

LGS Headlines - Oct 2017



Dear Parents

Welcome to the October edition of Headlines.

I am writing this introduction during the half-term break, and reflecting on the very busy few weeks since the start of term. We have welcomed our new students in Year 7 and in Year 12, and helped them all to settle in to the Langley Grammar School community. Students in Year 10 started working towards their GCSE examinations across all their subjects, while those in Year 12 have adapted to the challenge of focusing on 3 or 4 chosen subjects for their A Levels. Those in Year 11 and 13 are recognising that this year is a crucial one as they work towards their practice examinations in December and January.

Our students take their studies seriously and work hard for their GCSE and A Level examinations. However, they also understand the importance of being more than a 'walking set of examination certificates' and have taken part in a range of activities from events in the Library to promote reading through charity fundraising to a range of trips and visits. You can find out more about some of the activities which have taken place so far this term in the website articles summarised in this newsletter.

We know that Years 7, 8 and 9 are crucial years in providing a broad educational foundation across a wide range of subjects. Our curriculum philosophy is to retain breadth for as long as possible, and avoid specialisation too early. For this reason students select GCSE options to start in Year 10, and the majority of Sixth Form students study four subjects during Year 12. We will be talking to students in Year 9 and 11 later this term about their options for future study.

In the last few weeks we have held parents meetings for every year group. Thank you to those who attended - we hope the information we have provided for you will help you to support your son or daughter, whichever year they are in.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

Dear Parents

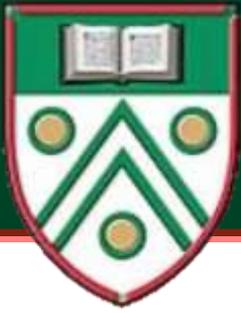
On behalf of the Governing Board I would like to welcome the parents of all new students joining us for the first time this term. I hope that your sons and daughters have settled in well and that they thrive during their time at our school. I would also like to welcome back existing parents across all year groups and trust that you had an enjoyable summer break. I would like to congratulate all those students who sat exams at the end of last year on their fantastic results and hope that they are as proud of their achievements as we are.

I will be updating you again soon with some work undertaken by the Governing Board. In the meantime if you would like to find out more about what we do please look in the Governors section of the school website. I look forward to seeing some of you at the various events throughout this academic year.

Mrs Roma Garrett, Chair of Governors

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



A Level 'value added'

Gaining good grades at A Level is very important - the grades are the key to 'opening doors' in terms of accessing higher education courses. However, students completing A Level programmes have come from different backgrounds in terms of their prior achievement at GCSE. Some students have almost all A* grades; others may have a consistent set of B grades across their subjects.

What is important is the value we have added based on their starting points - how well have Langley Grammar School students done compared to others with similar academic backgrounds?

We measure the value added using a system called **ALPS** - the **A Level Performance System**. Essentially this is a large database of A-Level results drawn from over 1500 schools and colleges and covering 75% of students taking A Levels. The Alps system provides us with a number of indicators which can help us analyse how our students have performed.

Each Alps indicator has a benchmark 'thermometer'. The thermometer is created by taking scores achieved by every school and college and ranking these from best (top) to worst (bottom). The numbers running down the centre of the thermometers show the Alps grades running from 1 (best) to 9 (worst).

An overall Alps 'T Score' of grade 5 means students do no better or worse than they would do in any other school - they perform 'as expected' for their ability.

For many years we have consistently perform at **Alps grade 3 'Excellent'**, scoring between the 75th and 89th percentile.

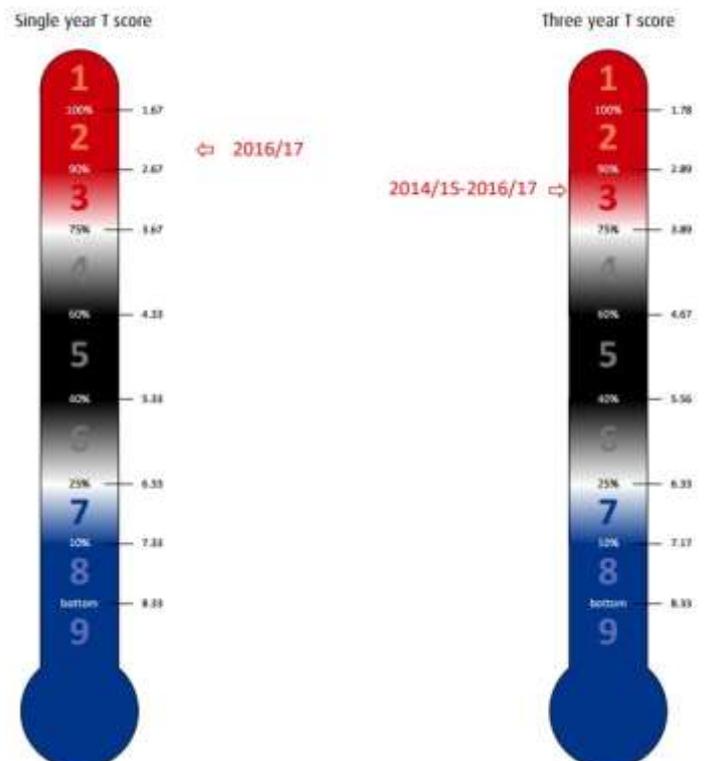
This has placed Langley Grammar School consistently in the top 25% of schools and colleges for value added, meaning that students perform significantly better than the average for their academic background.

