

# LANGTON NEWS

January 2009

Issue No. 140

Editor: Susan Begg



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Talks, Trips, Reports, Requests, Photos, Sport and ... much, much more!

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**If you would like to contribute to the next edition of Langton News, please email your article and/or photographs to**

**Susanbegg@thelangton.kent.sch.uk**

We are especially interested in hearing about your favourite music, computer games, hobbies, movies, etc. Don't worry about layout - just write about things that interest you that you think would interest others.

Parents are also welcome to contribute if they wish.

# BOINC!

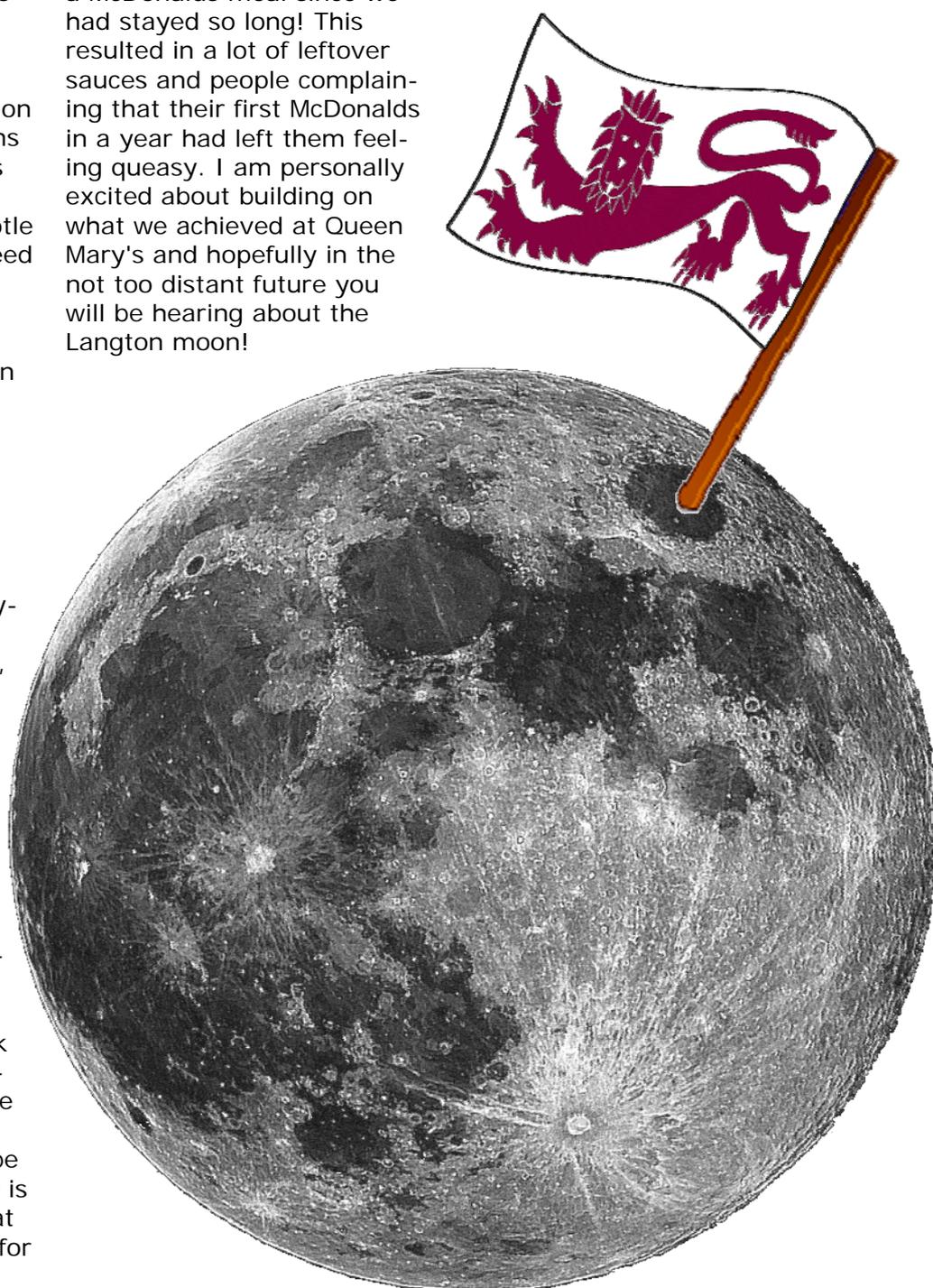
*By Arsham Ghahramani*

On Wednesday the 19th of November, Mrs Parker and her army of keen physicists went up to Queen Mary College, London. We were there to talk to Carl Murray (a leading member of the Cassini Imaging Team currently imaging Saturn's rings looking for moons) and Steve Lloyd (currently working on the ATLAS experiment at CERN). First up, Carl Murray. In the usual Langton style we got straight to business with Mrs Parker making it clear that the students wanted to be involved with Cassini in some form. After a quick explanation on how new moons are found (turns out the easiest way to do this is by people flicking between images and trying to detect subtle changes) Professor Murray agreed to give us all the tools needed and access to the data. The Langton has made a first step towards discovering its very own moon!

With plenty to think about, we pressed ahead to meet Steve Lloyd and two other particle physicists. This time there was chocolate and drinks involved which seemed to brighten everyone up. Steve Lloyd was particularly interested in LUCID, so the team was there to explain what we are doing and where we want to take the project in the future. This is where BOINC comes in! Professor Lloyd also happens to be head of the CERN GRID for particle physics in the UK and is currently using the LHC@home distributed computing network to carry out ATLAS calculations. BOINC (Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing) is a framework created to make it easier for people to use idle home computers for complex calculations. This will be particularly helpful when LUCID is expanded to include detectors at other schools making the need for

a lot of computing power to process all the data. The Queen Mary team also answered a multitude of questions, (a notable one being; What is the penguin uncertainty?) and gave their take on Peter's philosophical thought experiment regarding left-handed aliens.

As if the day needed any more value added we were treated with a McDonalds meal since we had stayed so long! This resulted in a lot of leftover sauces and people complaining that their first McDonalds in a year had left them feeling queasy. I am personally excited about building on what we achieved at Queen Mary's and hopefully in the not too distant future you will be hearing about the Langton moon!





By Mrs C Stretch

## Committee Report

Our new Mission Statement has been written to enable the volunteers to move forward in the ever changing role of the Association. Langton Parents is the parents' association at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys.

We have three aims:

- **to encourage good communication and relationships between parents/carers, school and students;**
- **to support the school in providing an excellent education to all students;**
- **to assist the school in its fundraising activities and enhance the students' experience during their time at the school**

All parents/carers are automatically members of Langton Parents when their boy or girl joins the school - a number of people have generously given their time and energy to the association over the years, but we are always keen to emphasize that this is your association, run for the benefit of your children and yourselves.

As a new wave of people come into the fold each year, we are keen to involve as many parents/carers as possible, to make best use of the skills and resources we undoubtedly have as a community and to provide the best support to our school.

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

An SGM is being held to ratify the new committee officers (Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary), the Mission Statement (Aims of the Langton Parents) and to agree a new constitution.

A separate flyer will be sent out to parents including the agenda or you can contact Catherine Langley (Chairperson) for further details.

All welcome – come along and meet us, share ideas and meet other parents.

*Remember that any parent who only wishes to help out at events, and doesn't feel that they want to be involved on the committee can do just that, we are always looking for helpers!*

## Wine & Wisdom Coming Soon

The Langton Boys Quiz Team is back to test your quiz skills in March – watch out for the date. The evening will be an 'American Supper' type event, ie. Bring your own food and drinks.

£5 per person (£3 Students), tables of up to eight. Booking Form and Tickets will be available from School Reception shortly.

## Burns Night

The largest event co-organised last year is back!  
See page 15 for full details

## Finally...

The committee members would like to thank Phil Day, who has retired from the committee after seven years, for his excellent leadership, organisational and motivational skills and his vision. He has inspired a new generation of committee with his dedication and ideas – Thank you Phil!

### Contact Details

**Chair:** Catherine Langley  
catherinelangley@fsmail.net

**Vice Chairs:** Maggie Hewett and  
Madeline Edwards  
maggie.hewett@sky.com  
mads1963@hotmail.com

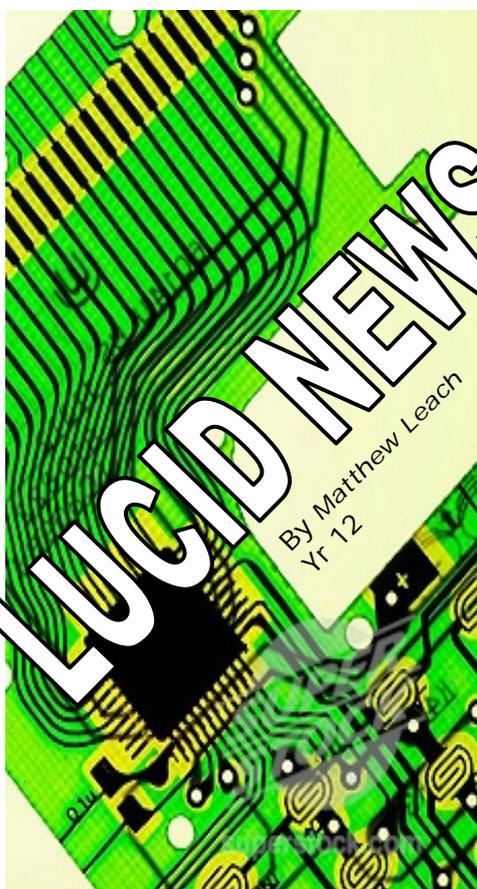
**Secretary:**  
Caroline Stretch  
carolinestretch@tinyworld.co.uk  
**Uniform Shop Contact**  
Carol Day – 01227 709364



On 24<sup>th</sup> November, a team of four senior economists took part in the regional heats of the national Economics competition Target 2.0. The challenge requires a team of four to give a fifteen minute presentation analysing the current economic climate and make an interest rate decision on how to best keep inflation at 2% +/- 1% CPI. There was then an intense fifteen minute session in which the judges (MPC representatives) grilled the students on their

presentation and economic knowledge. The team went for a 0.5% official rate cut and gave a sterling performance – beating top schools such as Judd, Tonbridge, Kings and Skinners but eventually lost to a rigid and scripted Cranbrook school.

