

HEADS UP

-By Kaden Keeling

Ms Blount took up the role of Headteacher at Langley this past September. Kaden Keeling set out to find out more.

It is clear that Mrs Blount is passionate about how inclusive our school is and would like to go further in how we celebrate diversity. Her main goal is for pupils to feel safe and happy at school. They should feel valued and confident in their abilities.

"All of our pupils have something amazing to offer; my aim is to ensure everyone is helped to achieve their potential. As a school community, I want us to work together to celebrate each other's successes; whatever that looks like for each individual."

Mrs Blount hopes that the success that past pupils have achieved will inspire current pupils.

When asked about the changes to come, Ms Blount was incredibly positive.

"Over the coming months we will have a number of new staff join us. They will be coming to us with a wide range of skills and experiences. I am particularly excited to find out what new and exciting things will happen in the performing arts department."

She also went on to mention that there would be lots of opportunities for pupils to take on leadership roles and develop skills ready for future careers.

Here is the full scoop on who is leading our school.

What advice would you give the year 7s?

Make the most of every moment at school. There are so many opportunities for them to learn different skills and develop their talents. Being brave and trying something new might be the best thing they have ever done.

What would you like to say to the year 11s?

Believe in yourself and aim high! Little and often revision is the best approach, but it is never too late to put the effort in. Every teacher in the school will do what they can to support you. The staff here are amazing, so make the most of them!

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love my job because I get to work with amazing pupils and staff. Most people see me at social time being 'The Coat Police', but that is only part of my role. I really enjoy getting into lessons and talking to pupils about what they are learning. I am lucky enough to see great teaching every day and I am so grateful to all the staff who support pupils in so many ways.

What do you put on top of your Christmas Tree?

A great big sparkly star.

What is your favourite seasonal hot drink?

I love hot chocolate. Adding orange or cinnamon adds a festive twist this time of year.

What do you do to relax and unwind?

I love to cook. My favourite is Thai, so I try a few different things out at home. It is a good job that my husband likes spice!



Current affairs

LIBRARY LOSES OUT

By Naimh and Saoirse

Have you ever wondered how many books get returned to the library late- or worse – not at all? We sat down with Ms Norry (School Librarian) to bring you the whole story.

According to Ms Norry, over 1,400 books were issued last academic year. Of those, 802 were not returned. The school invests hugely in the library and the loss of these books sits just under £5000! That is money that could be invested in other areas such as school trips and learning resources.

However, it runs deeper than just the financial loss. Learning to take care of things develops a sense of responsibility and conversely, being unable to do this may lead to you being labelled as irresponsible or unreliable. One of the reasons schools have libraries is to encourage responsibility whilst giving young people a love for reading which helps in later life.

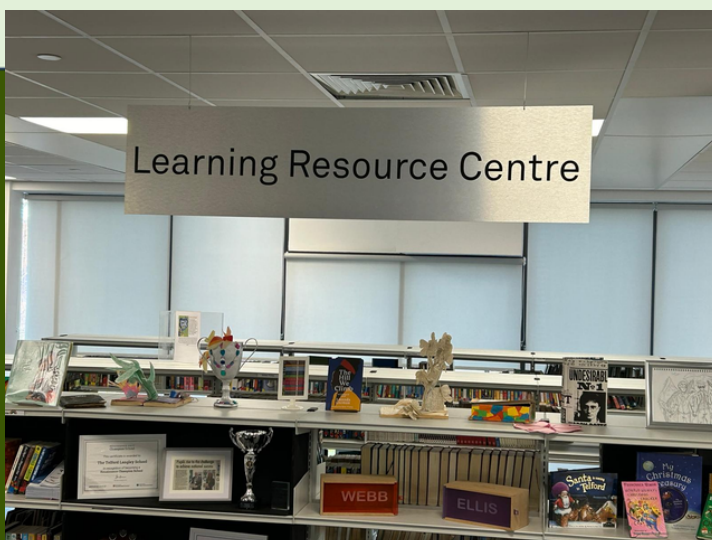
Another factor to consider is that returning books helps others. People aside from you will need access to the books you haven't returned and rather than being useful, they are lying around somewhere unread.

