

# LANGTON NEWS

July 2007

Issue No. 134

Editor: Susan Begg

## In this Edition...

Family Fun



Special Guests



Ropes & Rafts



## PLUS

Sport  
Art  
History  
Languages

and much, much, much, much, much more



**Head of Sixth Form,  
Mr Ken Moffat has been  
researching the life of  
Simon Langton.**

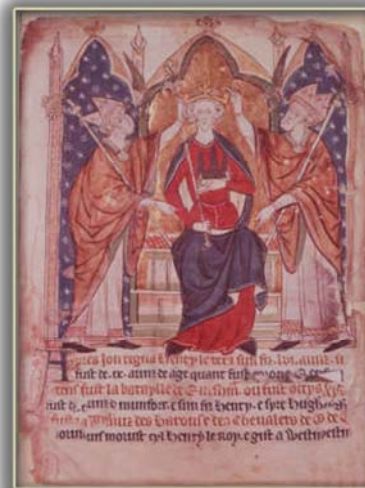
Little is known about the early life of Simon Langton other than that he was born in the Lincolnshire Hamlet of Langton-by-Wragby towards the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and was probably educated at the University of Paris, like his brother Stephen, not at the new fangled University at Oxford. Both the Langton boys endured a period of exile abroad during the period of hostility between King John and Pope Innocent III and Simon was allowed three weeks safe conduct to come to England to meet with John in 1208 and intercede at Westminster on behalf of his brother Stephen and other exiled English clerics, though he appears not to have been successful and to have engendered a spirit of mistrust between himself and the king which never went away.

After John was brought to heel by the barons at Runnymede and caused *Magna Carta* to be sealed (the barons in this instance being led by Stephen Langton and *Magna Carta* was also signed by Simon Langton), Simon was installed as Prebend of Strenshall in Yorkshire, a position which carried with it the double weight of Canon of York Minster, whilst Stephen resumed his practice of Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1215 Simon was chosen by his fellow canons to be Archbishop of York, though, bizarrely, his appointment was quashed by Pope Innocent himself. Innocent, being no fan of John's outrages and decadence, was no more enamoured by the English barons taking the law into their own hands and, seeing Langton as a prime mover in this insubordination, quashed his appointment in favour of John's nominee, Walter de Grey. Innocent's bizarre and unexpected argument seems to have been that John, as King of England, was the Pope's vassal and that anyone trying to bring John to book would actually be usurping the

Papal authority. The opportunity for the two Langton Boys to hold the two highest positions in the English Church was never to present itself again.

Discouraged, Simon accepted the office of Chancellor to the Dauphin, Louis, and it appears that he was amongst the French supporters of Louis who actually landed in Thanet upon the death of John in 1216 to oppose the enthronement of John's son Henry III. Support for the French contender melted away and Simon Langton was left isolated, having backed the losing side. Again he was forced into exile, not to return until 1224 when his brother wrought a reconciliation with Henry and Simon Langton began work as an intercessor between the English and French courts.

His growing favour at the court of King Henry led to his appointment in 1227 as



*Coronation of King Henry III*

Archdeacon of Canterbury which brought with it the livings of Hackington (St Stephen's) and Teynham. He moved into the vicarage of Hackington, which long continued as the residence of the Archdeacons and maintained his high favour with Henry,

though the sudden death of his brother in 1228 must have come as a terrible shock.

Two sources give us an insight into Simon's remaining years as Archdeacon. The monk, Matthew Paris, wrote unfavourably "having upset the peace of two kingdoms it was not wonderful that he became a perturber and prosecutor of the Church at Canterbury." And Gervase of Canterbury is equally disparaging in his comments. It is important to remember here that these two characters were monks of the Cathedral Chapter and it seems that in his later years Simon Langton made it his business to go to war with this body which he saw as distinct from the pious followers of Archbishop Edmund.



*The deathbed of Matthew Paris*



Rancour developed between the two parties throughout the 1230's and in 1238 Langton accompanied the Archbishop to Rome where they denounced the monks of Canterbury as guilty of fraud and forgery leading to their excommunication. This is almost certainly the cause of Matthew Paris' barbs against him. On the death of Edmund in 1240, the Archdeacon was accused of usurping the function of the Prior in his ecclesiastical duties. Langton retorted with "contumelious words and blasphemies" and

organised a conspiracy of the clergy of the diocese against the monks. When, in 1240, the monks were on the verge of being absolved by the Pope, Langton appealed vehemently against the decision but a threat of Royal wrath and a sense of his being "too old to cross the Alps again" deterred him from presenting his appeal.

His health began to fail and in 1241 "the proud spirit broke its bounds and fled". His last years were marked by beneficence to the poor and one of his acts of charity was to found the Hospital for Poor Priests in Stour Street, the endowment for which later formed the basis of the endowment for the new Middle Schools in Canterbury in 1881, which were later named the Simon Langton Schools in 1887.



*The Seal of Stephen Langton*



Brothers Angus (Year 11) and Guy (Year 9) Hewett continue to make a big splash in the swimming world. Both boys have qualified for the National 100m freestyle competition in Sheffield later this year and Guy has also gained his colours for representing Kent in the 100m freestyle, 100m butterfly and relay swimming.

# A Picture of Britain?

Kingsley Walker of Year 8 recently carried out a survey amongst his fellow students to find out which of the images below they felt most represented the Britain of today. He reports his fascinating findings below:



I think that the images I chose carried a message. Queen Elizabeth represents Britain's tradition and history, and the image of obesity is a representation of the health of Britain. The cup of tea speaks for itself while the image of Chavs represents Britain's modern youth culture. A cigarette is also a representation of health and because of the ban smoking has been in the news a lot recently. The image of a football is also self-explanatory.

118 boys across the year groups voted and the clear winner was the cup of tea with 30.51% of the votes. Alarming year 8 boys thought that Chavs represented Britain more than Queen Elizabeth because

Chavs took 22.03% of the vote while the HRH took only 20.34%. The results are quite interesting because if I had done the survey before the 1<sup>st</sup> of July I am sure more people would have voted for cigarettes. A large percentage of boys in year 8 take the bus to the bus station and it surprises me that cigarettes weren't the most prominent image in their minds. In fact only 4.24% of the votes went to cigarettes.

The results say a lot of about year 8 because 20.34% think that Britain still stands for tradition and history and the new things we have inherited from other countries like obesity don't eclipse the tradition of Britain.

As this is a boys school I thought that a sport may emerge as the clear winner but I guess you cannot generalise because football only took 13.56% of the vote – maybe because we haven't won the World Cup since 1966 or really made a mark in global football in recent years. With a country full of glory hunters, perhaps attention has drifted to Rugby and Cricket?

I asked some of the boys the reasoning behind their choice.

*Joe Clarke (Football)*

Because I like football and it originated in Britain. It is the national sport and lots of people in the country follow it

*Feergus Welsh (cup of tea)*

For centuries British people have been fuelled by tea. Even my own mum has tea as her first priority; most British people couldn't live without tea. It fires the nation because they look forward to it when they

work so it motivates them. If you think about it when someone is stressed they think about having a cuppa; it helps people. I guess the nation has an addiction

*Alex Abbott (Cigarettes)*

I find them everywhere and especially when I lived in London. The figures on people dying are alarming, and it is becoming 'British' to smoke at a young age.

*Greg Markes (Chavs)*

It has become the symbol of English adolescence. It is the most prominent image of Britain. There are a lot of 'Chavs' in Britain and no other country have that sort of people. Although Britain is perceived by other countries as polite the actual fact is that we are over-ridden with 'Chavs' who are the complete opposite of the stereotype.

*Jack Bell (Obesity)*

I chose obesity because more people are becoming obese and at a younger age. It is also featured on the news a lot.

*Nathanial Kent (The Queen)*

Britain is very proud to have a royal family and the Queen is one of the most recognised faces in the UK, if not the world. Buckingham Palace is a very popular tourist site and is also very recognisable.

*Thanks to all Year 8 boys who took part in this survey and particular thanks to Kingsley Walker whose idea it was and who did all the hard work.*





# World Languages Day 2007

report by Richard Walters 8G

Twenty students from Year 8 were chosen to attend the World Languages Day at the University of Kent on 4<sup>th</sup> July. This was an opportunity to try activities linked to languages – and even to discover new languages!

We all met outside the Keynes Building and were given our timetables for the day. It was amazing to sit in a university lecture hall and hear a talk from a professor. He told us that the key to learning languages was to communicate and pointed out to us that in fact only 25% of the world could speak English. It is a real incentive to learn another language.

We started off with theatre productions – one in French and one in Italian. I went to the French play which was based on the story of the

'Hunchback of Notre Dame.' It was great fun, even though we really had to concentrate to understand what was going on! We had to participate at times too!

Afterwards we were separated into our groups and followed a series of workshops on our own individual timetables. These had been chosen by us before our arrival in order of preference.

There was a large variety of workshops – introductions to Greek, Romanian, Russian, Polish, Arabic and Japanese; *Wer wird Millionär*, European and cultural quizzes; Pictionary and languages games to music. For the more outgoing amongst us there was even Karaoke and Italian Dance! I enjoyed *Wer wird Millionär*, especially as I was able to participate in the hot seat.

My only regret was that I was unable to try out enough new languages.

At lunchtime there was a World Fayre. We were able to taste foreign foods, (I liked the salamis) play games and collect leaflets and posters. We ate our packed lunches by the pond in the outdoor quad. We then resumed the workshops. The event finished with a presentation to prize-winners and the final of the European Quiz. This was run by our Year 11 Langtonians led by Joe Mooney Dan Fisher, Simon Thundow and Ben Abrams!

The day certainly lived up to expectations. We tried out new languages and learnt about different cultures. It was a great opportunity and we all really enjoyed it.

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## Tom's Triumph

Tom O'Sullivan (Year 10) competed in the London Deaf Youth Games at Crystal Palace in June. The day was organised by the London Deaf Athletics' Association, which has organised the competition for deaf and hearing impaired children and teenagers for the past two years.

The games are growing in importance and are gradually becoming a national competition, linked to the International Deaf Olympics, which were last held in Melbourne, Australia in 2005.

