



Editor: Mr K Moffat

# The Student voice

## *Historic First as Langton Students form Union*

After a month of feverish campaigning, and electioneering, the students of Simon Langton have elected their first officers ever to serve on the Executive of the newly formed Student Union. The Union replaces the old School Council and has a mandate and a constitution to embrace far wider powers, representing the views of students of the school and recommending policy.

Daniel Hamilton and Tom Churchyard have been elected President and Vice President respectively with James Goldfinch acting as Treasurer and Frank Hardee as Secretary.



Daniel Hamilton

Turn out for the election was high with over 95% of students in Years 10 to 13 voting for their year representatives. Head Boy, Sam

Allan, said, "There is clearly a mandate for the students to have a more significant input into school affairs. Sometimes, I think, people are unaware of how the school looked from the 'student's' perspective and now is our opportunity to put that right.." and Election Officer, Ken Moffat, said, "I'm pleased at the way the election progressed. We now have a body of students, for the first time in this school's history, who are placed to strongly influence the future direction of the school. It is important that the students have a voice and are permitted to use that voice." One of the first tasks the Student Union will face is the establishment of a Year 7 to 9 Lower School Council, a debating forum to allow younger members of the school their say in how the school progresses.

At the second meeting of the Union, the Headteacher was presented with a proposal that the school confront the issue of toilets for the students which are alleged to be sub-standard. In subsequent talks with Dan Hamilton and Sam Allan, the Head has agreed to dramatically modify or, if possible, replace the existing toilet facilities.

# SLBS



Radio Langton hit the airwaves this term with the arrival of SLBS Live, a Sixth Form run breakfast radio show broadcast to all school years in the Hall from 8.00 am.

Resident DJ, Mike Denby, declared the station a real success and saw his audience grow considerably in the first week as word spread and the canteen served up special breakfast muffins to mark the occasion.

"It's been really cool so far" said Mike "and I think its changed the atmosphere of the school considerably in the mornings. It's a definite improvement." This week Mike has been joined by newly fledged DJ Alex Brown, when he is not being Romeo (see page 3).

Students at the school can tune into SLBS Live from 8.00 am to 8.50 am every morning in the Hall and can



We have welcomed several new members of staff to the school this term, all of whom have settled in well and have already made their mark at the Langton. Mr Butler has joined us to teach Citizenship and Humanities and Mrs Fawcett has joined the Design Technology Department, having previously trained to teach at the school. Mr Grey has joined the English department and Mr Kempster the Maths department. Mr Carney has taken responsibility as Head of Economics Designate; he will be working alongside Mr Jarvis whilst preparing to take over responsibility for running the department from September 2004.

Mr Crick took over responsibility as Bursar immediately after half term. Mr Crick will join the Senior Management Team and will take over responsibility for the day-to-day management of our buildings programme, as well as managing the school's finances and other aspects of site and premises management.

This summer students throughout the school achieved very pleasing examination results and it is good to note the 'value added' scores, particularly at Key Stage Three, remain high. These scores indicate that boys in the school continue to make more progress compared to the majority of students nationally. There were some notable individual academic achievements this summer. At AS level Phil Murray and Sevrin Waights both scored maximum marks in their economics exams. At GCSE Will Cooper achieved a mark in his French papers which placed him in the top ten students nationally. Paul Leader-Williams and David Moss both achieved top ten status in their geography examinations.

This term we have established two new posts from within the teaching staff; Academic Mentors for Key Stages Three and Four. Miss Walters and Mr Connolly have been appointed to these posts and they have begun work on monitoring the progress of students in the school and have established support programmes for any students who may be experiencing difficulties affecting their academic progress. If parents have any concerns about the academic progress of their sons, they should contact the relevant Academic Mentor at the school.

It is a particularly busy time for the Langton, as we continue to implement improvements throughout the school. During the past few months the re-wiring of the old block has made steady progress and we have now started the building work on the complete refurbishment of the Chemistry department. We are about to appoint the builders for the new Sports Hall and Sixth Form Centre, and expect to start work on site in the New Year. As the new building will be separate from the current buildings I don't expect any disruption to the normal running of the school. We are also working on plans for an extension to our dining facilities, as well as a new Drama Studio.

