



LGS Headlines - May 2017



Dear Parents

Welcome to the May edition of Headlines.

I am writing this as we finish school for the May half term break - a welcome pause for staff and students in a hectic term. Since our last newsletter, we have said goodbye to Year 13s as they began study leave for their A Level examinations; their last morning in school centred on a special assembly which focused on their strong friendships and affection for the school. A few days later we said 'au revoir' to Year 11, again with a special assembly to mark the end of this stage of their education - we hope to see most of them return in September to continue their studies in our Sixth Form.

Students in Year 12 have sat school-based examinations in some of their subjects, and are taking public AS examinations in others. This is the first year group for whom almost all of their subjects - with the notable exception of Maths - are the new 'reformed' qualifications in which the majority of the assessment takes place at the end of Year 13. It is a similar story for Year 10, who are the first year group to take the new reformed GCSE qualifications in almost all subjects and who completed an intensive set of practice examinations earlier this term. These changes to the examination framework have brought new challenges in terms of subject content and methods of assessment and our subject leaders and teams are working hard to ensure that students are well prepared.

Examinations are important, but were firmly placed in perspective by the news of another horrific terrorist attack. Alongside our local, national and global communities, staff and students at Langley Grammar School were shocked at the bomb attack in Manchester. We fly a Union Jack flag at the front of the school to remind us of our fundamental British values of democracy, tolerance and respect; as a mark of respect, the flag was flown at half-mast and we took time to pause, reflect and direct our thoughts and prayers to those who suffered in the tragedy. I know we will continue to do so in the weeks and months to come.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

LGS @ 60 whole school photograph

Our 60th anniversary whole school photograph took place on Friday 21 April - and seeing the whole school gathered together was a very special occasion. Copies of the photograph are available to order and you will be sent details of this separately.



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Staff news

Mrs Mary Murphy joined the Sixth Form team earlier this term as our new Sixth Form Administrator. We wish her well as she continues to settle into her new role.

We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Catherine Andrews** back from maternity leave immediately after the half-term break. Mrs Andrews will be resuming her roles as a teacher of Psychology and as our Individual Needs Coordinator (INCo). We would like to express our thanks to Mr Batsman who has acted as interim INCo during Mrs Andrews' absence.

Just before the half term we said goodbye to **Mrs Churanjeet Kalsi**, who has covered Mrs Andrews' Psychology teaching since September. We would like to thank Mrs Kalsi for her commitment over this year and wish her well for the future.

And finally.....congratulations to **Mr Close**, who completed the London Marathon on 23rd April in a time of 3 hours 53 minutes, raising well over £3,000 for the Heart Link children's charity.

New Senior Student Team

Our new senior student team— Head Boy, Head Girl, their deputies and the team of prefects, took office on Monday 15th May.

We were intending to provide a profile of our new senior students in this edition of Headlines, but this will now be held over to the summer edition.

Admissions 2018

Two brief reminders regarding admissions for September 2018.....

Registration for the 11+ examination for the Slough consortium of grammar schools closes on Tuesday 20 June at 12 noon. No registrations will be accepted after this time. If you have a child currently in Year 5 who you would like to sit the 11+ examination for any of the Slough grammar schools, you must register in time.

There are two further **Open Morning** events this term on Friday 9 June and Thursday 15 June. Full details of these and other open events in the autumn term can be found on the school website, along with information about changes to the admissions policy for 2018.

Security on school visits

In the light of the March terrorist attack in London and the recent bombing in Manchester, we have reviewed our safeguarding and security arrangements for educational visits out of school.

There are a small number of visits to London before the end of term and we would like to reassure all parents that we have specifically reviewed our practices regarding visits to the capital.

Thorough risk assessments are always carried out in advance of any visit and staff will be briefed to include the latest guidance from the government regarding visits to London.

We are sure that, like us, you would not want such enriching opportunities to be lost but we want you also to feel confident that it is always our priority to look after your sons or daughters in the same way that you would during a visit to London.

The UK national threat level was raised to 'critical' in the days after the Manchester bombing but has now returned to its previous level of 'severe'. All our remaining educational visits for this term are current going ahead as planned; if this situation changes, we will ensure that you are informed as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about particular educational visits, please contact **Mr Thomas, Deputy Headteacher**, in the first instance.



Independent and creative

Commonwealth Science Competition

In April 2016, we successfully bid for a team of our young scientists to enter the British Council's **Commonwealth Science Class competition**, an exciting opportunity to join a team of schools from around the Commonwealth.