Tom, who has no hearing at all in one ear and extremely limited hearing in the other was accompanied to the games by his friend Alex Carby-Bennett who was there to cheer Tom on. Tom entered the Javelin and Discus competitions for his age group prior to the 14th, but then decided on the day to also enter the high jump, which is not really his sport.

Tom found himself in a combined Year 10 and 11 competition for all three sports, so he was up against older and stronger athletes. He came second in the discus and third in the javelin, only being beaten by Year 11 competitors. Langton News congratulates him on his brace of medals and hopes to be able to report his further sporting success in the future.



On the morning of the 30th March, 2007 19 year 9 boys, along with Mr Raines, Mr Green and Mr Holloway met on the playground at 4.15 a.m. The America trip had finally arrived.!

We took an 8 hour flight to Miami. It seemed like it would never end and we then took an internal flight to Orlando where we picked up our arm-chaired, air conditioned mini buses (a little different to the school ones!)

The first five days were filled with hitting theme parks, shopping malls and fast food! FANTASTIC!

We also visited downtown Orlando, where a number of boys tried out the tallest free-falling ride in the world. (Sky coaster) We also watched an Orlando Magic basketball match where there were some 'HOT' cheerleaders.

The theme park that the majority of us enjoyed the most was Islands of Adventure. If you visit the P.E office you can see a caricature of the staff at their best drawn at the park. The Hulk, Duelling Dragons, Jurassic park and Spiderman 3D, were just a few of the amazing attractions there.

Over the Easter weekend we headed for our home stays in Clearwater. No one knew what to expect. We were in Clearwater to compete in the annual soccer tournament. We were winners of our group and got through to the semi-finals, unfortunately losing in the final 2-1.

The home stays were great and on the last night all of us slept at an ex-major league baseball players MANSION, which was superb. Cinema room, Football pitch, Pool and Jacuzzi. It was like a real life version of Cribs on MTV.

After the tournament we headed back to Orlando where we carried on hitting the theme parks, shopping and generally having the most fantastic time of times!

We returned home on the 14th April, 2007, after having a school trip that none of us will ever forget.

On behalf of all the boys I would liked to say a huge thanks to all the staff who made this such a memorable trip.



Back: Mr Green, Ben Myhill, Jack Wells, Harry Mills, Sam Todd, Connor Jeffery, Joe Sparks, Dominic Milborrow, Jonathan Moss, Joe Rehling, Jonathan Rees-Davies, Mr Holloway, Mr Raines  
Front: Alex Flood, Chris Hunnisett, Martin Sutherland, Ally Watson, James Limmer, John Ewart, Matthew Williams, Matthew Taylor, Kieran O'Mara





# Cricket in Canterbury

On 11<sup>th</sup> June Simon Langton hosted an Under 14 cricket team from Mumbai, India – the Nirmal Cricket Academy. The Academy were on the last leg of their 3 week tour to England and appeared a much younger team than we had expected. However, they were boosted by the appearance of two older players from India, both overseas players with Chestfield Cricket Club.

The Langton was represented by a “select” Under 14 and Under 15 team.

In conditions more akin to Manchester than Mumbai, the Academy won the toss in this 35-over match and elected to field.

After a solid start with Jago Pearson (20) and JJ Amos (29) the Langton soon found themselves in trouble at 54-3. However, a 52-run partnership between Matthew Taylor (49) and James Showler (36) turned the game around and with some good lower order batting, particularly from Connor Jeffery (27), the Langton closed on 202 for 9 wickets.

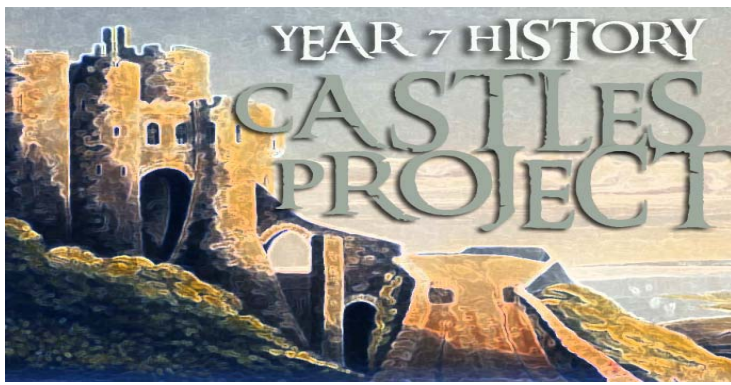
After a sumptuous tea Langton used eight bowlers to dismiss the Academy for 107 runs in the 32<sup>nd</sup> over. Only Tondulkar looked comfortable against a tidy Langton attack.

Pick of the bowlers was Ben Mahon with 3 for 13, and Jago Pearson was very economical with 1 for 9 off seven overs.

After the match, both teams made presentations to the other. All of the Langton players received a Nirmal Cricket Academy cap to remember the occasion.

Although it seems as though the Langton won comfortably, I am sure that all players involved gained a lot from the experience of playing in the match. I certainly feel that our visitors enjoyed the Langton hospitality.





***Vlad Tomes of 7L explains what Year 7 students have been doing in their History lessons recently.***

We have been studying about medieval castles and a few of us have received a certificate for our castles' project on castles in the medieval era. At first, the project was a little hard to write but it became much easier after I did a plan. In the end I wrote the finished version by hand, although the presentation would have been better if it had been done on the computer. There are lots of castles, for example a motte and bailey castle is the wooden type of castle brought over by William the

Conquer. There's a lot more to write about castles than just attacking and defending, although that is the best bit! Things like throwing boiling oil and tunnelling must have been very dangerous. It is quite enjoyable thinking what to write and castles are very exciting to go and visit – the Dover Castle Trip was great fun.

The best stone castle in Britain has to be Dover Castle and in the world it has to be Crak Des Chevaliers (Fortress of the Knights) which is in Syria. I like history a lot and I hope you do too!

*Crak Des Chevaliers*



*Members of 7S show off their History projects on Castles.*

*Left to Right: Charlie Marriott, Robert McConkey, Louis Sharrock, Tom Gooderham, Lee Wimble, Alex Ashby*



# Below is part of an Certificate Winning project by Jonathan Head of 7S

## *Why Were Castles Built?*

### **Castles: The Centre of the Community**

Castles are in fact not of English design. In 1066, as I am sure you are aware, the Normans invaded. The Normans built many castles around England for several different reasons.

There were many people after the Norman Conquest that did not agree with their new masters. Many people rebelled against the Norman king forming resistance groups. **William the Conqueror** could not easily fight off these attackers with the strength of men alone.

So, to control these rebelling areas the king built primitive but effective castles. The Castles were used to watch over and control areas around England that were not so happy under Norman rein.

From their castles the Norman Barons could safely control the surrounding area. They could watch over the near by community and defend against rebel groups. They also held courts and councils at the castles. The baron of that particular piece of land would be in charge of everything.

Castles really were the centre of the community. They provided many things for the

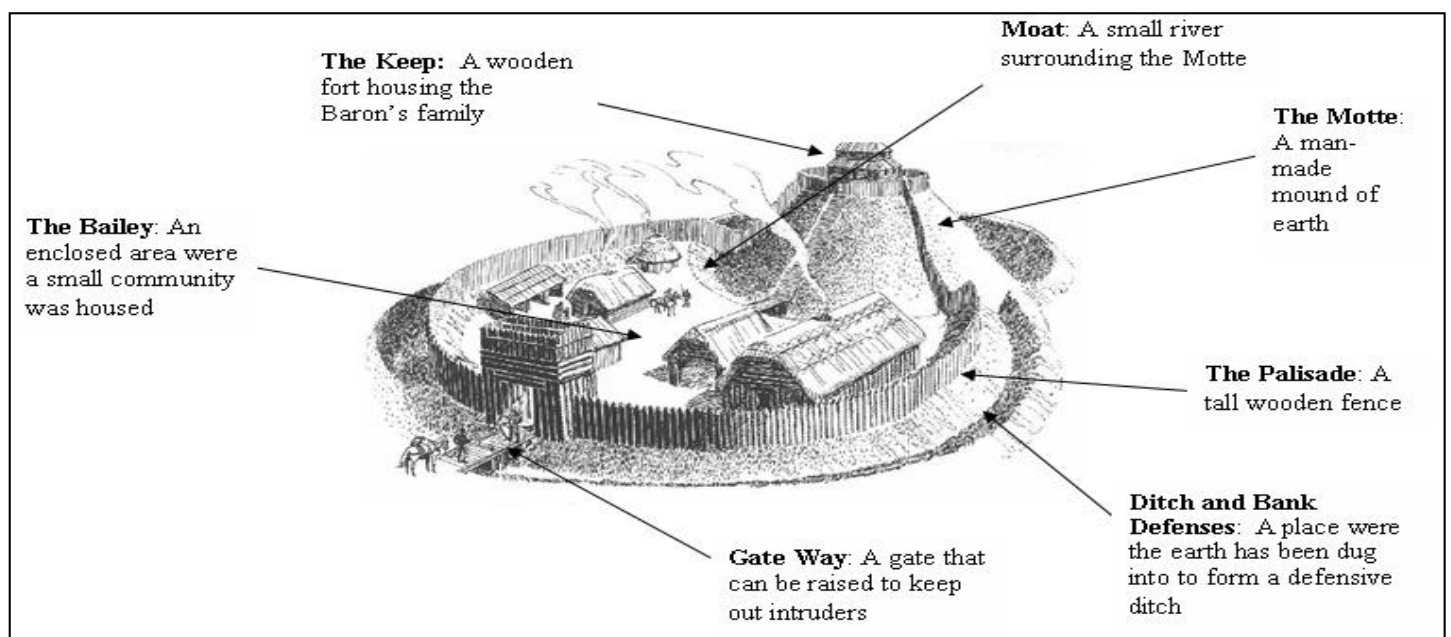
surrounding community including safety and work. The people that lived in the Barons land could range from ordinary peasants to black smiths, and even knights in the servitude of the king.