Unfortunately, only one team could progress to the next round but the team gained economic cogency and confidence which will stand them well in next year's competition.



The key component of the LUCID (Langton Ultimate Cosmic Ray Intensity Detector) satellite is the medipix chip. It is at the heart of the detection process, and has diverse uses reaching far beyond our project, such as for medical imaging. The majority of the users of the chip belong to the Medipix Collaboration and the collaboration meets regularly. We were lucky enough to join them in their latest meeting at CERN and present our project to them, as well as witness their progress. Mrs Parker and the six of us set off around midday on Wednesday, and flew back on Friday, having presented on Thursday and met some of the world's leading scientists. The project was received with much enthusiasm. We not only managed to get in contact with various people conducting similar experiments, but CERN itself has also expressed interest in working

with us. Far from your average school trip.

Despite the serious focus of the trip, enjoyment was plentiful, ranging from the collaboration treating us to copious amounts of a Swiss delicacy, cheese fondue, to an event involving Peter, the top of a wardrobe, and a look of shock plastered across Tom's face. On Friday we descended upon Geneva for a morning of window shopping and chocolate buying as well as antics with the person-sized lockers at the train station and another certain Hugh Grant lookalike sighting. He seemed to pop up everywhere! Everyone really enjoyed the visit, and the general consensus was that the trip deserved a rating of g out of 10, 'g' being, of course, 9.81, the acceleration due to gravity on the Earth. Though, personally, I'd round the 9.81 up to 10.

# THANK YOU

A big thank you to Pfizer for their £500 bursary to MBP<sup>2</sup>. The money was spent on a second-hand shaker incubator .

We also received a number of pieces of Laboratory equipment form one of their Labs that was re-locating to the States – and thanks are due to Mrs Relfe for arranging this





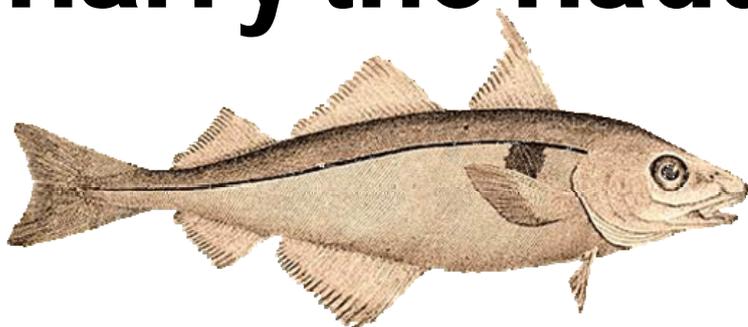
## Mr Mitchell has 18 Years Experience of 'Going Dutch'

The Langton has a proud tradition of offering a wide variety of trips and sporting tours to its students and this year marked the 18th annual hockey and football tour to the Netherlands. Leader of the tour, Mr John Mitchell, has accompanied most groups from the past 18 years and hopes to continue long into the future. "The tours are a bit of a religion for us now and at the moment I am finalising the last details of this year's trip and I have no

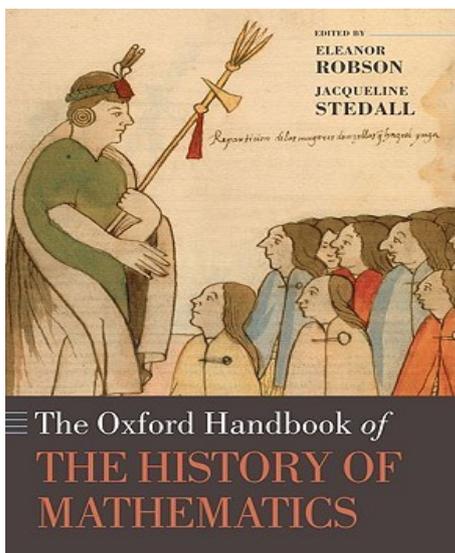
doubt that, as soon as we get back, I will be getting on with booking the next one." Mr Mitchell has experienced both Dutch destinations, Noordwijk and Valkenburg. "For years we toured Noordwijk but one year had to relocate to Valkenburg (which is close to the borders with Germany and Belgium) due to availability and we have continued going there every since. I hope that we go back to Noordwijk someday as it is a

fantastic destination, only about an hour's drive from Amsterdam." Langton teams are offered fixtures against local opposition as well as taking part in intensive coaching sessions and there is an end-of-week tournament followed by disco which is enthusiastically attended. "Keeping the students occupied is quite easy, as there is so much to do locally, including toboggan runs, laser-tag, pancake houses and bags and bags of sport."

## Harry the Haddock says...



Never put a sock  
in a toaster.



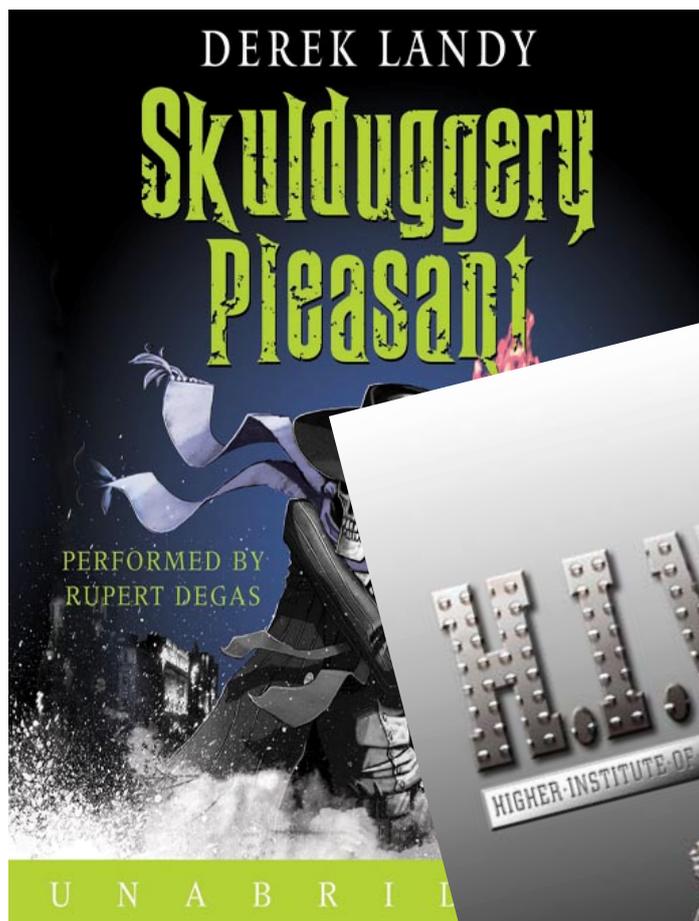
If you buy a copy of The Oxford Handbook of The History of Mathematics (although at the price of £85.00 you may prefer to borrow the Langton Library's copy) make sure you to turn to Chapter 2.4 - A Balkan Trilogy: Mathematics in the Balkans before World War I which was written by the Langton's own Dr Lawrence!

# All Booked Up

Last term, every boy in Year 7 received a free book from Booked Up, which is run by Booktrust, the national independent charity that encourages people of all ages and cultures to discover and enjoy reading.

There is more information on their website [www.bookedup.org.uk](http://www.bookedup.org.uk), as well as activities and competitions.

From the 12 books to choose from the 3 most popular were: -

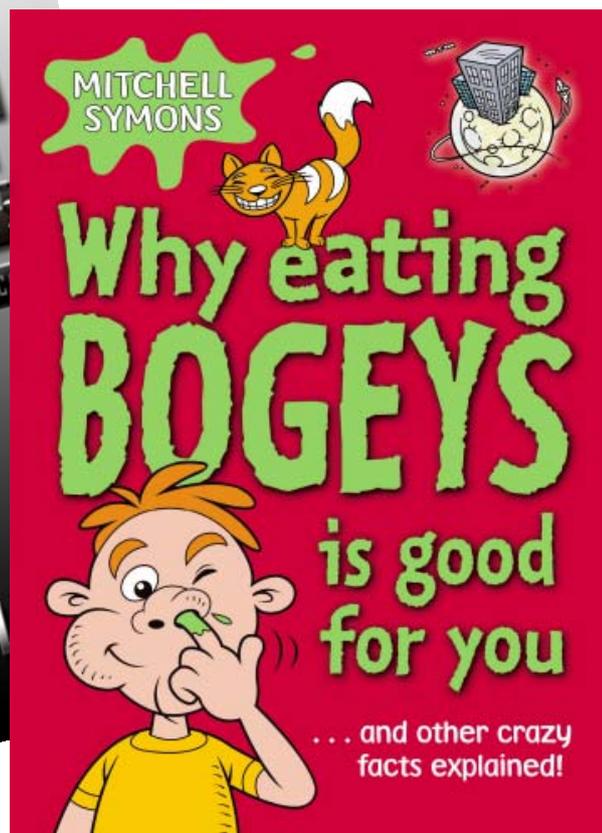


## *Skulduggery Pleasant* by Derek Landy

Skulduggery Pleasant is the ally and protector of Stephanie Edgley, a very unusual 12 year old and together they must defeat an all-consuming evil. But ace detective and snappy dresser, Skulduggery is actually a skeleton! This story is an exciting fast moving adventure and is followed by *Playing with Fire*. A 3<sup>rd</sup> book, *The Faceless Ones*, is due out next April.

