



LONGCROFT

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

NEWS LETTER

Performing Artists Wow Capacity Audience



Our Performing Arts Night provides an opportunity to enjoy and celebrate the work of our talented, dedicated pupils and Sixth Form students and also the progress they make in dance, drama and music during their years at Longcroft.

This year's event was particularly significant as it saw the return of a capacity audience who were treated to a wonderful range of fantastic performances. Performances included excerpts from examination pieces and class work, extracurricular activities and the now traditional Student Surprise from Year 13.

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Year 13 students studying Dance performed 'Ruby Tuesday' and 'All that Jazz' and showcased pieces they have choreographed as part of their Level 3 BTEC course while the Lower School Dance Club performed 'Waka Waka'.

Year 11 pupil Freddie Mills performed in an excerpt from John Godber's 'Bouncers'. He said, "It was enjoyable performing in front of an audience. It was just good to get up on stage. It was a new experience – I was nervous, but more excited."

Year 10 pupil Sam Drew said, "I really enjoyed it – especially seeing other people perform and appreciating their talents."

Brad Willoughby-Parker has immersed himself in performing arts opportunities throughout his seven years at

The orchestra opened the evening. Key Stage 3 ensembles performed 'Wonderwall' and 'Riptide' and showcased their African Drumming skills while ensembles of GCSE musicians performed 'Viva La Vida', 'Dani California' and 'Never Enough'. Musical theatre pieces included 'Send in the Clowns' and 'She Used to be Mine', while pupils studying GCSE Music performed their compositions.

Lower School pupils studying Drama performed an excerpt from 'Too Much Punch for Judy' while pieces from Upper School pupils included 'Blood Brothers', 'Bouncers' and 'Shakers'. We were also treated to powerful, emotive performances from our A Level students.



Longcroft and is studying A Level Theatre Studies alongside Criminology and Media Studies. An example of both the impressive progress pupils make in their performing arts subjects and the characteristics they are able to develop through the opportunities, Brad said: "I have loved every aspect of the performing arts throughout my years at Longcroft. I have been able to develop my confidence and skills as a performer while making friends and enjoying opportunities that will stay with me throughout my life. I have appreciated the support of all the staff in performing arts and am grateful for everything they have done for us all during our years at Longcroft."

Thank you to our Performing Arts staff who can take pride in the quality of pupils' and Sixth Form students' performances and reflect on their contribution to these young people's love of their subjects and their progress.

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Thank you also to the fantastic Friends of Longcroft School who sold an amazing £269 worth of refreshments! The FOLS do a great job to raise money which supports our pupils and Sixth Form students.

Reward Totals

So far this term our pupils have been awarded the following rewards for acting with Great Heart, Thought and Vision:



Acts of Great

HEART	73,567
THOUGHT	310,400
VISION	297,819

GRAND
TOTAL:
681,786



Headteacher's Welcome



I do hope you have enjoyed time as families and with friends over the Easter holidays. Welcome to our first newsletter of the Summer Term, one we are very much looking forward to with so much planned to get excited about.

We are now just a few short weeks away from the heart of the exam season and pupils and students continue to prepare to represent themselves well. I remain hugely encouraged by the response our young people have demonstrated to the raft of support the school continues to provide in this regard. This has manifested in many ways, including attendance and engagement with intervention, tutoring and support sessions, and the fabulous achievement of becoming the very top ranked school on GCSE Pod, a national platform where we have now been described as the 'heavyweight of the North'. Momentum is key and our focus is on continuing to build on all that we have established over this final stretch. Please continue to encourage and support at home, and get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. We know this is an intense period emotionally and physically and we are here to help.

More widely, this summer will see a host of trips, visits and experiences being reintroduced, following such an extended period of disruption during the pandemic. This week I have been talking to excited pupils who are attending our residential trip to the Eden Project, taking part in the final stages of a range of sports competitions and festivals and looking ahead to the Prom. We will also be hosting a number of events for the community and particularly primary schools across the region. As a community school our place in service of Beverley and the

surrounding villages matters to us, and we look forward to welcoming visitors and ensuring our fabulous facilities are made available in different ways.

