner and I've had feedback from primary school staff that they did 'a really good job' and were 'lovely helpers.'

In addition to the High 5 netball competition, earlier in the year, Langley Grammar provided 6 hockey leaders to assist with the Slough primary schools In 2 Hockey competition at Slough Hockey Club. We had in excess of 110 children from 11 schools across the borough taking part (children were in Yrs 5&6). The students worked hard to keep the games flowing and again I had some great feedback from staff.

The Network has further primary school competitions planned on the Langley Grammar School site in the summer term - Yr 5&6 Orienteering on 27th April and Yr 5&6 QuadKids Athletics on 19th May. Again, Langley Grammar sports leaders will be on hand to support the running of the competitions - pop along if you can to see some of them in action!

The Network could not run events without the support of sports leaders and of course the PE departments that help to co-ordinate these opportunities for their students (and other schools) too. Langley Grammar has always been a super support to the Network in terms of the provision of sports leaders and also use of facilities for hosting events and we can't thank David Close and his PE team enough for their time and support in helping us make things happen.

Your students and staff are a credit to your school and a real asset to the Slough School Sports Network.

Laura Goodall - Slough Schools Sport Network

Prepare yourself, April

So many events,
The variety was vast,
Teachers, parents,
Expectations surpassed.
Focus days, competitions
And trips galore,
Residential, Plays
And so much more!
Year 8s won Netball,
Out of all of Slough,
Then they were off to PGL,
And came second – wow!
Next is Year 12,
At Surrey University,
Also a Careers event,
A lot of diversity!
Westfield and Spitalfields,
Development and gentrification,
Year 8s Geography trips
Saw redevelopment and its application.
Year 10s were all business,
For the annual charity week,
Selling t-shirts, sweets and games
To help those in need.
Now it's the chance
For the whole school to take the stage,
We all got dressed up,
It's World Book Day!
Superheroes, villains, animals, witches,
Kids, adults, rags, riches,
Sportsmen, symbols, orphans, singers,
Teachers, pets, even gunslingers!
So much happened, so much incoming,
Prepare yourself April, LGS is coming.

**By Faheem Anwar
Junior Langley Laureate**



Biology Challenge

The Biology Challenge is organised by the Society of Biology for Year 9 and 10 students and aims to involve as many 13 to 15 year old students as possible in a challenging and interesting competition



12 students took part from Langley Grammar School.

Within that group the winners were:

- 1st Vianca Shah (75 / 110)
- 2nd Amar Patel, Romesha Aslam (69)
- 4th Irfaan Ahmad (65)
- 5th Gurleen Muker (63)



On Thursday 19 March several students were involved in producing reports on various Focus Day activities as part of the 2015 BBC School Report.

Thank you to Daniel George (11V) and his team who did a great job on the technical side. You can see the reports [here](#) and there will be more to follow in the next edition of Headlines.



Comic Relief Netball

For Comic Relief this year a student vs teachers netball match was held. With over 100 students and teachers watching, it created a lively atmosphere.

The game started with the teachers gaining an early lead. Soon by the end of the first quarter the teachers were winning. With music playing and more students coming to watch, the student team were able to up their game. We were soon chasing the teachers lead and by half time we caught up.

The staff team then made some changes to try and get there lead back again. However no matter what they tried, they were unable to catch up with us as we had a convincing lead. So by the end of the match the students had won and the teachers were not pleased with the result...! It seems as though there will have to be a rematch next year!



As this was a charity netball game we were asking for donations for comic relief. Raising over £100 for charity it shows that the event was successful.

I want to thank Mr Close and Mr Adams for taking time to umpire the netball match. Even though it's not your first sport you both were fair umpires and without you we could not have had a game. Thanks also to Mr Podbury for playing and setting up the music and to all the other PE staff who made this event possible.

Thanks also go to the staff who played in the match as well as the students who came and watched. Without you this match would not have been a success!

Ruby Sewell (60)