## *H.I.V.E.* By Mark Walden

H.I.V.E., the Higher Institute of villainous education, is a top secret school of applied villainy where children with a precocious talent for wrongdoing are sent to develop their talents into criminal mastermind. This has been followed by two others in the series. *The Overlord Protocol* and *Escape Velocity*..



## *Why Eating Bogeys Is Good For You* by Mitchell Symons

This book is full of crazy facts such as Why is the Sea blue?, Why do we have tonsils? And is it dangerous to swallow chewing gum? And why is eating bogeys is good for you - it strengthens the immune system!

Another book in this fascinating series is *How to Avoid a Wombat's Bum and Other Fascinating Facts*. When being chased, a wombat can reach 25mph. It can then stop dead in half a stride. They kill their predators this way - the predator runs into the wombat's backside and smashes its face!

# TUDOR TALK

BY MRS A SHEPPARD



**Office Manager and Henry VIII enthusiast, Mrs Sheppard is an expert on all things Tudor and recently arranged for one of her heroes, author Alison Weir, to visit the school.**

The 19<sup>th</sup> November was a date that was etched in my mind since May when I first invited Alison Weir to come into school to talk to our year 8 boys about Henry VIII. As an avid reader of Alison's books (and many others) about Henry and his wives, I contacted her on the off-chance and asked her if she would be willing to come into school to do a talk to our students, and to my surprise and great delight she said she would love to.

Alison had prepared her talk which was based on her book "*Henry VIII: King and Court*". The book gives lots of detail about what Henry and life at court were really like, the intricacies of how the system at court worked. The hierarchy and bureaucracy are fascinating.

The talk started with Alison reading an extract from her book. In 1517, the papal nuncio, Francesco Chiericato, arrived at the court of Henry VIII and was stunned by its magnificence. "*The wealth and civilisation of the world are here*" he marvelled, "*and those who call the English barbarians appear to me to render themselves such. I here perceive very elegant manners, extreme decorum and great*

*politeness, and amongst other things there is this invincible King, whose acquirements and qualities are so many and excellent, that I consider him to excel all who ever wore a crown*". Alison spoke about what Henry was really like. He has a reputation of being a fearsome tyrant, but he did have a softer side to him. He could be kind, caring and generous and was capable of falling passionately in love (as he did with Anne Boleyn). Alison spoke of an occasion where he was renovating one of his palaces and had asked the workmen to work extra hours. At midnight, he visited them, thanked them for their work and took them ale and bread and cheese to show them his appreciation.

She also spoke about Henry's fun side. Yes he did have a fun side, particularly in his youth. He used to delight in dressing up as Robin Hood and would visit Katherine of Aragon and her ladies "surprising" them when he revealed his true identity. Katherine always played along with his disguises, indulging Henry's child-like side.

Contrary to popular belief Henry did show mercy at times. On one occasion, a courtier named Sir Edmund Knyvet was sentenced to

have his hand cut off as he had been caught fighting at court. Alison explained the great ceremony surrounding this event, from all the people that were required as officials to a chicken having its head "smitten off" before the sentence was carried out. Knyvet asked if he could lose his left hand instead of his right so that he could he could "*thereafter do much good service to His Grace*" so a messenger was sent off to the King to put this request forward. Henry was so impressed by Knyvet's loyalty and courage that he pardoned him and Knyvet kept both hands. Unfortunately, for two of his wives, such clemency would not be quite so apparent.

Henry was a great sportsman. He loved to ride and went hunting (in his younger years) almost on a daily basis. Henry loved Hampton Court palace mainly because the surrounding grounds were great for hunting deer. His other great love was jousting. His good friend, Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk was his opponent one day when Henry forgot to put his visor down on his helmet. The joust began and the lance hit Henry in the face, knocking him off his horse, leaving him lying on the ground, motionless. At this point Charles must have been somewhat worried and was probably waiting for the guards to arrest him; however Henry got up, shook Charles' hand and told him not to worry as it was his fault as he had forgotten to put down his visor. Not necessarily the reaction that we would traditionally expect from Henry, so, it seems he was also a good sport.

Henry was left his great wealth by his father, Henry VII, who was known to be miserly and mean. This gave Henry the cash to renovate his many palaces in a sumptuous fashion. He had numerous palaces, castles and houses dotted around the country and used to visit them, together with other venues when he went on his annual progress. Year 8 boys have already visited

Hampton Court this year which is an excellent and rare surviving example of Tudor architecture and a palace that Henry loved.

Henry was very extravagant and also loved to spend his money on clothes. He spent the equivalent of £2.4 million (current prices) a year on clothes, shoes and material. However, he could be wasteful – he would often order a garment to be cut out from the extremely expensive gold cloth, only to change his mind and want something different wasting the cloth.

When the talk finished, Alison answered lots of questions from the students who had been attentively listening. Did Henry really love Anne Boleyn? Did Anne

Boleyn have 6 fingers? Where did Henry sleep and, finally, the very important question, what was Henry's hat made of? In response to a question asked as to whether Henry was a tyrant, Alison replied that tyrants acted outside of the law and whatever Henry did he acted within it (even if he had to change the law to get his own way), so no, Henry was not a tyrant in the

true sense of the word.

Alison was asked how her interest in Henry VIII had begun. She explained that she read a novel about Katherine of Aragon when she was about 14 and when she had finished, she went straight to her school library to do some research and find out the truth about Katherine. From there she did several research papers at a young age but did not get a book into print until some years later.

After the event I wrote to thank Alison for coming in to school and she replied saying that it had been a "pleasure to speak to such articulate and well-behaved pupils" which made me feel really proud of the students involved. A big thank you goes to all year 8 students from me for behaving so well during the talks and for their interest in this fascinating subject.

*Below: Alison Weir (left) and Mrs Sheppard pose for Langton News.  
Right: The 6 Wives of Henry VIII*



# CERN PHOTO-DIARY 2008

On the 6<sup>th</sup> November at 5.15 am we set off on what has become the 6th Form annual CERN trip. CERN is the European Laboratory for Particle Physics located just outside Geneva. The Large Hadron Collider, the biggest experiment in the world, is located 100metres underground at CERN between the Jura Mountains and the Alps. We stay in a small hotel just inside France.

On the first day we looked around Geneva and after lunch in the famous CERN canteen, we spent the afternoon at the Medipix laboratories and visiting the hands on science centre, Microcosm. The next day we had a talk, a tour of detectors and a tour of the computing centre – the world wide web was invented at CERN. We then drove up to Chamonix to go up the cable car to Aiguille du Midi at 3842 metres. It was a great trip.

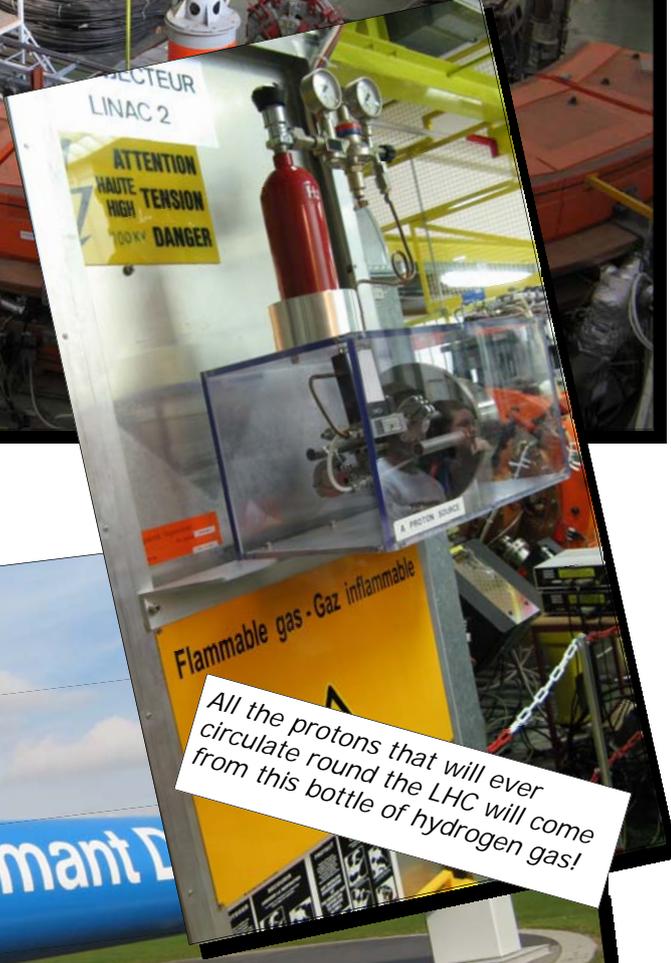
Here's a selection of some of our favourite photos.



The Low Energy Antiproton Ring – where the first atoms of antihydrogen were made



The CERN guide demonstrating what would happen if anyone mentioned the problems with the LHC!



All the protons that will ever circulate round the LHC will come from this bottle of hydrogen gas!



Adam didn't quite hear when he thought we said 'let's go and ride!'



The eighth viewing of Titanic on the way back still left the group excited!

