

LANGTON NEWS



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Issue No. 159

Editor: Susan Begg



Professor Soderholm gets wordy and Mr Peto gets texting

The Geography Research Group goes down to the woods

Authentic Biology Symposium #3

PLUS Report on Trips, Sports, Competitions, Visiting Ambassadors, Poets and Authors, Music, Sport and the Arts Awards Scheme and quite a bit more besides

POETRY BY HEART



back to the world with their personalities stamped on it.' Vicky was one of the runner ups. She acquitted herself so well and was a credit to the school - We should be very proud of her!

Report by Dr L Askey

I have always loved reading poetry. Poets seem to have that knack of explaining things that we don't know that we know. But when poetry is on the curriculum horizon there is sometimes a cacophony of sighs and complaints. So the question was: how can I possibly get our students interested in entering the Poetry by Heart Competition?

I needed something to spur things on so we filmed a montage of rap artists and teachers reading poetry; Dr Parker, Mr Eagle and Mr Little very kindly obliged. Well, I say 'we', the truth is that Óscar Lindsey (11B) took charge of the filming with an assured skill.

We had a delightful group of sixth formers who volunteered: Johnny Alain-Lebon, Minty Chapman, Luke Shipton, Vicky Baines and Nabhan Malik. Our competition preparation was very enjoyable. A local poet, Lynne Rees, conducted a 'Making it Mine' Masterclass where the competitors spent a relaxed morning discovering and exploring nuances in

meanings in their chosen poems. I also gave one-to-one lunch-time coaching sessions leading up to the competition day. I really wanted the big day to strike a relaxed yet formal note. I think we managed that with cake and biscuits while the judges did their task. We had some wonderful recitations - particularly from our winner - Vicky Baines - who really opened my eyes to a new understanding of Plath's 'Morning Song' and our runner up who had us in stitches with 'God, A Poem' by James Fenton.

16th January 2015 The Gulbenkian Theatre was the venue for the Kent final of the Poetry By Heart Competition. There were eight competitors - including our own Vicky - from schools across Kent and each student recited three poems each. I must say that it was incredible to witness such skill and passion in these students' reciting of poetry. I was really able to see how an oral reading of a poem reveals, in the words of Andrew Motion, the competition's lead judge, what students 'absorb...from the world, which they then give

I'll be honest - I had never learnt a poem before and I was not convinced that learning one would help in my understanding. But attending the Poetry by Heart workshop in October turned me into an avid convert and gave me a wonderful opportunity to develop my teaching of poetry. I decided to learn 'The Dancers' by Edith Sitwell. At every opportunity, in the shower, driving to work, weeding the garden, I would try to recite it. Why not have a go yourself? I can confidently say that my increased love for, and understanding of, this poem has been overwhelming through learning it.

So for this year it is the end of our Poetry by Heart Competition Road but we have a new way forward now. I will be taking what we have learnt from this competition process to develop a series of Poetry Masterclasses with our local poet, Lynne Rees. We plan to introduce students in The Langton and Canterbury Academy to the magical world of poetry so we can continue our learning journey together. Then it's onwards to Poetry By Heart Competition 2016!

Cosmic Gall

by John Updike
chosen by Dr Parker

Neutrinos, they are very small.
They have no charge and have no mass
And do not interact at all.
The earth is just a silly ball
To them, through which they simply pass,
Like dustmaids through a drafty hall
Or photons through a sheet of glass.
They snub the most exquisite gas,
Ignore the most substantial wall,
Cold-shoulder steel and sounding brass,
Insult the stallion in his stall,
And scorning barriers of class,
Infiltrate you and me! Like tall
And painless guillotines, they fall
Down through our heads into the grass.
At night, they enter at Nepal
And pierce the lover and his lass
From underneath the bed---you call
It wonderful; I call it crass.





Ozymandias

by Percy Bysshe Shelley
Chosen by Mr Chris Eagle

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown
And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.
And on the pedestal these words appear:
`My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings:
Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!'
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch far away" and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch fa

The Dancers

by Edith Sitwell
chosen by Vicky Baines

The floors are slippery with blood:
The world gyrates too. God is good
That while His wind blows out the light
For those who hourly die for us –
We still can dance, each night.
The music has grown numb with death –
But we will suck their dying breath,
The whispered name they breathed to chance,
To swell our music, make it loud
That we may dance, – may dance.
We are the dull blind carrion-fly
That dance and batten. Though God die
Mad from the horror of the light –
The light is mad, too, flecked with blood, –
We dance, we dance, each night.
far away".

The Man in the Glass

by Peter Dale Wimbrow Sr
chosen by Mr Little

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father, or mother, or wife
Whose judgment upon you must pass
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please – never mind all the rest
For he's with you, clear to the end
And you've passed your most difficult, dangerous test
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.



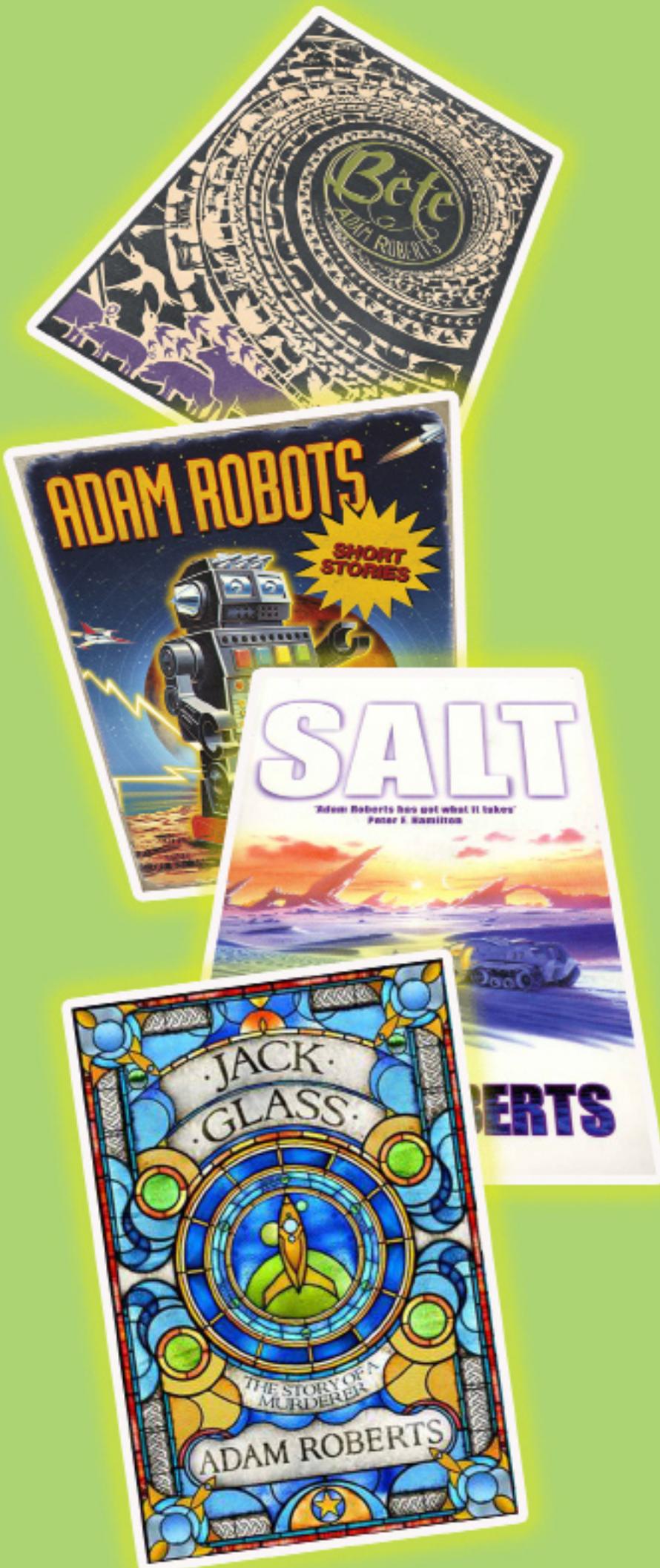
Sci Fi Prof Inspires His Audience

We were delighted to welcome Professor Adam Roberts – a former Langton student – to speak to Literature students. He gave a presentation entitled 'Becoming a Published Writer in East Kent' which was an amusing peek into the world of the author who is trying to get themselves published for the first time. He also ran a workshop with Yr12 and Yr 13 students analysing Vladimir Nabokov's "Signs and Symbols" which the Prof. announced is 'the best short story in the world!'

Adam Roberts was at The Langton from 1976 until 1983 and left to study English Literature with Classics at Aberdeen University.

He went on to read for a PhD at Cambridge University studying Robert Browning. He is now Professor of Nineteenth Century Literature at Royal Holloway College, London. He is also a prolific science fiction author and has published 15 SF novels, the most recent being "Bete" (2014). "Jack Glass" (2012) won both the BSFA Award and the John W Campbell Award.

He has also written several parodies, two short story collections, and criticism on science fiction, fantasy and nineteenth century literature, the most recent being a study of the Romantic poet Walter Savage Landor.



The Write Thing To Do

Oskar Lacina-Moser (Year 11)
reports

I was fascinated to hear Adam Roberts talking about his experience as an author and he gave us a lot of good advice for our writing and how to improve it.

This is what he said:

Tips on becoming a writer

1. Let's face it, you need a day job. Not an overly encouraging start, I know, but according to Roberts the average earnings for a professional member of 'The Society of Authors' (which he is himself) are £600 per year. Now you see the issue. A steady job for financial support is a must, it seems, and any earnings are a nice bonus.

2. The more you do the better you'll get. This is always good advice and sort of speaks for itself.

3. Don't worry about how bad it is. Don't be discouraged about your writing. First attempts are almost always bad and what you write is still good practice. For example, Roberts' first novel was called 'The Soul Transporters' which, according to him, was awful but still managed to get the attention of his current publisher.

4. No imitations! A lot of the stuff that publishers get are imitations of popular stories. Naturally, very few of these actually get published. Try to avoid this by coming up with more original ideas such as Roberts' on-the-spot example of, 'Four morbidly obese middle-aged men undertaking naked primal scream therapy in a house in Hertfordshire.' Of course, some ideas will be better than others but don't give up.

Apart from this, there are some special rules to follow when writing.

These have been singled out by Roberts and are absolutely vital:

The Three Golden Rules

1. You Must Write (and enjoy it). There's no use in dreaming and thinking, 'Oh, wouldn't it be nice to be a writer?' If you want to write just give it a go!