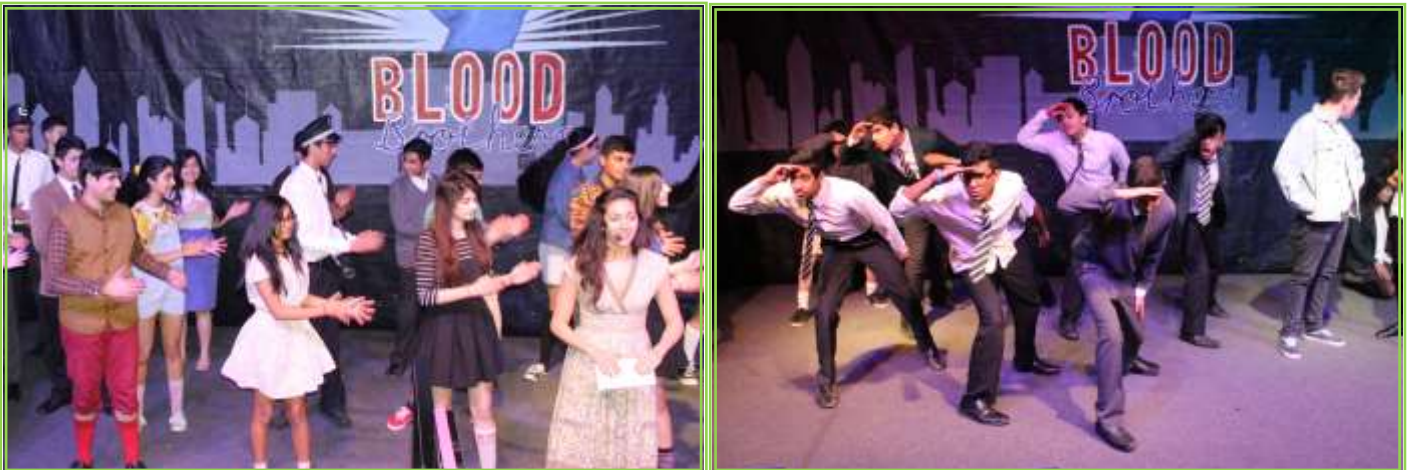
Blood Brothers

Written by & Mischa Bhabra (6H) & Pratyush Jain

For the upper school performance this year, students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 performed in Blood Brothers. The process of auditions consisted of us seeing the scripts for the first time and then acting out the section as we saw fit. The second part involved singing, which some were more suited to than others. After careful thought and consideration from the drama teachers, they decided their final cast lists, and the scripts were distributed. Then rehearsals began, we were slowly eased into the routine, as we began with learning dance routines for the much loved Kid Game song. The Leads began to block their scenes, which was an equal balance of fun and hard work.

Throughout the entire process the whole cast bonded over countless jokes. As the opening night came closer, we all realised the extra commitment that we needed to make. Whether it was rehearsals after school, or singing during lunch, we were all willing. On the final days before, we had two full days of dress rehearsals, which allowed us to see the play truly come together; with the help of the musicians for the songs, and the lighting, really adding to the production. It was also the first time we performed in front of an audience, as Year 7s sat in. Hearing them laugh, or show concern at the intended moments made us realise that our hard work was paying off. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the process, and I know many of us can't wait to do it all again in the production next year.

Misha Bhabra, who played Linda.



Then came the opening night, and it was time for all the months of hard work from all the cast members, musicians, and the teachers, to pay off, and I am glad to say it did!

Despite a few hiccups, all to be expected from the first night, the first showing of Blood Brothers was a successful one! Comments from some regular attendees to the school productions included, *"This was definitely one of the best productions the school has put together!"* This was all aided by the new lights installed in the drama studio, which made the experience for the audience and the cast that bit more special.

Coming onto the second and final nights, the shows were perfect and flawless. As to be expected, the final performance was very emotional for the Year 13 students, who had just performed in their last production for Langley Grammar, most of whom had been performing in them for 7 years! It was also very emotional for the drama teachers, who after teaching the students since Year 7, had now witnessed their final performance. All in all the 3 nights were of a very high standard and it was definitely a fitting farewell to the year 13 students.

A huge thank you to the Drama and music staff for all their hard work and assistance.



Spring Concert

Written by John Carlton & Amrita Heer (10K)

This year's Spring Concert began with the rich sound of the Universal Opening Theme. It was shortly followed by all manner of marvellous acts and performances from a wide array of musically talented individuals and bands alike. The theme for the concert was of course music from the movies and featured many memorable tunes such as Jurassic Park, Chicken Run, Singing in the Rain and Skyfall; just to name a few.

Among the typical performances from the Jazz Band, Chamber Group, Choir and Orchestra, were many soloists and student-led bands as well as the first performance by the new Junior Orchestra and Samba Band. The Junior Orchestra gave an astounding performance of 'In the Hall of the Mountain King', led by Mrs Wharton whilst the Samba Band, accompanied by the LGV Choir, gave a very lively performance of 'Hot Hot Hot!' We hope to see more of their wonderful work in concerts to come.



Other highlights included performances from the Jonny Jin Band, Vikki Yan's piano solo, 'Don't Stop Believin' sung by Shenuri Amaya and 'David's Jazz Piece'. All of these were arranged and organised by the students themselves, truly showing the musical talent that so many of Langley Grammars pupils possess.

Overall this was an incredibly enjoyable concert especially with so many of the pieces being easily recognised by all. Many of the performers were from the younger years so despite the sad departure of our older 6th formers at the end of this year, this high standard of concert promises to be repeated in years to come. We hope to see many of you there!

A huge thank you to the music department in helping pull together what really was an excellent evening!





PGL Netball Weekend

Written by Anna Andrei & Zoe Shai (9V)

On 6th March, the netball teams from Years 8, 9 and 11 prepared themselves for a challenging and fun weekend at the annual PGL netball tournament in Liddington. A coachload of eager students and teachers set off after lunch on the Friday, excited for the experience ahead of us. The PGL weekend consisted of playing netball, as well as trying out all the different activities that were in store in a multi-activity centre



The quality of netball was very high, with testing matches in store for us. This, however, did not scare us but motivated us even more to play some of the best netball we had played in a long period of time. The Year 8 team were the most successful, winning 5 out of 6 matches in their pool and qualifying to the semis which they went on to succeed in. The final was an intense match with a lot of surprises in store, it was very close but the Year 8s had only just lost out on first place. The Year 11s were also successful, winning a fair number of games in their pool and making it to the semis, where they played very high standard netball. Despite great results in our pool and a lot of hard work, the Year 9s lost the match which decided what team made it through to the semis. Overall, the netball results were very pleasing and some very good netball was played.

Throughout the weekend the other activities were varied and included rock climbing, abseiling, the zip wire, the giant swing and so much more. These activities were great fun and definitely helped us improve our team chemistry and our confidence. Overall it was a really enjoyable weekend. A special thanks to Miss Rae for organising and to Mrs Close and Miss McAteer who also accompanied and coached us during the trip. We all had a fab time so thank you!





Year 12 visit to Surrey University

On our Year 12 trip to Surrey University, we had the chance to experience some aspects of real university life. As soon as we arrived there, we were seated in a huge lecture theatre to which we had the pleasure of hearing about the courses available at Surrey University and the actual logistics behind the campus itself. Subsequently, we split up into groups and my group was escorted around the campus by a female student in her second year studying psychology.

