



LGS Headlines

December 2022



Dear Parents

Here we are at the end of a long, tiring, and recently very cold Autumn term.....!

Earlier this week I was looking back at our staff bulletin for the last week of term a year ago. I noted a Government announcement about 'Plan B Covid restrictions', a reminder to staff to undertake lateral flow testing at home before returning to school, and preliminary plans for students to have a staggered return to school over three days with lateral flow testing for everyone. In December 2021, Queen Elizabeth II was monarch, Boris Johnson Prime Minister, Nadhim Zahawi Secretary of State for Education. Petrol was about £1.45 a litre and inflation was running at about 5%....

It has certainly been an eventful twelve months since then. We have had two monarchs, three Prime Ministers and five Secretaries of State for Education. Petrol peaked at £2 a litre, inflation rose to 11%, and there have been eye-watering increases to energy prices which have impacted us all.

Despite all this, in school we have returned to something resembling normality, and it has been a pleasure to see so many school events and activities reinstated over the last twelve months. Sports Day, house events, educational visits, carol service, concerts and productions have all been back up and running to complement the routine academic timetable. This week saw the return of Junior House Music - a traditional feature of the end of the Autumn term not held since 2019. None of the year groups participating - Years 7, 8 and 9 - had experienced the event before, but they entered into it enthusiastically and is good to see the level of musical talent we know will be coming up through the school for future events.

Our Year 11s, 12s and 13s have been focused on the practice examinations and assessments taking place before and after the Christmas break. We hope they are encouraged that the performance of last year's Year 11 and 13 examination groups had been recognised by our including in the top 10 schools in the South East and the top 40 nationally in the Sunday Times 'Parent Power Guide'. It is clearly the students' own efforts that get them the outcomes, but we hope that our rise in this particular table indicates that there is something very effective about the way our staff guide, help and support them to do so.

May I wish you and your families an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas break and my very best wishes for the New Year ahead.

Mr J Constable - Headteacher

Spring term starts on Tuesday 3rd January. Normal lessons will take place from period 1.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us on 01753 598300 or email school@lgs.slough.sch.uk.

Your query will be passed on to the most appropriate member of staff.

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

Follow us on Twitter @lgs_news





Top 10 schools in the South East

Sunday Times 'Parent Power' guide - December 2022

The Times/Sunday Times newspapers have published their annual 'Parent Power' guide and league tables based on the 2022 GCSE and A Level results.

The Parent Power guide is widely acknowledged as an authoritative survey of the country's highest-achieving schools. It links to school websites and Ofsted inspection reports, while also drawing on exam results for its league tables.

The ranking in these annual tables has always been based on actual grades achieved, and the methodology takes into account both GCSE and A Level outcomes, giving double the weighting to A Levels. It is possibly the only comparator tool that takes both levels of qualification into account.

Langley Grammar School is ranked at.....

#37 in the national table

#8 in the South-East

The Sunday Times guide says....

"Langley Grammar School has performed very well in the Parent Power rankings — rising 57 places in our national table of state secondaries...."

The school's success is shown by the fact that 140 out of 160 sixth-formers got places at their first-choice university; eight got into Oxford or Cambridge. Last year's "outstanding" Ofsted report and an £18 million investment in new buildings have provided an extra post-pandemic boost."

You can read more on our school website [here](#) and [here](#). Search under news items and 'Academic Outcomes' in the 'About us' menu if these links do not work on your device.



You can also access the full Parent Power Guide online at www.thetimes.co.uk or search 'Parent Power Schools Guide'. Please note that you may need to register as the Sunday Times and Times newspapers operate an online subscription service.



Updates

Planning application *Redevelopment of the old caretaker's house site.*

When the new school buildings were being designed, the school agreed to put in approximately £600k of school funds to enhance aspects of the design beyond the basic specification being provided by the Department for Education. Slough Borough Council funded the expansion elements, to a total of around £3.5 million, and the DfE funded the main redevelopment, of approximately £13 million.

The school's contribution is to be funded through the sale and redevelopment of the old caretaker's house at the west corner of the school site. Permission to sell the land has been given by the Secretary of State for Education, and the school is working in partnership with a property development company to develop the site.

The plan is to build a small block of flats on this plot. The sale of these properties would enable the school to recoup the £600k investment in the buildings, and provide a further significant sum to enhance the sporting facilities for the benefit of the students and the local community.