When asked about possible solutions to the problem, Ms Norry had some insightful suggestions.

"It doesn't help putting in consequences. This brings negativity towards reading. I'd like pupils to have positive attitudes towards reading!"

She would suggest a reward system for encouraging the return of the books.

When asked about the current books in the library, Ms Norry pointed out that the most popular books at the moment are the Heartstopper books whilst graphic novels are the trending genre. Football related books are also a big hit! So, please consider returning any outstanding library books you may have at home- it would go a long way to restocking the shelves and giving pupils the opportunity to read more!



Langley Sports

LANGLEY AUTUMN FOOTBALL

A huge thank you must go to Mr Creed, Mr Jones, Mr Burrowes and Mr Freeman for the time and effort they have put into football this term.

The teams have all shown great sportsmanship and represented the school with pride. The boys trained hard and have given 100 percent effort on the pitch. They are an asset to the school. Although there were some losses sustained, every one of them should be incredibly proud of their performance and conduct.

Mr Jones would specifically like to thank the year 7 and 8s for their commitment and dedication in attending after school training every week.

Madeley's PE teacher commented that the year 9 match was "one of the most equal and exciting games" they have been involved in and according to Mr Freeman the year 10 boys "played some incredible football for long durations of time and conducted themselves impeccably".

Special mention must go to Abi Smith who travelled to Madeley as an 'away' supporter. All pupils are encouraged to attend future matches in support of the teams.



AUTUMN FOOTBALL RESULTS

YEAR 7

Telford Langley 3-3 Telford Priory School.
(Telford Priory eventually won 5-3 on penalties)

YEAR 8

Telford Langley 0-5 Burton Borough School Year 8s versus
Thomas Telford School B/C teams - won all 4 games
played.

YEAR 9

Telford Langley 3-4 Madeley Academy
Telford Langley 3-0 Moreton

YEAR 10

Telford Langley 3-0 Telford Priory

YEAR 11

Telford Langley 7-0 Ercall Wood



Langley Sports

LANGLEY AUTUMN BADMINTON

Mr Freeman and Ms Priestley have had the privilege of coaching the KS3 girls and boys Badminton teams this term and deserve a massive thank you for the time and effort that has gone into the sport.

The pupils have displayed exemplary conduct throughout the season and have played their hearts out in every match. A team of very talented young people who should be proud of their performance in the tournament.

The KS3 girls' team was represented by Lay-Kay Yau; Dharshana Vijay Sundar; Abigale Price and Mia Malcolm Richards.

Oliver Hickman; Kasper Reynolds; Liam O'Ryan; Rex To; Samuel Tang; Matthew Mak represented Langley for the KS3 Boys team.



AUTUMN BADMINTON RESULTS

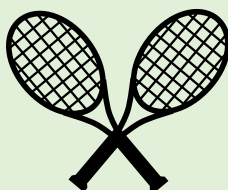
T&W schools' competition

KS3 GIRLS

Langley 6-2 Abraham Darby
Langley 7-1 Telford Priory
Langley 4 – 4 William Brookes
Langley 4-4 Idsall

KS3 BOYS

Langley 8-0 Abraham Darby
Langley 1-7 Telford Priory
Langley 7 – 1 William Brookes
Langley 2-6 Idsall



Careers and Enterprise

The Telford Langley School hosted their first ever 'Careers and Enterprise Week' to help develop essential skills for future employment. The week started on Monday 4th December with a 'You're Hired' session. Steve Beckles-Ebusua, also known as '*the man with the orange tie*', encouraged pupils to exceed their expectations. The year 10 pupils were treated to an engaging workshop to look at things from a different perspective and have ambitious goals in life.