It was really insightful to hear her take on the university and why she chose to study her chosen subject in further detail. She led us to an area on the campus where the students could relax after intense studying. It was also mentioned that a few celebrity guests had performed there; much to the delight of some LGS students. We were taken to the newly constructed library and witnessed some of the hard working students revising; which actually motivated us to commence our own revision and the thousands of books on display definitely enticed some of our keener readers.

After our tour of the university, we had lunch from the canteen where pizzas, crisps and an extensive range of sandwiches were on offer. Following on from lunch, we had to separate once again into groups so we could sit in on lectures about a particular subject we wished to pursue as a potential career. Overall, this university trip was very helpful in providing general advice to students who want to go to university and to pupils who are contemplating to study a certain subject. Thank you to Mrs Golding for organising the event.

Simran Poonia (6B)



U 19 Girls County Champions

With little match play together as a team, the Under 19s were aware that this would be a tough match to win. We knew that we had a strong side and enough subs to keep our team energy up against a very dynamic, physical and athletic opposition.



The first quarter was a very close match drawing 6 points all. It took our team a while to find out feet and with a few mistakes they were up by one point as we approached half time.

In the second half our game changed. We seemed to work better together, passing the ball around and finishing most of our plays with 2 points. Not only did our attack pick up but our defence was also much stronger preventing Maiden Erlegh from scoring baskets. By the time we entered the last quarter we were winning and with the adrenaline high we fought even harder to gain a convincing win, 40-24.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Priya for coming back from university and supporting her old team in to the second county final win in two years.

A huge thanks also to our coach Mr Adams. Some of us had never played basketball before coming into the school in Year 7 and he has helped us grow as players and as a team. Without him we could not have even got to the final, let alone win with a final score of **40-24, a 16 point winning margin.**

Ruby Sewell (6O)



Year 12 Careers Network Event

Written by Aneesa Ishfaq (6B)

On the 6 March, Langley Grammar School held a speed networking events for their Year 12 students. In two hours, students met with various different people from diverse professions ranging from theatre arts to a pilot to bankers and lawyers. Students were matched through a questionnaire with five people based on their interests and aspirations. Students had twenty minute sessions with each person they had been matched up to, and were leading discussions in small groups of 4-5 other students, to help them understand what different professions are like and what paths they can take to get to certain roles in different industries. The last twenty-minute session was an open-ended time for students to go meet anyone they liked, some visited people they had already met before, whereas others visited people who they had not met but wanted to know more about.

Overall, it was a very enriching and useful event for all the students, allowing us to understand what each work place was like, from professionals who had first-hand experience. It perhaps even allowed students to reconsider some of their choices, from what they had heard from those working in that industry. It also allowed students to consider the path they would take; such as researching into apprenticeship roles rather than having to study a degree at University.



For young students, it is important to gain knowledge about the wider world of work, and this event not only helped us meet and talk to people from different backgrounds of work, but also allowed us to consider if that work place was for us. For example, some of the professionals were working with global brands, and others were small personal businesses; perhaps some of us want to be self-employed and others want to work with a brand, which has good staff benefits. It highlighted the important of gaining work experience, as you can never surely know what your aspiring workplace will be like, unless you gain some experience in that place from now.

Networking is a great skill to partake in, allowing us to interact with others in order to exchange information and develop contacts that will be useful in the future.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Golding our careers adviser who put so much time into organising what was a great event for us!



Year 12 Aachen Work Experience

Written By Jenogika Jeyakumar (6C)

I don't think it's possible to express in words how much of an amazing trip going to do work experience in Germany was. It was a brilliant opportunity, and one that allowed us to discover a lot about ourselves. It gave us an amazing sense of independence, because the trip itself was not a school trip. We didn't have teachers to help us if we got stuck, we didn't have anyone to guide us around this unknown country - we were simply 'chucked in the deep end', from having to find our work placements using a map and being in an environment where virtually nobody spoke your language of choice. Then again, that was probably one of the best bits. This trip allowed us to see for ourselves how different it was when talking to real German citizens in their home land instead of in a rehearsed manner in front of a teacher for a controlled assessment and .

The trip commenced with our departure from Cobham services on Saturday 14th February. There were 45 of us, from all over the country - London, Cumbria, Gloucestershire, Shropshire etc - and although we started the trip as strangers, by the time we were on the coach back a week later, we were like a family, laughter as well as tears and cheesy off key sing-alongs murdering classics; in order to cherish our final moments with one another.

When we first arrived in Aachen, carnival season was beginning and we were in for the biggest surprise of the entire trip. What started off as a harmless 5 minute trip to find a work placement on a Sunday morning, became a two hour journey. Why? Because carnival in Germany, was nothing like carnivals in England. It consisted of EVERYONE dressing up, and parades going through the streets of Aachen with children sitting on them and throwing treats at you! It was like Halloween but so much better! So when we told ourselves we were going to stop and watch for 10 minutes, it somehow became one hour, and then two. Thankfully no one had work that Sunday, so we were able to stand around and just gather as many treats as we could!



After all this carnival excitement came work - reason we were there in the first place. My placement was a homeless shelter, the working hours were 3.00-8.00pm, and this was ideal as it allowed me to have a lie in in the mornings and wasn't too late so that we couldn't do anything after work. At the homeless shelter, our job was to serve drinks and food, occasionally preparing desserts, as well as making conversation and playing games with the regulars there. The stories we heard are probably some of the highlights of the trips and it was also an eye opening experience in the sense that it made us realise how much we took for granted.

