

Welcome to our first edition of Langley News. In response to parental demand, we are pleased to be publishing news and views relating to the academic aspects of education at Langley School on a more regular basis. Parental feedback and contributions will be extremely welcome, as requested in the Literacy Matters article below. But this newsletter is not just for parents – it is for all who have an interest in education at Langley, be they our governors, feeder schools, local businesses or anyone else in the wider community. Our pupils, of course, will in particular be asked to contribute on a regular basis and this is for them too. Whoever you are, I hope you will enjoy this first edition and many more to come. Frank Butt Senior Deputy Head (Academic)

## Literacy Matters

Following the introduction of our book at bedtime policy for our lower years, we have noticed a marked change in the behaviour of boys and girls in the boarding houses. Our house parents are reporting a much calmer atmosphere in the evenings with children settled in their beds to read before lights out and far fewer excursions back out of their beds afterwards! We were wondering whether parents have noticed any difference at home and would love to hear about your experiences and whether you too have noticed a change.

As we continue our drive to raise literacy, we are now celebrating the completion of the move into the newly refurbished Salisbury Library now at the heart of the school. To do this we organised two author visits. Our first took place last week during period 1, when local author **Alex Scarrow**, visited Langley to read to years 6 and 7 from his new book *Remade*, his latest young adult thriller about a virus that wipes out most of humanity. He also discussed his career with the pupils, from budding guitarist to famous author. It is such a shame that the prep school were held up in traffic and did not get to hear or meet the author – Alex was a thoroughly engaging speaker, and able to connect with and enthuse his young audience.

Following that, on Friday **9th December** at 2.30pm, we are pleased to announce that another local author, **Alexander Gordon Smith**, will be giving an entertaining author talk about his books, career and what inspired

him to write. Alexander Gordon Smith is the author of the *Escape from Furnace* series, including *Lockdown* and *Solitary*. This event will be aimed at year 8 and 9 pupils, but parents are also invited to pick up their children and attend the book signing where Christmas refreshments will be available. There will also be an opportunity to purchase signed copies of Gordon's books and speak to staff from The Norfolk Children's Book Centre (they are an assembled team of ex-teachers and head teachers, librarians and book enthusiasts) and purchase books from their stall in time for Christmas.

Remember, literacy matters – reading for pleasure comes very high up on the list in terms of raising academic achievement in all subjects.

**Cate Dorey Langley School Librarian**

## Debating



On Thursday 24th November, Langley began its campaign in the ESU Mace competition. Hosting Norwich School, Norwich High and Framlingham College and Debating the topics of 'voting rights for 16 year olds' and 'salary caps in professional sports', Langley were able to win through to round 2, alongside Norwich School. Congratulations should go to Alice Humphrey and Billy Lund and we wish them good luck in Round 2. Also, thanks must go to Scarlett Plaster and Morwenna Griffiths our Chairs.



# National Quiz success

Langley began its run in the National Challenge Quiz yesterday travelling down to Suffolk for the opening rounds of the regional competition.

Our A and B teams were drawn against Framlingham College.

In the first match, Langley B captained by Billy Lund and magnificently supported by Toby Emerson, Robert McCall and Kieran Dodding beat Framlingham College B 520-300.

In the second match Langley A, captained by Ben Green and well supported by Ros McRobert, Jabez Cooke and Charlie Peacock beat Framlingham College A 380-280.

In the quarter final Langley A, having trailed the B team right up until the last question, pipped the B team to a three-way place in the regional final, winning by 360-320. Langley A were facing defeat, 40 points down, when Ben Green won the starter question: 'Which Roman god is the equivalent of the Greek god, Hermes? To the relief of Jabez, Ben's answer of Mercury was correct. Ros McRobert answered all the accompanying bonus questions which were on stage or film musicals. She had to identify which characters sung the following numbers: 'I have a dream' from Mama Mia? Sophie; 'Empty chairs at empty tables' from Les Miserables? Marius; 'Get me to the church on time' from My Fair Lady? Alfred Doolittle.

Bad luck, Langley B, but if any team deserved to win, the answers to that set of bonuses just about made Langley A deserving winners.



# Salvation Army visit

On 23 November, Barry Wilson from the Salvation Army in Norwich spoke to Year 8 students and members of staff about homelessness. He was accompanied by Mark, who until recently, had been living on the streets since he was a teenager. Barry and Mark talked about what causes homelessness and how the charity tries to help these vulnerable members of our community.

The presentation was part of the Year 8 students' study of the novel Stone Cold by Robert Swindells, which portrays the experiences of a fourteen year old homeless boy called Link.

In the lead-up to the Christmas holidays, Year 8 and Year 9 students will be collecting items for the Salvation Army. These items include: gloves, socks, trainers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and shower gel. If anyone would like to contribute items, please contact Ms Corser via email:

[jcorser@langleyschool.co.uk](mailto:jcorser@langleyschool.co.uk)

# Spectroscopy in a Suitcase

Year 13 Chemistry and Biology students took part in a chemistry event on Tuesday the 15th November from Period 1 to Period 4. The programme involves a presentation overview of Spectroscopy and Infrared. They then had an activity to do which involves identifying the structures of 5 organic compounds from their infrared and mass spectra. While the students were undertaking this, they used the spectrometer in small groups to run their own spectra of the organic compounds in question.

# Spine Chillers

Recently 35 students from Langley School joined other school students from around the country with their own spooky stories published in 'Spine Chillers'. Our students, ranged from ages 10-14 years old, each wrote a scary story of about 100 words. Congratulations to them all!

## Not My Imagination - Maddy Wright

"Think, dense, fog surrounded me. I felt enclosed. Stuck in a prison cell, unable to move. That's when I saw it, slowly moving in the distance. Closer, closer came a hooded, dark figure. Tall and broad, two red demon eyes stared into mine. I tried to make it disappear. Was this just my imagination running wild? Just another tangent? Then it was gone. My imagination. Fear lifted off my shoulders. Then I felt something, a warm breath on the back of my neck. I went stiff, the hairs sticking out on the back of my neck. Then it was gone..."