# FOOTBALL

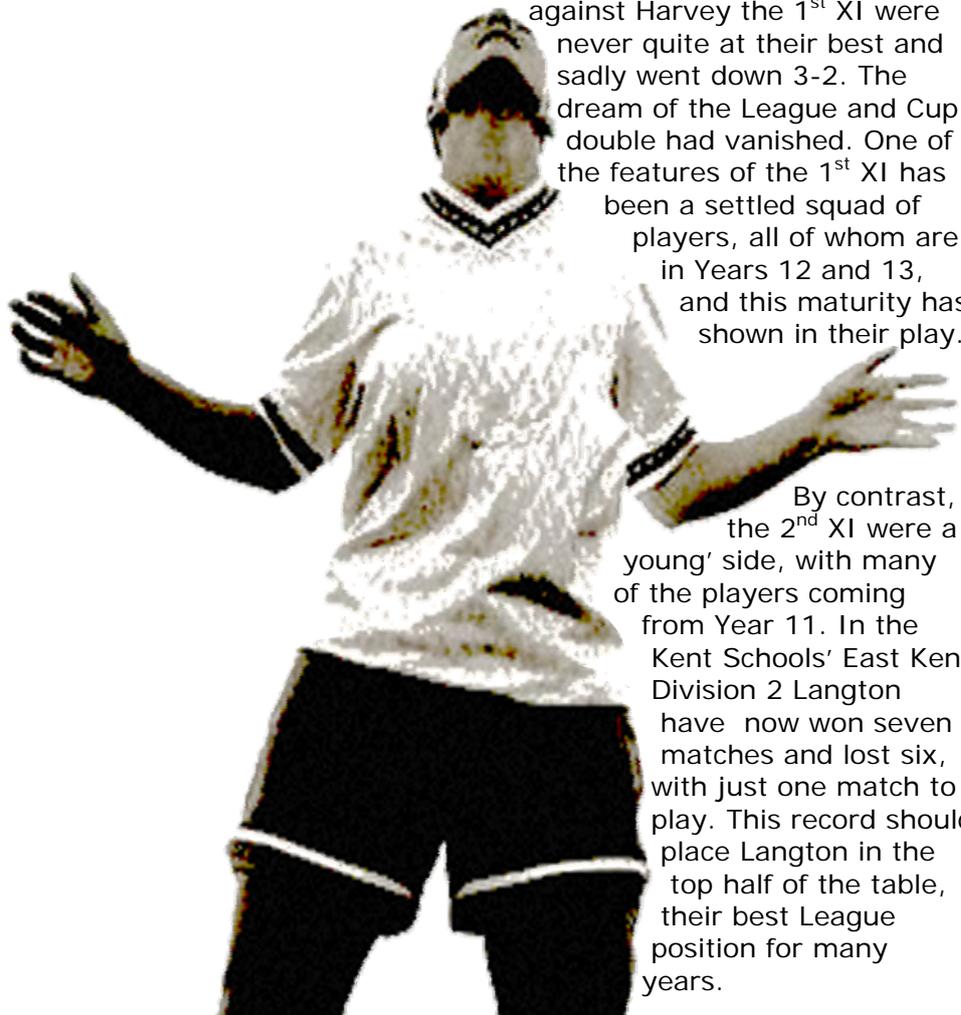
By Mr R Green

The Langton 1<sup>st</sup> XI have enjoyed an excellent season so far, remaining unbeaten in the Kent Schools' East Kent Premier League. With just one match to play Langton have already won the League title, a feat last achieved in 1993. The crucial match was half-way through against Tunbridge Wells GS who led the League at that point in the season, having not conceded a goal. Langton won 1-0 and this put them in control of the League



which they have not let go with ten straight wins. The match that finally clinched title was a hard fought game at home against Harvey GS that Langton won 7-4. In the third round of the Kent Cup Langton came up against another team with a 100% record, Darrick Wood of the North Kent Premier League.

Having suffered a few injuries against Harvey the 1<sup>st</sup> XI were never quite at their best and sadly went down 3-2. The dream of the League and Cup double had vanished. One of the features of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI has been a settled squad of players, all of whom are in Years 12 and 13, and this maturity has shown in their play.



By contrast, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were a young side, with many of the players coming from Year 11. In the Kent Schools' East Kent Division 2 Langton have now won seven matches and lost six, with just one match to play. This record should place Langton in the top half of the table, their best League position for many years.

The most satisfying win was against high-flying Harvey GS, with the Langton sealing the match 1-0.

The Under 16s remain in one of their two Kent Cups and play Pent Valley in the next round. Sadly, the Under 14 and Under 15 sides have struggled to find form this year and have both had early exits from the Cup.

The Under 13s have reached the Final of the Kent Cup with wins against Marsh Academy (12-0), Pent Valley (8-2), Canterbury HS (7-1) and Hundred of Hoo (3-1). In the semi-final they convincingly disposed of Herne Bay HS 7-0. The Final will be against the winners of St. Paul's Academy and Beths GS in the new year. The last time The U13s reached the Final was when the current Year 13s were in that team, many of whom play in the successful 1<sup>st</sup> XI this season. As well as the 'A' team remaining unbeaten in all matches this season, the 'B' team has played against local schools' 'A' teams – and has also remained unbeaten.

The Under 12s have also been very successful in their first season as a team at the Langton. In the Kent Cup they have also reached the quarter-final stage with wins over Maplesden Noakes (7-2), Norton Knatchbull (2-1 aet) and Westlands (5-2). Their next opponents are Swadelands in January. The Under 12s also played in the ESFA National Cup and reached Round 4 where they lost a tight game against Aske's Academy 4-6 after extra time. On the way they defeated George Green HS (10-0), Globe Academy (5-3) and Wilmington GS (6-3).

In summary, this could turn out to be one of the best ever seasons for Langton football!

Taken from *The London Evening Standard* 11th December 2008

SCHOOLS  

*Football.co.uk*


**Evening  
 Standard**

  
**SchoolsSports.com**

# Langton boys take the Evening Standard's first monthly title

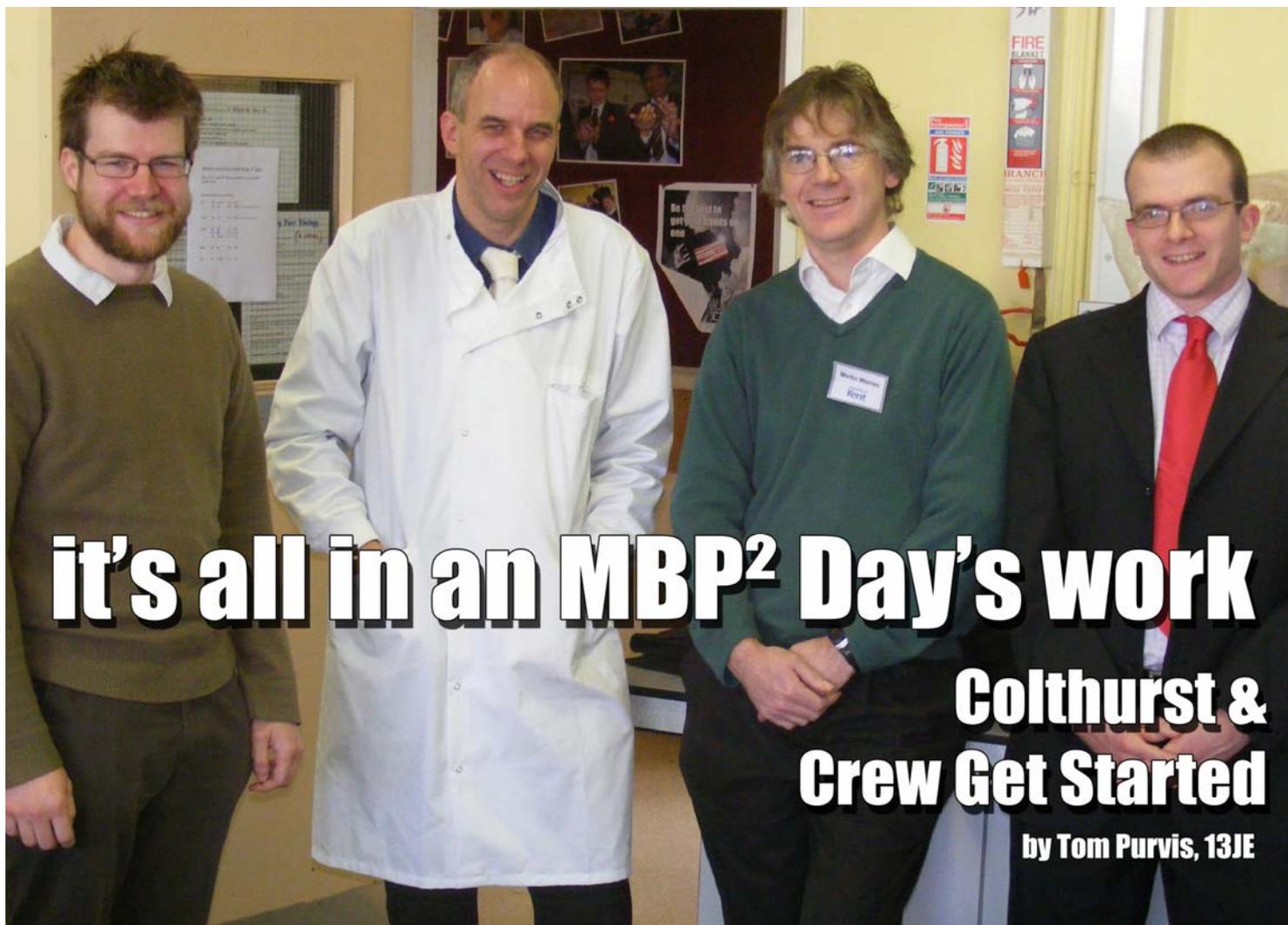
**They're unbeaten and now they've been honoured by Nike.**

Simon Langton Grammar, in Canterbury, Kent, are the first winners of the Evening Standard Schools Football 1st XI Team of the Month award.

Their record - won eight, goals scored 47 - puts them on top of our league.

After a mediocre season last year, the team bonded on a pre-season trip to Valencia.

Nominated by midfielder/striker Danny Smith, the boys win special training shirts provided by the Nike Bootroom in Oxford Street



# it's all in an MBP<sup>2</sup> Day's work

## Colthurst & Crew Get Started

by Tom Purvis, 13JE

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December saw the launch of the most exciting event to hit the biology department – the official launch of Dr Colthurst's ingeniously masterminded project - MBP<sup>2</sup>. Until that date, only a few team leaders had had the chance to learn the techniques required for their part of the project. However, MBP<sup>2</sup> day, as it was known, saw the opportunity for everyone involved in the project to be taken through the full method that they will have to adopt when we start working with the human gene, shortly after Christmas. This will involve genetically engineering yeast cells to produce the suspect protein, thought to be linked to multiple sclerosis and then using analytical techniques to study whether the protein has undergone structural changes, thought to be the cause of many symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis.