Finally, in the evenings we had the choice to do as we wished. Occasionally we did whole group activities, like going bowling, the cinema and a few fancy restaurants. Other days we just went out in new found friendship groups and often found ourselves eating at a restaurant somewhere together, and this time together allowed us to get to know each other and become really close. Some days we even came back to the hotel and hung out with one another, for hours on end without realising, until group leaders came around to tell us it was time to head to bed. The group leaders also could not have been better. There was Gavin (the ex-Langley grammar student who was studying German at Uni, doing his year abroad), Ellie (also still in Uni) who put in hours and hours to make sure that everyone was always okay and arranged all the activities for us, found the good food places and all in all made sure we made the most of the trip. Finally, last but not least Emmanuel, who for the lack of words, was simply just 'everyone's favourite granddad'.



A-Level Music visit

As we reached the Royal Festival Hall a nervous anticipation filled the auditorium and choir stalls (where we were seated) as the London Philharmonia Orchestra took their seat and conductor Karl-Heinz Steffens took to the stage.

Their first piece was Felix Mendelssohn's Overture to A Midsummer's Night dream, which captured the mysticism and magical atmosphere of the play, and introduced the orchestra excellently. Opening with a rhythmically exciting and challenging violin motif to emulate the sound of scampering fairy feet. The piece was outstanding from beginning to end and you could really sense this is how Mendelssohn intended it to be played.

Baritone Markus Werba entered the stage and so began the Mahler: Songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn. These songs had various stylistic features with the first two movements being overall excellent. Markus didn't just sing but performed in an excellent take on Mahler's pieces. The 3rd movement had a much slower and was technically faultless. The last movement Urlicht was beautiful and the highlight of the evening.

After the interval, the final piece Beethoven's Symphony 6 (Pastoral). The first movement beautifully described the nature Beethoven intended it to with excellent violin parts. The rest of the symphony was excellent but with some lapses midway through the second and 3rd movement. However this was made up from amazing solo performances from Amy Harman on principal bassoon as well as: Katy Woolley (Principal Horn); Mark van de Wiel (Clarinet) and Christopher Cowie (Principal Oboe). It was great to hear a live orchestra play some programmatic music, and overall the evening was filled with great music and an enjoyable time with friends.

Ethan Beer (6N)



Yr 11 Oxford Maths Lecture

On the 27th of January, members of Years 10 and 11 were given the unique experience of attending a lecture concerning studying Mathematics at Oxford University. As one could expect, the lecture theatre was full of excited and keen mathematicians, anxious to engage with the guest speaker and gain an insight into the study of Mathematics at such a difficult level. The lecture began with a small discussion concerning the age-old question, 'how can Mathematics be used in everyday life?' In engineering, architecture, design and banking: these were just a few of the answers offered by the LGS students.

Our guest speaker opted for a more abstract approach and instead posed us with the hypothetical situation of waiting for a bus; how often and how regularly they run are a few of the things that contribute to the overall waiting time and are determined by Mathematicians. We were also taught how buses are prone to 'clumping together' and about 'phantom traffic jams', caused by the different reaction times of the drivers in a queue, leading them to break at different rates.

She then went on to discuss the ordering of the hits on a search engine and how it is in fact the hyperlinks on each page that have a profound effect on this. This was supplemented by a stunning image of the Cambridge Internet system, purely constructed by matrices. It appears that video game designing also relies heavily on Mathematicians and Physicists as the 'Physics Engine' determines the trajectory of movement and the different objects in the games are constructed by tiny triangles.

It's fair to say that the lecture enlightened all of us about the capacity of Mathematics, and showed us how it plays a fundamental role in many aspects of our daily lives.

Sofia Gill & Theranjit Saran (11K)





Year 11 Art Visit

Written by Harshav Mahendran 11R & Talha Sadiq 11K

The art department takes its GCSE students to the Saatchi gallery and the Tate Britain gallery in London. The aim is for us to find pieces of art in these galleries that related to the themes each of us had chosen for our final exam unit. From them we wanted to be inspired, see and adapt new ideas or find techniques we could try for ourselves.

During the morning of Thursday 26th February, 20 Year 11 students visited the Saatchi gallery located in London. As very excited and enthusiast students, we explored the different rooms of the gallery. It consisted of the weird and wonderful, including a powerful piece of artwork by Alexander Kosolapov called Lenin and Coca-Cola which portrays the contrast of communism (shown by Lenin) and capitalism (shown by Coca-Cola). I found this clever and striking. Another piece of artwork which grabbed my attention was GuWenda's flags; despite the fact that it was a stunning display, when I took a closer look it was made out of human hairs, after that I didn't really gel with it....! A lot of the artwork in the Saatchi gallery was Post-Pop artwork from Eastern Europe which focussed on many things such as Capitalism, Communism and Revolution which was particularly useful for me as my Final Exam topic, for art, is based on people and places and the visit helped me delve deeper into my preferred subtopic of political activism through art. My favourite display was Hero, Leader, God by Kosolapov Saatchi which showed Lenin (a symbol of Communism), Mickey Mouse (a symbol of Capitalism) and Jesus (a symbol of ideal mankind) holding hands which I found ingenious. The trip to the Saatchi gallery was a very useful, enjoyable and interesting visit.



During the afternoon we visited the Tate Britain gallery which was much larger than the previous and we had more time to explore the never ending corridors. We came across a wide variety of art which varied from portraits to distorted statues, more portraits to a canvas painted black and even more portraits to posters used as a social response to political instability. The gallery had foldable chairs for us to sit on whilst drawing - these were a relief for my sore feet and we then set off to find specific pieces that intrigued us. With sketchbooks in one hand and a chair in the other I was soon drawing from material that was right in front of me. It is a great experience to be able to draw from art work in a gallery environment. It was an enjoyable day for us all and I'm sure we all took something away from that day which will help us direct some of our work in an attempt to achieve stunning final pieces. Seeing professional art work can help us and other students gather source material and get into the mindset of other artists and return to the classroom inspired to produce our final exam unit in art.