The Langley team was led by **Mr Nash** and **Miss D'Authreau**, with ten team members selected on the basis of 100-word submissions of why they wanted to take part:

Amolika Bansal 8K

Jacob Gresty 8R

Sukhkiran Dhaliwal 9S

Adam Mistry 9S

Shreyaa Ramadore 9S

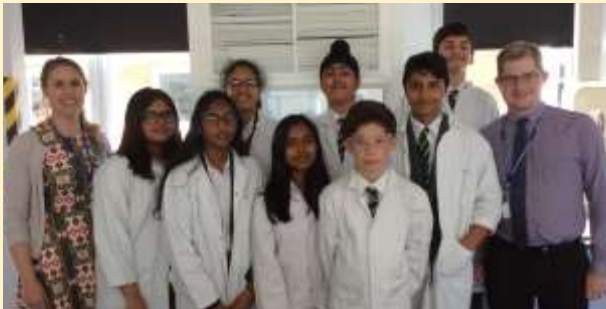
Rushil Shah 9H

Zainab Shaik 8V

Ajitha Sivananthan 8H

Krish Vaid 8S

Abinaya Vijayakumar 9H



The Langley team was then placed in one of 17 'Commonwealth Class teams' alongside schools from Nigeria and Bangladesh under the name 'Team Fleming' and chose an investigative science project on the theme of '*Emerging Infectious Diseases*'. The schools worked together to compare and pool their results over a period of 6 months. LGS students looked into the bacteria carried by different types of individual, and therefore where infectious diseases are mostly likely to spread. In Nigeria, students investigated how water can be a common way for infectious diseases to spread, while in Bangladesh, they investigated the frequency of various types of infectious diseases.

The final team report was judged on how the project was conducted and the methodology used, in addition to demonstrating how Commonwealth core values fitted into the project. **In April, we were delighted to receive notification that Team Fleming had won the competition!**

Well done to everyone involved!

Apple Distinguished School

For a number of years now we have been working with Apple's education team to develop one-to-one use of iPads to support our students' learning.

We are very pleased to announce that after a lengthy application and assessment process, we have been recognised as an **Apple Distinguished School** for 2017-19 in recognition of our implementation of Apple technology.

The designation is reserved for schools that meet criteria for innovation, leadership and educational excellence and demonstrate a clear vision of exemplary learning environments.

Our designation as an Apple Distinguished School Apple Distinguished Schools highlights our success as an innovative and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment.

There are around 400 Apple Distinguished Schools across the world, but only about 30 in the United Kingdom - and Langley Grammar School was one of just four designated in the UK this year.

We can expect visitors from other schools to come and see the exciting things we are doing to support students' learning. The programme also provides ongoing development opportunities for our staff through leadership events, opportunities to engage with experts, and collaboration with peers who share an interest in sustaining an innovative learning and teaching environment.

As part of the application process, we created an iBook®, documenting our commitment to the best practices of an Apple Distinguished School. Our iBook will be finalised over the coming weeks, and will be eventually be available on the iTunes store.

Congratulations to all the staff and students who have contributed to the iPad programme and in particular to Distinguished School process. Special thanks go to Mr Mace, one of our Lead Practitioners, for leading the process.



Distinguished School

Recognized by Apple as a distinguished school for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence.



Confident and well-rounded

Year 10 Geography visit

In May, Year 10s visited Slapton in Devon to carry out their geography field work.....

[Read more....](#)



Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Silver expedition

In late March, Year 13s headed to the Brecon Beacons in South Wales for their Silver DofE assessed expedition.....

[Read more....](#)

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Gold Expedition

Also in late March, 14 Year 12 students embarked on their DofE Gold Practice Expedition in Snowdonia, in north Wales.....

[Read more....](#)



Year 9 visit to Iceland

During the Easter holidays, two groups of eager Year 9 students embarked on a long-awaited journey to the magical country of Iceland.....

[Read more....](#)



Our ethos

We seek to develop young people whose academic success is underpinned by being.....



Confident and well-rounded

...demonstrating a positive mindset; secure in their own identity and aware of their own strengths; effective and persuasive communicators; believing in their own self-worth, with a broad and balanced outlook; striving for excellence in all they do; resilient and willing to persevere.



Independent and creative

...able to think critically and make wise decisions; curious and inquisitive; eager to explore and discover; willing to make mistakes and embrace challenges that may at first appear daunting; adaptable and flexible; innovative and enterprising.



Responsible and caring

...grounded in sound ethical and moral values; socially and culturally aware; recognising and appreciating diversity; having the courage to stand up for what is right; acting with kindness and compassion to bring out the best in themselves and others; engaged in communities with a local, national and global outlook.