The Castles really helped develop England into what it is today. They made the courts much more sophisticated and the tax systems improved greatly. The tax system improved because of **Doomsday book**, a book used to record everything that everyone in England owned. This included land, animals and personal items. Scholars would be sent round by the king to update the book every so often.

Castles helped the organization of Domesday book because they divided England up into manageable areas. The scholars just had to visit each area instead of searching England for villages. Depending on how much you owned you would have to pay different taxes.

The castle was not just used as a physical tyrant, but a mental one too. Lots of big castles would make you look stronger and more powerful. Rebels would be deterred by this wealthy powerful king. However the castles did not cost much and were easy to build. This is why castles became a very strong symbol of power in England.

*Below is another page from Jonathan's project, showing an example of a Motte and Bailey,*





*Langton Archivist Mrs Foster has been busy judging entries in the recent Photo Competition, so this issue's delve into the school's history has been written by **Mr Ray Jarvis**, former Head of Economics at the school. Mr Jarvis retired 2 years ago after 37 years at the school. He is, however, still a regular visitor as he oversees the invigilation arrangements for the school's Public Exams.*



Following retirement in 2005 after 37 years of teaching at the Langton, I thought I would check to see if anyone had served longer. To my surprise I discovered that the school had SEVEN teachers who had had a longer tenure. Five of them are seated in the 1929 photograph (taken at Whitefriars) above. Amazingly, the 18 teachers photographed in May 1929 amassed 474 years of service between them with an average of 26 years each!.

Percy Hall (seated on the far left, front row) taught for 42 years as did his father-in-law A W Ledger who was at the school from 1882 to 1924. The seventh long serving member of staff was A J Andrews who was at the school between 1938 and 1980 with some interruption while he served his Nation during the war years.

E A Humphrey completed 37 years, B P A Falconer taught at the Langton for 36 years and J H Sharp (the third Headmaster of the school, after Nelson and Mann) completed 35 years.

There are a countless number of masters (as they were once known) who stayed at the Langton for 20 years or more. Nine of them are included in the photograph. I calculate

that on the current staff, during 2007, there are 12 teachers who have taught at the Langton for 20 years or more (one of them for more than 30 years).

Teachers are well known to be geographically mobile; staff turnover in many schools is high. Why do they stay so long at this school? If anyone has any ideas as to why the Langton inspires such loyalty, do let me know.

Having continued at the school as Invigilation Officer, albeit for the exam periods only, my length of service is gradually creeping up. I know have Hall and Ledger (pictured right) in my sights!





# Langton's Learning Link

report by Mrs Poole

Our first video conference took place on May 17<sup>th</sup> when students from The Norton Knatchbull School, Simon Langton Girls and Barton Court came to the Langton to take part in a link with the Mathematics Institute at Cambridge University, delivered by post graduate student Jonathan Tsai. The theme was Matrices and Complex Numbers and was designed for students of Further Pure Mathematics.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July thirty sixth form physicists from the Langton linked with Lisa Jardine-Wright, researcher and lecturer at Cambridge University, for a conference in cosmology entitled The Expanding Universe. This provided the students with a hands-on experience of the methods and techniques that astronomers have developed to measure distant objects.

More recently a group of Year 9 students had their first experience of A level mechanics when they participated in their first conference with Ted Graham from Plymouth University. Entitled Expecting the Unexpected the interactive demonstrations illustrated the forces in action in everyday activities and prompted much thought and discussion amongst the audience.

## CANterbury Model U nited Nations

Following the success of the mock United Nations trip to Germany, Mr Fox came up with the idea of hosting our own mock united nations, which was called CANMUN. Gathering support from those who had already participated in last year's trip to Berlin, as well as a few other able bodied students, Mr Fox set about on the difficult task of trying to organise such an event.

Despite various problems (including the sudden illness of Eliot Boler, host and Deputy Chair of one of the Ccommittees), all the visiting students arrived without any problems on the Wednesday afternoon and CANMUM opened in the sixth form common room the following day. A series of speeches from the President, General Secretary, and our Head Student, began the proceedings, stressing the importance of building international relations.

The group of delegates was then split into two committees, which focused on the up-

holding of human rights (led by Jon Rogers and Ben Davies), and the protection of the environment, (taken by Geoff Walters and Yolaina Vargas-Pritchard who had stepped in to take Eliot's place at the last moment). Ben Saunders remained in the common room to drink tea and discuss the morning with various individuals. After an hour of debating on all sides, the committees divided again to attempt to come to an agreement on how they should write their resolutions.

That evening, the organisers, hosts and participants all treated themselves to a high quality meal at Nandos and a good time was had by all.

The final day started with a final rally within the committees to try and get a resolution completed. With both successes and failures in each committee, the delegates were ready to deliver their completed resolutions in the formal lobbying by break.

The formal lobbying stage took place back in the common room, where the sheer quantity of tea Ben Saunders had drunk the previous day meant that he kept forgetting his lines. Yolaina again stepped in to the rescue. The final debates were shorter than expected, although the arguments kept getting wilder and wilder - a peaceful invasion was suggested by one delegation, with famous last words from another "we mustn't crawl or run, we have to fly!"

Overall the few days were a complete success and helped to prove that it doesn't take much to stand up and argue about something which you may personally disagree.

Special thanks to Mr Fox, Mr Butler, Mr Eagle, Mr Raines, Ben Saunders, Yolaina Vargas-Pritchard, Jonathan Rogers, Ben Davies, Sam Day, Eliot Boler, and the year 10s who acted as runners.

# 100 Club

## The full Prize List is below:

The first run of the Langton 100 Club has been a huge success with prizes as high as £180 being won by some lucky people. Furthermore around £400 was raised by the Club for the school which the Parents Association have agreed to double, meaning an extra £800 for the Climbing Wall! We hope that parents will decide to participate again next year when the 100 Club will once again run for other good causes.

	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	4th Prize
<b>Week 1</b>	-	Mrs Ball £40	Purvis £20	-
<b>Week 2</b>	Mr Bennett £90	-	Mrs Little £10	-
<b>Week 3</b>	-	Mrs Townley £40	-	-
<b>Week 4</b>	Mr Cook £60	Mr Ellison-Smith £20	Mrs Townley £20	Mrs Collopy £50
<b>Week 5</b>	Mrs McConkey £30	-	-	Mrs Bates £10
<b>Week 6</b>	-	-	-	Mr Louette £10
<b>Week 7</b>	-	-	Mrs Clark £30	-
<b>Week 8</b>	-	-	-	Bricks & Mortar £20
<b>Week 9</b>	-	-	Mr Earl £20	-
<b>Week 10</b>	-	-	Mr Bennett £10	Mr Smith £20
<b>Week 11</b>	Mrs Beale £180	-	-	-
<b>Week 12</b>	-	-	Mr Earl £20	Mrs Day £20
<b>Week 13</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Week 14</b>	-	Mrs Sparks £160	Mr Bennett £20	Mrs King £20
<b>Week 15</b>	-	-	-	Mr Chancellor £20

### Editors Note:

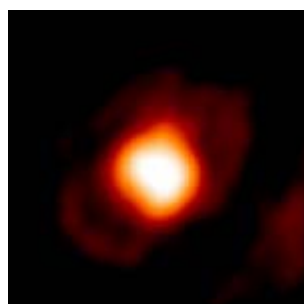
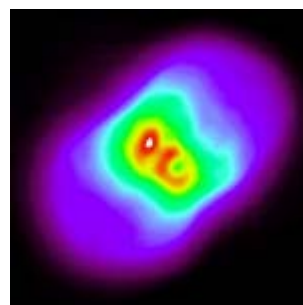
We have had to reproduce all images in Langton News in black and white but they appear in full colour in the downloadable version of this edition of Langton News. Go to <http://www.thelangton.org.uk/langtonnews/current.php> and click on the 'July' link.



Year 12 student David Mackenzie has shown his expertise in using the Faulkes Telescope South in Australia. He took the above image of Eta Carinae using the telescope and it is due to be published in *Astronomy Now*, the UK's best selling astronomy magazine.

Eta Carinae is the most luminous star in our galaxy. It is about seven thousand light years away and bigger than the diameter of the Solar System.

It is thought likely that Eta Carinae will eventually explode as a hypernova, a super supernova. This will be clearly visible but unfortunately as it is in a Southern Hemisphere constellation we won't be able to see it first hand in this part of the world.

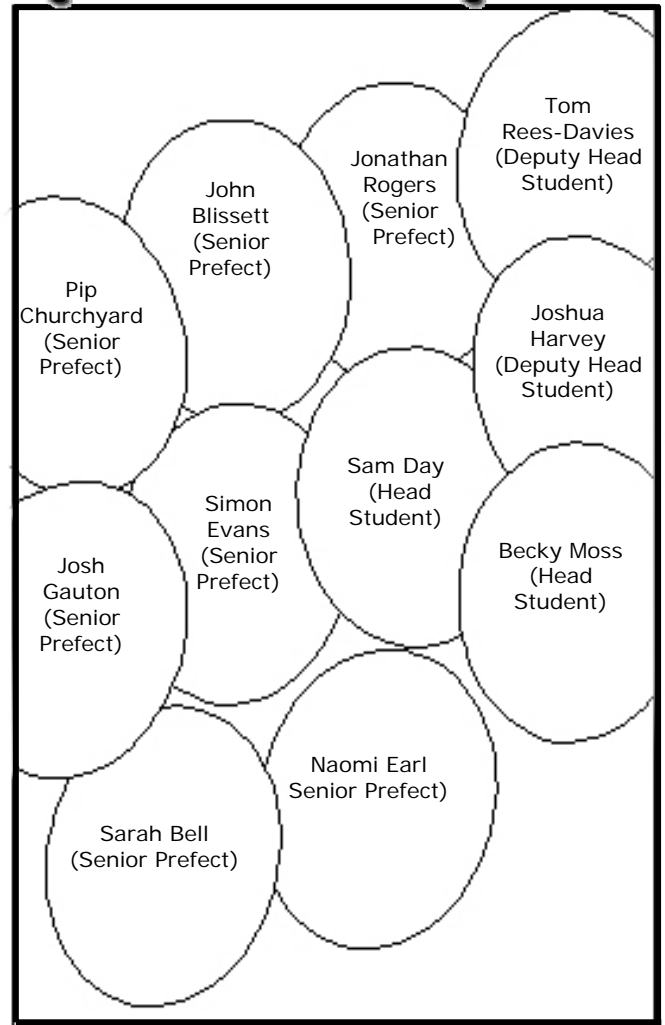


This group of images above show Eta Carina as it appears in different parts of the electromagnetic spectrum: X ray, Infra Red and Radio.