At this time of year, we experience much transition for children across the school. Some students will leave us to take their next steps in education, employment or training and others will be preparing to join us for the first time, with significantly increased numbers in both Year 7 and 12. Every year group will be preparing for a move to the next stage of their journey and we will be working to ensure every young person experiences a smooth progression. You will also receive further information about our proposal to become an Academy and I encourage you to read and engage with all of the material provided. Our consultation is on-going and your input is both important and very much welcomed.

It is at times of transition that our values and our associated expectations provide constancy and reassurance. They will remain a focus of all we are and do at Longcroft for the young people we serve. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support in partnership with the school to ensure its continued development.

Mr Perry
Headteacher



LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

It has been a great pleasure to welcome the children back into the school, seeing them return with a positive attitude, ready and focused for learning. What has impressed me in particular has been the way the pupils have interacted with each other during lesson times and when moving around the school site in a calm way. Longcroft is a friendly, welcoming school where the pupils are keen to help each other and support one another to achieve.

We encourage our pupils to always try their hardest in everything they do and staff, in turn, recognise and reward not only great work, but great character as well. Since September 2019, we have been using the ClassCharts online reward system. This system enables staff to issue a range of rewards to pupils both in class and around school. The rewards focus on our values and are awarded for acts of great heart, great thought or great vision.

We strongly believe that parents and carers have a crucial role in recognising and rewarding their children's achievements. We therefore encourage parents and carers to download the free ClassCharts Parent App from either iStore or Google Play. We have previously provided each parent or carer with a unique access code for their child, which needs to be entered along with an email address and password. You can then check your child's rewards regularly on a mobile phone. If you cannot find the letter with the unique code, please contact school@longcroft.riding.net and we will be happy to help. A reminder - any points accumulated on ClassCharts can be traded in for items in our school's ClassCharts store online.

The Spring Term ended on a high note as many Lower School pupils were rewarded having met our challenge of achieving 100% attendance over the final two weeks of the term. It was a pleasure to join my colleagues in giving out Easter eggs to those pupils as they left school on the Friday afternoon.

Congratulations to Maisie and Amelia who won Easter eggs in the Lower School lunchtime raffle organised by our caterers Mellors. They are pictured with their prizes.

Finally, as we look ahead to the Summer Term, Mrs Brady will return to her role as Care and Achievement Coordinator for Year 7 with Mrs Newsam focusing on Years 8 and 9. An updated list of Care and Achievement Coordinators and their contact details appears at the end of the newsletter.

Mr Worthington
Head of Lower School



UPPER SCHOOL



Mr Colepio writes:

Longcroft GCSEpod pupils reach top spot!

What a remarkable achievement. Longcroft Year 11 pupils have propelled our school to the number one ranked spot on this national platform.. At the start of the year we were mid-table, but have climbed steadily and really accelerated before the end of the Spring Term to achieve beyond expectations. A huge well done to all our pupils!

We made GCSEpod use a key revision element for our Passport to the Prom. We agreed that 75 views by the end of the Spring Term was a reasonable target that would allow pupils to blend and match it with other revision strategies. This clearly shows how many have enjoyed its short, precise and interactive tools as well as the "check n challenge" facility.

GCSEpod throws up a number of interesting statistics. Nationally, girls outperform boys at GCSE by up to half a grade per pupil on average. They have for a number of years. GCSEpod usage shows that the top five users are boys. Effectively engaging boys has been a priority over recent years and especially in literacy. Again, this is a national issue. The most viewed pods are in English Literature - they are very good. Combine these two factors and this constitutes significant progress for both boys and literacy. Importantly GCSEpod has shown itself as a much valued and engaging resource for all our pupils regardless of prior attainment.

This bodes so well. We are both delighted and extremely proud of our pupils.

North Heavyweight - 149 Schools Competing

Longcroft School have signed in ✓

Withdraw

View Full Game Details

Only your score and position will be visible to other schools. Your school name will not be shown unless you are one of the top three ranking schools in your league.