Year 10 Charity week

During the week of 9th February, Year 10 planned a fun-filled week to raise money for their chosen charities. As a year group we decided to donate our total profits to one local and one national charity. Events were cleverly thought out and planned before they took place on the 9th February. The most difficult task for the was to produce completely new and original ideas to raise money.

Each form added a particular element to charity week that made it worthwhile and memorable. The vine t-shirts from 10H added humour to the week, the valentines roses from 10K added a little romance, 10R's photo booth allowed people to capture memories from the week and treasure them forever, 10S's potato roll game encouraged competitiveness and finally 10V's car wash was fun and enjoyable, certainly for those who had extremely dirty cars cleaned at such a reasonable rate! These events and items are just a few examples of the many things that were available to join in on during charity week for both students and teachers. The most successful event of the whole week, and everyone can agree with this, had to be donut day, all 360 donuts were sold out within the first 10-20 minutes of them arriving on school grounds!

Overall, charity week was eventful and a huge success. The whole of year 10 is glad that the money has gone to such great causes which are SHOC and Cancer Research UK and all due to all their hard work.

TOTAL RAISED £1409.89!!

Muskan Gupta & Tia Dhaliwal (10V)



GCSE Music trip

Sparks flew at the Royal Festival Hall as the Langley Grammar GCSE Music students were welcomed into this marvellous auditorium. After studying a group of set works as part of the GCSE course, they were finally brought to life in all their glory by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The main focus of the event was for the students to broaden their knowledge of music as well as experiencing it live and with the force of a professional orchestra.

Each piece was based around the four deadly notes – the Dies Irae. As well as being able to recognise this motif throughout the set works, they were guided through each piece by presenter Rachel Leach who spoke about the development of the orchestra from 1794 to 1896, travelling through the different periods of music: classical, romantic and modern. Being able to listen to Mozart's first movement of Symphony No. 40 was very beneficial, for it being the studied classical set work but also listening to several other pieces by composers of the same era allowed them to capture the versatility of the Dies Irae notes and broaden the students' understanding of music in that period. Favourites were the 'Danse Macabre' which featured a solo by violinist Vesselin Gelleev and 'Totentanz' with a pianist solo by Catherine Edwards.

With the London Philharmonic performing such masterpieces by Haydn, Berlioz, Liszt and Rachmaninoff, in such an iconic building, we left not only with a fuller appreciation of Western classical music but were amazed at the live experience.

Amrita Heer & John Carlton (11K)





Return from the Western Front

Written By Mr Langford (Head of History)

On 2nd March two students, Matthew Trewren and Jarnail Atwal, and one teacher, Mr Langford, from Langley Grammar School returned from a unique education programme and battlefield tour in Belgium and Northern France run by UCL Institute of Education (IOE) and Equity, school tour provider.

The First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme, funded by the Department for Education and the Department for Communities and Local Government, is designed to help teachers and students from every state funded school in England teaching Key Stage 3 and/or 4 to develop a deeper understanding of the Great War. Jarnail and Matthew from Langley Grammar School as well as 15 other schools joined a four-day tour to the Western Front accompanied by UCL IOE and Equity staff, professional battlefield guides and serving soldiers.

During the tour the Jarnail and Matthew attended The Last Post Ceremony in Ypres, which takes place under the Menin Gate every single night of the year. Here buglers of the Ypres volunteer Fire Brigade sound the 'Last Post' before a minute's silence to reflect on the sacrifice of those lost.

The group also visited museums, battlefield sites, memorials and cemeteries including the Commonwealth War Grave sites of Tyne Cot Cemetery near Ypres, Belgium and Thiepval Memorial in the Somme, France. Going out to the battlefields and seeing the landscape and the history of the war made it easier for students to visualise the scale of the war and the lives lost.

"The centenary project has provided students and teachers with a wonderful and perhaps once in a lifetime opportunity," said Mr Langford, Curriculum Director for Humanities at Langley Grammar School "many students or staff may never return to these places; others may make pilgrimages with their families. The act of remembrance is just as important for people to make a hundred years on; to realise the loss and tragedy that war can bring and the effect on a nation."

On their return to school Jarnail and Matthew will embark on a Legacy 110 project. This project encourages students to share their experiences of visiting the battlefield sites of the Western Front through developing post tour community projects. In return pupils will receive certificates, badges and the best projects will get national recognition through the First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme website and special events designed to celebrate their achievements.





Year 9 Careers Event

Written By Summayah Ishfaq, Farah Robertson, Jaslina Gill

As we welcomed the start of Year 9 we knew we had some big decisions to make. We were nearing our GCSE options process. Here many of us were definitely in doubt and had some uncertainty with such a huge variety of choices and what we could choose. The possibilities seemed endless! The careers department however, had arranged for a visit to The Centre in Slough for the Aspire Slough Careers Event; in which many exhibitors were going to be showcasing a miscellany of different careers and future path ways which were bound to inspire us and help us choose our options.

Ahead of the visit, Mrs Golding, our Careers Guidance Manager, sent us a copy of a booklet produced by the organisers (Learning to Work). This gave us background information about each of the exhibitors and gave us a great insight as to what we should expect when going there. We were also given a sheet on which there was a list of all the exhibitors and from this we had to choose three that we liked the sound of and would like to speak to on the day given the short amount of time we had.