2. You Must Finish What You Write. Many might dread that, 'don't worry! Keep going!' might be the last words you'll ever hear but finishing something is vital. If you don't finish work you'll end up with tonnes of material and not one single story. Once you've finished you can go back and revise what you've written and improve it so that the end result is better than the first draft.

3. Show, Don't Tell. Writing (in particular, science fiction) lends itself very well to a more visual medium such as film. The thing that films do is that they physically show the story, this is partly why they are so successful and interesting. If you can manage to show something in writing (such as in the description a character) rather than just telling the story) it will often read better can be much more engaging.

Well, these were the fundamental ideas that Roberts gave us to follow if we so wish. It goes without saying that writing is exciting and a great thing to do and is definitely worth trying.

Many thanks to Dr Askey (pictured below with Professor Roberts) for arranging this visit



NEWS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

In recent weeks we have have enjoyed a busy programme of events.

Back in November we held our second Christmas craft fayre which raised approximately £650, and we have been supporting the monthly star-gazing events at the Star Centre by providing welcome refreshments and a warm reception to beat the chill outside!

We also ran a bar for the 'Gift of Life' concert organised by some enterprising year 9 boys as part of their Arts Award, in aid of Dr Obote College.

The forthcoming jazz event promises to be an excellent evening and we will be running a bar conducive with a typical jazz club atmosphere!

We are delighted to have agreed several recent requests for funding:

Portable lighting stands for Drama

Dedicated iPad for Arts Awards and

Hockey goalie kit for the 6th Form Girls' Team

As you may have noticed, the open-air theatre behind the Star Centre is taking shape with much of the ground-work now complete. This will be a fabulous addition to Drama provision and we are delighted to have made a large contribution towards this. We look forward to its unveiling in due course.

As ever, if you would like to get in touch, please email langtonparents@thelangton.kent.sch.uk

My Name is Professor Soderholm and I Am A Logophile

by Prof Soderholm



Serendipitously allow me to tell you about an obsession of mine. I was ten years old when this obsession began. Today I am more obsessed than ever. No, it has nothing to do with food, cars, sport, money, religion, death, or global warming. My obsession is so outrageous that it has no name, so I have given it a name. I call it logophilia. At the very simplest level, logos means 'word' and philia means 'love'. The roots of logos, however, grow in a deep, rich and mineral-laden soil. All at once the ancient Greek word means: word, ground, premise, reason, plan, divine immanence and divine transcendence (hence, the idea that Christ was logos incarnate, the word made flesh). I have loitered until closing time at many Canterbury pubs with wordy friends, inking up menus and serviettes in an attempt to tell the story of λόγος. It is a magical word conjuring up some of the most beautiful ideas that homo sapiens have used to make sense of the world. The ravishing speech with which Plato dialectically reasons his way to the truth is logos. And for the Stoics, the logos spermatikos was the generative principle of the Universe. Logos is a seminar unto itself.

Being a logophile means being obsessed with words. I love words the way some people love horses, rugby or Guinness. I fell headlong into a love of words because I realised that words were more fun to play with than my friends and because words had a strange power over people. Having no natural power over anyone since I was a lad, I relied on the power of words to dazzle, cajole, vex, hex, bully, amuse, or bemuse those within earshot. I played with words and words played with me. I bulked up my vocabulary the way other boys built their biceps.

My first, favourite word was "irrigation." I liked the way it sounded and I imagined that the word itself flowed into little grooves, nourishing plants with its shimmering tendrils of water. I later learnt that there is a word for words that sound like what they mean. Onomatopoeia. It was thrilling to discover that words have supple bodies as well as wistful souls. And yet what kept me awake at night was trying to find a word for onomatopoeia that was, well, a bit more onomatopoeitic. But what word could that possibly be? Can you think of an onomatopoeitic word for onomatopoeia? I wanted to use the word sizzle but it was already taken. The word onomatopoeia is so unonomatopoeitic. That troubles me the way barren wives troubled Henry VIII.

The next phase of my logophilia was acoustical hell for anyone around me. I began to make puns. I would go far out of my way to make puns. When someone scolded me and said that

puns were the lowest form of humour, I retorted that Shakespeare punned constantly and that Hamlet could not open his mouth without punning. Hamlet's first line and his last breath are puns. I became obsessed with the dark corners of my own pun-conscious mind. I loved referring to pre-natal twins as "womb-mates." I wanted to learn about Middle Eastern dairy products in Jerusalem just so I could start a business called "Cheeses of Nazareth" (motto: Fromage is Homage). I wanted to have a black pony so I could call it "Nightmare." I wanted a black kitten so I could call it "Inkling." I thought it was hilarious, if a bit ominous, that Lord Byron referred to marriage as "Holy Padlock."

A fellow punster, my father also taught me lots of big words: those polysyllabic and prodigiously elephantine creatures that I used to trample people who got in my way. Dad told me that the longest word in English is: pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanconiosis. This is a lung disease common to coal miners. I use to go around saying the word as much as possible and inventing pretexts for using it even more. I would enter a room and cough miserably and then say: "I've been cleaning out the barbecue and I seem to have a rather bad case of pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanconiosis." I once ran to the school nurse and shouted, 'Oh my god, I think I have pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanconiosis!' She immediately sent me home and I spent the rest of the day eating cinnamon toast and making a fort out of my dictionaries. I also love portmanteau words: words made up of two words: for example—Oxford + Cambridge = Oxbridge. Prim + sissy = prissy. Fourteen + nights = fortnight. My least favourite blended word? Infomercial, followed by Blog. I want to strangle the person who invented those hideous words. Is there a word for big words? Oh yes! It is sesquipedalian. I love long, twisty words that uncoil like a snake slithering languidly to its end. Do I like word games? Let's put it this way: crosswords puzzle me, boggle my mind, and scrabble the imagination so much that I want to be a hang-man.

When I was sixteen I got hooked on palindromes: words and phrases that are spelt the same backwards as forwards—words such as mum, dad, radar, racecar, "Madam in Eden I'm Adam," "Do geese see God," and my all-time favourite palindrome:

a man a plan a canal panama

What made me rather cross was that the word palindrome was not itself a palindrome. And when I discovered that the word anagram itself contained no anagrams, I could not sleep for days. It just seemed so wrong. I

often stay awake at night thinking about words. "In the beginning was the Word. What a gloriously redundant way to begin a book! In the end is the Word as well, for we end up as words on grave-stones. I have already written three epitaphs for myself. One of them is: "See you soon!" From womb to tomb, we are wordy creatures. When wife is buried with me, we can be tomb-mates. Having spent our lives composing and publishing books, we can spend eternity de-composing together.

Etymology was like that first view of the sea using goggles and a snorkel. One word became a school of darting, iridescent fish. Definitions were so simple and boring but etymology is where the action is. I loved tracing the roots systems beneath words. It is fitting that the word "radical" gave me special pleasure. Radical, radish. Square roots. Tap roots. To be radical is to be rooted, not revolutionary, which means to go around. To be radical is to go back to one's roots. To pull a word out by its roots is to be an etymologist. I plunged into root systems like a happy mole. I dove into the emerald cove of etymology the way others plunge into bodies, music, alcohol, or careers. For me, every new word was a new world and I was at once the Galileo and the Columbus of great reaches of etymology. Now my sleepless night are a crusade to discover the etymology of 'etymology', to find the meaning of 'meaning', and to invent a paronomasia (pun) so deliciously clever that it will turn all those obtuse angels in heaven into delightfully acute angels.

When I learnt that English professors actually get paid to play with words, I went right out and bought all the stuff you need to be an English professor: a PhD, a fancy gown, some nice grey hair around the temples to look distinguished. And so I have spent thirty years professing my love of words. I want my students to get good results and go to whatever university they choose. But more than anything I want to show them how to fall in love with words.

My new favourite words are: ululation, sand, monkey, pepper, voluptuous, London, pistachio, undercroft, lips, echolalia, subcutaneous haematoma, or bruise. I love the sound of all those words. I have recently been re-introduced to the word 'discombobulate'—the word itself makes one jumpy and out of sorts, like a Hoover with its hose turned on itself.

I suppose I can sum up my obsession in the following way: the Word is my Shepherd. I shall not want.

txt-speak, txtese, chatspeak, txt, t+tspk, txtk, txto, texting language, txt lingo, SMS, stanog

Regular Langton News Contributor English teacher Mr Peto asks

2b or not 2b – is texting bad for our language?

A few years ago, John Humphreys, news presenter and quizmaster on Mastermind, wrote an article for the Daily Mail on texting, proclaiming it was 'wrecking our language', 'pillaging our punctuation' and 'savaging our sentences'.

As an English teacher, it was put to me that I was probably of the same opinion – that our language, as enshrined in that holy of holies, the Oxford English Dictionary, was suffering barbaric attacks from teenaged hordes, intent on mindlessly destroying centuries of enlightened prose and poetry. So is texting the death-knell of our beloved language?

My answer – not at all. In fact, quite the opposite. Rather than a clear and present danger, the practice of texting shows how language changes and evolves over time. Here's a guilty secret – I've even (in-drawn breath...) used 'text-speak' myself. Like many perceived threats, the danger is not that it exists, but that it is used inappropriately. Would a letter of application to your dream job look good in text? No, it would be the first one to make it the bin. Would you write the personal statement on your sixth form or university application form in text? No, for the same reason. As for much of language, the issue is one of formality, what the 'rules' of a given situation are, and how much you want to impress the audience with your style of writing.