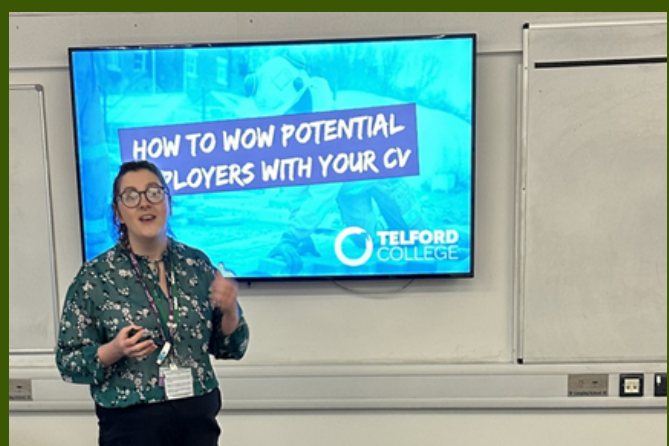
Pupils in Year 7 and 9 were challenged to explain their entrepreneurial skills with Adam Corbally. A former 'Apprentice star', Adam expertly provided pupils with the opportunity to collaborate effectively to pitch products of the future. The ideas did not fail to disappoint! Pupils left feeling inspired and confident in their own talents.

Year 11 pupils were supported with CV writing and honing their interview skills. Transition leads from Telford College led these sessions, supplementing the support the senior team from The Telford Langley School had provided at Telford College's recent Open Evening. Pupils left the session clearer about how to communicate their skills and talents clearly and effectively for potential employers.

The week concluded with a visit from BAE systems. Year 8 pupils were actively engaged in discovering some of the exciting opportunities available to them in the armed forces. The interactive session was well received by all pupils and got them thinking about the possibilities that the future might hold.

Overall, the week enabled all year groups to reflect on where they might see their career unfold.

By Emma Blount



Events



YOUTH FORUM

On Thursday 16th November, head pupils from our school attended a Youth Forum at the Telford Minster. The Telford Langley School joined other schools from across the region at the invitation of West Mercia Police. The aim was to collaborate in a 'Redeeming our communities' project. This project aims to gather young people together to share their views about where they live, raising key issues and suggesting improvements.

The pupils were highly commended for their contributions, and they presented themselves very well. Thank you to Mrs Smith who agreed to act as trip leader.



YOUNG SPORTS LEADERS

On Wednesday the 13th December, a group of year 9 students attended a Young Sports Leaders day at Telford College. The day was hosted by Telford College in association with Telford and Wrekin School Sport Partnership and was aimed at improving communication and organisation skills required to become a successful leader.

Our pupils took part in team building challenges and represented the school with pride in each activity. Thanks to Ms Griffin for accompanying the pupils to such a worthwhile event.



PASTORAL DROP IN SESSIONS

Friday 15th December saw the second pastoral drop-in session for parents and carers of Langley pupils.

Mr Preece, Deputy Head Teacher, was on hand to answer questions and offer guidance. It is an ongoing event, held at the Dawley town Hall, for parents and carers to raise concerns or seek advice so that there can be a supportive and collaborative approach to helping our young people thrive.

Please keep an eye out for information about future sessions and do attend if you are able.



Acheivements

WEST MIDLANDS GYMNASTICS

Oliver Dade has been competing for the past 3 years in the boy's squad for the West Midlands at the NDPs (National development program) which sees gymnasts travel from all over the UK to take part.

Ollie took up training at the age of 7, when after 5 weeks his coach asked him to try out for the development squad due to his strength. Once making the squad, Ollie's training has continued to increase, and he currently trains for 12 hours a week.

Training is split between The Park Wrekin Gymnastics club in Wellington and the Gym in Lilleshall where the national team trains. He has been fortunate enough to meet British Olympic, Commonwealth and world champions.

Although Ollie enjoys the variety of the 6 apparatus of gymnastics, his favourite is the rings. He also volunteers as a young leader helping beginners to improve their skills. This will give him the opportunity to become a coach in a few years if he chooses to.

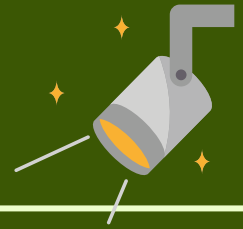
We wish Ollie all the best in his upcoming competitions and look forward to seeing him represent the UK one day!