The project is split into six teams each of about ten members. These include; *Sacchromyces cerevisiae* (yeast), *E. coli*, DNA

Analysis, Protein Purification, Western Blotting and Bio-informatics. Each team has been assigned research mentors based in the bioscience department at the University of Kent. A small army of white coat-wearing post-graduate and post doctorate researchers descended on the Langton, teaching practical techniques and the theoretical science behind them.

The day started with a brief introduction to the day by Dr Colthurst and some theory on genetic engineering by Professor Tuite. Each team were allocated to one of the biology labs – where the fun started, notably aided by Mr Scarlett's willingness to photograph anything and anyone during the day. He was however, competing against a professional photographer, sent down by the Wellcome Trust, who have provided the grant for the project, and it wasn't long before Dr. Colthurst appeared on the homepage of the Wellcome Trust's website, before the eyes of the scientific world. Another

prominent achievement of the Langton's success in attracting the attention of the media for taking science beyond the curriculum.

The day finished in the hall with a brief presentation from each of the team leaders explaining what they had done, learnt and how they planned to proceed. The plan now is to get all members of all the teams confident in using the techniques required for their particular part of the project. When this is achieved the real research, using the human gene can begin.

Special thanks must go to Mrs Earley for moving between the biology labs, finding equipment and chemicals for each team at a remarkable speed, ensuring the day ran smoothly. Similarly Dr. Colthurst should be thanked for organising a good day all round, and the excellent support of the University Biosciences Department.

***Friday January 23rd 2009***

SIMON LANGTON GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL FOR BOYS, PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

invite you to enjoy a traditional

# BURNS NIGHT *Celebration*

Whatever your nationality, this will be a great chance to blow away those post-Christmas blues with a celebration of all things Scottish.



Our second Burns Night will include the parading of the haggis, a full traditional sit-down meal (*with alternative main course*), a 'wee dram' of whisky, Pipers, Poetry, Competitions - best garters, sporrans, pipe blowing etc, Scottish Dancing, and of course a chance to dress-up (kilts optional, but black tie or smart please)....and have a lot of fun.

For all those who want to take part in the dancing there will be a chance for free tuition on the weeks prior to the evening (Thursdays between 4-5pm, 8, 15 and 22nd January 2009).

*Leaflets with booking form available from Reception or call to register interest. Make up a table or join on another.*

*Bookings by 15th January please!*

**Tickets Adults £20.00 per person, Couples £32.00, all Langton Boys' School Students Free**  
(kindly sponsored by Caterlink, our caterers for the evening).  
**Other students £10.00.** 'Beer and Wine' Bar available.

# FROM THE HEAD

*Dr Baxter tells the story behind the naming of the new Langton Houses.*

At the end of last term we introduced a House System into the school. More precisely, the system has been re-introduced after the previous House System was abandoned in the 1970s.

During the past few years there has been an increasing emphasis on competitive activities, particularly in sport, at the Langton and there is an extremely high commitment to these activities amongst our students. The introduction of the House System provides a focus for these activities and will encourage students to support the performances of students in year groups other than their own.

There is, however, a greater significance to the introduction of the House System. Several years ago a group of our students encouraged the senior staff of the school to introduce an annual Remembrance Assembly as an opportunity for the school community to reflect on the wider remembrance events which take place in November each year. Since arriving in the school I have been deeply moved by these assemblies. In themselves they are private events, involving the school's immediate community of students and staff. The atmosphere is solemn and reflective and has become one of the most important days in the school's calendar. Since the school was established in 1881 its community has been deeply affected by conflict; members of

staff and many students served in the Boer War and the two World Wars and the original buildings of the school, in the centre of Canterbury were destroyed in the bombing of 1942. There are many members of our present community affected by international conflict; there are students and staff whose lives have been permanently displaced by warfare and they are unable to live in the countries of their birth, members of staff and students whose husbands, fathers and brothers have served in recent conflicts and some who have lost loved ones.

Many students from the school have been casualties in various conflicts. Recent research shows that of the boys who attended the school between 1900 and 1914 virtually all served in the First World War. Over ten percent died in the battlefields.

Our four houses Burgess, Hardman, Mackenzie and Sharp are named after four of the boys who fell in the First World War. There is no attempt in establishing the House system to glorify warfare. Rather, by permanently remembering these boys there is an opportunity to reflect on the tragedy of the loss of life brought about by warfare. The four boys represented much that we value in the school; all were bright and Archie Hardman, who was also Head Boy, is said to have been a boy of extraordinary intellectual gifts. They were all good sportsmen too; Eric Sharp, the Headmaster's only son, was an outstanding athlete and William 'Budge' Burgess is thought by many to have been the finest sportsman ever to attend the Langton. All were noted for their leadership at school, in their professional lives and whilst serving. And all were noted for their integrity and honour. Eighty years ago this week Cyril Mackenzie's mother received the letter notifying her of her son's death:

*This is the most distressing task that has ever fallen to my lot on Christmas Day. Last night your son went out on patrol to discover whether a position was held by the enemy or not. He got to within ten yards of the place when the enemy opened fire on him and his party. Your son was hit by a bullet and died shortly afterwards, without I believe suffering much pain.*

*By your son's death the Regiment – and the country – has lost one of the finest officers I have ever had the fortune to meet. Everything he set himself to do or was ordered to do, he did with wonderful thoroughness and efficiency. In the short time I have been commanding the battalion, and while he was commanding 'A' company, I fully realised what a valuable officer he was; no one inspired greater confidence or was more deserving of that confidence. Besides his unusually brilliant military qualities, everyone who met him respected him and those fortunate in getting to know him well loved him and respected him. It is on that account that I do sympathise most intensely for you as I know how lovable he was.*

Students currently at the Langton are likely to live into the 2070s and beyond. Their children will live in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century. It is my hope that membership of a house will become a lasting memory of the Langton and that some of our students' stories of their school-days will refer to their houses, the lives of the boys lost to warfare and that the sense of the tragedy, horror and obscenity of war is passed on to future generations.

## ERIC SHARP 1895 – 1917



When war broke out in 1914 Eric sought permission from his employers to enlist and joined the Royal Fusiliers as a Private in September 1914 and served in the ranks for about seven months, achieving the rank of Lance Corporal. He then obtained his commission, being gazetted to the Buffs. At the request of the Adjutant he permanently transferred to that battalion to which he became deeply attached.

The battalion, however, was detailed for support

and training at home, much to Sharp's chagrin. He twice attempted to get back to his old battalion, unsuccessfully, when he discovered it was going over to France and then eagerly seized an opportunity to join the King's African Rifles, shortly before they embarked for Africa.

Before leaving for the Dark Continent, he returned to the school to drill the school Cadet Corps one last time just days before he sailed, described by *The Langtonian* as "full of life and hope."

His service with the King's African Rifles was exemplary and occupied all his war service. His commanding officer was later to write, "He was, to all privates and non-commissioned officers who knew him in this company, the finest type of officer, and by his interest in their welfare, regardless of any self sacrifice, he obtained that devotion from his men

of which any officer would have been proud."

On May 8th, at a place called Libembo, in what was then known as German Tanganyika, he was ordered to take his platoon across an open space of about 100 yards to some rocks, where about 20 Germans were thought to be concealed behind a machine gun nest. He dashed the rocks, but found no-one there. Later, a short distance away at Kitanda, he again made a forced march to the German camp and advanced to within about 20 yards of the enemy position giving orders to his men, the Askari tribesmen, to lie down. If any alarm were given by the Germans, Sharp would blow his whistle and signal the charge. Suddenly a murderous machine gun retort opened on the platoon. Sharp blew his whistle and charged but, in a cruel twist of fate, the Askari didn't hear the whistle above the gunfire

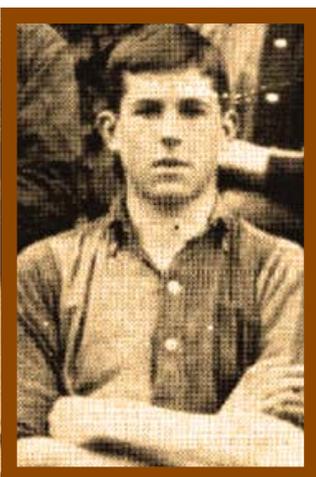
and failed to move in support. Sharp charged the guns to almost certain death. He was shot through the head and shoulder and was found when his men advanced later. Death was not instantaneous and he was taken to hospital where he died of wounds on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Such was the adoration of the tribesmen who served under him that over a hundred of them trekked thirty miles to be present at his funeral.

His closest friend, Captain Scales, said of him, "*Unfortunately, I always felt that he would ultimately meet with disaster, as he cared absolutely nothing for his own safety.*"

He was buried at Dar es Salaam War Cemetery, Tanzania.

**The 'G' Forms have joined Sharp House**

## Cyril MacKenzie 1892 – 1917



When war broke out Cyril MacKenzie enlisted almost immediately, into The London Scottish, as a private. January 1915 found him on the Western Front. He wrote cheerfully home to declare that "*I am all right except for a bit of cold on my chest and feet! We do grease our feet and have*

*Vaseline served out for that purpose. Lots of love to you all! From your loving son, Cyril.*"

By March, MacKenzie had been promoted to Lance Corporal, by May, full Corporal. Shortly afterwards he was discharged from the London Scottish and commissioned in the Liverpool Regiment, conveniently stationed at that time in Canterbury, on the Old Park.

There followed a lengthy period of home service from February 1915 until July 1916. One can assume that young MacKenzie made the most of his home environment. He moved away with the battalion to Aldershot in July 1916 and returned to the front in February 1917. He was wounded almost

immediately. The Medical Board report of 21<sup>st</sup> July 1917 records that he was burned and blistered and his eyes were scorched.