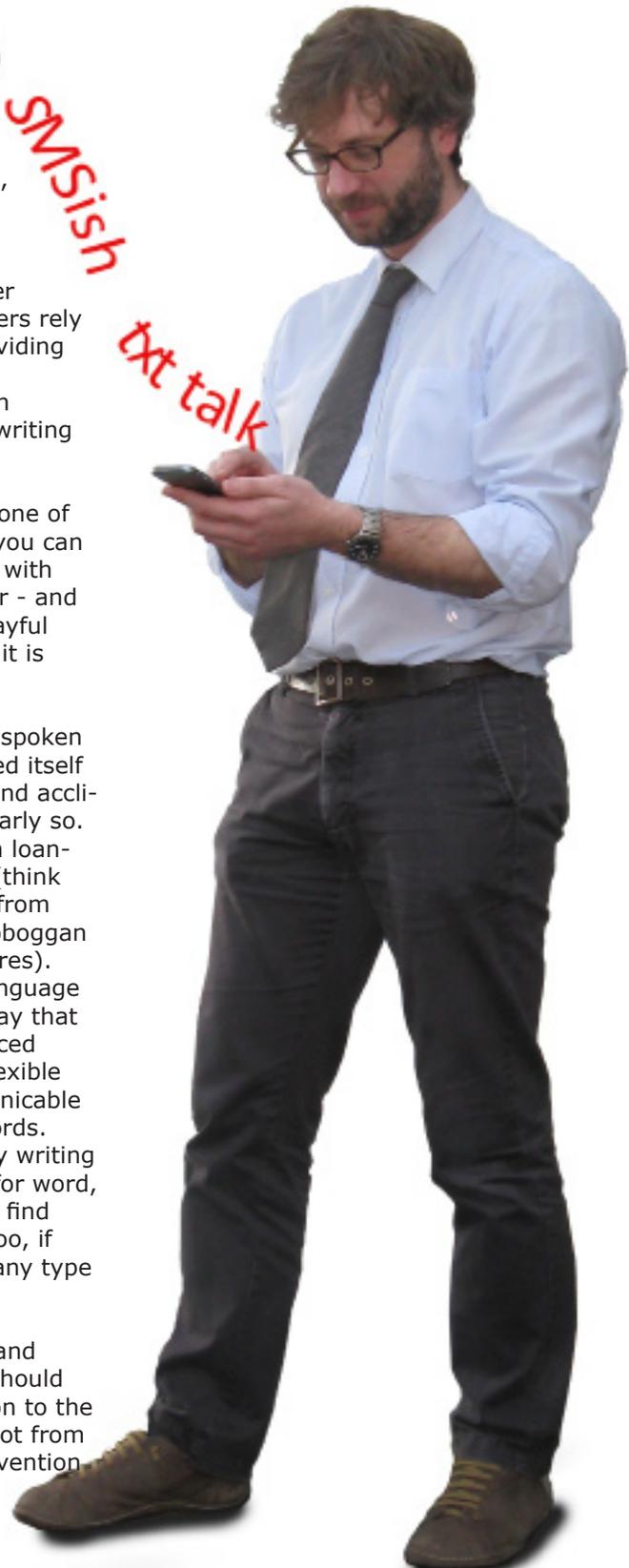
It is in the medium of the text that text-speak has thrived and by definition this is writing at its most informal. Originally, texting was envisioned as an easy way for telecommunications engineers to talk to each other. The 160-character limit was in place from the beginning, and it has been this fact that has stimulated such invention and/or bowdlerization (depending on which side of the fence you are on). When such a limit is

in place, the onus is certainly upon abbreviation, shortening and creative solutions to expression. Rather than limiting communication, it can foster ingenuity. Professional writers rely upon this all the time - providing catchy copy for advertising slogans, thinking up puns in newspaper headlines, and writing poems, novels and plays.

Children quickly learn that one of the most enjoyable things you can do with language is to play with its sounds, words, grammar - and spelling. The drive to be playful is there when we text, and it is hugely powerful.

Language, and particularly spoken language, has always proved itself to be adept at adaptation and acclimatization, English particularly so. Our language is awash with loan-words from other cultures (think bungalow, chutney, jungle from India, or anorak, moose, toboggan from native American cultures). Think of the way spoken language differs so much from the way that it is written. The text is placed half-way between both – flexible like speech and yet communicable over distance as written words. Yes, it can look ugly, but try writing down what one says word for word, sound for sound, and you'll find that to be fairly unsightly too, if you were to compare it to any type of formal writing.

So, rather than an horrific and monstrous mutation, text should be seen as a curious relation to the language, a genetic off-shoot from the main, an example of invention and creativity that displays language evolution in process.



Langton Student on Winning Innovation Team

An innovative app to encourage more people onto bicycles was selected as the final winner from more than 120 entries in this year's Transformed By You challenge. The challenge, the brain child of Kent Connects Partnership, was launched last Autumn inviting residents, tech developers, students and budding entrepreneurs in East Kent to come up with ideas for improving public spaces through technology.

The winning idea was MyCycle-Kent, created by Frederica Lowndes and Langton student Sam Gooch. The app aims to connect less confident cyclists with experienced riders in their community, and pair up novice cyclists looking to set out on bike rides around Canterbury and Kent with similarly intrepid locals.

Sam told Langton News that "I came along with an idea to get people cycling safely and it was great to meet and form a group with others with similar interests. Between us we had people working on the concept and others working on the technology so the product came together really well on the day. Meeting lots of new people and working together on the project was a great learning experience and being able to apply my knowledge and skills that I've learnt in school in the real world was a good change.

"I'm passionate about cycling and am thrilled to be able to help share my enthusiasm with others and hopefully, we'll encourage more people to get on their bikes!"

More than 60 people attended the Innovation Day at the University of Kent to develop ideas submitted as part of the challenge. During the day they worked in teams to create prototypes of their proposals which were presented to judges as wireframes, sketches, models and code. Other ideas presented ranged from a pop up art market to meal sharing to a waste and recycling app.

The MyCycle team has won a package of support, worth £20,000, to help make the product idea reality. Provided by organisers Kent Connects and sponsors Cisco, Barclays Bank. Kent IT Consulting and Canterbury Christ Church University, the team will benefit from development, business and marketing advice over the coming year.



British Parliamentary style debating is a demanding, fast-paced style of debating which is practised by the leading UK Universities, including the Oxford and Cambridge Unions.

At the Langton Debate Society we have worked hard over the last year to cultivate a high standard in British Parliamentary, and have entered local and national competitions – the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Competitions, the English Speaking Union's Mace Debating, the Kent Southern Schools (hosted by the University of Kent) and the International Competition for Young Debaters.

As well as the formal competitions and several stand-alone friendly debates against local schools, we hold our Langton Debate Society meetings at 4pm on a Thursday in room M5. We usually have a 'short

prep' motion, which means students get 15 minutes to prepare their case, either for or against the motion. This year, amongst others we have had:

This House Believes atheism is the only way

This House Would allow the buying and selling of human organs

This House, as the US Government, would unilaterally disarm our nuclear weapons

And, seasonally, the debates of

This House Would go trick-or-treating and This House Would free Santa's Elves.

This academic year, for the first time ever at the Langton, we have broken to the second round of the

Cambridge Competition – a huge achievement for our two teams, who are up against some of the best practised debating schools in the country. Sam Dale, Daniel Appiah, Victoria Baines and Johnny Allain-Labon worked well in their teams, knew the principles behind the motions, spoke with clarity and conviction and continued to pressure the other teams with relevant points of information. As a school, we're relatively new to British Parliamentary, so to be in the next round of a competition like this is a very significant achievement for the teams.

BP Debating is about the rational, analysed argument that the speaker makes. It teaches the skills needed for essay writing especially – develop a well-supported case, make as few assumptions as possible and clearly highlight flaws and failings in your opponents' case. Debating Society is currently open to Year 10 – 13 students and we welcome new people – come along to M5 after school on a Thursday. After Easter we will open Debating Society to Years 8 and 9 for the inter-house debate competition.

News of Old Langtonian

Some of the oldest surviving Langtonians who were at the Simon Langton Boys School in the middle 1940's may remember Peter Lunney. He had an older brother, Henry, there at the same time. Peter went to the Langton in 1945 and left in 1948 when his family moved to Northern Ireland.

The school in those years was in the centre of Canterbury, much damaged, as was a large part of the surroundings, by bombing during WW2.

Fully involved in school sports, he went on to have a remarkable 60 years with his cricket club in Northern Ireland, the Civil Service (N.I.) C.C. Through those decades he was a player (opening batsman), Match Secretary, Honorary Treasurer (7 years), Chairman and latterly President.

Having reached 80, and suffering health problems, he has reluctantly retired. He has also just celebrated his Golden Wedding.

At the Club's Annual Dinner in October he was presented, to a standing ovation, with a splendid glass plaque "in recognition of his outstanding service to the C.S.(N.I.)C.C."

The Club's Chairman, knowing of Peter's 45 years as a Life Member of the Kent County Cricket Club, had contacted them. Peter, to his great surprise, received a letter from them signed by the K.C.C.C. President Graham Johnson congratulating him on his fine achievement and enclosing two tickets for a match of his choosing.

Peter has been a qualified umpire for many years. He stood in 5 international matches including N.I. v India, many Cup Finals and regional matches. Also, he has been an Oral Examiner for applicants wanting to become fully

qualified umpires.

In addition, he has been the PA announcer at International matches including the first N.I. v England match.

Now living in Portadown, N.I., he would glad to hear from any old SLBS school friends. Phone No. 02838 351078



Health and Space: Maps and Medicine

The newly revived Geography Society invited Dr Chris Millard, Wellcome Trust Humanities Research Fellow, Queen Mary University, to visit the school and were delighted when he accepted. On 15th January 2015 he gave a lecture to a packed hall on the subject of Health and Space: Maps and Medicine.

Year 12 student Zoe Ward was there:

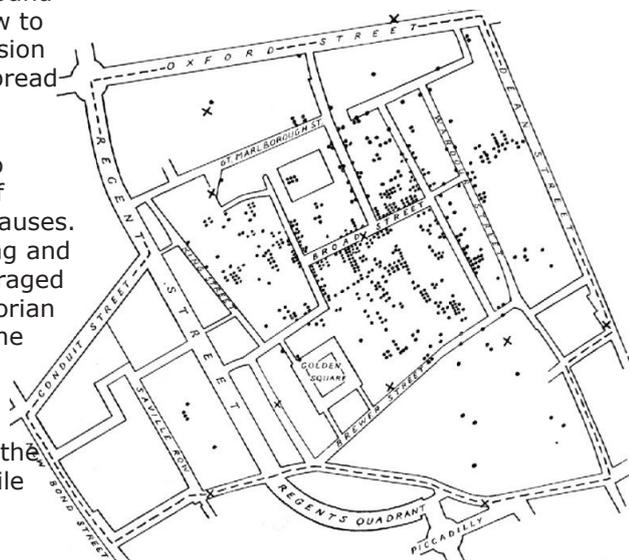
As a student studying geography and biology, I often find the opportunities to combine what I learn in each subject are few. This lecture outlined the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach to topics like epidemiology (the study of disease).