Position	School Name	Score
1	Longcroft School	13.7952
2	The Giles Academy	13.2362
3	The Bishops Blue Coat Church of England High School	12.4629

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Sporting Success

While they will feature more prominently in next week's Newsletter, I want to congratulate Year 11 pupils Owen Bruton and Sam Hancock on their sporting achievements. Over Easter Owen represented Great Britain in ice hockey, while trampolinist Sam has been selected to represent Great Britain in the European Championships in Italy in June.

Congratulations to our Year 11 rugby team on reaching two prestigious cup finals. I look forward to celebrating their success in forthcoming weeks.

Examinations Underway

This week our Year 11 pupils have been involved in examinations in PE, where selected pupils performed in front of a moderator from the exam board, Drama and Spanish. Next week sees pupils taking their French speaking assessments.

Best wishes to all our pupils – they have worked hard and prepared well, and we hope their commitment is rewarded.

Mr Colepio

Head of Upper School





SIXTH FORM



Mr Henderson writes:

We are thrilled to see that 18 pupils from Year 11 have signed up for our visit to New York next year. It will be an amazing cultural experience and give our students the opportunity to make new friends with the students from our Woldgate campus whilst taking in the sights and sounds of "the city that never sleeps." For any more information about the trip and details of any remaining places, please get in contact as soon as possible.

Over the Easter break, college was open each Thursday so that Year 13 students could come in to study or to collect resources. Our Health and Social Care students Sienna, Emily, Chloe, and Lucy all came in to work with Mr Wilson on their coursework, whilst Lewis and Nell both took advantage of having somewhere quiet to work.

Now that we have returned to college for the summer term, form periods have changed for both Year 12 and Year 13 students. After having mixed groups through the year so far, Year 12 students are now together as a form and will be starting to focus more on their UCAS applications and developing opportunities to take on more responsibilities, beginning with the Reading Mentoring programme for Year 7 and 8 pupils.

Year 13 students are now registering with Mr Wilson in the Sixth Form Study Area with the focus being on exam preparations and completing courses. It has been a great start with students following their revision plans and having the opportunity to discuss any worries or concerns with the three members of staff available. We are also making other Sixth Form teachers available throughout the week to offer subject specific intervention, which students find is a great way to boost their learning at the start of the day. With only two weeks until the exams start, we know that our students will make the most of the opportunities still available.

Looking further forward, we are now planning summer term activities for our MED6 group of students to help them develop the skills they will need to make successful applications to medical schools. Starting with anatomy and advanced laboratory skills, the programme will begin as soon as the Year 11 exams have finished. We look forward to telling you more about this soon.

Mr Henderson
Head of Sixth Form





TEACHING & LEARNING

**Mr Taylor writes:**

Hello again. We now approach the critical few weeks in the run up to the start of the exam season. If your child is heading into exams, the tension temperature in your household can go through the roof.

It starts with sleep deprivation - theirs and yours. A study of over 1,000 parents and students has shown that 80% of teens lose between 2-4 hours of sleep each night; it's no wonder parents may struggle to manage the stress fall-out.

Exam time can put the whole household on edge. Parents worry about how well their child will do, how much or little they're studying and the impacts their performance may have on their future.

Thankfully, there are strategies that can help the entire household through this challenging time. Please find below information from psychologist Jordan Foster from ySafe for her top tips for helping teens (and parents) turn exam stress into exam success.

1. Help them avoid study distractions

Our research shows that during exam periods 3 out of 5 pupils increase their screen time with up to 30% of their extra time spent on social media. "Call it self-medicating with screens. Social media is a constant distraction to pupils' learning time, and this is particularly problematic during study periods. I recommend setting boundaries around screen time to help eliminate added distractions" says Jordan.