Two months recuperation took place at the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital and he was declared fit to rejoin his battalion at Oswestry.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> 1917. He returned to duty on the Passchendaele front around Poelcapelle. It was this return to the front that cost Mac his life.

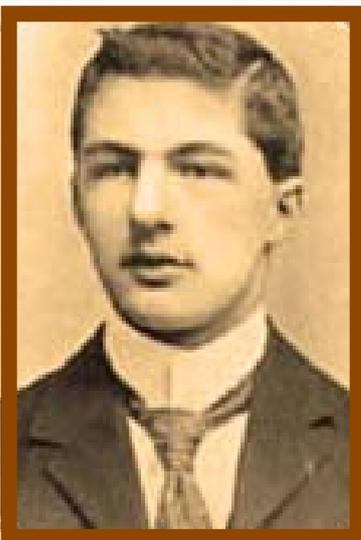
Christmas 1917 was cold on the Western Front and the sodden battlefields froze. At 10 pm on Christmas Eve, MacKenzie went out on patrol with three other men to reconnoiter a pillbox. They crawled from the security

of their trench towards the enemy line until, about 10 yards from the position, the enemy opened fire from three rifles and a machine gun. Mac was hit by a single bullet. Help came too late and he died on his way down to the dressing station. He was buried near the village of Elverdinge and his grave later grouped together with those known as Canada Farm. The inscription on his gravestone is very simple:

*Captain Cyril A MacKenzie, The King's Liverpool Regiment, 24th December 1917, age 25. Beloved son of R. Fowler and Agnes C MacKenzie, Whitstable Kent.*

**The 'B' Forms have joined MacKenzie House**

## Archie Hardman



On the outbreak of war Archie Hardman attempted to enlist but because of his short sight he was initially turned down. Nevertheless, as the war progressed and standards became less exacting he eventually managed to obtain a commission in the King's Own Yorkshire Light

Infantry, in time for the Somme Offensive.

By the 6th of July 1917, Hardman was promoted to the rank of acting Captain. The 9th KOYLI now made their way northwards to the Ypres Salient. They were to become involved in one of the later phases of the Battle of Passchendaele, when on the 4th October the Regiment formed part of the first wave assault on Broodseinde Ridge. At this stage in the battle the now familiar image of a desolate landscape subsumed under an Ocean of mud had emerged; shell holes linked together by sodden duckboards, had replaced the warren of trenches which surrounded the Salient.

According to the Battalion War Diary, on the 5th of

October the 9th Battalion and the 10th Battalion were combined. "At most there was 150 bayonets in the amalgamated Battalion in the front line"

It was not until 9 pm the next day, 6th October that the 64th Brigade was relieved by units from the 7th Division.

Archibald Hardman was killed in this action. He was most likely hit by machine gun fire in front of Joist farm, as an obituary, from the school magazine of Sheffield Grammar School states:

*" Just before he went over the top he was as cheery as ever. When asked by one of his men , "Do you think we shall come through all right, sir?" he replied, 'I hope so. Don't worry. Stick close to me."*

*After charging some 200 yards, he was hit in the right temple by a machine gun bullet, and death was instantaneous"*

His body wasn't recovered from the battlefield and he is commemorated, along with a number of his comrades, on the wall of the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, roughly two miles from where he was killed; overlooking the Brooseinde ridge.

**The 'L' Forms have joined Hardman House**

## William Burgess



William was gazetted to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1915, just one day before his twentieth birthday.

After training in Dorset he arrived in France on June 26<sup>th</sup> 1916, a few days before the "Great Push" on the Somme. His first action was with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Berkshires as part of the Four Army assault on the

German second line on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July which, as far as attacks on the Somme went, was relatively successful.

The Battalion then found itself engaged North West of Mametz Wood occupying the communication trench, Pearl Alley, which again led up to the German second line. Burgess was soon posted to the 6<sup>th</sup> Berkshires who had been engaged in heavy fighting on the Somme since day one of the offensive.

At 7 pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, with a fighting strength of 19 officers and 401 other ranks, received orders to move from their position south of Carnoy to take part in an action the following day at Longueval and Delville Wood.

Delville Wood became a long agony of bitter fighting involving the South

African Brigade reducing the wood to mere splinters. Initially the South Africans almost swept the Germans from the wood but, following a desperate counter attack, the allied forces were forced to retreat to the south western corner of the wood from whence they struggled to regain ground for the next three days.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Berkshires attacked the Northern section of the wood on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July and suffered heavily, occasionally from "friendly fire". The Battalion dug in to consolidate their gains at 2.15 on the afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup> and settled in to repulse the many German counter attacks. They were bombed and attacked pretty much constantly for the next twenty four hours but they held their position until relieved on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, by which time they had lost 40% of their original number. This was the

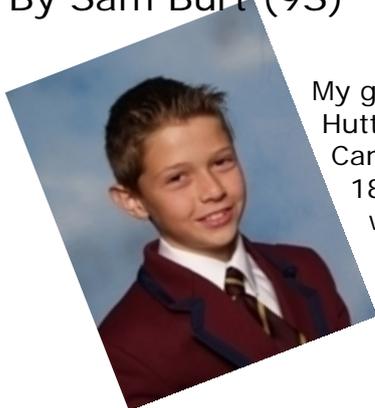
last major action on the Somme for the Berkshires and William Burgess was killed, almost certainly on the 19<sup>th</sup>, just 25 days after first landing in France.

His body was lost on the Somme; initially buried in a shallow grave and subsequently devastated as the battle continued to rage. His father kept up a lengthy correspondence with the War Office, but neither his body nor his possessions were ever recovered. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

**The 'S' Forms have joined Burgess House**

# The All Too Brief Life of Harry Hutton

By Sam Burt (9S)



My great-great-Uncle, Harry Hutton, was born in Canterbury on 22nd May 1899 and was only sixteen when he signed up in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in the First World War.

Harry was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canterbury Scout Group and also a keen Cricketer. At the age of 13, he won the top scholarship award for Simon Langton Grammar School and after leaving school aged 16, started work in a solicitor's office. At the age of 16 ½ he volunteered for the army following in his Father's footsteps. From the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion he transferred to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion and then finally he joined the Royal Scots.

Harry enlisted on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1915 stating his age as 19 years and 17 days. However his true age was 16 years, 6 months and 7 days. Two days later, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1915, he arrived at a training camp in Shoreham, Sussex. There he was prepared for the war with bayonet fighting, bomb throwing and musketry courses as well as having vaccinations. He then spent a short time in Dover before leaving for France on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1916.

Harry spent time on the front line including Ypres and the Somme. Unfortunately his best friend (Horace Ratcliff, who was also from Canterbury) was killed on 18<sup>th</sup> August. Despite Harry's efforts his body was never found. Harry became very depressed after Horace died and had asked his mother to send his birth certificate that would prove he was under age. This would mean he would automatically get sent back to England. However at the end of November 1916 Harry was invalided home with trench fever (a highly contagious typhoid related disease transmitted by lice).

Harry was sent to St. Mary's hospital near Blackburn which meant that he was further away from home than when he had been in France. He spent a month in hospital before returning to Canterbury on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1916. After spending Christmas at home he returned to Dover to join the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Buffs but could not return to France as he was still too young.

In February 1917, Harry was sent to Dublin to join the 2/7<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots Regiment. Then in March 1918 he went to Edinburgh for a short time before returning to France in April 1918.



Throughout his time in the army he regularly corresponded with his parents and sister, Evelyn, my great-grandmother, and the many letters have been made into a book by my great-Uncle, also called Harry. They illustrate both the normality of day to day life in the awful trench conditions and the ever present fear and horror of war.

Sadly, on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1918 Harry was killed in action, aged 19, and was buried in Le Peuplier Cemetery, Caestre, Northern France.

I feel very proud to be going to the same school that Harry went to all those years ago. It also makes me proud that his name is on the plaque in the school foyer. It is frightening to think that boys the same age as those in year eleven went to war and that so many of them did not return.

# Politics Unravelled

BY Adam Parsons

On the morning of Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> September, eight intrepid amateur politicians embarked on an epic voyage from Stansted. Their destination – the Mock United Nations Conference at Bertha Von Suttner Oberschule. Between the eight of us that been enlisted, we would be representing the states of Germany, Mexico, Nigeria and The United States of America, a motley selection of countries that would no doubt find some grounds upon which to ally. Upon arrival, we were paired up with our host families, of whom we had no prior knowledge - they could have been deranged axe wielding lunatics for all we knew, but happily, they were all extremely welcoming and we all (more or less) arrived at the meeting on time.

Formally dressed as we were, some of the more flamboyant costumes threw us slightly, especially those of the Vatican's representatives, who had clearly foregone their regular wardrobe in favour of a more ecclesiastical approach to dressing.

Immediately, we were sternly reminded of our obligation to adhere to Diplomatic Decorum, although as a congregation of adolescents, we were somewhat reluctant to conform to this ethos, and needed reminding almost constantly. After a few unresolved or unclear matters of protocol, we began our imitation Conference, complete with flags on our desks. Primarily, we were addressed by the emphatic Mr von Unger Sternberg – the Deputy Director General, in the department for the United Nations of the Berlin foreign office, who further informed us of our first topic: the proposed reform of the UN's Global Security Council. Initial position papers and speeches from member states slowly

revealed to the Nigerian delegation, who had thought the issue a somewhat simple one, and the solution even more apparent, that this was truly to be an accurate reflection of contemporary democracy. As the huge spectrum of opinion, from burgeoning liberal lefty states to the stubborn China, was made evident, I realised that this was not going to be a half-hour procedure.