When we arrived at the event, we were welcomed with a speech by the Learning To Work representatives and several guest speakers. They gave us valuable advice and reassurance that we were unquestionably going to remember, going forward. Throughout the speech we were all intrigued by the limitless boundaries of future educations and careers, that each held such significant value and gave us so many choices to decide from. During the speech were also present a panel of people with different careers such as pilots, accountants, doctors and much more: they each shared with us the decisions they made, the journeys they embarked upon and why. We were given the opportunity to ask the panel many questions and received some fantastic answers.



After this, the doors were opened to the "marketplace" where it was time to meet the exhibitors and speak with them face to face. We visited the stalls that attracted us most and those that linked to our aspirations for the future.

There were some wonderful hands on opportunities which gave us a real feel of certain careers such as personality quizzes, games and much more. A whole variety of colleges, universities and volunteering opportunities were present.

We had a fantastic time at the event and felt much more confident with our GCSE options and options beyond that. It really got us thinking about our plans for the future and what we wanted to do. We were reminded that our future choices are entirely ours and we should make these decisions based on what we enjoy and are interested in!

A special thank you to Mrs Golding for her hard work in organising the visit and thank you to the teachers that accompanied us.



Learning to Work



U14 Girls County Champions

On Monday 16th March, the U14 girls' basketball team fought their way through an extremely tough match against 'The Holt', not only just to win the game 46-28, but also to be crowned county champions! This represents an excellent achievement for the school and bodes well for the future to maintain the high standard of the Under 19 girls' team - also just crowned county champions.



'The Holt' was the only team the girls had lost to in the group stages of the competition, and that was by a very narrow gap of three points!

This time though we were ready and Langley Grammar came back fighting and were prepared to do whatever it took in order to defeat their opponents! The team included: Monique, Simrun, Kiertan, Mathusica, Jannah, Saher, Maryam, Fayotomi and Reenal.

We had quite a shaky first quarter as we made quite a few mistakes and we weren't all completely focused. The points stood at 8-7 to us. It was looking as though it was going to be a close contest! However, after a quick team talk and lots of encouragement, we made a huge improvement, and managed to score a lot more points! We started to pull away and develop a more convincing lead. That energy and enthusiasm gave us a boost and we carried on like that right through until the final buzzer went off at the end of the match! The winning margin a convincing 18 points!!

The girls were extremely proud of what they had achieved and were rewarded with gold medals and a Mcflurry from our supportive coach Mr Adams. Here's hoping we can repeat it in the future!

Monique Sahnun (8H)

U14 Girls County cricket

This year, students from year 9 and year 10 participated in a county cricket competition. After vigorously battling against other excellent schools, Langley Grammar School's girls' cricket team succeeded in making a positive impression on everyone.

In their last two games, the team played their heart out only to be defeated by Waingels College and Charters school.

They came 3rd place out of the whole county which is still a great achievement. The team consisted of, the captain, Shivani Member, Akshee Arora, Avneet Dhandee, Tia Dhaliwal, Gurleen Muker, Ameeta Muker, Simran Rattu, Rameen Khan and Yuktha Gubbala. Not only did this team leave with brilliant results, but also skills that will hopefully stay with them. They displayed complete enthusiasm, enjoyment and good sportsmanship.



Overall, the whole team participated in bringing this season of girl's cricket to a success as they all played their best. Although they came 3rd, they still have next season to prove to everyone that they belong at 1st place and hopefully, they will bring a trophy next time they leave for a match.

Yuktha Gubbala (9K)



Year 8 Netball winners

Champions for the second time! What a great afternoon. On Tuesday, the year eight girls powered their way through each netball game, and came undefeated, once again. We set off for Herschel Grammar at two, and after a wild ride on the minibus, we arrived with just enough time for a quick warmup, a few drills and a half-court practice.

We were split into two pools, and we began by playing Herschel B, which we won. Each match had six minute halves with straight side switches. No team talk. As a result, we all had to make sure we could take it upon ourselves to work together. We carried on, despite the cold, and won the remaining matches in our pool - Upton Court Grammar, Westgate and Slough and Eton.



Herschel A faced us in the semi-finals, where we won 7-0, even without Miss Thompson encouraging us from the sideline! Then came the finals. Against St. Bernards, of course. A very tense game indeed, with both teams yelling encouragement between goals. We were losing at the beginning 5-3, but we soon pulled it back and it was 6-6. We kept scoring back and forth, but the whistle was eventually blown at 9-11 to us. What a close match!

We wonder what will happen next year?

Jannah Anwar (8H)

Year 8 Football

The day started with Langley Grammar, year 8, boy's football team travelling to Langley academy's school with great hope and anticipation hoping that we could achieve something to celebrate.

The tournament started with 6 teams being split into groups of 3. Langley Grammar's group consisted of Langley Academy and Wexham School. The games were 10 minutes long so we had to take our chances quick. Unfortunately our first match was against the home team Langley academy, who were probably the best team in the tournament, and we received a heavy thrashing, conceding 4 goals. The next game in our group was Langley academy against Wexham, fortunately that meant we could have a break before our next game.



Again Langley academy were victorious, scoring 3 goals past Wexham meaning our next game against Wexham, we needed a win to proceed to the semi-finals as group runners up on goal difference. The game started with Langley Grammar controlling possession and getting a few early chances that we failed to make use of. Wexham then started to put pressure on our defence and forcing 3 three excellent saves from our goalkeeper Harry. Langley Grammar continued to make chances with a few in the dying seconds but regrettably we failed to convert. Unfortunately the final whistle was blown and we had been knocked out earlier than we would have liked to have been.

Ryan Sandhu (8H)



Year 8 Geography Trip

Written By Jasmine Panesar (8S)

Year 8 very recently embarked on two very exciting trips— to Westfield & Spitalfields with the Geography department and The Tower of London with the History department. On the 11th of March and the 19th of March the Year 8 's journeyed to London.