2. Ensure they're getting enough sleep

'Getting enough sleep is fundamental to performing well at school and especially during exams', notes Jordan. Our research shows that 9 out of 10 children take their devices to bed with them during exam times. 'When teens spend most of their evening studying, they'll usually want to catch up on social media before bed and this can cut hours from their sleep time - resulting in them being excessively tired right before their exams. I recommend either banning devices in bedrooms during exam times or even cutting off the internet at bedtime'.

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3. Know their exam timetable

"This is something easy parents can do to help relieve their child's stress", says Jordan. "Knowing what exam they've got next so you can help make sure they get there on time and also offer to help them revise. It's an extra element of support. Parents can even add the exam timetable to their calendar."

4. Install parental controls on their devices

Our research shows that 42% of teens report that their digital devices are a distraction during exam time. "If ever there was a perfect time to install parental controls without argument, it's right now when they're studying for exams" says Jordan. "Parental controls enable parents to block apps and websites that serve as a distraction for pupils, so they can use their devices as intended - to study."

5. Remain calm

"Or if you can't be calm, learn to fake it. If you stress out, they'll stress out even more - it really is that simple" says Jordan. "So, it is very important to try your best to hold your stress inside and discuss with your partner or a fellow parent going through the same thing, if need be. It's also helpful to remind your child even if they don't earn the results they hoped for there are still other pathways into their chosen course or career."

Mr Taylor

Head of Teaching and Practitioner Development



Inspirational Oliver's Insight

Oliver Stapleton left Longcroft in 2021 having earned A* grades at A Level in Biology, Geography and Psychology and an A in Chemistry to read Medicine at the University of Sheffield. Mr Wilson was delighted to catch up with Oliver, who also represented his country in Badminton during his years at Longcroft, to discuss the opportunities offered by his degree programme and university life. In his interview, Oliver also offers the benefit of his experiences to current students.



Mr Wilson: How did you feel on Results Day when you realised that you had achieved the grades you needed to gain a place at your chosen university?

Oliver Stapleton: No real way to describe it, left very surprised and relieved in the end. I felt like all my hard work had paid off and that was an amazing feeling. I had been refreshing UCAS for a while so when I saw I had achieved the grades I needed, I felt over the moon.



Tell us about the degree course you selected and why you chose it.

I chose to study Medicine (A100) 5-year course at the University of Sheffield. I chose it mainly due to my love of the sciences, especially biology and chemistry. I first started looking at medicine as a possibility around Christmas of Year 12 after doing a lung dissection in Biology with Mr Brown. After looking into it more, I realised this was the thing that I wanted to study, and with support and encouragement from the staff in the East Yorkshire Sixth Form and Longcroft I was able to fulfil this aspiration.

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How did your time in our Sixth Form help you prepare for life as an undergraduate?

The Sixth Form helped me to organise my time more effectively and develop time management skills to study and keep up with my workload as well as my medicine preparations (pre-admissions test, interviews, etc.). The staff helped me develop my independent study skills, which is a key skill at university as the amount of self-directed study is significantly increased.

Which parts of your degree course do you enjoy the most?

I very much enjoy my GP placements and hearing about the patients' conditions and their treatment within the NHS, as well as learning more about the physical examinations that GPs have to regularly conduct. Having contact with patients is such an eye opening experience, and really cements why I chose to study medicine. I also enjoy our anatomy sessions where we dissect cadavers; it is fascinating to see the intricacies of the human body.

What do you enjoy the most about student life?

I enjoy meeting a wide range of people that I wouldn't have necessarily met without the student life; it really brings you into contact with a whole range of people.

What advice do you have for our Year 11 pupils who will be starting the Sixth Form next September, for our Year 12 students who may be considered going to university in 2023, and finally, for our Year 13 students who are going to university this autumn?

For Year 11 pupils all I would say is to try your best to keep on top of your work, use your free time effectively and create a plan to help keep on top of your work. Also it's never too early to start looking at possible university choices and courses and thinking of ways to enhance your application and pathways to get there.

For Year 12 students considering university, the best advice can only be to thoroughly research your options whether that is university or another route. Discuss your options with the Sixth Form team - they are more than helpful and will help you decide on a path that is best for you.