The Open Discussion or Caucus was an explosion of misguided politicians trying to convince other equally obstinate delegations that their scheme was impenetrable to criticism, which lasted the best part of two hours. Eventually the three segregated groups managed to coalesce ideas into three, distinctly different position papers, which was for the most part drivel, although said drivel was laced with groundbreaking, chop-busting politics. Luckily Louis Matheou was on hand to assist with deciphering the labyrinthine protocol and keeping our particular caucus on schedule. The position papers were delivered after the most eagerly anticipated part of the day - Lunch!

After some outstanding rice came the pooling of the position papers, and the inevitable assaults on each others' positions. They came thick and fast. The resolute and dogmatic states really took a beating, as the as yet unspoken protection of their own interests had to bear the full wrath of fervent, idealistic young politicians, pulverizing their reasoning and ideas. After the chaos was the second caucus, which allowed us to get down to constructing the world changing papers. Each group developed their own resolutions which they thought would solve the problem at hand justly and effectively. After a

further hour and a half, these resolutions were brought back in to the General Assembly be scrutinized by opposing states, commented on and eventually put to the vote. Regrettably, the issue didn't seem important enough for everyone to agree on a sole solution, (amusing for those of us who have read Parkinson's Law, more specifically the theory of the Law of Triviality) and no resolutions were passed. Our day concluded with a guided expedition of Berlin, ending in a comfortable repose in a German café

Our second day had an auspicious start, with all of us turning up on time again, and we were given another presentation by Mr Andrew Smith – The Embassy's Environment & Energy Attaché. The topic of the second day was the more eristic one - 'Should we value environmental protection over economic development?' Everyone had obviously done their homework, but true to form, the British visitors were unfazed. The day followed the same format as before, and we saw the acrimonious third world faced off against the hot headed MEDCs. Whilst caucus appeared productive, member states incessantly became sidetracked with trivialities and one Nigerian delegate took it upon himself to remind the congregation why they were there as many times as was needed. Eventually there was a consensus that the environment must be protected, although the main bone of contention was as to what cost was viable. That said, one American Delegate, Aadil Sheikh, backed up with the undeniable statistics of his counterpart Elliot Chapman Jones, vociferously defended his country's standpoint, as he felt the American way of life was threatened by every other member states' approach. He

eloquently, yet forcefully, proclaimed that he would not advocate any action that debilitated their country.

It seemed this sentiment was echoed throughout the representatives, as we all agreed that economic growth could not be disregarded, something we all knew before we began to argue in the first place.

Admittedly, it was difficult at times to restrain oneself from physically accosting a fellow delegate, but after all, they were just representing their countries views and not their own.

Despite China's brash caveat that they would be provoked into leaving the UN if the voting did not swing in their favour, the majority eventually made the right, altruistic and rational choice. Surprisingly, this panned

out to be the one composed and advocated by Langton students... This political competency of Langtonians was reflected most tacitly when Philip Redhead and Oliver Parsons were awarded the prize for 'Best Speakers' after formal proceedings, and when the Mexican delegate demonstrated just how well he had assimilated Mexican culture.

Although the trip was spectacularly conducted in the spirit and form of a true United Nations assembly, that's not to say it wasn't devoid of humour – Japan tried to sway fellow delegates with a metaphor of an onion, one which was swiftly crippled by Oliver Parsons. The Vatican attempted to preach Genesis from the Holy Bible, and succeeded in incensing Indonesia, a decidedly Muslim country. The United Arab Emirates bordered on casual, to actual racism when they

requested that they be excused from the proceedings to praise Allah in the corridor. There was so much free water that the term "Point of Personal Privilege" became synonymous with "toilet break". Saudi Arabia decided to try and challenge the authority of the Chair and the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Korea, whom Aadil Sheikh had faced off against earlier, were by far the heroes of the whole Assembly when they stone facedly requested that the Assembly hold a one minute silence for their beloved, yet infirm leader; Kim Jong il.

The whole experience was definitely a positive one, and a frighteningly accurate insight into the way the world of politics works in a real life situation. Or maybe, to put it somewhat more cynically, sometimes doesn't work!

## *Lego Climate Connections* By Mr C Boucher

The Lego Climate Connections regional tournament at Kent University, Canterbury proved to be a tough challenge this year. Competing teams have to program a Lego robot to carry out missions, investigate the effects of climate change both locally and overseas and then present their findings to the judges. The teams are also judged on their ability to work together and the quality of the design of the robot. A couple of teams, who had acquitted themselves well in previous years, withdrew this year because of the difficulty of the missions.

Our robot, designed and programmed by Richard and Todd, started off well in the mission competition and was leading after the first round but the programming lacked consistency and the robot was narrowly beaten in the final play-off. However Richard and Todd were justly rewarded with the trophy for the best designed robot. Matt and Rhys spent many hours on the climate change investigation and with the help of Ollie, Louis

and Ryan managed to deliver a slick and punchy presentation. The team worked really well together, shared tasks to good effect and I feel, backed by

unofficial feedback, that they narrowly missed gaining enough points to reach the next stage in Birmingham.



The Langton Lego Lads Team: from left to right, Matthew Mortley, Rhys Jones, Ollie Brawn, Ryan Walters, Louis Wilson, Todd Liebenschutz-Jones and Richard Ladley.

# Visit to Parliament

by Jago Pearson



It was an early morning for all of us, maybe too early for a certain Mr Mattingly, who was late! I'm not sure if it was planned that we went to Parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> November, but nevertheless, all of the predictable jokes relating to gunpowder, treason and plot were cracked! Maybe it was planned that we did go on the morning of the US election results... the whole place was a hive of activity following Barack Obama's historic victory!

After all of the inevitable security checks and strip searches at the entrance, we shuffled into the Westminster Hall – what a building! The Hall has been used for lying-in-state during state and ceremonial funerals. Such an honour is usually reserved for the Sovereign and for their consorts but Sir Winston Churchill did lie there after his death in 1965. The most recent lying-in-state was that of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, in 2002. Not only this, but this remarkable construction, which dates back all the way to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, has also played host to the infamous trials of Charles I as well as the main man himself, Guy Fawkes!

Virtually right next door is the Commons Chamber and I think I speak for everyone when I say how shocked we were at the size of not only the House of

Commons itself, but the whole Chamber. We walked through the lobby area where you see MP's being interviewed from on the television and shown through the large main door (here there is a big dent which has been made by the Gentlemen Usher knocking on the door over several State Openings of Parliament) and shown into the area where "division" votes on bills are cast, with doors on the left and right which members have to pass through and into the respective "Aye" and "No" lobbies.

The group were then guided into the House itself, after being politely told not to sit on the green seats for security reasons! We were all amazed at the intimacy of the House and shocked at how small it is compared to what it looks like on the television! Multiple microphones hang down from the ceiling and there are cameras scattered around the walls. If you look up, you see the viewing gallery from where members of the public can watch debates. These days there is a huge glass screen in front of the gallery following sessions being disrupted by angry protesters throwing objects into the Chamber from the galleries, including leaflets, manure and flour which was hurled at Tony Blair during the Fathers for Justice protest.

The tour was concluded in the House of Lords which, in comparison to the Commons, is lavishly decorated, everywhere you look you see gold, gold and more gold! As I am sure you are aware, the seats in the Lords are red and so it is often referred to as the "Red Chamber". In recent years, there has been a series of Lords reforms pioneered by the Labour Government. They introduced legislation to expel all hereditary peers from the Upper House as a first step and as a part of a compromise, however, it agreed to permit 92 hereditary peers to remain until the reforms were complete. Therefore, all but 92 hereditary peers were expelled under the House of Lords Act 1999, making the House a predominantly appointed house, which in theory has increased the capability of Parliament as a whole to carry out its representative duties.

Following our walk around the main areas in Westminster Palace, we made our way to a committee room where we met our local Conservative MP, Julian Brazier, who had kindly agreed to talk to us for around three-quarters of an hour about any matters we had on our mind. It is well known that Messrs Fox, Butler and Mattingly do not agree entirely with Mr Brazier's policies and we all thought they did excellently in refraining from

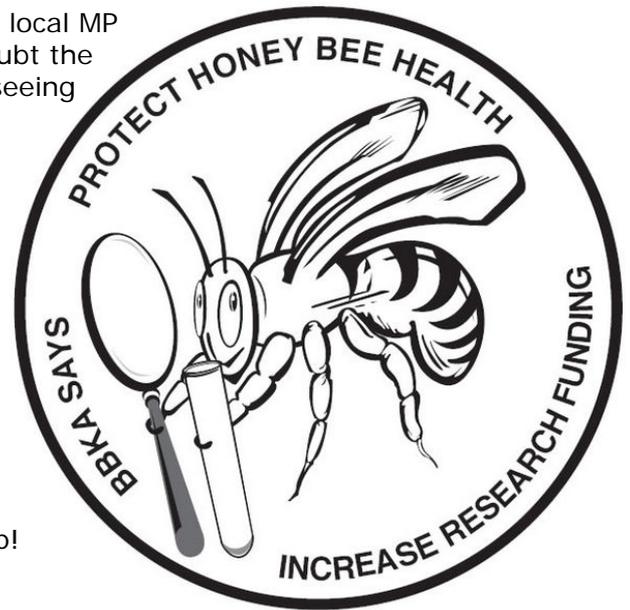
confronting him on some pressing issues, despite one of them, who shall remain nameless, constantly shuffling in his seat and muttering under his breath throughout the time he was talking! There was some very good questions raised, ranging from his thoughts on a possible upcoming election and Barack Obama to asking why students over the age of 16 in Kent aren't eligible for a freedom pass. I'm sure all Sixth Formers will be glad to hear that he is going to look into it!

Baroness Harris of Richmond was also kind enough to take some time out to talk to us about the workings of the Lords and the programme of reform. We were not able to get tickets to watch Prime Minister's Questions for the viewing gallery but we did watch

it on the TV in the café. Watching Brown and Cameron argue out the weeks' issues was quite surreal seeing as we were standing in there about an hour beforehand!