Within the lecture, Dr Millard touched on John Snow's 1854 cholera map - showing the distribution of cholera cases on a

map of London. This map allowed Snow to carry out 'detective' work to establish how cholera was transmitted even before the germ theory of disease was ascertained. This was at a time when the dominant theory was that diseases like cholera were caused by 'bad air' and pollution. The clusters of cholera cases around public water pumps led Snow to come to the accurate conclusion that cholera pathogen was spread through water.

The lecture progressed on to mental illness and the use of maps to ascertain possible causes. Dr Millard's talk was engaging and interactive - we were encouraged to go through the steps Victorian physicians used to identify the avenues for disease, looking at maps to find correlations between key points and clusters of disease. All in all the talk was extremely worthwhile and enjoyable.

John Snow (1813 - 1858) was an English physician and a leader in the adoption of anaesthesia and medical hygiene. He is considered one of the fathers of modern epidemiology. His findings inspired fundamental changes in the water and waste systems of London, which led to similar changes in other cities, and a significant improvement in general public health around the world



US AMBASSADOR VISITS THE LANGTON

The school has been fortunate to host a number of distinguished guests over the years from Government Ministers to the Governor of the Bank of England, renowned academics to the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University.

Last October Year 13 student Nabhan Malik, on behalf of the Langton Politics Society, welcomed United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, His Excellency, Mr Matthew Barzun.

Nabhan introduced the Ambassador to a packed hall saying 'my fellow students and I are fascinated by your story, in particular your experience as an internet pioneer, the fourth employee at CBS CNET Networks, where you served as Executive Vice President and later, Chief Strategy Officer. In 2012, you served a pivotal role as National Finance Chair for President

Obama's re-election campaign and you continue to play a key role in the President's long-term strategic foreign policy objectives.

Matthew Barzun told the assembled 6th Form students that 'the UK is America's closest friend and ally.' He went on to speak on issues such as the economy, American foreign policy, US gun law, freedom and democracy and international security. He used his hour long talk to dispel many myths about America, pointing out that while the US spent \$2 trillion on the Iraq War it owns none of the oil fields in the war torn Middle Eastern nation.

Accepting that America has its issues he said that 'the US is deeply imperfect. In the 1860s we had the Civil War and then in the 1960s we had the civil rights movement. However, the story of America is about ever widening who is in and who has

rights, Barack Obama was the first to say that just because we have a black president, we are not living in some post-racial bliss'.

The Ambassadorship to the Court of St James' is widely regarded as the most prestigious position in the United States Foreign Service and has been held by various notable individuals, including five who would go on to become President of the United States. Should Barzun ever achieve these lofty heights Nabhan hopes that he will remember his visit to the Langton. 'Simon Langton is much more than a secondary school – it is a gateway to a wealth of knowledge and new experience. We are a school that believes strongly that the curriculum is just a foundation for our ideas and imagination to flourish and expand into things greater than ourselves.



Ambassador Barzun was officially sworn in by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on 15th August 2013 at the Department of State in Washington, DC. The Ambassador, or Chief of Mission, is the highest ranking American official in the United Kingdom. The position's full title is "Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary". It is "extraordinary" in that the Ambassador is the personal representative of the President of the United States to Her Majesty the Queen. The "plenipotentiary" in the title indicates full power to negotiate. As well as being responsible for the work of the various sections of the Embassy, the Ambassador coordinates the activities of all departments and agencies of the United States Government with representatives in Britain.

The ambassador and the embassy staff at large work at the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square, London. The official residence of the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Court of St James's is Winfield House in Regent's Park.



OH! WE DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE!

Chamber Choir Tour to the Isle of Wight 2014

By Augy Allain-Labon 10M2 and Adeel Jafree 10M2

Delivering an eclectic range of choral music from all different periods and genres is precisely what we aim to do in Chamber Choir. From Rutter to Russian liturgies we try and cover it all, and that's exactly what we did this Christmas in our annual tour of the Isle of Wight.

Leaving on a cold Friday morning, with our first scheduled concert that evening, we sped off to Southampton in order to catch our ferry to the island. The coach granted the luxury of one person to two seats - a

minor improvement from last year's two people to each seat! On the ferry, somebody had the idea to start up a little sing-song of Barbara Ann, in front of all our fellow passengers. They clearly couldn't appreciate good music; our audience was a bunch of blank-faced holiday-goers, who, unfortunately, began to shuffle away from us uncomfortably once we had started singing.

Before long we had hit land, and were in the coach again making our way to Gurnard



Pines, our accommodation for the weekend. Upon arrival, we found our rooms, got changed into uniforms and then made our way to Mrs. Temel's bungalow for a well-earned and well-needed hot meal.

Our first concert was held in a nearby church. It was a great success and we were well praised by the audience, who were enthralled by the performance (more than the ones on the ferry, at least). Sadly, two of the younger singers had fallen ill and so couldn't join in with the singing. We then made our way back to our bungalows with our heads held high for an exquisite supper and a few rounds of Psychiatrist! (A favourite amongst all members of the chamber choir).

The following concerts were also very well received and appreciated, but by the end we were all extremely tired from the packed schedule. However, one of the highlights of the trip was our attempt at a "flash mob", singing Barbara Ann (again!) in

Morrisons - Mrs. Temel's idea, not ours! Nerves and excitement brewed within us as we inconspicuously entered the supermarket, congregating near the vegetables. Expecting everyone to be gobsmacked by our stunning display of music, we began to sing our hearts out, but alas, the reaction wasn't quite what we had expected. We received some lovely warm smiles, a few confused faces and one grumpy telling off for Mrs. Temel from the security guard. On that note, we made a hasty retreat to the town centre, where we were given free time to browse and look around.

All in all, this tour was yet another wonderful experience, thoroughly enjoyed by all the musicians, despite the dreaded lurgy. Of course, we would be nowhere without the wonderful staff accompanying us - Mrs Temel, Mrs Collman, Mrs Roshna Ahmad and Mr. Noah Collman, you have our sincere thanks and great appreciation.



More Music

Latest news from the Music Department by Mrs Temel, Head of Music

Following a very busy and successful Christmas, including the Chamber Choir Tour and Cathedral Carol Service, we moved straight into a fortnight of special singing events.

The Male Voice Choir plus altos joined a group of primary schools for a Three Choirs festival in Canterbury Cathedral. Chamber Choir also had a busy time preparing an audition submission for the Kent Top Choir, an offering in the Dr Obote Charity Concert and their own post-Isle of Wight tour concert at St Dunstan's Church in Canterbury, where they performed an eclectic mix of music in magical candlelight. We celebrated the quality and enthusiasm for singing at the Langton with our Singers Concert, where we heard vocal offerings from across the year groups, from staff and from all of our very own choirs, of which there are currently five!

At the time of writing Dr Bailey and Steve Waterman are working hard with our jazz musicians, in preparation for the Jazz Gig on February 13th. Dr Bailey is also running a regular piano workshop, held once a fortnight on a Tuesday lunchtime for our KS4 and 5 pianists.

The following one will take place on 3rd March.

Dr Bailey will also be running a listening class after school every Tuesday (starting on 24th February). These sessions will involve listening to and discussing an extraordinary range of music. These classes are open to the whole school.

Our KS3 Independent Learning projects have taken on an exciting addition in the form of Canterbury Christ Church University Music in Education students joining us in the classroom to team teach and offer their skills and experience to our students. This is an amazing opportunity for everyone and we hope that the boys will take advantage of all that is offered to them.

This term our Monday after school rehearsals are devoted to Concert Band, with which we are preparing for the school concert on March 10th and a coffee concert on March 14th (see below for more details). Orchestra rehearsals will

resume after Easter, in preparation for Commemoration, alongside which we will rehearse two concerts for soloists in our sixth form. All other ensembles are rehearsing as normal, preparing for the school concert and other smaller events around school and in the local community.

We have booked a trip to the Royal Albert Hall in London to see the Royal Philharmonic perform the "Best of Broadway". Tickets are available to students, staff and parents; there are only 49 seats available, so contact the music department to avoid disappointment.

Tuesday March 10th 2015 7pm
School Concert (To include Steve Waterman Dream Team)

Saturday March 14th 2015 10:15am
Coffee Concert at St. Mary's Church Chartham (Concert Band)

Monday 23rd March 2015 5pm
A Level Mock Recitals (School Hall)

Tuesday 28th April 2015 7pm
A Level Recitals (School Hall)

Final Bash – Year 13 Musicians to organise - Date TBC

Wednesday 6th May 2015 2:30pm
Commemoration Service in the Cathedral

Exam Successes Autumn 2014

Charutha Senaratne
Grade 8 Piano with Distinction

Christian Emptage
Grade 5 Theory with Distinction

Max Shilling
Grade 7 Trombone with Merit

Well done to all three!

Please let us know when you take an instrumental exam; we are required to log your musical progress; it is also lovely to be able to celebrate your success.



Languages Take To The Stage

On the 21st January the Drama studio was packed out for the inaugural European Theatre Evening. The language students taking part had all rehearsed their parts and were ready to perform scenes from plays that they are currently studying for their language A Levels.

Report by Alastair Bryan supported by Mrs L Santana

I have often been amazed at how effective drama is to capture the attention of the students in the MFL classroom. Drama activities would sometimes have surprising and unexpected results and on this occasion it was not an exception.

The European Theatre Event provided an excellent platform for exploring theoretical and practical aspects of the French, German and Spanish Language. Even when the lines were forgotten, the improvisation aspect gave our students opportunities for developing their communicative skills in authentic and dynamic situations.

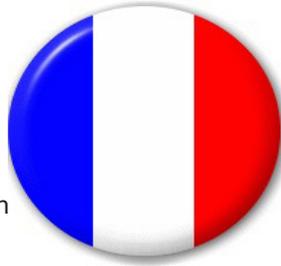
In this project, we truly saw the teachers in the role of supporter in the learning process and the students took complete responsibility for their own learning. It brought literature to life for the students and for the parents and staff who supported us in the evening.

Apart from the obvious development of communication skills that we saw, it also encouraged leadership, team work, compromise, authentic listening skills and practice with real life savoir-faire. However, it did not stop there. The students were amazing and demonstrated many of the attributes that we promote, such as cooperation, empathy, decision making skills, exchange of knowledge, confidence, self-acceptance and acceptance of others, pride in work, responsibility, problem solving, management and organizational skills, creativity and imagination. We shouldn't underestimate this powerful teaching tool to reach our students.

Below is a brief summary of each of the plays performed. Of course, this evening could not have gone ahead without the help and support of Miss Taylor and the Drama and Theatre Studies Department. Hopefully such events can be held in the years to come!