I have recently received further good news from the Local Education Authority which suggests we are likely to receive additional funding to add an Art classroom and a new computer suite to our building programme.

We have also heard from the Local Education Authority that we are likely to receive additional funding to develop our Special Needs provision – adding one additional member of the Teaching Staff who can concentrate on ensuring that the school offers appropriate support to boys experiencing an Autistic Spectrum Disorder and who may be having academic, social or communication difficulties.



# Confetti Per Favore



This term's school play, *Romeo and Juliet*, is highly advanced in the rehearsal stages and looks set to be an end of year blockbuster. But whilst actors are in abundance, Mrs Moore does require assistance with properties for the stage.

Set in high Italian style, the production does require some wrought iron outdoor café tables; if anyone is in the process of packing some away for the winter, Mrs Moore would be very keen to hear from you.

Some large cushions are also required, but Mrs Moore stresses that these would be non-returnable. Please don't donate any well loved family heirlooms.

And finally, on with the wish list, is there anyone out there who can supply confetti at wholesale prices? A singular request, but hey.....if you don't ask, you don't get. *Romeo and Juliet* comes to the school on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December for three nights with Alex Brown and Italian born Helena Miscioscia as the "star cross'd lovers". Langton News has the sneaking suspicion this could be Mrs Moore's greatest success yet.

*Performances will be at 7.00 pm each night in the school hall.  
Tickets, which will be on sale shortly, will cost £5.00, or £2.50 for concessions.*

## **Brave Noah**

Not everyone had as adventurous a Summer as Noah Baker. On holiday in France with his family, Noah found himself on hand to effect a daring life saving rescue of a canoeist in difficulty on the Dronne River. Employing artful serendipity, Noah achieved his feat under the direct nose of none other than City Council Leader, and Old Langtonian, Alex Perkins.

Mr Perkins writes," I accompanied a group of tourists from the Canterbury area who were involved in a canoeing trip on the River Dronne. In rapidly flowing water one of the larger kayaks capsized, trapping one of the passengers under the boat, submerged and trapped against rocks. While the adults nearby watched in horror, a pupil of your school was the only one to react. Quickly reaching the upturned boat, he discovered the force of the onrushing water was trapping the woman. Using brute force and not a little tenacity he managed to lever the boat clear and rescue the lady in the nick of time."

Deservedly, Noah has been nominated for a Lord Mayor's Award for Bravery.

# RESULTS 2003

The Langton again consolidated its place as the premier establishment in East Kent for boys with a very pleasing set of A level results. A pass rate of 52% at grades A and B in A level showed how an impressive year group had achieved its potential, despite the backdrop of the annual media clamour that examination results were getting easier.

Staff and students were resounding in their condemnation of such attitudes. Head of Sixth Form, Ken Moffat, said, "When will people realise that the simple fact of the matter is that the present cohort of students works much more efficiently than previous generations, has access to considerably better resources and is taught by professionals who are more focussed and work harder than ever before. Under such circumstances, improvement should not be unexpected."

# MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

In July of this year the Langton was successful in their Barclays New Futures Grant application. £5,000 healthier, the school is forging ahead with its commitment to being an active community player. The creation of a local community newspaper is planned. Our two link schools, being The Orchard School and Barham C of E Primary School, will allow a strong relationship to develop.

On receiving the cheque, Tim Fox and Amy Hunt (Project Co-ordinators) were delighted. "We are really pleased as this is a very prestigious award with over 140 schools bidding for this money" said Mr Fox.

# AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH....

Congratulations are due to Miss Eley who last week passed the arduous week long Mountain Leader Assessment to gain the nationally recognised Mountain Leader certificate.

The certificate allows her to guide in mountain terrain in the British Isles outside of Winter, which effectively means she can guide any of our Rowlyn groups single-handedly. As part of the assessment, for which she has been training for over two years, Miss Eley was in the hills of Snowdonia for up to sixteen hours a day with only an hours break. Her bed was often a hard rock under the stars. Definitely not for the faint hearted.

She joins Mr Jeanes and Mr Armishaw as current holders of the certificate.

# WATER, WATER *everywhere*



In response to a request from the newly formed Student Union, Langton News is pleased to confirm the school's policy for drinking water during lessons.