The geography trip was a rather exhilarating one! The aim of the trip was to compare two different urban redevelopment schemes that utilised consumerism (ever-expanding consumption of goods), culture and shopping culture to regenerate the local area. We found that Spitalfields was an example of gentrification, in other words, when the land/place is getting turned from old to new, so modernised. Westfields on the other hand is an example of Brown field redevelopment, so when a building is built from scratch, in a slightly decayed part of London. We had to find out which place was more sustainable and met the needs of its local community the best.



We were given a map and each group had to follow a different transect marked out on the map. We were then let loose onto the streets of London to conduct our research.

We found that the houses were mainly terraced and small on our first route. There were mainly white British people around and too much variation in ethnicities. It seemed like there were just business people around.

We were given a map and each group had to follow a different transect marked out on the map. We were then let loose onto the streets of London to conduct our research. We found that the houses were mainly terraced and small on our first route. There were mainly white British people around and too much variation in ethnicities. It seemed like there were just business people around.

Next was the other side of Spitalfields, as we were going to see the difference between the east and the west sides. We were all shocked to see the almost completely different atmosphere in the west!

I was doing the BBC School Report on the day and we found many areas that had great spots for filming! For example, there was a big, shard like wooden structure located near the train station in which we filmed with complete privacy and no outside noise!

After the time had finished, we headed back and were told we would now go to the area around Westfields! We were given a tube ticket each and were told not to lose them; unfortunately, someone thought they had lost theirs almost immediately after Miss Foley told us not to lose them! But luckily, it was in her pocket the whole time!

Once at Sheppard's Bush we had a lunch break for an hour! There was a KFC and a McDonalds practically right together, so everyone was happy.

Now we explored the east and west sides of the areas close to Westfields and there was a big difference in the housing quality, particularly in Notting Hill when compared to the Sheppard's Bush area. This helped us start to establish whether or not our hypothesis had been proven correct or not and was probably the most useful method in our data collection.

We boarded the coach after we had explored both sides and headed back to school. We had great fun and had a mesmerising time! Thanks to the whole Geography department for organising this trip!



Year 8 History Trip

Written By Jasmine Panesar (8S)

The History trip was just as fun as the geography one! We went to the Tower of London in style, travelling on a double decker bus! When we finally reached London we were given wristbands as we gazed in awe at the tower above us. We saw some children wearing yellow florescent vests, so we were grateful to be wearing our school uniform, despite initially moaning.

We headed inside, and soon met a guide called Mark. He told us about how the tower had been built upon over the different reigns of different kings...He took us to the White Tower, the first tower to be built at the site and explained the fact that Anne Boleyn was the first member of royalty to be executed.



Mr Langford then took us through each and every one of the towers, explaining little bits along the way. We were most interested in the fact the tower used to have a zoo as well as having lots of fun engaging ourselves in all of the interactive activities. Overall it was a highly engaging day.

Thanks to the History department for organising this trip!

Mr Langford led us inside the white tower and gave us the opportunity to explore inside it for 40 minutes. We saw some works of the royal mint, some armouries and so much more! We saw some beefeaters, one of which nodded in response when we asked if we could take a selfie with him!

Finally, it was the moment everyone had been waiting for. We were going to see the crown jewels! We gawped at some fascinating pieces dotted around the vast buildings, from coronation dresses to gold! We were then led to a slow traveller, on which we could see some of the more delicate and precious crown jewels.





Yr 8 IBM Hursley Blue Fusion Event

Written By Faheem 8H, Naman 8H, Yash 8S, Fayotomi 8R

On the 24th of February, six Year 8 students were invited to the IBM Hursley House Annual Blue Fusion Event. We competed against 11 other schools in challenges that tested our programming, strategic, communication, teamwork and even “gaming” skills to score points. We faced six challenges of varying difficulty. Augmented Reality, a code-based augmented reality challenge, Fortron, a python based game, Evo Dino, a platform game centred around strategy, AMazeBots, a robotics challenge, Infection, a game where we played as a computer virus and Big Blue Rover, a programmable Mars rover!



One challenge was a game called Infection. In this game we had to take on the role of a computer virus, whose job it was to corrupt, infect or destroy data. We encountered challenges such as anti-virus scans and encryptions, but fortunately, our virus could be upgraded in certain ways such as to avoid anti-virus detection. We were split into 3 teams of 2 and whilst the other teams did moderately well, our team reached the finale. However, in the final our team lost and we ended up second, by a matter of seconds!

Evo Dino was a Mario style game with a character, enemies and coins. The main goal of the activity was to destroy the pink enemies your character faced to earn points. However, whilst doing this we were timed. Even though the initial concept seemed simple, when playing we soon discovered that there were a few factors that we had to consider, such as “Jump” and “Evolution”. The only way to increase one of these sections was to collect coins that could be spent in-between levels. We established strategies and game plans, such as wasting as little time as possible. Using teamwork and effective communication skills, we established a strategy to elect one person to play, whilst others would control external buttons. Through our strategic methods, and effective communication we were able to secure Langley Grammar School the highest score for any school!

As well as the other activities we completed some challenges in groups of three called the AMazeBots. In this there were two challenges, both which included a two wheeler car controlled by a Raspberry Pi computer connected to a special software on a computer. We entered special codes into the computer to run the car.

There were two activities: the first in which we had to make the car go around some cones using its sensors to control the movement, and the second challenge was to make the car do two turns and make it go as close as to the finish line. Both of these activities were challenging but both teams of our school were able to complete both challenges successfully giving us full points, 100/100, which had a massive contribution to our grand total. All members of the team thoroughly enjoyed this task, and tinkering with the robots! – Yash 8S

Overall, all of us had a great experience that taught us skills that will undoubtedly aid us in the future. After all the challenges, our school came 4th out of 12 specialist IT academies, an achievement we are all proud of, and we are keen to develop these skills and consider careers in the IT fields.