LES MAINS SALES

was written in 1948 by the famous French writer/philosopher Jean Paul Sartre.



The play is set in the imaginary country of Illyria (Eastern Europe). There are three main characters in the play: Hoederer, Hugo and Jessica. Hoederer is the leader of the communist party, Hugo the young secretary who has recently come to work for Hoederer and Jessica, Hugo's flirtatious wife. The play is both political and philosophical, it was produced by Sartre when he was trying to reconcile his existentialist philosophy with Marxism. The play was banned in many communist countries including the Soviet Union, to the dismay of Sartre.

Hoederer: Callum Dock, Hugo: Alastair Bryan, Jessica: Kate Dent

DRAUBEN VOR DER TÜR

(The Man Outside) by Wolfgang Borchert



It is a play by Wolfgang Borchert, written over a few days in the late autumn of 1946. It made its debut on German radio on 13 February 1947.

The Man Outside describes the hopelessness of a post-war soldier called Beckmann who returns from Russia to find that he has lost his wife and his home, as well as his illusions and beliefs. He finds every door he comes to closed. Even the Elbe River rejects his suicide, washing him up on shore. The play ends with what can be assumed to be Beckmann's death.

Due to its release during the sensitive immediate postwar period, Borchert subtitled his play "A play that no theatre wants to perform and no audience wants to see." Despite

this, the first radio broadcast (February 1947) was very successful.

The first theatrical production of The Man Outside opened on the day after Borchert's death, 21 November 1947. The play consists of five scenes in one act. It makes use of expressionist forms and Brechtian techniques, (such as the estrangement effect) to disorient and engage its audience.

Der Vorleser: Niklas Hoegel
Beckman: Henry Cox
Der Andere: Victoria Baines & Isabel Mitchell as Mädchen: Megan Jones

BODAS DE SANGRE

(Blood Wedding) is one of Federico Garcia Lorca's best-known plays but its murderous plot was in fact based on a snocking article from a Spanish newspaper.



Written in 1932 and first staged in 1933, its plot describes the arranged marriage, largely for financial reasons, of a young and attractive bride and a shy and diffident bridegroom.

During the wedding reception in Act II, the bride runs off with her true love, the passionate and handsome Leonardo, to whom she had been attracted from the age of 15 but who is now married and has a small child. Their elopement is, of course, a source of dishonour to both families and in Act III they are hunted down, especially by the jilted bridegroom and his relatives.

As with much of his other work, Lorca based his play on a real life situation. However, in approaching Blood Wedding we should also be aware of the many cultural influences which fed into the play, notably the dramatist's familiarity with classical, flamenco and traditional Spanish music, with the traditions of Andalusia in general, and with Greek tragedy. All of them combined to transform a real life event into high art.

El Novio: Adam Maryosh, La Novia: Steffie Felton, La Mujer: Jasmine Norton, La Criada: Elena Gus-Tarazona, El Padre: Alex Harris, La Madre: Kimberly Hicks, Los Mozos: Harry Edwards & Rory Coulson-Tabb

Ich bin ein UN-er

by Yr 12 student Dan Appiah

The Langton was honoured to be invited to the GLOMUN model United Nations conference in Berlin.

The Bertha-von-Suttner Gymnasium, to whom we are linked through the sixth form German exchange, played host to almost 400 students representing 200 countries in a crucible of heated discussion, frenzied debate and judicious diplomacy. The simulation of the Human Rights Committee of the UN addressed the growing issue of the global refugee crisis, particularly in the Middle East and central Africa. The issues raised are real life problems that face UN diplomats. We had a first-hand account of the complications of international relations.

We were soon ready to hear the opening speeches in which a selection of delegations outlined their nation's policy on the matter up for debate. The General Assembly were a courteous lot, but as the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, it is jolly difficult to convince everyone that a sustainable solution to the refugee crisis is the way forward when your own human rights record is...well ... questionable at best.

Delegates were divided in to committee rooms according to which continent they belonged. A European committee (mysteriously also containing the United States) seemed like a walk in the park when compared to the Middle Eastern committee which was a practical anarchy of political tension and history. Some delegations, such as that of Israel, fulfilled their role to a T; filibustering at every opportunity, and making frequent spiteful remarks about Palestine. I never thought I could feel such seething resentment from across a room.

Due to the lack of initiative from other delegates, or perhaps due to trademark Langton boldness, we, as the Syrian Arab Republic, ended up sponsoring our committee's resolution. Like cardinals in Conclave, we were confined to our committee rooms to quibble and

quarrel over the relentless onslaught of clauses and amendments that were brought to the table. Delegates' decorum drained as the days went on, with Qatar having to step in at one point to prevent Israel from decking Palestine. What was once furtive discussion had turned in to outright contention. Suddenly, delegates who were quietly cautious to begin with and had not ruffled any feathers were now laying out demands like a sulking geopolitical diva. Even so, gradually, little by little, our resolution began to take shape like a phoenix from the ashes of our past disagreements. Albeit a very debilitated and contrived phoenix. However, our twelve labours had not been completed. We had the herculean task of trying to convince the General Assembly, in a three minute speech, to vote to discuss our resolution further on the last day. I'm not saying I gave a rousing speech, but call me Winston: thunderous applause abounded as I yielded the floor back to the chair. But typically, the US had to wade in where they weren't welcome and say something; the most realistic thing to happen in the whole conference. Though the delegation of the US seemed flustered, and could ultimately say nothing of meaning, perhaps still in awe of the lyrical sermon I had just laid down.

In a stirring turn of events, we were decimated at the vote, in scenes reminiscent of Attlee's landslide victory of '45. We were now condemned to the arduous task of debating the resolutions of Latin America and Europe. As if committee deliberation wasn't bad enough, the General Assembly was a mobocracy of 400 delegates all trying to jam ill-fitting policy in to the skeleton of a resolution. We were no longer able to put forward our resolution, but that didn't mean we had no agenda. In an all too common display of solidarity to hack off America, Syria and its Arab comrades, along with new-found international support, cross-examined the ghost of what was once a rather good resolution. Nevertheless, anti-American sentiment knows no bounds, and at the eleventh hour, the damage had been done.

The final speeches seemed to last for eternity, as nervous looking delegates stole glances at the clock, as we crept ever closer to the end of the conference. We couldn't just leave without passing a resolution and waste three days' meticulous work. It was time. Like Pericles' funeral oration to the



Athenians, I took the podium and lauded the glory of the delegates who had fought so hard to pass an honest and fair resolution, I condemned the likes of Israel for impeding our honest intentions, and

I begged the Assembly to not let the failed resolutions die in vain, and to oppose the US' resolution for the good of our United Nations.

The flickering flame of faith had sparked an inferno of optimism. As I left the podium bathed in applause and glory, the room began to settle like a sea mist. There was calm. The room was transfixed. Without warning, voting began.

First we were to vote on the US resolution. Eyes darted, brows sweated. Thoughts of promises to be fulfilled and deals to be broken weighed heavily on our minds. After a few nervous minutes of voting, the edict of the Secretary General rang out like music. "The resolution of the United States has failed to pass".

A bout of elation was quickly followed by coy optimism. This was it. Three days' work had come down to the wire. Our collective hearts dropped as the result was announced.

"The resolution of Latin America has passed with an overwhelming majority. Clapping is now in order."

Euphoria. We had done it! It had been a long three days, but for all the time, effort and heartache that had gone in to the resolution, it had passed with flying colours. There had been disagreements, there had been squabbles, and dare I say that for a brief moment, there had been comradeship. We had achieved something truly great.

Good friends we had made, and good friends we were to lose. We had the consolation of a final knees-up at the school to say goodbye to our new trans-European group of friends, but it was over.

All of us had the most wonderful time in Berlin and had learnt so much about the intricacies of international relations whilst improving our debating and public speaking skills. We are all extremely thankful to the host families which housed us for the duration and, of course, to our teachers Messrs Moore, Raines and Fox who arranged it all.

Those attending: Dan Appiah, Michael Booth, Bella Brant, Rachel Lawrence, Robert Pieters, Janani Ragavan and Michael Ratcliff (all Year 12), as well as a group of five students from the Canterbury Academy.

Authentic Biology - From Strength to Strength!

Report by Dr Dave Colthurst



For the past six years, the Myelin Basic Protein Research Project (MBP2 for short) has been running at the Langton. This is an original research project carried out by sixth form students working in a dedicated research laboratory in the school – so far, over 500 students have taken part in the project.

The funding for this work has come exclusively from the Wellcome Trust through their Public Engagement programme of grants. For the first three years, the funding came through People Awards, but with encouragement from the Wellcome Trust, we applied for a Society Award asking for £252,000. We were successful in this bid and a new project, Authentic Biology was formed.

This is a collaboration between five schools nationally, ourselves (as project leaders; Cotham School in Bristol; Tapton school in Sheffield; St Paul's Way Trust School in Tower Hamlets and Peter Symonds College in Winchester. Each school is working closely with its local university and they have all developed their own research projects allowing students to carry out original research in their own schools.

The three year funding for Authentic Biology was due to finish in

December 2014, but due to some careful budgeting (and the generosity of the Wellcome Trust in hosting our symposia) we have been able to continue the funding of the projects to the ends of this academic year.

Not wanting to see all this good work go to waste, we applied for an extension to the funding for a further two years and I am pleased to announce that shortly before Christmas we were told that an extension award had been approved. This takes the total amount of funding to over £500,000! The added bonus is that we will also be able to include a further two schools in the project, the Archbishop's School here in Canterbury and the Parkside Federation Academies in Cambridge. Each of these schools will now be able to devise and establish their own research projects with the help and support of staff from the Langton.

It is very gratifying that it is possible to run a project like this, involving hundreds of students across the UK and we are indebted to the Wellcome Trust for their continued support and guidance. It is also true to say that the project would have floundered without the support of the various university departments involved and we are particularly grateful for the support that we have received from staff at the School of Biosciences at the University of Kent, some of whom have been working with us for seven years now!

I am very much looking forward to managing this next phase of the project and I will let you know about the various projects in future Langton News articles.

Third Authentic Biology Symposium

By Dr Dave Colthurst

One of the highlights of my year is the Authentic Biology Symposium – why? – because I get to organise it, so I get to choose the invited speakers (also it is a really good day out!).

So what is all the fuss about? Three years ago, the Wellcome Trust gave us a grant to establish Authentic Biology, a national network of schools undertaking genuine research based on the success of the MBP2 project here at the Langton. There are five schools involved and part of the application was to hold an annual Research Symposium where students would gather to present talks and academic posters about their work.