Slough Borough Council refused planning permission for the first application earlier this year. The developers have worked closely with the planning authorities to prepare a second application which is now being considered.

Visit www.sbcplanning.co.uk and search **P/01223/047** to view the proposals.

We understand there may be some local anxiety about potential building works, but we would encourage local parents to lend their support to this application so that our students and other families who live near the school, can benefit from the development.

Admissions consultation *2024 entry to Year 7 and Year 12*

The main principles of the admissions arrangements for Langley Grammar School have remained unchanged since the last formal consultation was carried out in 2019.

There are **no changes proposed to the admissions arrangements for 2024 entry** from those previously published for 2022 and 2023.

However, the wording of the admissions arrangements have been subject to some minor amendments in recent years. These are as a result of the introduction of the 2021 School Admissions Code, and where minor changes to some wording have been required for the purpose of clarification.

Under the School Admissions Code, there is no requirement for formal consultation for these arrangements this year. However, in view of the amendments made, the school is making the draft arrangements for 2024 entry available for inspection to interested parties in advance of their determination by the Governing Board in February 2023.

The Code states we should consult parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen. This is difficult to do in practice as it includes parents of children who are not currently at our school. Please would you therefore pass this information on to any parents in your networks who might have an interest in the admissions arrangements in 2024.

We welcome comments on the draft admissions arrangements for 2024 entry; any comments received will be considered by the Governing Board before the final determination of the arrangements in February 2023.

Full details of the consultation can be found on the school website in the 'Admissions' section.

All comments must be received by 31st January 2023.



Sixth Form subject visits and activities

Economics A level

In November 2022 we provided A Level Economics students with the opportunity to learn more about an economist's role and the opportunities available as a graduate.

Vasudha and Tolly are economists at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and they offered guidance and an insight about economics generally as a subject, about working for the government economic service and about working for the FCDO. This included different entry routes into this profession and remuneration packages offered.



As a routine part of our Sixth Form curriculum we provide opportunities for students to relate their studies to real-world situations. We do this by bringing visitors into school, or by taking students out to a range of external events and companies.

Here are just two examples from a range of similar activities which took place this term across a number of subjects....



Business Studies

MediaLab visit

In November, Year 12 Business Studies students visited MediaLab, one of the UK's leading independent media agencies. A variety of activities and talks were presented to help students gain an insight into marketing and advertising, and the different job roles in the company, from TV advertising directors to account executives and the HR department. This was extremely helpful, as many of them did not realise how many different types of careers are possible just in the marketing and advertising field alone.

Towards the end of the day, students had to complete a short task based on analysing budget and expenditure in order to provide a campaign for a mental health charity; they had to design and create a presentation identifying how best the charity can be advertised to allow more young people to open up regarding their mental health. This provided an opportunity to work in groups and demonstrate skills including teamwork, problem solving, creativity and communication.

"MediaLab allowed me to spark interest in the marketing sector and destroy previous perceptions of advertising and media. I learnt a lot about different types of advertising and the amount of thought that goes into the advert that reaches you."



Focus Day 18th November



Year 7	Harry Potter Forensic Investigation Designing House crests
Year 8	'Talk the Talk' - developing confidence in public speaking
Year 9	Off site visits
Year 10	Dragon's Den' style design activity
Year 11	Careers and speed networking with 'Learning to Work'
Year 12	Debating activity
Year 13	'Making a difference' - tea event





Christmas Music

Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols



Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols

The Langley Grammar School traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held at St. Mary's Church, Langley on 7th December. The concert involved almost 60 students, who performed in the school choir, orchestra and jazz band.

The service followed the traditional structure of the 9 lessons of Christmas, and included a wide variety of Christmas music spanning different eras and genres. Music included a special jazz arrangement of the Ukrainian Bell Carol to show solidarity and support for conflict zones around the world at this time of peace and love.

Our choir sang 'The Chanukah Song' and 'In the Stillness of Winter' to help us reflect on different perspectives during this festive period, and our school orchestra played some festive film music, 'Somewhere in my Memory'.

This year, Castleview Primary school joined us in our celebrations, singing 'Candlelight Carol' and performing 'Winter Wonderland' with our own LGS Choir. We also had some solo spotlights with David Karapetian performing a Michael Bublé version of 'White Christmas'.