# SENIOR STUDENTS

2007/2008



## Water Babies

A family of Mallard Ducks has set up home in Langton Pond. You may recall that last year a female Mallard attempted to raise her family on the pond in the Quad, with limited success, with only 2 of the original 13 ducklings surviving to adulthood. Hopefully, the 7 ducklings now on Langton Pond will do better and all will make it. Both Miss Eley and Mrs Earley are delighted that the pond has proved to be such a desirable residence. 'The pond provides a lot of cover where the ducklings can hide from predators and deep water where the ducklings can escape to if they are chased by foxes, etc.. There is plenty of food for them at this time of the year and the weather is not as cold as it was last year' said Mrs Earley who will be anxiously counting ducklings every morning from now on.



# Sad and Fond Farewell to a Langton Friend

by David Lewis (Staff member 1968 – 1975) and Richard Armishaw (Staff member 1972 – 2006)

To anyone visiting Rowlyn between the 1970's and 1990's the mountain guide we hired was Mr. Dai Rowlands of Colwyn Bay. A native of North Wales and Welsh speaker, Dai had a knowledge and love of the hills that was infectious and encyclopaedic. Equally at home in the Alps and on the Black Cuillin Ridge of Skye (to both of which he led Langton parties), his first love was the hills of Snowdonia.

He came to us with a reputation in the hills, second to none. A skilful rock climber and mountain runner, he held the then record time for climbing and descending Tryfan. At the time we first employed him, he was busy training parties to run the thirteen 3000 ft. peaks of Snowdonia. The week he led his first Rowlyn group, he had just completed training a team of Gurkhas for the event.

Aside from his formidable experience however his manner was absolutely straightforward and down to earth. He quickly got the measure of the group he was leading and had the knowledge to choose the right area of the hills depending on weather conditions. He greatly enjoyed leading Langton groups and a number of Langton staff got to know him really well. He inspired many students to return to the hills and we know of at least two old Langtonians who have become professional mountaineers.

Wherever you went on the hills of North Wales you would meet someone who knew Dai,

either as a fellow guide, or from the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team, or from his work with the Army. He was a great character to be with out on the hills, from his flexitime starts (usually 20 minutes after the agreed meeting time), past the vice like handshake, through the necessity of supplying him with lunch (we always took an extra one), to his goodbye at the end of the day (well I'm afraid I'm working in half an hour – you know the way down from here....).

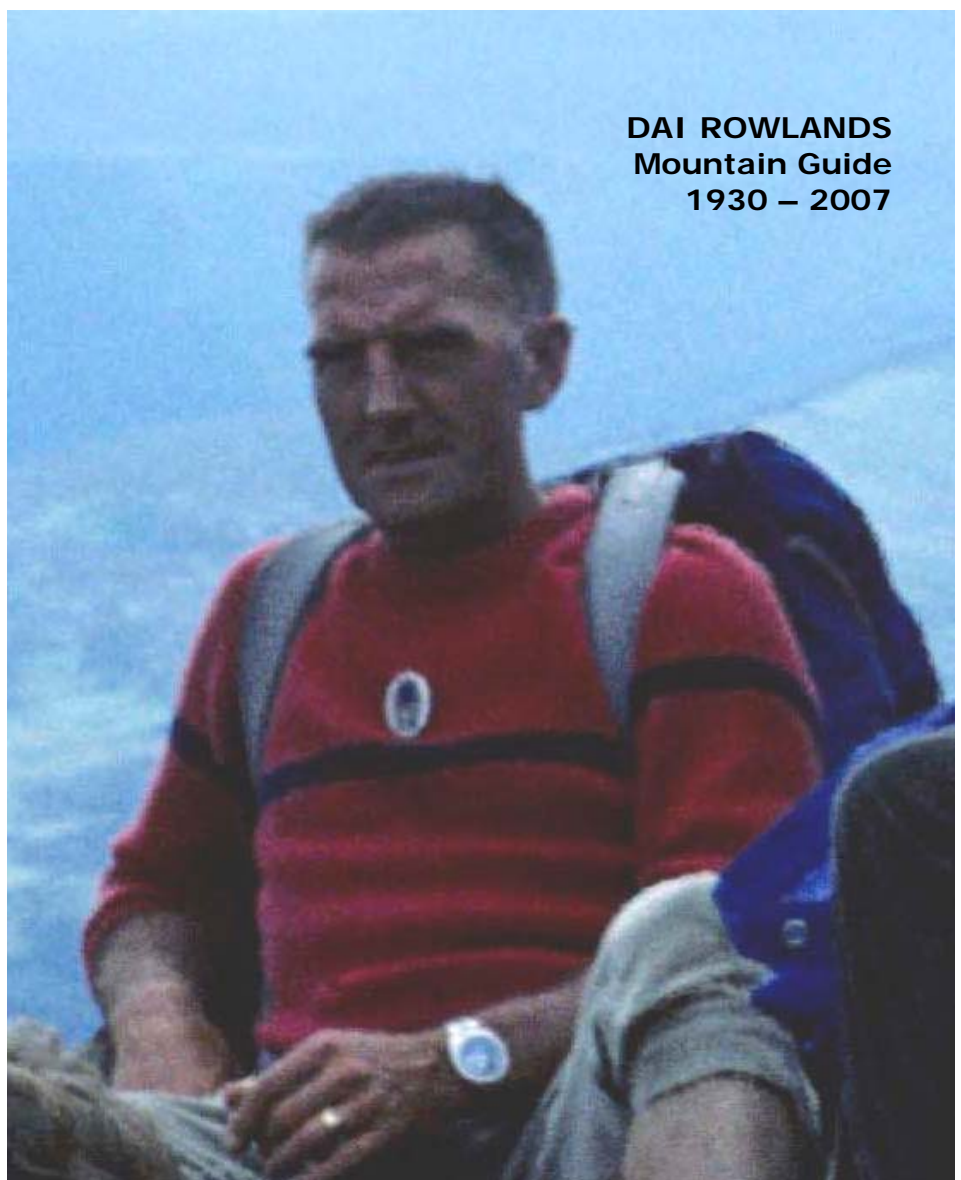
For even a man of his expertise and knowledge was not

able to make a living from mountain guiding – his full time work was on the Railways at Llandudno Junction.

It was a great privilege to have been associated with a man of such enthusiasm and knowledge of the hills.

*David Hugh (Dai) Rowlands died on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007, aged 77 years.*

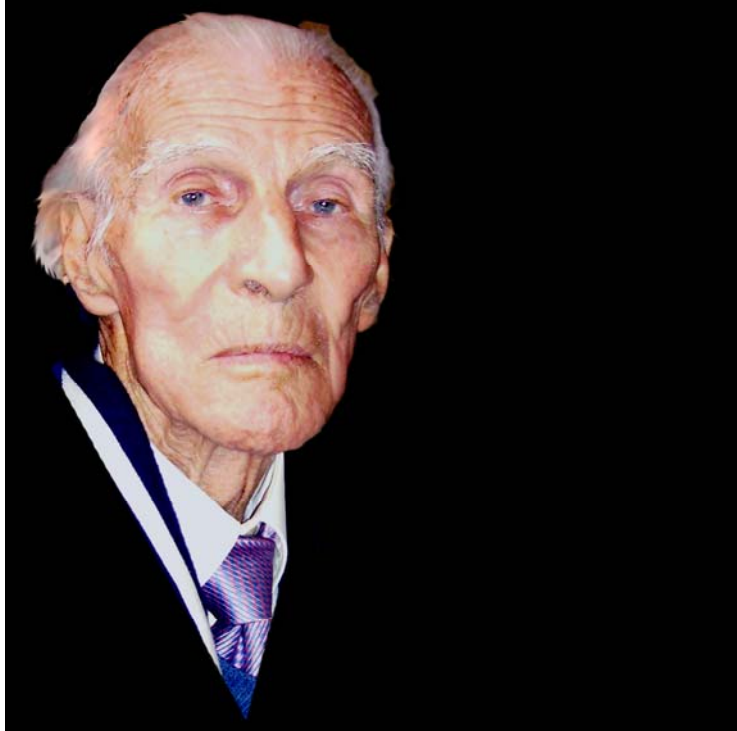
If any former staff or students who remember Dai would like to make a donation to the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team in his memory, go to <http://www.ogwen-rescue.org.uk/> for details on how to donate



**DAI ROWLANDS**  
**Mountain Guide**  
**1930 – 2007**



# Two Heads better than One



Former Langton Headmaster Christopher Rieu (Langton 1955-77 and now in his 92nd year) returned to the school this week to meet with the current Headteacher Dr Matthew Baxter and some former pupils of the time.

Mr Rieu met with current pupils from the school in the Headteacher's office and reminisced about the parochial nature of Canterbury in his day which lacked a motorway to London and was in many ways cut off. Former pupils and colleagues reminisced about Mr Rieu's oft quoted line when discussing the students' robust behaviour, "This is not a nunnery, it's a boys' school. Boys is rough!"

A decorated war veteran, Old Oxonian and a distinguished author and translator in his own right, Mr Rieu led the school through a challenging period in the 'sixties of newly enfranchised students, a spirit of rebelliousness and long hair. His legacy still lives on tangibly today in that he appointed Messrs Jeanes and Dowsing.

Dr Baxter spoke of how humbled he had been by meeting Mr Rieu. "He is without doubt the most impressive Headmaster this school has ever had, and I include myself in that equation. However, I do feel that in terms of the morality that the school celebrates, the democracy we allow our students and the free and innovative thinking that exists here, we are closer to the model of education followed by Mr Rieu now than at any other time in the past 30 years."