CHARITY DRIVE

This term, Mrs Kelly Thomas set out to raise funds for the Birmingham Children's Hospital. They are doing such a fantastic job of supporting one of our pupils who has been really unwell. So, together with several pupils and staff, Ms Thomas undertook to complete 30 miles in November. Mrs Thomas, Kian Rutter, Jack Burkitt, Logan Whittaker and Mr Godfried Manu completed 70.41 miles in total, raising £245 for this amazing charity. She would like to extend her thanks to everyone who donated and supported them!

In the spotlight



GETTING TO KNOW MS NORRY

By Niamh and Saoirse

Many teachers know that Ms Norry does a lot of valuable work. We sat down with her to find out more about our gem of our librarian.

Where did you study?

I studied at the University of Wolverhampton and did a tourism degree.

Why did you want to work in a school?

I have 2 children of my own and love them.

Where have you worked before?

I worked with less fortunate families who didn't have books using BookTrust.

What is your favourite thing about Langley?

I love how we support one another. This School is a community, and we help each other no matter what.

Why do you do what you do when there is very little credit in it?

I enjoy books and I want to share my love of books with everyone. I am here for the students; my reward is helping the students.

A few of Ms Norry's favourites...

Book- Watership Down

Artist- Seal

Shop- The flying Tiger

Colour – Turquoise



SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY

What could be more interesting than learning about how our country and our world has developed over time? Here in the Langley History department, we believe that studying humanity's past can do a lot of good for the world. Whether you are a year 7 journeying through Medieval England, a year 9 discovering the horrors of the Holocaust, or a year 11 envisioning the chaos of the Wall Street Crash: it is certain that History will capture your imagination.

Thinking of continuing your study of History? It does open the door to many professional fields including law, journalism, and archiving. However, the skills developed in your study of history will be useful in any workplace as great historians are also great communicators.

If your lessons do not quench your thirst for History, you can always attend History Club on Thursdays after school in Room 20. An ever-popular club, Pupils compete for the title of 'History club Champion' creating a project on a different historical topic each week.

Creative Corner

We caught up with Ms Baker to find out more about her new creation.

1.) What was your inspiration for the podcast? What gave you the idea for it?

I was inspired to make the podcast by my current Year 10 students. They told me they learn best when listening to something in their own time. I spoke to a few years 10 and 11 students about if a podcast was available would they listen to it, and a lot of students expressed they'd find it helpful. I did initially try to find a podcast that we would be able to direct students to, but I couldn't find one which fit what we needed.

2.) What has been the biggest challenge so far?

The biggest challenge so far has been learning how to edit and upload the podcast! I'm not a very technical person, and I found it really overwhelming at first as I had to teach myself how to use the software as I was creating the first episode. There were a lot of mistakes made at first and I did think it was going to be impossible to complete everything.

3.) What has been the greatest delight so far?

My greatest delight has been the overwhelmingly positive response from both staff and students! I've really enjoyed reading comments on Spotify, and listening to not just KS4 but KS3 students saying how much they enjoyed the first episode. One student even told me about how he'd listened to the podcast on repeat while playing Xbox! It made me feel like all my hard work had paid off and made the frustration I'd felt when editing completely worth it!

4.) What is your vision for the future of the podcast?

My priority now is recording everything that KS4 are going to need to revise for their English GCSE revision. I'll be recording Romeo and Juliet over Christmas to release in the new year, then An Inspector Calls, and finally the poems from the poetry anthology. I've had an overwhelmingly positive response from staff members who want to be a part of the podcast, so look out for some of your favourite teachers and members of SLT appearing in future episodes.

Remembrance poem

By Phoebe Dotson

As the poppies swayed side by side
Near the people's graves who had died,
More and more poppies and graves appeared,
As the sound of bombs exploding made the whole
world shiver.