November saw the Third Symposium being held at the Wellcome Trust Headquarters on Euston Road in central London. Having had transport issues in the past, we decided to let the train take the strain and so a small advanced party set off early from Canterbury West to be followed an hour later by the bulk of our twenty five students who had been selected to represent us at the symposium, escorted by our very own Dr Parker, Mr Holloway and Mrs Bradley.

The Wellcome building is very grand and we were given the entire sixth floor for the symposium – security is also very tight, so I was somewhat

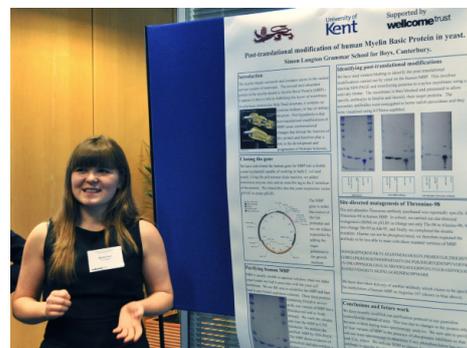
concerned that with only 10 minutes left before the scheduled start, there was only our advanced party and a half dozen Wellcome staff present – it then transpired that everyone else was in the building, but were in the process of being checked in and escorted to the lifts, so nothing to worry about there.



The day was introduced by Clare Matterson. Her previous role in the Wellcome Trust was Director of Culture and Society, but she has recently been promoted to Head of Strategy. All of the funding for our work has come from the Department that Clare used to run and she has always been a very keen supporter of the projects. She then introduced her “boss” – Jeremy Farrar, the Director of the Wellcome Trust.



Dr Farrar has been in post for just over a year and one of his first engagements last year was to visit the second Authentic Biology Symposium, so it was real pleasure to have him speaking at this year's event. He spoke to the title “Global Health Matters” and for eighteen years before returning to the UK, he had been the Head of the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam, so he was able to give a very knowledgeable insight into the major medical threats that the world faces. He then took questions for about twenty minutes and these ranged far and wide over issues like Ebola, sanitation and tropical diseases.



How do you follow the Director of the Wellcome Trust? – with the Langton, of course! Our three intrepid (and more than slightly nervous) team leaders, Izzi Gilmour, Izzy Gooderham and James Carroll stepped up to the podium and gave a flawless presentation about MBP2.

Once he had finished, James asked if there were any questions, and to his horror, several people started to quiz him on the details of the project – he handled them all with great style and humour before stepping down and starting to enjoy the rest of the day.

Our talk was followed by a presentation from students at the Tpton School in Sheffield. Their project is called “How to mend a broken heart” and they are working with scientist at the University of Sheffield to identify genes that are associated with heart disease. They are working with Zebra fish embryos and have started to make their own in-situ hybridisation probes in the school. They showed some amazing sections of embryos, and when they were asked how they had prepared them, they confessed it was down to sheer

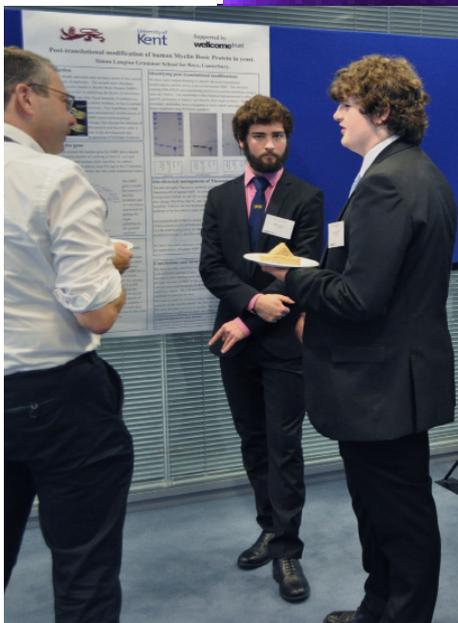


luck and a fine scalpel blade!

The last talk before lunch was given by students from the St Paul's Way Trust School in Tower Hamlets. More than 85% of the students at this school are of Bangladeshi origin and their project focusses on diabetes which is particularly prevalent amongst this group. They are using a molecular biology test for different forms of the FTO gene which is linked to the development of diabetes and they are using processed blood samples from the local population to screen for variants of this gene. The school are about to open dedicated research laboratories which have been established to allow the students to continue this work.

Lunch at the Wellcome Trust is always a treat and as the students tucked into the sandwiches, they also circulated amongst the posters that each school had produced. There was a real buzz to the session as students and academics debated the finer points of the projects and exchanged ideas – a perfect introduction to a “real” poster session and an important part of the professional responsibility of a scientist to explain and promote their work.

Lunch was followed by the ever popular “Ask the Panel” question and answer session. As in previous years, this was led by Hilary Leever, the Head of Education at the Wellcome Trust. The panel consisted of our very own Professor Mick Tuite from the University of Kent, Professor Wendy Barclay from Imperial College London, Katy Stubbs, a post-graduate researcher from the University of Southampton and Victoria King who is currently working at the MRC National Institute for Medical Research but who is also one of our first students to pass through



MBP2 here at the Langton. After each of the panel members had introduced themselves, they were subjected to a barrage of questions from the floor quizzing them about their motivation for being in research, the opportunities it offered and the rewards it gave. It is always fascinating to hear about different people's experiences in research, very few people follow a “classic” route and it shows students that there are many ways to fulfil your ambitions to undertake meaningful and important research.

Professor Wendy Barclay then swapped her role on the panel to that of second speaker for the day as she gave a brilliant talk on “Saving the world from the next influenza pandemic”. She gave a very clear introduction to her work with viruses and how they are able to mutate to defeat our immune system – she then touched on the rather worrying prospect of deliberately engineering viruses to be even more potentially dangerous, but explained that this was one of the best ways to study them to try to stay one step ahead of them. At the end, she answered a number of very good questions, demonstrating once again the high quality of understanding of the audience.

Next up were the students from Cotham School in Bristol. They are also using Zebra fish embryos, but their work is focussed on genes involved in inflammation and cancer. They started carrying out a detailed data analysis using sophisticated bioinformatics programmes, but once they had identified some candidate genes, they started

their work with the fish embryos which they hatch and grow in the school labs.

The last presentations of the day came from students at the Peter Symonds Sixth Form College in Winchester. They are working with scientists at the University of Southampton who have introduced the students to a range of techniques and model organisms including *C. elegans* (a tiny worm) and *Drosophila* (the common fruit fly). They have used these organisms to investigate the effects of different stimuli ranging from caffeine to Prozac and they have then written these up as practical Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs).

I had the pleasure of wrapping the whole day up with some closing remarks – it is truly amazing what school students can achieve with a little encouragement and support. As I said in the introduction, the day of the symposium is one of the undoubted highlights of my year, and I can't wait to start organising the next one – now, who should I ask to be a speaker this year.....?



The Ultimate Selfie?

A self-portrait is an exploration of your face and personality.

Portrait of a Man in a Turban by Jan van Eyck of 1433 may well be the earliest known panel self-portrait. With better and cheaper mirrors becoming widely available during the mid-15th century we begin to see artists more frequently depicting themselves as either the main subject, or as important characters in their work.

Year 10 Students were asked to consider lots of things before they started their portraits – one of which was the use of colour – how different colours made them feel, did they suggest different moods? Should they use their favourite colours to convey something about themselves?

We hope you will agree that the results are outstanding.



Students Get the Most out of Auto-Naut Data

On Wednesday 28th February 2015 Dan Alldis, a Naval architect and engineer, from MOST (AV)Ltd visited the school to talk to the 6th form about careers in engineering.

His visit has led to an exciting partnership between the Company and the School. In 2011 Most AV Ltd developed the unique Auto-Naut wave propulsion system as an autonomous vessel designed for scientific ocean research, commercial data gathering, and defence applications.

Data collected by Auto-Naut - an Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV)- will be sent to the Langton to provide our students with the opportunity to deal with real, scientific data. The way in which the data is processed and presented will be entirely up to the students involved – they can write their own programs and will be in constant contact with MOST (AV) Ltd for help and advice. It will be a wonderful experience for all budding engineers.

Cal Gets a Gridd Certificate



Congratulations are in order for Cal Hewitt in Year 11. Cal will become the first student to be given a Gridd Certificate, a digital security certificate which will allow him to be part of Gridd PP.

"The Grid" is the next leap in computer interconnectivity. The Internet and the World Wide Web are increasingly an integral part of

people's lives, helping the world share information and transfer data quickly and easily. GridPP is a collaboration of Particle Physicists and Computing Scientists from 19 UK universities, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and CERN, who are building a Grid for Particle Physics.

Funded by the government, through STFC, it is the UK's contribution to the international collaboration building a worldwide Grid, the wLCG. With the Large

Hadron Collider, the world's largest particle accelerator, running at CERN the grid is being used to process the accompanying data deluge. The UK grid is contributing more than the equivalent of 20,000 PCs to this worldwide effort.

Most of the users who hold certificates have doctorates and beyond so it is quite an achievement and honour for a 16 year old young man.

Could 2,000 Year Old Pollen Hold The Key To Woodland Evolution?



The Langton Geography Research Group (LGRG) was established in September 2014 to provide Sixth Form students with the opportunity to undertake extra-curricular research. The group are currently collaborating with Oxford Universities to explore changes in an ancient woodland over the last 12, 000 years.
Report by Sian Denley, Andy Matthews, Amber Silk, and Sam Thomas

A small team of students are currently investigating how the landscape of Wytham Woods, designated an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and a Priority Habitat by the Government's UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), has changed over the last 12, 000 years. This project is being run in conjunction with Oxford University (who own the site) and Oxford Brookes University (who are involved in the management of the site).

In December 2014 Andrew Matthews and Amber Silk (Year 12), and Sian Denley and Sam Thomas (Year 13) travelled with Dr Rushton to Oxford for a project meeting with Dr Helen Walkington (Principal Lecture in Geography, OBU) and to visit the exhibition about Wytham at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

The Wytham Project involves analysing samples of pollen grains, preserved in the peat of Marley Fen (in the eastern section of Wytham woods) over the last 12,000 years. The fen is endangered as it is at risk of drying out due to temperature increases and recent planting of coniferous trees. If the fen were to dry out records of

climate and ecological change, and the biodiversity currently supported by the fen would be permanently lost. Researchers have described this balance between THREAT (due to drying, erosion, trampling, climate change) and VALUE (aesthetic, scientific, intrinsic, economic, habitat, rarity, education) as the CONSERVATION NEED.