This doesn't just happen - it is the result of good teaching and excellent support for the students during their time in the Sixth Form.



**For the 2017 A Level results, we were delighted to be given
ALPS Grade 2**

This places Langley Grammar School in the top 10% of schools and colleges nationally for the value added in the Sixth Form.





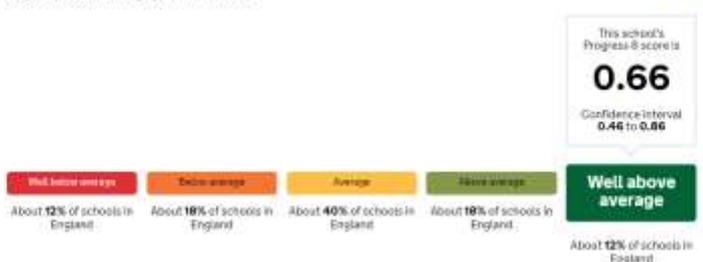
GCSE 'value added'



Our provisional Progress 8 score for 2017 is 0.66

This places the school in the highest DfE band of 'well above average', representing the top 12% of schools nationally.

Progress 8 score for Langley Grammar School



Confirmed Progress 8 scores (taking into account reviews of marking) and other information will be available on the DfE website early in the New Year.

The Department for Education assesses value added at GCSE by looking at the progress made between Year 6 and Year 11. To do this they use a measure called 'Progress 8'.

Progress 8 is a type of value added measure, through which students' results are compared to the actual achievements of other students with the same prior attainment.

The score shows how much progress students made between the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) and the end of Year 11, compared to pupils in England who got similar results in the Key Stage 2 SATs assessments.

The Progress 8 score is based on up to 8 qualifications, which include English, maths, 3 'English Baccalaureate' qualifications including sciences, computer science, history, geography and languages, and 3 other additional approved qualifications. Maths and English are also double weighted compared to other subjects.

The average Progress 8 score for 'mainstream' schools in England is zero. A score above zero means pupils made more progress, on average, than pupils across England who got similar results at the end of Key Stage 2.

Be aware that:

- No matter how high a pupil's KS2 outcomes, there will be an upper limit to the progress they can make - they cannot achieve higher than an A* grade, or a Grade 9 in the new reformed qualifications. This 'ceiling effect' may limit the Progress 8 score.
- Progress 8 scores also have an associated 'confidence interval' within which the score actually lies. Schools may have different Progress 8 scores but if their confidence intervals overlap, **there is no statistically significant difference between them.**
- The average provisional 2017 Progress 8 score for grammar schools is believed to be about 0.46. Langley Grammar School's score is 0.66 and is therefore above the average for similar selective schools.



Recent website articles

Asthma Bus visit

The NHS Slough Children's Asthma Service visited to provide information and advice to students who suffer from asthma.

[Read more....](#)



Year 11 Geography visit

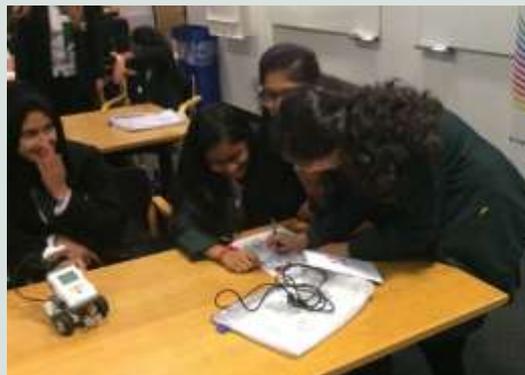
Year 11 Geographers visited the New Forest and the Hampshire coast to learn more about the distinctive landscape of the National Park.

[Read more....](#)

Year 9 Mindstorm

Students in year 9 went to the Lego Mindstorm Challenge which took place at Mars' headquarters in Slough.

[Read more....](#)



Year 11 Interview Day

Year 11 got a taste of the world of work with a Mock Interview Day hosted by *Learning to Work*.

[Read more....](#)



Recent website articles

Berkshire Book Awards

The Berkshire Book Award is organised by Berkshire Librarians but with books nominated and voted for by students in Years 7 to 9.

[Read more....](#)



Sixth Form Charity Week

Sixth Form Charity week was once again a success, with money raised through a range of activities which all the students across the school could enjoy.

[Read more....](#)

Roald Dahl Day

It has become a something of a tradition to celebrate Roald Dahl day in the Library; this year students enjoyed activities based on the BFG story about catching dreams.

[Read more....](#)



Fundraising for Grenfell Tower firefighters

The tragic fire at Grenfell Tower left everyone in a state of shock and disbelief. One student in Year 10 felt inspired to help the real heroes; the fireman who attended the incident.

[Read more....](#)