Families hear the devastating news about their loved
ones dying,
The world trembles at the sound of guns going off,
And planes flying over with sirens going off.
As children stop being children, the adults await the
phone a call to say their loved one is hurt or dead.

Poppies sway side by side,
Gas fills the air,
Soldiers trying to keep their spirits up by playing
cards,
As soldiers get letters from their families to let them
know what they are missing.

As Soldiers miss big milestones in life,
As soldiers get tired and wait for the news that war is
over,
Poppies sway side by side,
Row by row.



Shakespeare to Shelley



Episodes will be released every two weeks during term-time!

Scan the Spotify code or search 'Shakespeare to Shelley: Telford Langley's GCSE Podcast' to follow us!



Entertainment

HIGHLY RECCOMENDED HOLIDAY READING

- By Ava McGlynn

Heartstoppers has become the most popular and most read book series in the Langley Library.

It is an LGBTQ+ young adult graphic novel and webcomic series written and illustrated by British author Alice Oseman. It follows the lives of Nick and Charlie as they meet and fall in love.

It appeals to a variety of ages. It refers to growing up and what it is like to have feelings for someone of the same gender. It is an exploration of gender identity that will enlighten and promote empathy. It has even been taken up as a series on Netflix- showing this is a worthwhile read for many!

I would rate heartstoppers as a 5 out of 5. This book is enjoyable and emotional. It has taught me a lot about going through life's struggles and what can happen unexpectedly.

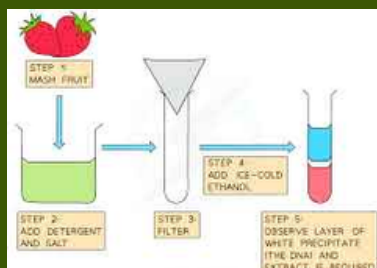
I would absolutely recommend this as a must-read.



SCIENCE CLUB

Science club has been busy doing some exciting things this term including extracting the DNA from strawberries. If you want to have a go over the holidays...

[How to extract DNA from a strawberry \(genome.gov\)](https://www.genome.gov/27527238/how-to-extract-dna-from-a-strawberry)



CONTRIBUTORS

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A huge thanks to all our pupil contributors for this 1st Edition!



Festive Cheer



Wishing our school community, a very blessed festive season!



On Wednesday 13th December, staff wore Christmas jumpers in aid of 'Save the Children'. Teachers made donations to wear a Christmas themed jumper of their choice and pupils were able to vote on their favourites. Many teachers and support staff put a lot of effort into their dress on that day and competition was fierce. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all who donated.

On the same day we were lucky enough to have the fabulous canteen staff provide us with our Christmas meal. Turkey rolls, pigs in blankets, mince pie tart and so many other delicious treats were provided to help get us all in the festive spirit.

	Best Jumper	Most effort
1 st	Mr Creed	Mr Creed
2 nd	Ms Drew	Miss Thomas
3 rd	Mrs O'Connor	Mr Oxenham



STAFF CHRISTMAS POLL

And the results are in...

65 Staff responded, in an average time of 4min 52 seconds. We think that may be a new record!

- Do you have Turkey for your Christmas dinner?
72% Yes
- Are you a Brussel Sprouts fan?
60% Yes
- Is the 1st December too early to put up Christmas Decorations?
19% Yes, too early 60% It is about right.
20% It is never too early 1% don't celebrate
- Name your favourite Christmas film.
And the top vote goes to....ELF!

The following also received a mention-

Carol/Christmas Christmas with the Kranks Christmas Vacation
Polar Express Christmas chronicles Miracle Love Actually
34th street Muppet Elf Christmas Carol Claus the movie
National Lampoons wonderful life movie Santa Clause Die Hard
Claus the movie Grinch Lampoons Christmas



There is always support



<https://www.kooth.com>

 Advice and Helpline 0808 800 5000	 Young Minds Parent Helpline 0808 802 5544
 Kidscape Parent Advice Line 020 7823 5430	 Contact a Samaritan 116 123



<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/emotional-wellbeing-and-mental-health/beam/>