It is clear that Marley fen has value and needs to be protected and conserved but it is the job of the students from the Langton Geography Research Group to ascertain how the woodland has changed in the past so to inform how it might evolve in the future. To make decisions about this ancient woodland, we need to use pollen grain samples from the 12,000 year period to analyse changes in species composition over time. We will be investigating links with climate change and human activity and how different factors have had a role to play in the development of Wytham Woods.

Later the same month Langton team travelled to Oxford once again to meet with Dr Walkington to discuss the project and importantly to collect samples of the peat core

for analysis back at the Langton. We spent three hours in the laboratory carefully selecting and sampling along the core which is over 4m in length. There was also an opportunity to view some examples of pollen grains under the microscope which had been found in a shorter core, taken from Marley Fen over twenty-five years ago, including those from lime (Tilia), pine (Pinus), elm (Ulmus) and oak (Quercus) trees. The visit to the Wytham exhibition at the Natural History Museum demonstrated the range of interest in Wytham including scientists, artists and the general public and was also a reminder of the importance of public access to and engagement with research.

The next step for the Langton team is to familiarise themselves with the key species of plant pollen before beginning the analysis of over forty samples from the Marley Fen core early in 2015. The team agree that this is a huge opportunity for students to carry out high level undergraduate geographical research during their sixth form years and the experience of contributing to a written paper for publication will add a further dimension to their university applications.

Stop Press! *The Langton Geography Society has just announced the following Lectures. All are open to any interested parties - venues yet to be confirmed*
29th April – Vanessa and Phillip Farnham, Canterbury Food Bank, 'Local Food Security'
5th May – Dr Rebecca Kent, CCCU, 'Gender and Development in India'
15th May – Cressida Williams, Canterbury Cathedral Archives 'Magna Carter'

Star Centre Update

by Dr B Parker

Mathematics in a Lather

The school year got off to an exciting start in September with the first lecture of the year. Dr Cyril Isenberg visited the Star Centre and gave a fascinating insight linking the beauty of bubbles with the science behind them, using soap to solve mathematical problems.

Dr Isenberg said: "Mathematicians have been trying to work out area problems for years. By using the soap film you can provide an analogue solution... and it gives them a guide of trying to find an analytic solution to these problems. It's a subject where everybody can do the demonstrations and see for themselves the interesting properties."

In 2012, Dr Isenberg's 1976 article on the subject was one of a set of "classic articles" selected by American Scientist to celebrate their centennial. Professor Mark Burchell, Dean of Kent's Faculty of Sciences, said at the time that he was delighted Dr Isenberg's article had been recognised in the prestigious journal. "For many years he has given his highly popular talks linking beauty and art of bubbles with the equally beautiful science that explains them."

Star Gazing

October saw the start of the Public Observing sessions. These are fascinating evenings run jointly with the South East Kent Astronomical Society (SEKAS). As well as observing the night sky there are talks and competitions. These sessions take place monthly between October and March and are open to all. If you would like more information please contact Mr Champion, Head of Physics rchampion@thelangton.kent.sch.uk

Festival Lectures

We were fortunate to be involved in the annual Canterbury Festival. We hosted two of the Science lectures. The first saw 'dare devil' TV and radio science presenter Greg Foot take us on an epic journey up Everest to experience the science of high altitude survival.

The second lecture - by Professor Robin Franklin - which was a fascinating and informative lecture on recent developments in research on discovering ways to encourage myelin regeneration and developing regenerative treatments for people with Multiple Sclerosis. Students

involved in the MBP2 project spoke about the research work they had been carrying out.

CERN Visits

October ended with 50 students travelling to Switzerland to visit CERN, it was a very busy but enjoyable weekend with a jam packed itinerary. The group was treated to a trip to Geneva and then to Chamonix to go up the Aiguille du Midi via cable car. A further 49 students followed in their footsteps and visited CERN in November. As well as the visit to CERN, the students went to Chamonix and up to the Mer de Glace (the largest glacier in Europe) and the Ice Cave via the Montenvers Train.

MoEDAL

December was a very exciting month for us!

For the first time, a school has joined a high-energy physics experiment as a full member. Students from the Simon Langton Grammar School, have become participants in the newest experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. Students from the school will help the MoEDAL experiment at CERN seek evidence of magnetic monopoles, microscopic black holes and other phenomena.

We were very fortunate to have six of our Physics students, along with Dr Parker, travel to CERN on 16th-17th December 2014 to install detectors at the MoEDAL site in the LHC. It was a very significant event as not only do few people are able to go down into the cavern (apart from those working there) but the cavern will soon be closed in preparation for the next wave of experiments in the LHC next spring.

Students Go Crackers!

We finished the year on a high. The Times Newspaper asked Langton sixth form students to pull 1,000 crackers to see the most efficient way to pull a cracker. The experiment, designed by the sixth formers Toby Freeland and Sam Gooch, required 20 pairs of students to pull 48 crackers, using four different methods: a normal one-handed pull, a two-handed pull, a twist and a pinch. Each possible permutation was tried by each pair four times. So it was that, amid a fusillade of bangs and a lingering smell of gunpowder, the first of 1,000 badly-moulded toys,

badly-made hats and bad, bad, jokes were set free. Professor Peter Vukusic, from the University of Exeter kindly came to give the proceeding the authentic science feel. Immense fun was had by and they all went away with party hats, bad jokes, and plastic toys ready for Christmas.

Speedy Chess

by Charutha Senaratne (11 S2)

On 14 Sept 2014 two teams of six players drove up to Eton College to take part in the 2014 English Chess Federation Secondary School Rapidplay Chess Tournament. The first team consisted of Michael Green, Cal Hewitt, Mano Sathyamurthy, Charutha Senaratne, George Butcher and Hussein Al-Kazwini. The second team consisted of Arjun Johi, Will Peak, Dennis Stokes Carter, Bruno Lindon, Abhishek Shenoy and Dharmashi Madhu.

A total of 227 players, making up 38 teams and representing 29 schools from 14 different counties, took part in the event and in the five rounds that took place, over 500 games were played. This event was Langton's first inter-school chess event for a long time and can be considered a great success. The Langton first team came joint 12th place with Eton College team (the host), with a total of 14 points. The Langton second team came joint 16th place with several other schools. It must be noted that most of the other teams in the tournament had a far greater involvement with chess than Langton and contained more experienced and skilled players.

Special thanks are in order to dads Mr Green and Mr Peak for driving us to Eton.



Food Security Essay Challenge

Geography teacher Mr Cassidy challenged his students to write an essay to highlight global food security issues. **Oscar Parrick's article, reproduced below, was deemed to be the best and Oscar will receive a book token for his efforts.**

Kenya has provided the UK with French beans for a long time. However, they it is now facing a food crisis - yet continuing to feed us.

There are millions starving while we have an adequate food supply. So why have they not stopped exporting green beans and instead used their crop to feed their own people? The truth is the Kenyans would not be able to afford such a fine crop. Although lots of crops are being turned down and since the food crisis began, the turn down rate by the UK has increased from 10% to 25%, these crops could be used to feed the hungry natives but instead are used as animal feed. I think the situation needs to be improved as Kenya is now in a famine.

WHO'S INTERESTED?

On the other hand, the farmers are happy selling their French beans to the UK as this is one of the best jobs around. Statistics state that they get £630 a tonne, so even if it is a good job by Kenyan standards, the farmers only get 12% of the money earned per tonne overall.

Then the supermarket owner comes into it. He buys the crop from Kenya and sells it in his supermarket. For every tonne produced, he receives 45% of the final price, about £2,500. Then of course there is the customer who gets to eat the beans that Kenya has produced.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Because of the trade between the UK and Kenya, Kenya has seen economic growth which has helped the country develop greatly. As a result of the industry many people have a stable job and are now able to educate their children. However this hasn't helped the famine – but why is there famine? Let's find out...

GLOBAL WARMING.

The famine that has occurred has happened because the land has been too dry to grow food. This is to do with global warming. Global warming is to do with letting off greenhouse gasses such as carbon-dioxide. Greenhouse gasses create a blanket around the Earth, letting the sun's heat in but not out again. Global warming creates less rainfall in certain areas therefore making the land very dry. This famine is quite ironic

because part of what has caused it is the huge cargo planes a.k.a. burning-fossil-fuel-machines flying over from the UK to Kenya and back again.

Profit Table (per tonne)

Farmer	£630	12%	
Exporter	£290	6%	
Airfreight/handling	£1040	20%	
Importer	£620	12%	
Supermarket	£2500	45%	
Packaging	£280	5%	
Total	£5360		

SUMMARY

In conclusion, whilst Kenya may be suffering from famine, I believe the trade between the UK and Kenya should continue as it is helping Kenya develop as a country. But, I also think that it would be a good idea to stop burning so many fossil fuels as this affects the world greatly or will affect it in the future. Finally, any crop that is turned down by the UK should be offered to the natives as this may help alleviate the current famine crisis.





Game 0

Yr 11 student Abhishek Shenoy has developed his own gaming app. He tells Langton News how he went about it

I first started making an app in MIT App Inventor in Year 8 for the Apps for Good course with my teacher Mr George but, due to the lack of time, my group was not able to complete it on time. This did not disappoint me though - it made me more determined to make an app independently. I started to venture out on the Internet to learn programming.

n!

In Year 8, I started out doing Scratch and I came first in a national competition run by the magazine PC Pro winning £250. Soon after, I went on to Codecademy and learnt Python, HTML 5, CSS, JavaScript, Ruby and PHP. I was intrigued by all this knowledge and I went on to do more research on programming and computers and I soon learnt how hacking worked, how programs were made, how to make a simple operating system, how servers worked, how android apps were archived into the 'apk' (android package) format and a lot more.

I was also interested in the game engines and so I searched and found Unity 3D. Many famous games, including Call of Duty, Subway Surfers, Dead Trigger 2, Kerbal Space Program and the most recent Monument Valley were made on this professional game engine. Unity 3D taught me a little of C# and C++ and I worked on Unity projects at home to create simple 3D games (using mostly JavaScript since it was easier).

However these projects were not very suitable for publishing and I did not have an android publishing license at the time. So I searched for easier to use and more advanced game engines and then I found a 2D game engine which was

very simple to use but arguably less advanced. I decided I would get used to the game engine and start making my own games later.