For Year 13 students going to university, I'd say to try to make the most of every opportunity you can such as volunteering, joining the university societies (there will be a society for just about everything), or try to get involved in sports (if that's what you're interested in). Enjoy your time at Sixth Form, as university is a whole new kettle of fish!

We are extremely proud of Oliver's achievements and appreciate his taking the time to offer an insight and advice that we are sure current students will value.





IN FOCUS

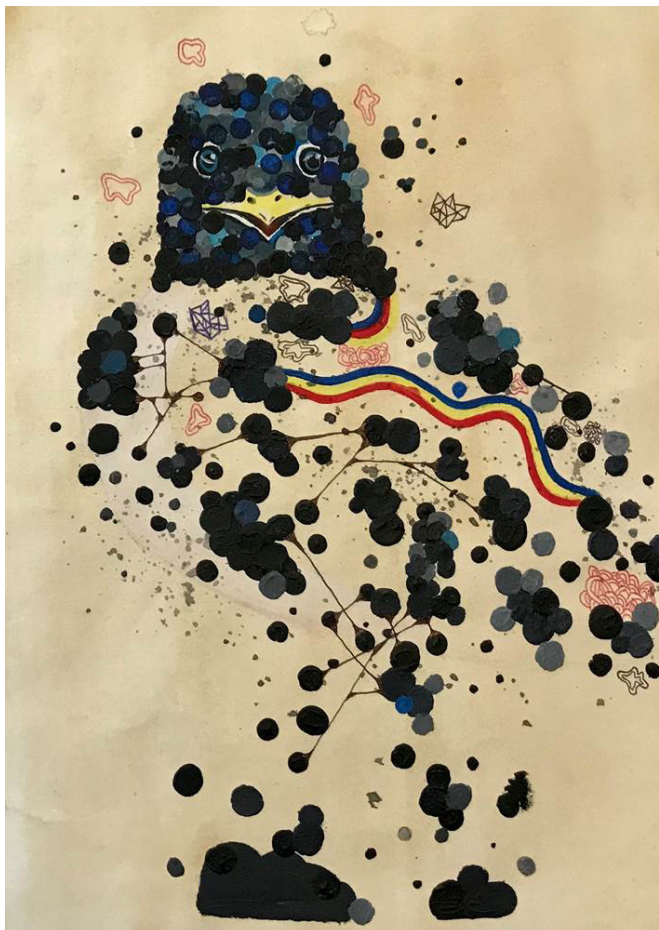
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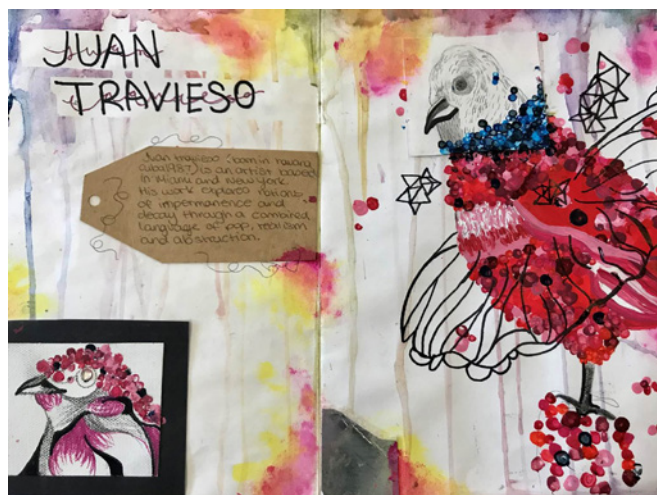
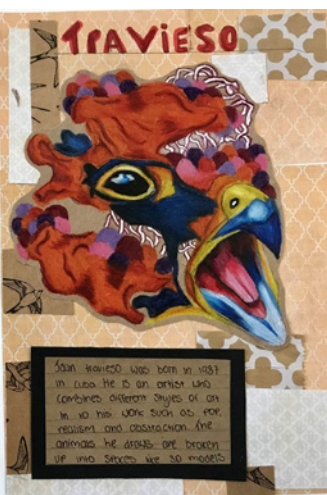
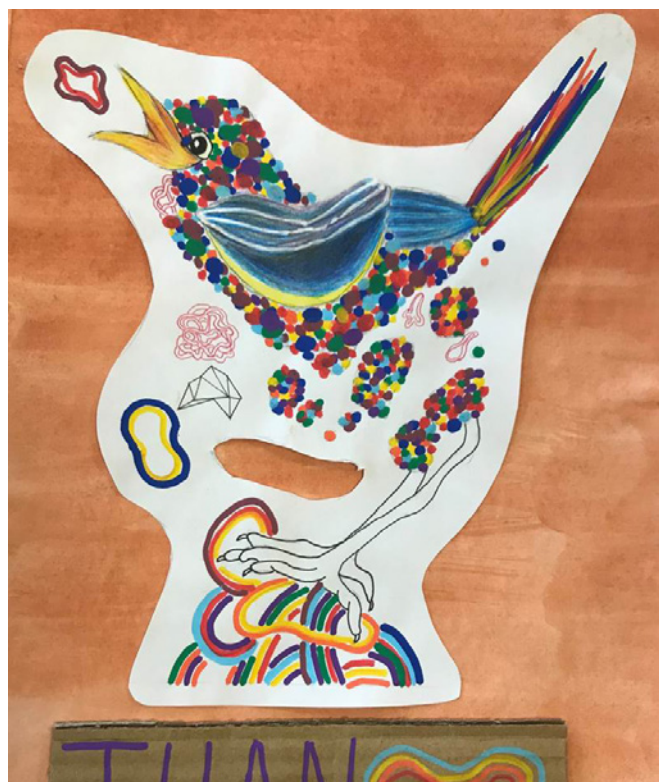
This week we are proud to feature artwork from Year Nine pupils.