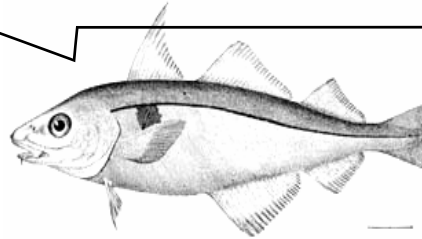
Students are free to take drinking water into most of the classrooms within the school. Only water is allowed, you are not, for example, allowed to take fizzy drinks into lessons and everyone is advised to use a non-spill container for obvious reasons.

However, no drinking is permitted in science labs, DT workshops or the computer suites.

The final word on whether or not you can drink during a lesson remains with the teacher in charge but all staff have been made aware of the school's overall policy.

**Harry the Haddock says:**

Drinking lots of water throughout the day helps you concentrate harder and for longer.  
Trust me, I'm a fish.



# FOND FAREWELLS

For the past several weeks all of the school's photocopying has been done by Mrs Clair Hover, who joined the Admin Team in September as a Reprographics Technician. She has also worked on the School's reception desk during lunch hour. Clair's stay at the Langton has been short and sweet and she is soon to leave us to join the Graphic Design Department at Saga Holidays. Clair, who trained in Graphic Design, says she is sad to leave the Langton but feels that this is too good an opportunity to miss. We wish her all the best for the future.

A familiar face is missing from the school dining hall. Mrs Sue Barham, who was a midday supervisor at the Langton for over 9 years left at the end of the last half term but requested that her departure was not marked by any presentations or formal farewells. She will be sorely missed by all of the students and staff and we hope that her retirement is a long and happy one.

# Bookmark

Once again the Langton Library has attracted a huge number of Year 7 library monitors keen to help with the smooth-running of the library at busy break and lunch times. Twenty-five boys turn up regularly every week, earning points for each duty. Ahead on points this term are Joshua Wilson, Alexander Oulsnam, Felix Wenn, Guy Bates, Luke Sanders, Martin Back and Aadil Sheikh.

The pupil librarians, from Yrs. 8, 9, 11 and 13, have helped to process more than 300 new books since the beginning of term.

New fiction includes:

*Grass for His Pillow* by **Lian Hearn**

*Predator's Gold* by **Philip Reeve**

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by **Mark Haddon**

*Daughter of Venice* by **Donna Napoli**

*Lake of Souls* by **Darren Shan**

*Starseeker* by **Tim Bowler**

*The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* by **Robert Tressell**

*The Hours* by **Michael Cunningham**

*Life of Pi* by **Yann Martel**

*Lirael* by **Garth Nix**

*The Angel's Command* by **Brian Jacques**

*Vox* by **Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell**

*Stravaganza City of Stars* by **Mary Hoffman**

*The Fire-Eaters* by **David Almond**

*A Sterkarm Kiss* by **Susan Price**

*English Passengers* by **Matthew Kneale**

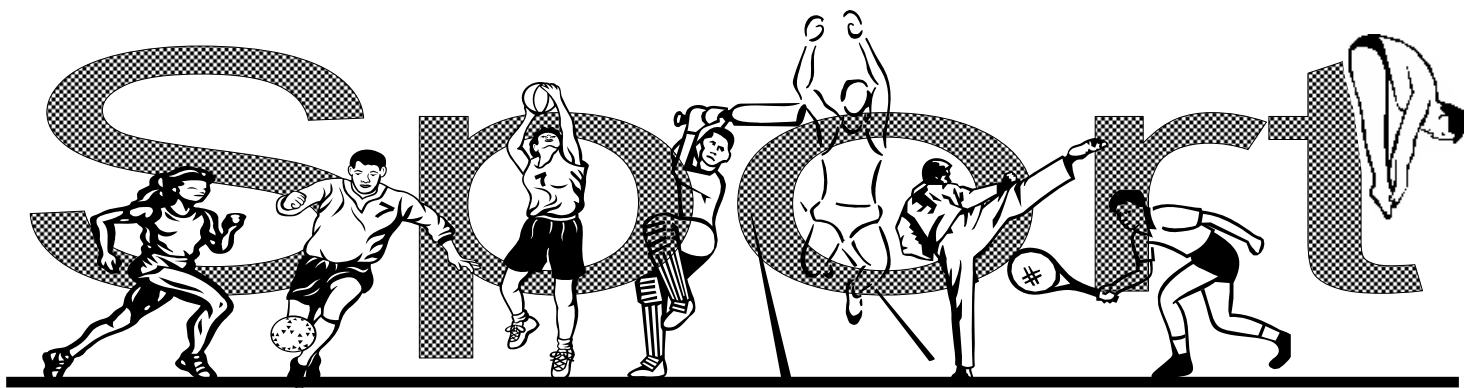
New non-fiction:

Magnificent Mars, Rome Cross Sections, Advanced Biology, The Battle for Iraq, Tae Kwon Do, France in Revolution, Introducing Critical Theory, The Spy's Handbook, Who was Queen Victoria, Reading into Science series, Schauplatz, Sports Geography, Chemical Storylines, Developments in British Politics, Mountaincraft and Leadership, Twentieth Century Actor Training, Craft Crime-Busting, The Gap Year Guide Book, How to Make it in the Music Business, Alberto Giacometti.

## Timing is Everything

As always, we at Langton News, are constantly reviewing the product we offer and have looked closely at the proper timings of the newsletter. Accordingly, the timing of publication of Langton news will change slightly during the course of the present academic year. We hope to make the paper proactive as well as reflective and consequently we urge you to frisk your offspring for the following six times a year publications on the appropriate dates:

Autumn Term:	1st week of term
	1st week after half term
	Last week before Christmas
Spring Term:	1st week after half term
Summer Term:	1st week of term
	Last week of term



# FOOTBALL RESULTS

## 1<sup>st</sup> XI

Chatham	5 - 1	Won
William Harvey	1 - 2	Lost
St Gregory's	3 - 2	Won
Borden Grammar School	3 - 0	Won
St Edmunds	2 - 1	Won
Howard	2 - 2	Draw
Maidstone Grammar School	2 - 3	Lost

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

Maplesden	4 - 4	Draw
Maidstone	1 - 5	Lost
William Harvey	0 - 1	Lost
Norton Knatchbull	1 - 1	Lost
Queen Elizabeth's	9 - 0	Won
Norton Knatchbull	0 - 3	Lost
St George's Brothers	7 - 2	Won

## Under 15s

Norton Knatchbull	2 - 2	Draw
Herne Bay	6 - 3	Won
Chaucer	5 - 2	Won
Queen Elizabeth's	4 - 1	Won
St Edmunds	5 - 5	Draw
Borden Grammar School	3 - 4	Lost
Pent Valley	14 - 0	Won
Oakwood Park	3 - 1	Won
Archbishops	4 - 1	Won
St Anselms	1 - 4	Lost

## Under 14s

Canterbury High	1 - 2	Lost
Norton Knatchbull	2 - 2	Draw
Herne Bay	5 - 1	Won
St Edmunds	5 - 2	Won
Queen Elizabeth's	2 - 2	Draw
Archbishops	3 - 2	Won

## BASKETBALL disappointment

On Thursday 16th October the Langton Under 19 team travelled to Holy Trinity in Crawley for their first game of the season and of the National Cup. Through a relatively young team (and very under-prepared due to the practical impossibility of team practice and coaching time) the Langton quickly showed their very strong talent and confidence, breaking out to an early lead. With control and ability we worked our way to an early 8 point lead. It was clear that as far as individual talent was concerned, we were by far the superior team. However, loss of mental focus offensively and defensively lost us our advantage and we were only leading by 2 at the end of the 1st quarter. The 2nd quarter was more equal, the two teams trading baskets and the Langton repeatedly regaining their form and losing it slightly. At half time we were down by 12. In the 3rd quarter our focus and our dominance was restored as we attacked their lead key baskets from Liam Tuite, Chinney Onuchukwu and John Callaghan and a great performance left us tied at the end of the 3rd. Eventually we stretched out a lead of 6, but Trinity then cut it to 1. Ross Kelk scored, was fouled and hit his free throw to put us up by 4. Stupid fouls gave them free throws and with 5 seconds remaining we were down by 1. We failed to score and lost 57-56. Only at times showing the talent that all of our players possess, we just lost a game we really should have won. I cannot quite understand how we did it. However, I would like to congratulate all our players as they have showed what great potential we have.

Paul Kahawatte, U19 Captain.