The evening was rounded off with mince pies and mulled wine. Many thanks to those who attended and supported this event.

We raised nearly £200 for the church! A big thank you to Rev Chris Ferris, who kindly allowed us to celebrate in St. Mary's Church once again. We look forward to seeing you next year.



Junior House Music is back!



LANGLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

Thursday 15th December 2022

ADJUDICATION SUMMARY



On Thursday December 15th, students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 came together in the Sports Hall for the annual *Junior House Music* competition. Traditionally held to mark the end of the Autumn Term, this was the first time in three years that the competition had been held due to the global pandemic, and therefore also the first time that the student organisers, presenters and performers had participated in it.

The Year 9 House Captains worked very hard throughout November and December to organise auditions and rehearsals, and were ably supported by the House Captains in Year 7 and 8. Each of the

Houses produced a polished programme of four acts – a Solo, an Ensemble, an Original Composition, and a Whole House Song – featuring a wide range of styles and genres including the vocal stylings of Rihanna and Sia; Hans Zimmer- and Rock-and-Roll-inspired piano compositions; and mass performances sung with great gusto of hits by Jimmy Durante, Brenda Lee and of course the seasonally-ubiquitous Mariah Carey.

We were delighted to welcome back two former A-Level Music students – Becky White and Avi Knight – to judge the competition. Becky and Avi, who left Langley Grammar in 2016 and 2017 respectively, were both

hugely impressed by the quality of music, confidence of the performers, and supportiveness and ‘sportsmanship’ of the audience. Whilst every House put together a great programme, there could only be one winner – and this year, **Villiers** ran away with the prize, romping to victory with a confident 13-point lead. The judges provided feedback to every act, which will be displayed around the school on the plasma TV screens and in the Music Department for students to view.

The Music Department would like to thank and congratulate all of the students involved – the Performers, House Captains and House Presenters, and the members of the Student Tech Team who worked their technically wizardry to sound-tech the event and ensure that every act sounded as amazing as possible. We would also like to thank the Phase Leaders, House Leaders, and Form Tutors who supported the audition and rehearsal process; and all teaching- and non-teaching colleagues who supported the event on the day.

What a wonderfully-enjoyable way to round-off the Autumn Term!



From Twitter



@lgs_news

@LGSPE

@lgsartists

@drama_lgs

These pages showcase a small sample of the school activities which are publicised through Twitter. We now have accounts for PE, Art and Drama in addition to the main account **@lgs_news**

To find out more and keep up with what is happening in school from day to day, please follow our Twitter accounts.





From Twitter



Langley Grammar PE @LGSPE · Nov 15

Well done year 8 netballers clung on to get a 15-13 win last night. MVP's Safa & Ria



Langley Grammar PE @LGSPE · Nov 15

Action from powerleague...not the results we wanted, but some great skills on display from a year 9 team competing in the senior league for the first time. MVP; Mals'ik....bring on the plate competition later in the week!



Langley Grammar School @lgs_news · Nov 18

To celebrate the end of #IEW2022: 'Culture Day' - a chance to celebrate the breadth of cultural heritage and identity represented by LGS staff and students. Thank you to Mr Fenton for organising all the events this week, and the Year 11 School Council reps for pushing the idea.



Langley Grammar School @lgs_news · Nov 22

Mr Sarai: Year 12 students in attendance at the @edu_in_action "Physics in Action" lectures at Westminster, London, along with a thousand other A-Level Physics students from around the country. A really enjoyable day of amazing Physics, delivered by some amazing Physicists.



lgartists @lgartists · Dec 7

#LGSCreative Y13 A-Level art students enjoyed a visit to the Saatchi Gallery and Tate Britain last week to find ideas and inspiration for their current projects.





Library competition

Draw your real world vs. alternative world and win Cressida Cowell goodies!

Come with me, if you dare, and take the WHICH WAY TO ANYWHERE...