They are developing a project based upon their investigations of the "Endangered Bird" work of Cuban artist, Juan Travieso who is fascinated by the extinction of countless endangered species. He hopes that his fragmented birds, which are broken up into shapes, spaces and forms will draw attention to the damage that we are doing to our planet.

Mrs Holmes said, "Pupils have responded to his work with enthusiasm, discovering inventive ways to portray Travieso's work and concepts."







Memory Lane

This week our first picture features two teachers who will live long in the memories of pupils they worked with. Mr Watson is pictured with his tutor group 7E in 1998.

Sitting to his right is Mrs Maher.



Back row:

Thomas Chapman; Matthew Boyle; David Bragg; Ashley Reading and Thomas Shillito.

Middle row:

*Matthew Bean; Christopher Hawkins;
William Smedley; Samantha Booty; Helen
Mortimer; Laura Rowell; Robert Pearce;
Martin Goldsborough and Jamie Fisher.*

Front row:

*Brooke Swallow; Bethany Husband;
Kelly-Marie Robinson; Rebecca West; Mr
Watson; Sarah Bone; Eva Bannister; Kirsty
Hodgson and Catherine Leonard.*

Our second picture is more recent and features pupils chosen as members of our Sports Academy in 2016.

Pupils took part in a day organised by Mrs Holt which involved them working through challenges and team building activities with boxer Rachael McKenzie and Team GB volleyball player Ben Pipes from the Sky Sports Living for Sport athlete mentor team. Rachael said,

"My role as an athlete mentor has enabled me to inspire and motivate young people across the UK to be the best they can be. It's amazing to see so much enthusiasm and desire to achieve. By learning new skills and disciplines that they can apply to all aspects of life, today's youngsters can really strive to achieve all of their aspirations."



Pictured with Rachael and Ben are, from left to right:

Owen Walker; Zac Toes; Adam Fox; Jevon Mills; Joe Grady; Andrew Wallace; Lucy Maull; Evie Moy; Mia Pearson; Callum Wilkinson; Grace Rispin and Molly Lunn.