## The contents of the lost property cupboard sound something like the Twelve Days of Christmas!

1 video	2 mobile phones	3 pairs of glasses
1 leather jacket	2 memory sticks	11 watches
1 Gameboy and game	Numerous keys	15 pencil cases

Anyone who wishes to claim any of these items should see Mrs Foster at reception. You will be asked to give a detailed description of an item before you can take it away as some of them are quite valuable. Their rightful owners should not find this a problem.

Remember - anything left in school over the holidays (including in lockers) will be disposed of.

## TAKE IT *ALL* HOME

# FLYING THE FLAG



After working for a year and a half, the school was awarded the Eco-School programmes top award last month. We are now one of the few secondary schools in the county to hold the green flag award.

The award recognises the work being done by the school to reduce its impact on the environment and inform our students about environmental issues.

The project is run by members of the Eco-School

Council, who meet weekly to work on a range of projects. To gain the award they had to show that the school had worked on projects in seven areas, ranging from biodiversity to energy. Even though we knew that we had done more than enough to gain the award, there was a nervous wait after the assessors visited on June 27, before we found out that we had been successful.

The Eco-Council have achieved a lot, including:

*Energy saving month* – In March we showed that by simple actions like turning off lights and not leaving computers on stand-by can make a huge difference, saving the school over £1000

*Recycling* – The Eco-Council were responsible for getting paper recycling bins and paper for reuse trays in classrooms and offices.

*Environmental area* – There's no doubt that we have one of the best environmental areas of any school in the area.

Now that we have the award, we can't simply sit back and gloat – not for too long anyway. In two years time the assessors will be back and we will have to show that we have continued to make progress.

# Taking it to the Top

The Langton's work on Environmental and Conservation issues, together with our growing reputation for the Student Voice have given a selected group of students (pictured below) the chance to meet with the Prime Minister in Downing Street. Dr Baxter received a telephone call a few days ago informing him that the Langton has been chosen to send a group of students up to London to meet with Gordon Brown and to join in a debate on global warming.

At the time of going to press, the details have yet to be finalised due to the recent security alerts that have been in effect across the country. Unfortunately, this means that Miss Eley, who is currently in Australia with the Duke of Edinburgh Award group, will miss out on the trip. She will, however, be able to read all about it in the next edition of Langton News which will be published early next term.





# RAFTS AND ROPES

Last month members of the Eco-Council headed off to Bewl Water Outdoor Centre for a day, as a reward for having won the Blake shield for the third year on the run – (we've decided not to enter it this year to give another group a chance!).

We started the day off with a raft building challenge. Two teams raced to build their rafts after being given the most basic of lessons in knot tying. When time was up, the rafts

were towed out into the reservoir and the teams piled on. Somehow Miss Eley managed to convince Mr Pledger that it would help the balance of one of the rafts if he got on. It was then a race back to shore, with Miss Eley spinning around the rafts in a speedboat kicking up waves and not so secretly hoping that at least one of the rafts would sink. Much to her disappointment they both stayed afloat, although Mark Madeley's group would have spent the entire day paddling

in circles if the wind hadn't blown them ashore (A deliberate design feature, I'm sure).

After drying off, the afternoon was spent balancing on wooden planks and swinging from ropes on a woodland challenge course. Oli Brawn demonstrated his skills on the tightrope (there could be a career in it for him), while the rest of group wobbled around and clung to trees.





# brush brilliance

Langton students are an artistic lot and to prove it we reproduce below some of the outstanding pieces of artwork created by GCSE, AS and A Level students during this year. As always, the black and white reproduction does not do them full justice. To see them in their full colour glory, go to the website and view Langton News on-line





# PICTURE perfect

*The photo competition that was running during the first half of this term produced some very interesting photographs and the best entries are reproduced below.*



The winning entry (left) was photographed by Christian Smith in 9L. There is real interest in the details of this picture and the judges especially liked the contrast between poverty and affluence. Well done Christian.

Special commendation goes to Alex Oulsnam 10F who produced some very interesting subject matter from his visit to China. One of them is a street scene of the Sacred Way, where Ming dynasty emperors were taken to be buried after their death. The second is a sporting event, and one of China's weirdest - Tai Chi tennis. In this, the practitioners use the same movements as regular tai chi, but focus on moving the ball (both shown below).

Congratulations also go to Jordan Edmunds 7S and Patrick Worth 10L for their entries and to everyone else who took part. It is hoped that we will repeat this competition next year and are currently looking for sponsorship for prizes.





# Flunch in France

by Nathanael Kent, 8B

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 8am, 8B set off for France along with Mr. Giblin, Mr. McCrae and Mr. Lyttle. We were going for a 3 day visit to Montreuil-sur-Mer, a small town in the northern part of the country. After the crossing with Eurotunnel, we arrived in France at roughly 10am (French time).

Our first visit was supposed to be to the 'Etaples Military Cemetery' commemorating those who died in the 'Battle of the Somme'. Unfortunately, when we were only a few minutes away, we found ourselves in front of a 'Road Closed' sign meaning that we wouldn't be able to visit the memorial so we headed to the youth hostel in Montreuil.

As soon as we arrived we walked up the 'La Citadelle' which is the old part of the town and then to the main square in the town. We were given a questionnaire about Montreuil to complete in groups. To get the answers to some of the questions, we had ask members of the public! Then we returned to the hostel to write our 'Diary of

the Day' in French (of course!)

At 7pm, we all went to the restaurant for our evening meal. After supper we played late into the evening around 'La Citadelle'. Some people played football and others went up towers and explored the medieval tunnels.

The next morning, I, and a few others, went to get the bread and croissants for breakfast then it was back into town to finish the questionnaire and do some shopping. After a quick lunch of bread, ham, cheese, tomatoes, pate and yoghurt, we went swimming. The pool was huge with water slides, wave machine and an outdoor section. We all had great fun! When we got back to the hostel, everyone who wanted to tried snails. Surprisingly, everyone loved them! Then, once again, we all went to the restaurant for dinner. Sadly, we only had a short time to play outside in the evening as there was a huge thunderstorm.

We got up early on the last

day as we had a lot of visits planned. To start off with, we headed to Boulogne to visit 'Nausicaa' which is a massive aquarium. We all saw sharks, sea lions, penguins, crocodiles and of course, lots of fish! After a quick trip to the gift shop, we then went to 'Flunch', a cafeteria next to a hypermarket. We were all given 10€ to spend on our lunch. One of the best things about 'Flunch' is that you can have as many vegetables and chips as you like! Some of us also went into the hypermarket and various other smaller shops.

Our last visit was to 'La Coupole', a space museum near the town of 'St Omer'. During WWII, it was a launching point for Hitler's V2 rocket. Finally, we made our way to Calais to catch the train back home. We got back to school at 5pm (English time) very exhausted.

8L, 8S and 8G also took part in the visit to France. Many thanks go to all those members of staff who made the trip possible.





When Mr Loft approached Stelling Minnis Primary School to ask if he could run a design project with one of their classes the answer was : 'WOW! YES PLEASE! WHEN CAN YOU START?' However, Mrs Wood, their senior teacher, then asked if the whole school could be involved, and Mr Loft's answer was: 'WOW! YES! Er..I THINK SO! Well, after a lot of planning, four separate projects were designed using the theme of SPACE.

The youngest children, (including Mr Loft's own son, Toby), designed and made Space Landscapes, Year 2 designed and made Space Torches, the next year group made

a mould for Space Chocolates and the packaging to go with them, (they even made some chocolates), and the oldest children had a problem solving exercise, which was to make Space Bridges from card and test them with a Lego space buggy.

The teachers of Stelling Minnis School were primed for the day which Mr Loft and Mr Pledger then supervised. The day proved to be a fantastic experience all round. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and were buzzing with energy. The work produced was very impressive as was behaviour of the children during the day. The chil-

dren's work was used as part of an exhibition at the school the next day for their open evening.

Mr Loft hopes, with the Langton's support, to take a similar 'Design and Technology Day' to other primary schools next year, and also to re-visit Stelling Minnis , (when they have recovered!). His thanks go to Stelling Minnis School, and their headteacher, Mr John Gray and to Dan Pledger for his help and assistance. It should be mentioned that Mr Pledger was almost made a 'mascot' for the day, such was his popularity with the children!

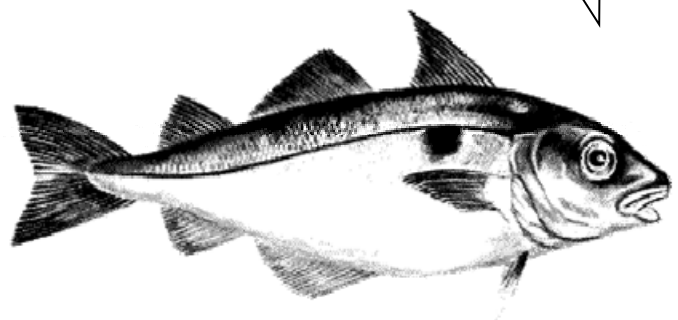
*Space Torch design by a Year 2 Stelling Minnis Primary pupil*



**do you get**  
**bored**  
**during the holidays?**  
**go to**  
**www.**  
**notbored**  
**.net**

May your hands always be busy;  
 May your feet always be swift.  
 May you have a strong foundation  
 When the winds of changes shift.  
 May your heart always be joyful;  
 May your song always be sung -  
 May you stay forever young.

**Harry**  
**the Haddock**  
**sings Bob Dylan**







Next term the Library will be getting 20 free books under the **Boys into Books**

project, supported by the Department of Education. Free postcards are already available in the Library.

## Staff into Stories

But what are the Staff reading? Mrs Jones has been asking some of them what books they enjoy.

**Mr Grey's** favourite book is *The Name of the Rose* by **Umberto Eco**. Described as a medieval whodunnit, it is set in a Benedictine Monastery in Italy in the Middle Ages. It is not only a murder investigation but also a chronicle of 14<sup>th</sup> century religious wars and a history of monastic orders. He has also just finished reading *Mountains of the Mind* by **Robert MacFarlane**. This traces man's fascination with mountains, charting the history of mountains and the men and women who sought to conquer them.