When I started to think about making a game, I had no original ideas so I decided to ask my friends Ben Waters, Bruno Harvey, Sam Waters and Joe Watkins to draw sketches of an idea for a game. From those ideas I found that Ben's was the most suitable 2D game and Sam's was the most suitable 3D game.

However neither of them were completely original and I quite liked Bruno's idea for simplicity.

Ben's was based on Flappy Bird but the bird was a ball and it bounced on the ground instead of flying in the air while Bruno's idea was a platform game. I decided to merge the two and came up with an original idea! Ben named it Happy Roll.

From then onwards, I developed the graphics to suit the name and came up with a good looking game. I increased my knowledge on ADs, IAPs, Facebook and Google Play Game Services so that I could implement them in my game. Due to Corona Basic being relatively expensive, I could not integrate IAPs and due to IOS requiring an annual payment, I felt that it was cheaper and more convenient for me to develop on Android. Android has a larger group of consumers but it also meant that my apps were less likely to be visible. My friends tried to persuade me otherwise but it was too expensive.

Bruno, Ben, Sam, Joe then helped me to improve my game by telling me any glitches or bugs and suggesting ways I could improve it. Bruno and Ben designed some more levels and both helped to make my description for Google Play. Jatin Sharma, Jacob Warren and my sister in Simon Langton Girls, all great critics, outlined design flaws and were of a great help when I had to check



over the UI and over my new social integrations. Since I spent 6 months on making Happy Roll, I decided to submit it for the skills' section of my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

I recently entered the Google Code In competition and I have to admit the challenges **were** challenging and I had to do as many tasks as I could in the 50 days limit. Each task could last up to 5 days and were reviewed by Google mentors. Sadly, I didn't win the competition but all those who completed 5 or more tasks get a t-shirt and mine should be coming very soon!

I have also released a new game called Gravity Line which now has over 1500 downloads and I hope to improve it later on and create other games too. Using my programming skills in Python, I am now helping LUCID for their science project. It is very challenging and interesting and it is a mixture of all my favourite subjects (Maths, Physics and Computer Science). I am very excited about the opportunities in Langton and how my capabilities can help me and the society advance and progress in future.

arts award

ABOUT ARTS AWARD

The Aim of Arts Award in the UK is to support young people to develop as artists and arts leaders. Their Mission is to support young people who want to deepen their engagement with the arts, build creative and leadership skills, and to achieve a national qualification. Through Arts Award's five levels, children and young people aged up to 25 can explore any art form including performing arts, visual arts, literature, media and multimedia. The award builds confidence, helps young people to enjoy cultural activities, and prepares them for further education or employment.

Arts Award is managed by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England working with 10 regional Bridge organisations. Since its launch in 2005, the award has grown quickly and is now flourishing in arts centres, colleges and schools, community projects, libraries, galleries, local authorities, theatres, youth clubs and youth justice settings.

Under the guidance of Mrs Kim Collman many Langton Students have benefited from the scheme.

One of them, Thomas Jefferies (9B) has written the following reports.

I am Thomas, a student who has completed Bronze Arts Award and I am in the process of doing Silver. I found the Arts Award Scheme very helpful because not only has it taught me more about arts that I enjoy, but I have also learnt that skills, such as confidence, do not only help with the arts, but in all subjects,

Another reason that I enjoyed the Arts Award is that the arts form does not have to be art design or music; it could be photography to architecture to dance and many

more. This leaves the arts award open to almost any interest you have and can be a brilliant way to learn new skills and achieve new goals.

The arts award helped me with independence because it is still teaching me how to tackle great tasks independently such as concerts, arts award evenings and virtual tours around Canterbury. However, the arts award also taught me about teamwork and collaboration because the whole team of arts award students must come together to share ideas and to give each other feedback to prepare for something like an arts award evening.

I also found that the arts award was an amazing experience because it was great fun for me and everybody that I had the chance to share my arts with. This created the experience even more worthwhile and exciting then I had ever imagined when signing up to the arts award.

I would recommend the arts award to anyone because even if you feel that you are not good at any arts because there is such a wide range you may discover a new talent that you didn't know you had and it will teach you some great life skills which will always help you wherever you are. I also think that the arts award is a great experience because it is most of all enjoyable and fun.

We congratulate the following students who achieved their Bronze Arts Award in January joining the twenty-one students who were awarded their Bronze last June.

Alfie Bramley, Isaac Brennan, Wilf Dibiasse, David Pattison, Alfred Gurney, Charles Noble, Edan Roberts, Jacob Lewis and Harry Shave.



COMIC CREATIONS

On December 12th Alfie Bramley had a comicbook launch in the library as part of his Silver Arts Award. Many of his peers and several teachers supported the evening by buying his amazing comicbook. Alfie was at hand to sign his comic and talk to his fans.



We are delighted to have launched the Silver Award which is enabling students to develop their leadership in the Arts. On January 26th Charles Noble and Olly Scargill ran a fantastic charity concert for Dr Obote College with staff and students performing to the delight of the audience. In September Augy Allain Labon, Josh Cotter and Adeel Jafree started an extremely successful music club with the Girls' Langton which meets in the Music Department every other week. The students have formed a choir as part of the club, which performed in a concert at the Girls' school as well as here in the Charity Concert.

As part of their silver arts Award projects students are expected to organise and run an event with only minimal support from their teachers. Charles Noble organised the Gift of Music Concert and reports on it below:

THE GIFT OF MUSIC CONCERT

At 7pm all the seats were taken, Olly and I were dressed in our best suits ready to compare the charity event that we had been organising for several months for our Silver Arts Awards. Although we have taken part in many concerts as musicians we had never organised one ourselves and to top it all we had asked several teachers to perform for the event. But as it happened it all went very smoothly and we really enjoyed it. Everyone was amazed at the high quality of performance by the teachers and the students performed with their usual high standard.

The teachers taking part were, Miss Grant, Dr Rushton, Ms Temel, Mr Johnson, Mr Pollott, Mr Howe and his band, Mr Moffat and Mr Nicki Little- and the student acts were also great- Harry and Laura Nicholson, James Mellon and Gabriel Scott, Wilf and Arthur DiBiase, Louis Dale, Liseli Briscoe, Henry Baxter, Adam Hu, Jacob Turner-Dore, Daniel Strandvik, Alex and Kevin John, Augy and Adeel's choir, Charlie Song-Smith and our quartet.

We would very much like to thank Mrs Solly for her extremely generous donation and announce that in total we made a whopping £537 for Dr Obote.

The Silver Arts Award Evening will take place in the hall on Thursday March 5th, which will include a photographic exhibition by Angus Aldis in the entrance hall.

For more information on the Arts Award programme please contact Mrs Kim Collman at kcollman@thelangton.kent.sch.uk

Girls' Try Just As Hard As The Boys

Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys is very proud to announce that we now have a Girls' Rugby Team!

The journey started back in September with a development day at Towers School in Ashford. Due to Academic commitments only six girls were able to make the session but, as it turned out they were the only 6 girls from all schools that had been invited! All six girls trained well with the South East Women's development coach and really enjoyed the session. A meeting was called the following week and by now word had spread and sixteen Girls attended - so we had a team.

From that point onwards between 14 and 20 girls turn up for training every Thursday night come rain, shine and, on one particularly pleasant evening, snow!

The rate of development has been phenomenal. All the girls are excellent athletes in their own right and have transferred skills learnt in netball, football and hockey to develop into very good rugby team.

Their first test was in a friendly Round-Robin 7s match with

Dartford Grammar and Maidstone Grammar School for Boys. Both Schools are formidable opponents in the boys game. Against Dartford which was all of the girls' first ever game of Rugby, Langton came out the blocks fast scoring 2 early tries. Everything that the girls has worked on in training was evident and the performance continued to improve with Langton winning by 6 tries to 1.

Maidstone Grammar was next. They are the current county champions so - no pressure! A physical encounter unfolded with both sides playing excellent Rugby.

Langton conceded 2 early tries but soon came back with a one of their own. Both sides added 2 more scores in the second half. The Langton, having lost so narrowly, could leave the pitch with their heads held high.

The Girls now have three weeks to prepare for the Kent 7s tournament and six until Rosslyn Park National 7s.

All the squad are in Year 12 at the moment so the future for Girls Rugby at Langton Boys looks bright!



Visit to No. 10

Written by Charlie Mower 11S1

On Thursday 5th February, funnily enough National Voter Registration day, a group of 15 students, Mr Butler and Mr Moffat went up to 10 Downing Street and the offices of the Daily Telegraph. This was a great opportunity for all, even though some of us were not politics students, and we were all incredibly lucky to have been chosen to come along.

After going through a sensor situated in a small hut in Downing Street, we arrived at number 10 where we were greeted by a policeman who ushered us in. After a short period of waiting in the entrance, three cockney Civil servants, who were slightly reminiscent of the Kray's, lead us into the Cabinet room. Mr Butler nabbed the Prime ministers chair and to our surprise, it was more the Civil servants themselves that were of interest, rather than the room. They told us stories about working with various Prime ministers (the oldest having worked with Thatcher) and how their job was

to 'provide some common sense to the politicians and their families'. For example, they disclosed to us how once, Sarah Brown (wife of Gordon Brown) was showing round the American First Lady, and gave a detailed description of one of the rooms, only to find that it was in fact a cupboard.

After this we ascended up the famous staircase, lined with a portrait of every Prime minister, and we went into the 'White Room'. This is famous for being the room where foreign dignitaries are photographed when visiting London.

The tour was fairly short, however after leaving the building and everyone having a predictable photo with the 'number 10' sign, we met John Hayes, an MP in Lincolnshire and the Minister of State for Transport. He spoke of how well he knows 'Julian' [Brazilier], the fact he was in Canterbury in January and then called over his colleague to tell her he was 'talking to the people'. Plebgate 2 perhaps?

Our next stop was the offices of the Daily Telegraph. We were shown round by a somewhat stereotypical Telegraph worker (pinstriped suit and a copy of the paper under his arm) who had worked there for 50 years. He took us to a room filled with computers and new technology. Here, we were given a talk by someone who explained how with technology, and the targeted reader of the paper is slowly changing.

We were shown a video of a camera drone filming villages in the Philippines after the typhoon. This was used both to take videos and could locate people who needed rescuing. It was a great talk and we got a huge insight into how the media was changing and what the future of it could look like.

Overall, the trip was a great success and we are all thankful to the Langton Politics Association - especially Nabhan -and Mr Butler for organising it.