Despite walking around Parliament, talking to our local MP and a Peer, there's no doubt the highlight of the day was seeing hundreds of bee-keepers protesting outside. Don't get me wrong, "Save our honey bees" is a very worthwhile cause, but the sight of hundreds of people in white overalls on the pavement was somewhat amusing!

On behalf of all Year 12 Politics students, thanks to Mr Fox, Mattingly and Butler for an excellent trip!



## An Emotional Trip to Ypres by Jacob Gander-Compton 9S



Our trip to Ypres was amazing and very educational. The sites we saw and the places we went to, no one could have described them in words - you had to be there for the great experience of it.

We visited many places during our trip - some fun and some very hurtful to see the number of people that had died there.

We learnt at this one cemetery (Tyne Cot cemetery, the biggest commonwealth cemetery in Europe) that on the open land that you could see from the cemetery that one person died for every inch and as it was about three miles to the town of Ypres it was hard to imagine how many people actually died in that one place. None of what we learnt on the trip could have been expressed in a class room, especially our first stop at Hill 60 where there was only about 25 meters between the German and British front line! One story was of a man who was on the front line of the British trenches by Hill 60. All

his friends had died next to him - there was no one left and he knew that he could not fight the Germans by himself. So he called for back up but while help was coming he got out of the trench and started throwing grenades at the Germans so his backup could reach the frontline trench without the Germans capturing it. This was just one of the stories of the bravery of the men who fought in the war.

When we visited the cemeteries we were allowed to go off and explore. For some boys this was a hard time for them because it brought them back to lost members of their families. Ypres was an old town but because of the war it got destroyed and had to be built again after the war. The entrance is the Menin gate memorial to the missing. We gathered at the top and our guide gave a little speech. Then Jake Povall sung us the Flanders fields poem and we then laid a poppy wreath down to commemorate the 91 Langtonians who fought, and died, in the war.

# Sponsored Read

by Mrs Walters



Action; Adventure; Sea Stories; Fantasy; Science Fiction; Wild West Tales; Time Travel; Sports Stories; Humour; Thrillers; War; History; Myths and Legends; Horror; Romance; Family; Childhood; Relationships; Detective .

Whatever you like to read, you'll find it in the Langton library, because **you** have helped to create it.

Once again, Year 7 boys took part in the annual sponsored read and raised over £2300 for the fiction library. At the same time, many of them improved their reading and made so much progress that they surprised themselves.

As Ian in 8S wrote, "it has been the best read of my left," and Che, also in 8S said, "I managed to read six books in two weeks which is a big achievement as I am quite a slow reader."

Hamish Burdge in 8B raised £150, *the most ever* collected in the history of the Read and this helped 8B to win the class prize (Celebrations in tutor time). The other prize winners were:

Kieron Atkinson	Jamie Porter	James McConkey	Jonathan Beesley
George Hales	Nathaniel Shaughnessy	Oliver Neal	Matthew Efremi
Cameron Stratton	Ian Purchase-Galarza	Theo Fagan	Matthew Harrison
Jacques Taffinder	Che Serkin	Sam Gransden	Edward Pitfield
Sam Thomas	Rhys Jones	Tom Short	Tom McGhie
Sam Curd	Daniel Judge	Robert Andrews	Toby Vaughan
Arrun Hills	Nicholas Hope	Connor Loom	Alex Spanner
James Whittaker	Joseph Wintle		



Thank you to all the parents, friends and families of the boys who supported the Read and contributed so generously by sponsoring the readers.

## The Secret of Success

**Louis Sharrock of 9S recently produced a stunning project about a recent school trip. Langton News was so impressed with his work that we asked him to pass on some helpful hints and tips to his fellow students:**

Following the trip my form took to Montreuil last year, we were asked to make a scrap book which detailed our experiences in France. What I decided to do was to make it as varied as possible, using plenty of pictures as well as a bit of writing. Using some of the photos I took on the trip, along with some extracts from the many leaflets I picked up while there, I managed to piece together a lasting record of our trip. I had to write in French as

well as English which was quite a challenge, as I had only been learning French for one year, but it was surprising how much I had picked up while in France, such as 'barbe à papa' (candyfloss)! On one of the pages I decided to do a collage of everything (that I could mention!) that we'd done on the trip. On another page, I managed to put together some facts about the play - "Les Miserables" which was being put on at the citadel where we were staying. Much

cutting and pasting later, I had produced a booklet 40 pages long, which will act as lasting memory of a great trip. While still enjoying the excellent trip that you will surely experience, I would recommend to anyone in Year 8 or 7 just to gather a few bits and pieces that you can use for your scrapbook while you're in France, so that you can always look back on your trip to Montreuil.

# Does anyone in your family look like this?

If so, they may be able to help the drama department

Mrs Moore is looking for some retro furniture for the AS and A2 Theatre Studies Exams.



If you, or anyone you know, would be willing to lend (or give) the school any of the following items please let us know:-

A Bar

A 70s Style Cocktail Cabinet

A 70s Style Sofa

# En Garde!

By Jacob Gander-Compton, 9S

When I was eight years old one of my class mates mentioned that he was a member of a fencing club, I didn't have a clue what it was or what it was about so I decided to go along one day and have a look.

I went home that night and asked my mum and dad, they said 'yes ok fine' (never thinking that it would become anything other than 'just another sport' that I would do)

When it came to taking part in my first competition my mum and dad ended up arguing over who would take me and so, in the end, I didn't go at all! Then came my second chance to enter a competition and this time it was soon agreed that my dad would take me. When we arrived my dad rang home to say that we would probably be back by lunchtime but I ended up making it all the way to the final which I won! This turned out to be the first of my many wins and my life in competition fencing began.

I have been to many different clubs in my life time some good — some not so good and I have also fenced every different sword there is. This could have had a detrimental effect when it came to selecting my preferred sword, but thankfully it didn't. I now fence the sword **sabre** which is very fast and exciting.

My first big competition was the British Youth Championships which I fenced *foil* in. I was the

youngest ever competitor to reach the BYC's . I have taken part in this competition many times now and my highest placing has been third.

Before long I started travelling abroad to take part in fencing camps and competitions My first international competition was the V-Tec which was open to all. There were representatives from many different countries and in the end I was beaten into 11<sup>th</sup> place by the Russian number one.

As soon as I was old enough I started entering Cadet Competitions which led to me being picked for the British U15 National Team.

On 17th January 2009 I will be going to Monteux in France—again competing against fencers from all over the world!



*Left to right:  
Foil, Sabre (my sword), Epée.  
I have fenced all swords.*

## Queen's List Honours Dr Parker

Dr Parker went up to Buckingham Palace on 18th December to collect her MBE from HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales.

It should come as no surprise to hear that, while she was chatting to Prince Charles, she managed to get in a mention of the Langton Star Centre! Unfortunately, she was unable to get him to agree to pay for it but he did say that might come and officially open it once it was operational.

'It was a fabulous day' said Dr Parker 'Buckingham Palace looked absolutely stunning as it was decorated for Christmas. There were great swags of evergreens adorning the staircases and huge baubles hanging from the ceilings.'

Dr Parker's daughter and her mother were there to see her receive her honour which made the day even more special for Dr P.

Congratulations from everyone at the Langton.



The 'Credit Crunch' has dominated the news over the past few months, with dire warnings of possible financial meltdown in the world money markets. Robert Collopy helps to explain what it is all about.

# Time to Tighten Your Belt

Over recent months it may have come to your attention that Britain, and to a lesser extent the world is facing the biggest financial crisis in over two decades. In this article I will go on to discuss how it started, what effect it is having and what the future looks like.

The reasons behind the oncoming recession are many and varied. However the main cause of it is quite simple. Debt. The way in which debt becomes bad is quite simple once you get your head round it.

To start with the banks give out a loan to someone, often a mortgage. This loan is sometimes so great that it is impossible for the person to pay it back or even pay the interest instalments on it. When it gets to a certain point the bank is forced to retake the home to pay off the remaining debt. However by this point the debt is often so big that the house itself doesn't cover it. In this case as the person who owes the debt has no remaining assets the bank is at a loss.

On its own the bank can afford to make an occasional loss but when thousands of mortgages are going this way in a couple of months banks start to have problems. The real push comes when this is either discovered or when someone who previously had thousands if not millions of pounds in the bank comes to take it out. It is then that it is realized that the bank cannot pay the person. Often to pay him they have to take money from other savers to give it to him.

By now it is almost certainly too late for the bank. Even if they can pay that person it will not be long before all their customers want their money as they don't believe it is safe in there. At this point the bank has to declare that it is bankrupt and a long set of proceedings start to work out who

thousands of businesses and millions of people. If a major bank collapses it can often even cause other banks to collapse due to the lack of confidence in them. It is for this reason alone that the government decided to prop up Northern Rock after it collapsed.

The future looks promising as there are signs that we are beginning to leave recession. However several more businesses may collapse before we pull out of this downturn. It is widely predicted that by the end of 2009 we will be out of the downturn. However the amount of debt it will leave the taxpayer straddled with may last several decades.

In short the whole economic crisis was caused by banks lending money to people who could not pay it back and then they did not pay it back. It is a simple case of greed that eventually came to a sharp end. However in many cases it is

not the bankers who made the mistakes that will pay for it - instead it is the average taxpayer.



gets the remaining assets. It is at this point that a lot of business are struck as they borrowed money from the bank to buy stock. The way that are western markets run mean that everything is ran on debt. As soon as the company has to pay back all its loans it is often sent straight out of business. The effect of a bank collapsing can be felt throughout the system. It will often effect

# Mrs Bennett's Miss Eley's <sup>Australian</sup> photo-album



in the blue mountains



beyond the black stump



Kings Canyon



Mr & Mrs Bennett



me surfing!



I walked the bridge!

A huge 'Welcome Back' to Mrs Bennett from everyone at the Langton. It's great to have you back!

a wave