To celebrate the first book in the epic new adventure series from Cressida Cowell – bestselling author of *How to Train Your Dragon* – we're giving young readers aged 5-14 the chance to **win some fantastic goodies in an out-of-this-world competition.**

In *Which Way to Anywhere*, one of the heroes has a magical gift: he can draw the crossing points (or 'Which Ways') between our world and other worlds. **National Book Tokens and Cressida Cowell are challenging you to create your own Which Way in two drawings:**

- ♦ Part one should show the place in the **real world** that acts as the crossing point (e.g. your bedroom, your class room)
- ♦ Part two should show the **alternative world** that's found on the other side of the crossing point (this can be ANYTHING – a world as fantastical, wonderful, or scary as you can possibly imagine...)

Send us a scan or photo using our form below by Monday 3rd January 2023. We'll whittle down a shortlist of 30 entries, and the winner and runners-up will be chosen by Cressida Cowell.

[Download the template](#)



The winner will receive:

- A signed copy of *Which Way to Anywhere*
- Personalised feedback on their drawing from Cressida Cowell
- A deluxe 120-piece art set
- A signed print featuring a character from the book

3 runners-up will receive personalised feedback from Cressida Cowell and a signed copy of *Which Way to Anywhere*.

The winners will be announced in January.



Shakespeare Schools Festival

Our Year 10 GCSE Drama students performed in the annual Shakespeare Schools Festival in November 2022. The cast were delighted to receive the following feedback from the Festival appraiser....

**'FOR NEVER WAS A STORY OF MORE
WOE,
THAN THIS OF JULIET AND HER ROMEO'**

**Romeo and Juliet
by Langley Grammar School
at South Hill Park Arts Centre, 08/11/22
appraised by Iain Jones**

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Langley Grammar School, for your marvellous interpretation of Romeo and Juliet as part of the Autumn 22 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a great night at the theatre, and I'd like to take this time here to mention a few things that I really loved!

This company brought their story brilliantly up-to-date, with a setting that Shakespeare would have loved - Hogwarts. This was not only reflected in the costumes but also in the language of the play - what a creative idea it was to change Capulets and Montagues into Gryffindors and Slytherins, and the word 'swords' into 'wands!' It made us feel that the company had full ownership over the story.

The ensemble worked together with full commitment, seamlessly moving from scene to scene and constantly populating the stage. There was beautiful choral speaking and a prince played by everyone – such a clever idea.

You were at ease with Shakespeare's language and used it confidently and effectively. You demonstrated a keen understanding of its meaning, and of what your characters were trying to achieve with it. The words sounded vibrant, muscular, and grounded.

The actors also became the set, creating architecture, and echoing the romance of Romeo and Juliet in the balcony scene. The party was highly energised with sharp choreography, and the back-and-forth of the fight, with glow-stick wands, was exhilarating to watch. And what a stunning moment it was when the world slowed down to emphasise the first meeting of Romeo and Juliet. In that instant, the audience knew that their young lives were changed forever.

Looking forward to seeing Langley Grammar School in the next Festival!

LANGLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



**A MODERN, MAGICAL, AND
MOVING PRODUCTION OF
ROMEO AND JULIET**



Important Safety Notice

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Scan for more

Ice Safety

Be careful around water in winter. Frozen water is dangerous and can have fatal consequences.

Our Advice:

- Never venture onto frozen water. Even if it appears thick from the bank, it can easily break and you do not know how deep the water is below or how thin the ice is.
- Do not be tempted to test the thickness of the ice. It is easy to slip from the bank and fall through into the freezing water.
- Time your walks to make the most of the daylight; if you need to walk in the evening only use well-lit areas or take a route that avoids water.
- Do not wander near the edge, icy or wet conditions could cause you to slip.

What to do if you fall through the ice:

- Keep calm and shout for help.
- Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you.
- If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs to slide onto the ice.
- Lie flat and pull yourself towards the bank.
- If the ice breaks, work your way to the bank-breaking the ice in front of you.
- If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Press your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.
- Once you are safe, go to the hospital.

If you see someone fall through ice:

- Shout for assistance and phone 999.
- Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue.
- Shout to the casualty to 'keep still' and offer reassurance to keep them calm.
- Try to reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, or anything else which can extend your reach, such as clothing tied together.
- When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice.
- If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats across the ice for them to hold onto whilst help is on the way.
- If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services and continue to reassure the casualty.
- Make sure an ambulance has been called.
- Lay the casualty flat, check for normal breathing.
- Prevent them from getting colder by covering them with warm clothing and blankets.
- Create some shelter and get them out of the cold if possible.
- Do not rub their skin and do not apply hot water bottles.