Slough Youth Parliament Update

Written By Faheem Anwar (8H)

I'm Faheem, one of the elected Slough Youth Parliament representatives, whose aims are to promote awareness of young people's services in Slough and create a safer, more enjoyable environment for youths. Following the results of the election, Mohammad and I were invited to a residential at Woodrow High House, Amersham with all the other representatives from other schools, to discuss our manifesto, elect executives and organise meeting times. I had won a holiday to Slovenia as part of an app development competition that overlapped with the residential, but I was able to attend on the second and third days. The event was an enjoyable experience that was crucial for deciding on the way forward for the Parliament.

The first thing that amazed me when meeting the rest of the Slough Youth Parliament for the first time was the diversity of the people and their backgrounds. There were people from different ethnicities, areas, wealth classes and ages all keen to help the youths of Slough. The average age was about 15, so I was younger than most of the representatives, but despite this I was not looked down upon, or made fun of, but considered an equal. This trust and bond between the representatives was what kept the Youth Parliament together and productive throughout the residential.



Our first task was to discuss our manifesto, and how we would move forward as a parliamentary body. After splitting up into three groups, we each decided on almost identical manifestos. We have decided that we are going to organise events to strengthen relationships between young people and the police, to improve the trust between them, such as a charity football match between youths and policemen! We are also working towards more opportunities for youths to get involved in Slough, such as more sports and art clubs, and more relationships between Slough Trading Estate businesses and school, including internships, work experience and taster days.

Our next task was to elect executive members. These were a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary and vice-secretaries, two members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, two members of the Thames Valley Police Advisory Group, and finally two members of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament, representing Slough at a national level. To stand for a position, candidates would have to give a speech to the other reps, often having to prepare the speech at lunch or dinner, and it definitely felt reminiscent of the elections at school! Fortunately, both Mohammed and I secured ourselves executive positions, with Mohammed being selected for the Thames Valley Police Advisory Group and myself being elected as the Deputy UK Youth Parliament member. As part of this new role, I have been invited to a leadership training residential in Kent, and a Question and Answer session with MPs.



Library News

Written By Mrs Shine (School Librarian)

The School library transmogrified into Hogwarts at lunch time on Thursday 5th February. For those of you not on planet Earth, this is the author J K Rowling's imaginary School for Wizards. New School pupils were placed into houses by the Sorting Hat. Minerva McGonagall, a formidable Wizard teacher quizzed pupils on their knowledge of the first Harry Potter book and a fierce competition ensued. It resulted in a draw. All participants then had to find their mail, naturally delivered by owls. Above two pupils are about to receive chocolate frogs and Bertie Botts Every Flavour Beans. Thank you to everybody who attended, in particular the Sixth Formers.

On 11th February four Year 7s who are also School Library Assistants travelled with me to Garth Hill College, Bracknell to discuss the books short listed for the Berkshire Book Award and to see Andy Robb, author of Geekhood Books talk.

The Berkshire Book Award is run by School Librarians within the county but the books for this award are nominated and voted for by pupils aged 11 to 14. This means that the award reflect what pupils are actually reading not what we think they ought to read!

The books on the 2015 shortlist are: -

Awful Auntie by David Walliams

Louder than words by Laura Jarratt

Poppy by Mary Hooper

Percy Jackson and the Greek Gods by Rick Riordan

Skulduggery Pleasant: the dying of the Light by Derek Landy

Andy Robb wore a Marvel character shirt, a hobbit-style hat and was as loud as his clothes. He amused us by detailing the tribulations of being a teenager and admitted his books drew on his own teenage experiences.

Laila Rahman 7H can have the last word:-

"I thought Andy Robb was hilarious. He interacted with the audience and could tell us a lot about his books. I also think "Awful Auntie" should win. SO VOTE! I really enjoyed it and thought it was a great opportunity"





World Book Day

Written By Mrs Chowdhury (English Department)

This year, we combined World Book Day with Literacy Week and the English Department put together several competitions and activities for the whole school to enjoy!

The Langley Grammar School Spelling Bee was a big success last year, so we brought it back this year for year 7. A member of each tutor group in year 7 represented their house and Ms Prest, Subject Leader of English, along with our Subject Fellows, Nicole Baldev and Eloise Barker, judged the event. It was a very enjoyable and competitive lunchtime, resulting in Phil Yu in 7R winning the spelling bee. Well done Phil!

And why should teachers miss out? Rachel Owens, Literacy Coordinator and teacher of English, hosted a lovely Jane Austen Tea Party, together with cupcakes and white linen on Tuesday lunchtime. Needless to say, staff had a rather enjoyable time. Much gratitude is expressed to Ms Owens for hosting such a delightful gathering!



World Book Day, Thursday 5th March, was celebrated whole-heartedly by the entire school. Students from all years dressed up as their desired book characters and staff joined in too! From Gandalf to Wally, we all had a fantastic day chatting about books we'd forgotten we had read and discussing ones we wanted to read too. At lunchtime, students watched their teachers strut like Katniss, Superman and Alice down the catwalk in a staff fashion show arranged by Mrs Chowdhury. A big thank you to everyone for getting involved in what turned out to be a great celebration of reading!

We finished the week with a Literacy Pub Quiz, hosted by Ms Owens. Sixth Form students competed against their teachers in guessing the name of the novel from its first line, to matching up famous actors with famous book characters.

The week was a great success and not only were the activities fun, but we are glad they reminded students of the importance of literacy and their love of all things books! Competition winners to be announced soon!