Amazing Response to Jacob's Well Appeal



Thank you to everyone who supported Longcroft's donation to fantastic local charity Jacob's Well Appeal which sent lorries of valuable resources to Ukraine.

We are proud that so many members of our community including pupils, Sixth Form students and staff collected a range of items including food, hygiene products and children's gift boxes which were then shipped to Ukraine by Jacob's Well where the donations were sure to be gratefully received.



Jacob's Well Appeal is a Beverley based charity that has been sending aid overseas since 1982. There is a branch of Jacob's Well in Ukraine.

Thank you also to our Head of RE Mr Fox who co-ordinated donations and their collection.





LIBRARY NEWS

Celebrating Shakespeare's Birthday

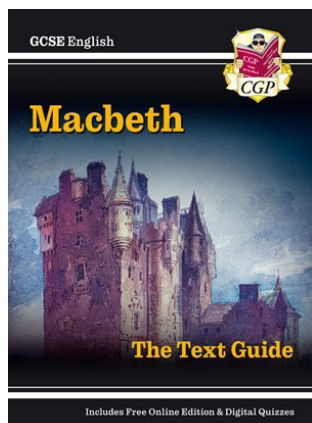
William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the world's greatest dramatist and the finest writer to ever use the English language. Born in 1564, his is a rich and diverse legacy and includes at least 38 plays, 3 narrative poems, and 154 sonnets.

It's impossible to measure the enduring impact his writing has had on the world. His plays have spawned numerous adaptations across multiple genres and cultures, and are a regular presence on stage and in film. Shakespeare's works invite numerous interpretations and present an understanding of humanity that few other writers can rival.

His birthday is traditionally observed on the 23rd April, St George's Day, with special events celebrated across the country and globally. To mark the occasion pupils and students will find a large display of his work in the Library in a variety of formats to suit all reading levels, as well as revision guides and cards for those studying Macbeth at GCSE. Please encourage your children to sample the incredible works of England's national poet, the Bard of Avon.

It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.

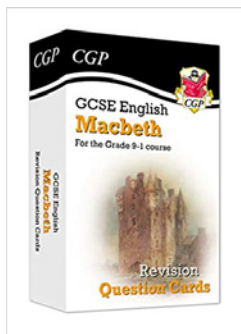
William Shakespeare



Succinct summaries of the key elements of the play, plus in-depth notes on the characters, themes, language, historical background and more, with photographs from film and stage productions to help set the scene.

The guide also includes quick warm-up activities, in-depth exercises and realistic exam-style questions at the end of sections, alongside challenging questions for pupils aiming for Grades 8-9.

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The 63 cards in the pack cover the key characters, themes, context, writer's techniques, plot and key events. There's also a section of cards focussing on key quotes in the text — great for helping to learn quotes in preparation for the exam.

Each card starts off with quick questions to warm up, followed by harder questions that require more thought, plus revision and exam tips. Flip the card over and pupils find full answers to each question, carefully written to help them understand everything they need to know.

Carnegie Shortlist books

Do remember to encourage your children to sample the new books on the Yoto Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2022. The Awards celebrate outstanding achievement in Children's writing and are unique in being judged by children's and youth librarians.

Copies of these stunning new reads are available in the school library now. Six of the eight shortlisted books are based on real world events, with many showing the importance of friendship in overcoming the challenges of life and celebrating difference and individuality.

Reviews of the books are most welcome. Please submit these to Ms Carvill in the Library for publication and prizes.





Care and Achievement Co-ordinators

Our Care and Achievement Co-ordinators work with a specific year group to ensure the welfare and progress of pupils and are the first point of contact for parents.

They work to care and support children to achieve academically by establishing a positive learning environment by visiting and working in lessons and supervising and supporting individuals and groups of pupils.

Our team, and their work mobile phone number which parents can use to contact them, are pictured below.



Year 7

Mrs Brady

07342 342858

kay.brady@longcroft.eriding.net



Years 8 and 9

Mrs Newsam

07827 587483

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Year 10 and 11

Mrs Ellis

07900 394085

annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net