**Mr Jeffery** has been reading *Neverwhere: An Urban Fantasy* by **Neil Gaiman** as well as *The Lost Continent* by **Bill Bryson**. This is Bryson's first travel book and is a hilarious trip around America. He is also a fan of **Terry Pratchett**.

**Mr Fox** is reading a spy thriller, *Restless* by **William Boyd**. The complex plot features Eva who was recruited as a British wartime spy by

Lucas Romer whose group was engaged in spreading anti-Nazi propaganda to encourage US involvement. Another book he has enjoyed recently is *Saturday* by **Ian McEwan**.

**Mr Lovelock** has been enjoying **Simon Scarrow** and is currently reading the third in the series, *The Eagle And The Wolves*.

**Mr Thompson** enjoys history and art and is currently reading a biography of the artist Georges Bracques, *Georges Bracques: a Life* by **Alex Danchev**. He also confesses a fondness for Postman Pat!

**Mrs Moss** reads a wide variety of fiction but has just finished reading *Scott and Amundsen: The Last Place On Earth* by **Roland Huntford**. This book re-examines the great Norway's Amundsen who beat Scott and returned alive only to be largely forgotten.

**Mr Pledger** has enjoyed *Tricks Of The Mind* by **Derren Brown**. This autobiographical account lifts the lid on the deepest darkest secrets of magic.

**Mr George** likes thrillers and has been reading *The Da Vinci Code* by **Dan Brown**. He also likes **Agatha Christie** and **Ellis Peters**.

**Mrs Hunt** is reading *The Historian* by **Elizabeth Kostova**. This re-telling of the Dracula story is full of suspense and follows the journey of a historian who believes his friend has either died or is being held by the mysterious count Dracula. She also enjoys biographies.

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### New Non – fiction Includes

*Chemicals in Action: Acids and Bases*  
*People on the Move: Nomads and Travellers*  
*Making Healthy Food Choices: Food for Sports*  
*When Disaster Struck: The Asian Tsunami 2004*  
*Life Science in Depth: Cells and Cell Function*  
*Toxic Childhood*  
*Crime Scene: the Ultimate Guide to Forensic Science*  
*How Cool Stuff Works*  
*Can you Feel the Force?*  
*The Rough Guide to Ethical Living*  
*Google: explore earth*  
*Courage: Eight Portraits by Gordon Brown*

### New Fiction includes:-

**Michael Blastland** *Joe*  
**Anthony Horowitz** *Alex Rider Gadgets*  
**Katherine Langrish** *Troll Blood*  
**Caroline Lawrence** *Roman Mysteries*  
**Andy McNab** *Avenger*  
**Cliff McNish** *Breathe: a Ghost Story*  
**Joshua Mowll** *Operation Typhoon shore*  
**James Patterson** *Maximum Ride: Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports*  
**Philip Reeve** *Here Lies Arthur*  
**Simon Scarrow** *The Generals*  
**Simon Scarrow** *Young Bloods*  
**Darren Shan** *Bloodbeast*

# Visitors from Afar

On the 11th and 12th July the Langton was host to a group of Senior School Leaders from China who were taking part in a Summer School organised by Canterbury Christ Church University.

A total of 13 Chinese delegates visited the school over the two days and activities included guided tours of the school, lesson observations and presentations by Dr Baxter and Mr Moffat (Leadership and Management and the Student Voice), Mrs Newport (Autism and Aspergers Syndrome) and Mrs Parker (Physics, Stars, Telescopes and all things Cosmological.)

Each group was accompanied by Steven, a student from CCCU who acted as their interpreter over both days, ably assisted by Year 12 student Tianying Zhang (pictured left).



The visitors were all from Nanshan in the Shenzhen District. Shenzhen is one of the most rapidly developing cities in China and was singled out by the late Deng Xiaoping as one of the first of the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in China. Only 10 years ago it was a small fishing port - it is now the busiest port in China after Shanghai. Shenzhen is a centre of foreign investment and since the late 1970s has been one of the fastest growing cities in the world with a population of over 11 million people. Schools in the Nanshan area are all new, modern and well resourced.

The delegates had come over to England to learn more about our educational system and to take back ideas which they felt would be beneficial to their students but their visit was equally educational for Langton students and staff who met with them. Mrs Parker was delighted to learn that Physics is one of the most

popular subjects throughout Chinese schools whereas Mrs Newport was rather dismayed to learn that Autism has yet to be recognized within the Country. There was a lively Q&A session with 7S and one of Mrs Walters' turned into a Mandarin Chinese lesson when Steven took over the whiteboard to show Year 8 boys how to write their names in Chinese.

The Chinese teachers (one of whom is a Head teacher of a school with over 10,000 students!) seemed generally impressed with the Langton (especially with their meeting with Head student Sam Day) and it is hoped that the school will be invited to host another delegate next year.



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## Mathematical Marvels

You may recall that a few months ago Langton News reported on the success of Biff Sharrock, Matt Phillips (both Year 8), Aaron Phillips and Alex Williamson (both Year 9) when they won their heat of the UKMT Maths Team Challenge. The four boys took part in the National Finals in London this month and Alex Williamson reports on what happened next.....

*The day began with a poster competition on symmetry. We quickly realised that we should have done a bit more preparation as the other competitors began sticking on pre-made writing and fancy patterns. All we had was a few sheets of information we had found on Wikipedia the night before! Next came the Head-to-Head, consisting of an algebra round and a question chain round (you need one answer to get the next).*

*After a lunch of mini-pizza and crisps, we had the cross number round. Our team was split into two pairs, who each had to work together to solve a mathematical crossword (with numbers). Finally, there was the relay where, still in our pairings, we took it in turns to answer questions and run across the hall. At the end of the day the winning team was announced - St Olav's School in Orpington - we came 35th out of 60; a respectable result considering it was the national finals.*



# Roger's Memory Lives On

In September 2004 the Langton lost a much loved and respected member of its community when Roger Howells, Head of ICT, was tragically killed in a traffic accident.

The school was delighted when our invitation to present the prizes at Sports Day was accepted by Roger's wife, Teri Howells. She was accompanied by her son Chris and his partner, and Roger's brothers, one of whom had travelled down from Liverpool especially to attend.

The presentation of Prizes was followed by a short Dedication Ceremony in the Sports Hall when Teri Howells unveiled a plaque in memory of Roger. The inscription reads simply 'In fond memory of Roger Howells, Langton Teacher, Colleague and Friend'.







# SPORTS DAY 2007





# SPORTS REPORTS

## SPORTS DAY

report by Mr R Green

Despite the date – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – everything went well on Sports Day, with some keen competition in all events and age groups. This was all to be expected with the Langton having won both the District Year 7 Festival and the District Intermediate Team Championships earlier in the term.

In Year 7 Connor Waghorn (High Jump and Javelin) and Zach Meenan (100m and 200m) were both double event winners, with several other athletes finishing in the top three in more than one event. The final team result was a clear win for 7L with 148 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 7S 109, 3<sup>rd</sup> 7B 95, 4<sup>th</sup> 7G 90.

Outstanding athlete in the Year 8 competition was Greg Markes who won both the High Jump and 400m. He also had the same distance as the winner, George Ogilvie, in the Triple jump but was placed second on their second best jumps. George also won the Long Jump. The final team result placed 8B first with 127 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 8L 109, 3<sup>rd</sup> 8G 105, 4<sup>th</sup> 8S 90.

In Year 9 Michael Phillips broke the Discus record with a throw of 32.58m, beating the previous distance set in 1980 by 22cm. Surprisingly, this was the only new record of the day. Three athletes dominated their events with Matt Winstanley winning both the 200m and 400m, Gabriel

Mansfield winning the Long and Triple Jumps, and Guy Hewett the 800m and 1500m. The team event was won by 9L with 129 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 9G 116, 3<sup>rd</sup> 9B 113, 4<sup>th</sup> 9S 86.

In the Year 10 competition, there were three double winners – Jason Prickett (800m and 1500m), Piers Byrne (Long and Triple Jumps) and David Wood (100m and 200m), with several athletes achieving more than one top three place. Overall winners were 10L with 153 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 10S 128.5, 3<sup>rd</sup> 10B 86.5, 4<sup>th</sup> 10G 74.

At the end of the meeting we were honoured with the presence of Mrs Teri Howells who presented the trophies to the winning captains.

Sports Day would not function without the team of more than 50 officials and helpers, most of whom were Staff and Year 12 students. My thanks go to all of them, and the competitors, for making the event a great success.

## CRICKET 2007

report by Mr R Green

Despite the appalling weather in June and July very few matches were cancelled. However, on one day both the Under 15's and Under 13's were eliminated from Kent competitions in rain curtailed matches. The Under 13's had set a formidable target of 224-1 against Chatham House in the semi-final. Nick Bartley

score a magnificent 114 not out. When the rain came in the eleventh over of the Chatham House innings they had scored 64-0. The comparative score of the Langton was 64-1. Chatham House won. The Under 15's were also unlucky enough to be knocked out of the District Cup semi-final by Barton Court in a 'bowl out'. Rain intervened in the third attempt to play the match with the Langton on 75-2 in the ninth over. A result had to be reached on that day, with Barton Court successful after the ninth round of bowlers.

Other successes came from the Under 12 squad that defeated CCW in the District Cup final and reached the semi-final of the Kent Cup, losing out to Eltham College. Both the Under 13 and Under 14 squads won the District Cup, beating Herne Bay High and Kent College respectively. The Under 14's also won the District 6-a-side tournament, beating the King's school in the final.

As well as Nick Bartley's century, George Leadbetter scored 104 not out against the Staff CC in a high scoring draw in which the Staff retained the Falconer Trophy. Another achievement worth noting was Will Lock's hat-trick for the Under 14's against Norton Knatchbull.

Once again it has been a very successful season with very few losses appearing on the Langton results sheets.

# Duke of Edinburgh's Award

report by Mr D Watson

Simon Langton Boys now has nearly 130 students participating in the award at bronze level.

The award is given to highly self-motivated students who can show a commitment to various projects over a minimum 12-month timespan. The last two terms have been spent preparing people to complete their expeditions and by the end of September we hope to have half of the student complete this section of the award. Next year we will be offering

any student in sixth form, plus any other younger student who has completed the bronze award at the school, to enrol in the gold award. This is a highly prestigious and valued award and looks great on any resume. For further information, please visit the Duke of Edinburgh's Award website ([www.theaward.org](http://www.theaward.org)) or see Mr Shaw.



## Athletics

report by Mr D Watson

The school has once more experienced a great deal of success in the District Athletics Championships. The year 7 team won the District Festival convincingly, almost gaining enough points to win the overall boys and girls combined title and the Intermediates won the District Team Championships. Although athletics is often viewed as an individual sporting pursuit, each of these events require a huge team effort.

Congratulations to all boys who contributed and many thanks to the staff who gave up their time to run teams.





# Sports Leaders Festival

report by Mr D Watson

On the 29th June we had 24 students from feeder primary schools visit SLBS for a pairs cricket tournament. The festival was run entirely by a select group of year 10 students who have excelled in sports leadership this year. They were responsible for every aspect of the day and did an outstanding job as ambassadors of the school's sports leadership programme which is in its first year. Those students have now completed their level one Sports Leaders Award which is a nationally accredited leadership award. Further opportunities will exist next year for other students doing the award to run similar festivals in a variety of sports

## Tennis

report by Mr D Watson

Congratulations are due to our junior boys for their efforts on the tennis courts. Mr Loft has encouraged a great number of boys to get involved and it has been great to see so many talented youngsters competing with such competence. I look forward to a time when the courts are refurbished/replaced and our students have an area worthy of their abilities.



Thank you  
Mr Loft

## Team Successes

### Football

U12 District Cup Winners  
U14 District Cup Winners

### Rugby

U12 East Kent Emerging Schools Winners  
U12 London South East Emerging Schools Winners  
U12 National Emerging Schools Winners

### Hockey

U13 East Kent Schools League Winners  
U14 East Kent Schools League Winners

### Basketball

U14 Kent Cup Winners

### Cross Country

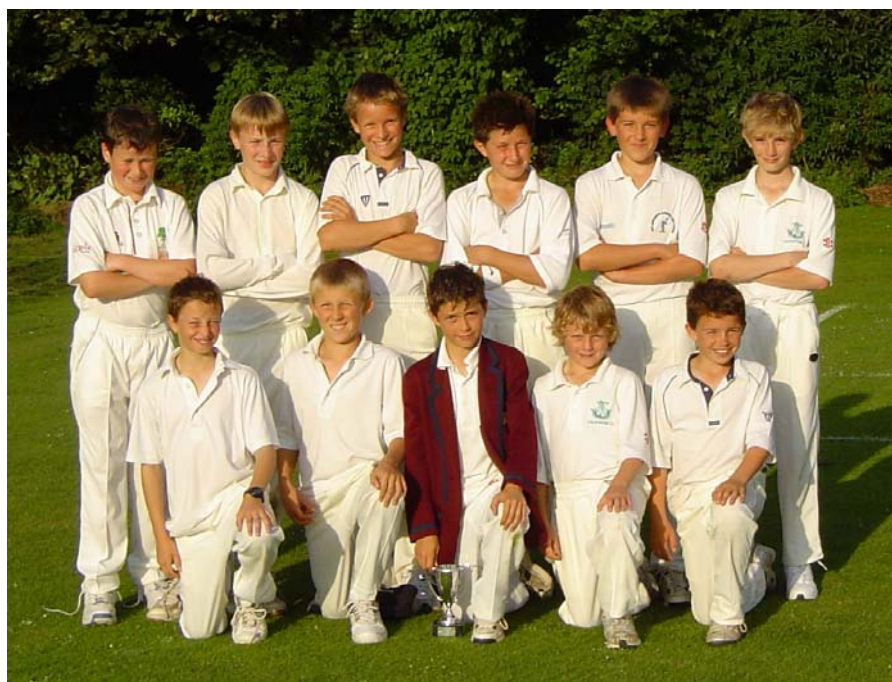
Junior Boys District Team Champs Winners  
Intermediate Boys District Team Champs Winners  
Senior Girls District Team Champs Winners  
Overall District Team Championships Winners

### Cricket

U12 District Cup Winners  
U13 District Cup Winners  
U14 District Cup Winners  
U14 District 6-a-side Cup Winners

### Athletics

Year 7 District Festival Winners  
Intermediate District Team Championships Winners



*U12 District Cricket Cup Winners*

# Bowls

When you hear about the sport of bowls you probably think of a boring game for old people. This assumption is far from the truth – indeed, it is fast becoming a sport where the younger players are taking the lead and winning the prizes.

Peter Foster of 10F took up the game seven years ago when he was just eight years of age and he has progressed through the game, winning several competitions until this year he has achieved his ambition of winning his County Badge, enabling him to represent Kent in national competitions.

Earlier this month he was presented with his Kent Under 25s County badge, having

played for the Under 25s in five Home Counties league matches. Recently he made his debut in the Kent Senior Home Counties league in Oxford and will go on to play the quarter final of a singles competition. If he is successful, he could become a Kent champion—watch this space!

Langton Receptionist Mrs Foster refuses to be outdone by her son and she too has won her Kent badge this year in the Ladies' section.

Last week her team lost the County Final by one point but as the County runners-up, they will go to Leamington Spa in August to represent Kent in the National finals.

Good luck to both Peter and Mrs Foster!



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## Finally.....

It has been an eventful, successful and extremely busy year on the sports fields and courts. In addition to the main inter school matches we have seen some highly competitive, good quality inter form competitions in which every pupil in years 7-10 has participated.

The Climbing Wall Fund Raising Activities, Family Fun Evening and Sports Day proved a fitting climax and ensured our looking forward with enthusiasm to improving still further next year. Congratulations are due to all pupils who have been involved.

## Thank You!!

None of these sporting activities would have been possible without the dedication and expertise of the Langton Staff. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has given freely of their time to ensure our great sporting traditions are upheld.





*David Mackenzie and Mrs Parker were invited to speak at the Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network, British Council European Education Workshop in Krakow, Poland in July. Mrs Parker reports below:*

Stepping in the footsteps of Copernicus who studied there over 500 years ago, we had guided tours of Krakow and were very well looked after by the British Council.

We presented a poster on the Langton Star Centre, Mrs Parker gave a talk on the Langton Star Centre and David gave a talk on the research projects he has undertaken using the Faulkes Telescope. He was the only student attending amongst teachers and academics from Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Portugal and the UK.

It was a fantastic opportunity to meet teachers and astronomers from different countries and develop collaborations through Astron-

omy. We have established a major global project for International Year of Astronomy in 2009 which marks 400 years since Galileo first recorded making observations with an astronomical telescope. He observed mountains and craters on the Moon, the moons of Jupiter and many, many more stars not visible with the naked eye. These observations were to completely change our understanding of the Universe, its scale and our position within it.

We came away inspired from the conference and ready to develop European and Global Astronomy projects. We hope these will generate awe and wonder at that same Universe Galileo observed 400 years ago.



*David and members of the Faulkes Telescope Team in front of the old market in the main square in Krakow – a puppet Elvis is singing behind them!*



*David besides the colourful Langton Star Centre Poster*

*This term all Year 10 pupils were involved in a three day enterprise event. During this period the students listened to a range of talks from business professionals before coming up with their own original ideas for a new business which they then presented to the Dragons in their Den.*

*Mr Speller reports.*



Matt Kingsland from Pfizer talked extensively to the year group about the importance of "Finance" for a business. Alan Ward and Shaun Powell from Eurotunnel gave talks on "Supply & Demand" and "Health & Safety" respectively. Andrew Trill from AST discussed the role of "Marketing & Sales" for a new business. Additionally, Rowan Pringle from the Prince's Trust spoke in detail about the process involved in applying for Prince's Trust funding for a small business.

Having listened to the speakers the students were asked to create their own business ideas and present them in a Dragon's Den style final. On the last of the three enterprise days the action moved to the Sixth Form Centre where the winning four groups battled it out in front of a judging panel consisting of James Heming (Invicta FM), Naz Rajan, Matt Kingsland, and Max Feaver (Business Dynamics).

Some great presentations were made to the judges including concepts ranging from a new type of vending machine to an employment

agency for young people. The winning team "Aardapell" suggested a new fast food concept based around providing fillings for baked potatoes. Aardapell consisted of seven members including Louis Mattheou, Alex Henderson, Ethan Creighton, Will Jones, Jason Pricket, Charlie Gregory and Dave Wood. The team impressed the judges with their detailed business plan and financial analysis. Furthermore, the marketing ideas suggested by the team were well thought through and highly original. The strap line "Pimp My Potato" was part of a striking advertising campaign designed to launch their fast food service.

Much of the success of the three day event is owed to Max Feaver from Business Dynamics for organising many of the guest speakers. Mr Carney also spent a great deal of time planning this event before his Australia trip and it was unfortunate that he did not get the opportunity to see the successful result of all his hard work.





# Outstanding Competition Success

Three students from the Langton spent a day mingling with top MP's at the Houses of Parliament. Rebecca Moss, (below centre) Chris O'Brien (below right) and Michael Sweetman (below left) spent a day at the House of Lords after winning three of the top awards in the Citizenship Foundation National Youth Parliament competition. Lib Dem Leader Sir Menzies Campbell presented Chris with his award for best 'Prime Minister', Don Foster MP (Lib Dem) awarded Michael the prize for 'Best Leader of the Opposition' and Jo Swinson MP (Lib Dem) gave Rebecca the award for Best Backbencher.

The Langton students beat competition from more than 170 schools to win their awards. The three had to make a 20-minute video debate on a mock bill which allowed freedom of the wearing of religious items in the workplace. Rebecca said that the competition had given all three the opportunity to learn more about politics and to further develop their public speaking skills.

Mr Butler, who accompanied them to London said 'Taking part in the competition allows the students to engage physically with Parliament, rather than just sitting in the classroom with a book.'



## **Sad News from Wales** **Mrs Roberts, Gwern Felin, Rowlyn 1904 -2007**

Langton News has just heard that Mrs Roberts has died, aged 97, after a short illness. Generations of Rowlynners will remember this hardy soul of rural Wales with great affection. Mrs Roberts took such an interest in Langton students when they collected milk, eggs and water and/or returned the keys (if they remembered!)

We send our condolences to Einion and Susan Roberts.



# FAMILY FUN



The Family Fun Evening, organised by Mr Watson and the PE Department to help raise funds for the Climbing Wall was hailed as a triumph by all who came along. 'It was called a Family Fun Evening and my family certainly had fun in the evening. It did exactly what it said on the tin' said Joint Head of Art, Mr Howe. As well as acting as official photographer for the event, Mr Howe organised an 'Art Attack' event in which people were invited to make giant collages using materials borrowed from the PE Department. Mr Raines cooked and cooked and cooked, kids climbed and climbed and climbed and the balloons did what balloons are supposed to do and flew away.



Photographs: *Top row*, the mobile Climbing Wall being put to use, *middle left*, Mr Raines does 'man cookery', *middle left top*, safety first for all those who went on the wall, *middle left bottom*, bon voyage to the balloons, *bottom row*, 'Art Attack' collages.





# DRUGS

*Most teenagers come into contact with drugs and know where they can be obtained. Research shows that almost a third of 15-year-olds have tried an illegal drug at some point.*

*The 2005/2006 British Crime Survey indicates that 8.7% of 16 to 29 year olds reported using cannabis in the last year. Cocaine is the next most commonly used drug with 2.4% claiming to have used any form of it (either cocaine powder or crack cocaine) in the previous year. This is followed by ecstasy use at 1.6% and use of amphetamines at 1.3%. Langton News has gathered some useful information about the most commonly used Drugs in society today.*

## **Cannabis**... also known as:

Blow, Dope, Draw, Ganga, Gear, Grass, Hash, Marijuana, Pot, Skunk and Weed.

### **... what does it look like?**

hashish (or resin) is the most common form of the drug. It comes from the dried leaves of the cannabis (or marijuana) plant. It's made by compressing the sticky coating from the flowering tops of the plants into brown-black blocks. Herbal cannabis is generally less strong and is made from the leafy parts of the plant.

### **... how is it taken?**

Cannabis is generally smoked in a cigarette (joint). It's usually mixed with tobacco, but herbal cannabis may be smoked on its own. Resin can also be put into food or brewed into a drink.

### **... what does the law say?**

Cannabis is Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It was reclassified from a Class B drug on 29 January 2004. It is illegal to grow, produce, possess or supply. It is an offence to allow your house or premises to be used for growing,

preparing, supplying or smoking cannabis.

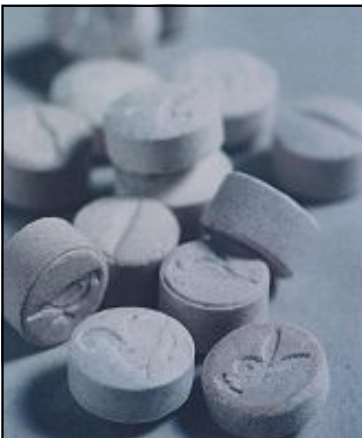
The maximum penalty for supply, dealing, production (including cultivation) and trafficking is 14 years' imprisonment. The maximum penalty for possession of cannabis is 2 years' imprisonment. Under police guidance (applying to England and Wales), there is a presumption against arrest for adults, but not for young people. For adults most offences of cannabis possession will result in a warning and confiscation of the drug. However, arrest may take place in cases of smoking in a public place, repeat offending, possession where public order is threatened, or possession in the vicinity of premises used by young people (eg a school, or youth club). Young people under 18 in possession of cannabis will be arrested and dealt with under the framework for juvenile offending where they can receive a reprimand, final warning, or charge depending on the seriousness of the offence.



## **Ecstasy** ... also known as:

E, Disco Biscuits, Doves.

### **... what does it look like?**



Produced in tablet or capsule form. Illicitly produced, they come in a variety of colours, shapes and sizes. Most have a small motif embossed on one side. It often contains other substances. Very rarely it is found in powder form.

### **... how is it taken?**

Ecstasy is usually taken orally.

### **... what are the effects?**

It can make people feel energetic for a number of hours. The initial rush is often followed by feelings of calmness and closeness to others. High doses may lead to panic and anxiety. Regular use can lead to psychological dependence, sleep problems, lethargy and depression. There is a danger of overheating and dehydration.

### **... what does the law say?**

Ecstasy is a class A drug under the misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It is illegal to produce, possess or supply. It is also an offence to allow any premises to be used for the production or supply of ecstasy.

## **Crack** ... also known as:

Rock, freebase, wash, stone etc

### ... what does it look like?



Crack is processed from cocaine to allow the drug to be more easily smoked. Its purity and appearance varies according to the method of

production but it is often mixed with other substances. It can appear in various forms from yellow, pinkish or waxy white rocks similar to chips of broken porcelain to white granules similar to dried milk.

### ... how's it taken?

Users generally prefer to smoke crack by means of a water pipe. Homemade pipes are most likely to

be found at street level and these are made from soft drinks cans, plastic and glass bottles, glass tubing and aluminium foil. The drug is heated gently in the 'pipe' until it vaporises, and the fumes are then inhaled. It can also be burnt on tin foil and inhaled.

### ... what does the law say?

Crack is a form of cocaine and therefore Class A under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It is illegal to possess, supply or produce. It is also an offence to allow premises to be used for its production or supply.

### ... what are the downs?

Rapid psychological dependence can occur. Because the effects are short-lived, the need to achieve them grows with the dependence. Its frequent use is often associated with debt and violence and users have been known to spend more than £1,000 in one weekend to feed their habit. Those who are regular users may experience tiredness, depression, aggressive behaviour and a false degree of confidence. Regular smoking can lead to breathing problems and loss of voice.

## **Magic Mushrooms** ... also known as:

Shrooms, Mushies etc

### ... what do they look like?

Because of the numerous varieties of mushrooms with hallucinogenic properties, it is often extremely difficult to distinguish them from their poisonous and sometimes deadly cousins and identification can be very complex.

### ... how are they taken?

Can be eaten raw, cooked or brewed into a tea, some may be preserved by drying and then taken at a later date.

### ... what does the law say?

Under Section 21 of the Drugs Act 2005, which came into force in July 2005, magic mushrooms or fungus or any kind containing psilocin or an ester

of psilocin became Class A under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It is an offence to possess, supply or produce or allow premises to be used for their production or supply.

### ... what are the downs?

As with LSD tolerance rapidly develops to magic mushrooms and users may find that increasingly higher doses are needed to achieve a similar effect, nausea, stomach pains and vomiting are common. Bad trips can also occur which may develop into brief psychotic episodes. There have also been reports of flashbacks. **By far the greatest danger is the fact that poisonous mushrooms can be mistakenly taken.**

## **Amphetamines** ... also known as:

Speed, Whizz, Billy.

### ... what does it look like?



Produced in tablet or capsule form, but mainly a coarse, off-white powder. It may contain other substances. It is usually wrapped into squares of glossy paper or self-sealed plastic bags.

### ... how is it taken?

Amphetamines can be taken orally, snorted or sometimes injected.

### ... what are the effects?

It can make people feel more alert and confident, some may feel very anxious and restless as the effects wear off. Taking amphetamines can also disrupt sleep and diet. Heavy use can cause mental health problems from depression to paranoia.

### ... what does the law say?

Amphetamines are prescription only under the Medicines Act, but also controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Unauthorised production, supply or possession is an offence. It is also an offence to allow premises to be used for their production or supply. This drug is class B unless prepared for injection when they become class A.



# FROM THE HEAD



Thursday July 12<sup>th</sup> is a day at the school that I will remember for a very long time. Not only was it the day scheduled by Paul Carter, Leader of KCC, to come down and put the seal on the building work of the past five years by opening the New Art and Theatre block – and hinting at more help with buildings for the future, but more of that later – we somehow managed to combine a host of other major whole school activities.

For a start, it was the Year 6 induction day where we welcome all the students who are taking up their places with us for the next academic year, but we thought we'd follow this up with a family fun day in the evening with five a side soccer, a climbing wall – to give everyone a taste of what it will be like when ours is installed – kids' slide, live music and the ubiquitous Mr Raines and Gwen barbecue. A terrific atmosphere and, hopefully, a very warm welcome to our new cohort.

In the morning we hosted a group of Chinese teachers and headteachers eager to see what work we are doing at the school on the Student Voice (following on from a delegation of Finnish headteachers and Chief Education Officers we had already hosted) and on the support we provide for students on the autistic spectrum. As they spoke only Mandarin it was an interesting challenge explaining our philosophy through a translator, but I think everyone got the message.

I really can't imagine another school that would have coped with so many major initiatives happening on the same day,

alongside a full teaching load, of course, with such good humour. No tempers were frayed, no tensions bubbled over. I really think it is testament to everyone belonging to the school that their overwhelming desire is to promote the school's great characteristics and celebrate what we are doing at the school and the way in which we do it.

Further good news and congratulations to Karen Eley whose work with the school Eco Council, and years of success with students in David Bellamy's Blake Shield competition, meant that the school was awarded the prestigious ENCAM green flag recognising us as Kent's only officially environmentally friendly secondary school. When we talk of our values as being creativity, innovation and altruism, this is what we mean by altruism. The flag will be presented at the school in September.

The award means we have also been invited to send a small delegation of students to Downing Street to take part in a discussion with Gordon Brown about climate change and the way forward, one of only three schools in the country invited. The current high levels of security in London have meant that we have been unable to fix a firm date, but I hope to be able to report on it soon. Security concerns didn't prevent Becki Moss, Michael Sweetman and Chris O'Brien from travelling to Downing Street to receive their winners' awards for their performances in the National Youth Parliament competition.

Lastly, the visit of Paul Carter did give us hope that our building programme is far from over and even, surprisingly, that our plans for renovating the swimming pool are not as dead in the water as we might have thought. We are forging ahead also with our plans for a state of the art Star Centre and, hopefully, will be receiving even more assistance from KCC to realise our dream.

Finally, to all, may I wish you a very restful Summer and look forward to seeing you again in September.