



LONGCROFT

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

NEWS LETTER



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Books Creating a Buzz!

Our Bookbuzz books have arrived, and the library is buzzing!

At Longcroft, we are committed to fostering a love of reading in our young people and offer a range of opportunities and experiences, not least through our wonderful library. 'Bookbuzz' is a fabulous reading programme provided through the BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire young readers by engaging them in exciting, relevant books and providing access to the authors behind them.

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We are once again grateful to our amazing Friends of Longcroft School (FOLS) who make funds available every year so that all our Year 7 pupils can choose a free book from a list of 17 titles, each carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.

This year's books include a wide variety of titles, from non-fiction reads for curious minds to fast paced page-turners. The books cater for a multitude of tastes and abilities and include dyslexia-friendly titles and novels in a range of genres.

Our Librarian and Literacy Co-ordinator Ms Carvill said, "It's thrilling to see pupils listening attentively to authors describing their books in the Bookbuzz film, reading blurbs, and opening chapters and discussing covers with peers and staff. Bookbuzz is about allowing pupils choice, empowering them, and encouraging conversations."

Members of 7SGE were excited by the opportunity to choose a book. Evie said, "I read a lot. I like action books with cliffhangers. I'm currently reading Alex Ryder's 'Snakehead'. I've got the full Alex Ryder collection. I like to imagine what's going to happen next."

Eddie explained: "I like reading comics because it makes me feel like I'm actually in the story. I get to use my imagination." Jasmine added, "I'm currently reading Malamander by Thomas Taylor. I chose it because I started it at my old school and wanted to finish reading it. It's good because it's full of action."

Grace said, "I like reading murder stories. When I read, I like to imagine the scenes in my head." She added, "It's nice to get a free book. I like to read a lot."

Mr Carvill added, "Research has shown that reading regularly impacts positively on children's well-being, language, and imagination. It's also a huge amount of fun and a wonderful lifelong habit to develop." In our regular 'Library News' feature towards the end of this Newsletter she has chosen a selection of the 17 books and provided a brief summary to whet the appetite!

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

9,330

THOUGHT

43,506

VISION

34,517

GRAND

TOTAL:

87,353



Year 6 Open Evening

Wednesday 28th September

5:00 – 8:00pm

Find out more information and book your place
at: www.HeartThoughtVision.co.uk

- » Set in over 40 acres of exceptional grounds, our state-of-the-art facilities provide the highest quality learning environment for our pupils and students.
- » Over £6 million pounds of recent investment in our stunning school.
- » 2022 Academic performance well above regional and national averages.
- » Every child known and valued as an individual.
- » Committed to a holistic and enriched education.
- » A rapidly growing Sixth Form.
- » Transport available from our surrounding areas.
- » Come and meet our team and our young people to find out more.



Headteacher's Welcome



This week, it has been a tremendous pleasure to have welcomed a number of visitors in to school and without exception, Longcroft has left a fabulous impression. We have toured the site, spent time in lessons and spoken to pupils, students and staff, exploring all aspects of school life.

It has been great to hear feedback about our impressive facilities, the calm and purposeful atmosphere and how clean and well kept the school is. However, what has been most significant and uplifting has been listening to those new to our community describe how our students explicitly demonstrate our core values, and in doing so represent who we are.

There have been a huge number of examples of how our values have been visibly lived in to being. Pupils have shown Great Heart through their care and courtesy for others. Visitors encountered holding doors in corridors, supporting a friend on crutches to move safely around between lessons and a group of pupils who quickly intervened to help another who had dropped a piece of homework that had separated all over the floor. They commented on how amazingly well in a music lesson the group supported each other so that everyone was keen to volunteer to play the piano in front of the whole class, even though they had only just learned some basic chords; and in an art lesson where a pupil had noticed someone struggling on their table, and intervened with striking impact to support and help.

As we explored different aspects of the curriculum and areas of the school, pupils and students impressed with their commitment to their study and willingness to engage in their learning in lessons. Over and above what was happening in classrooms, we saw Sixth Form students working hard independently in their supervised study periods, lower school pupils using the learning support and library areas to complete homework at break or lunch time, and upper school pupils already staying back at the end of the day for Period 6 revision. At Longcroft we place a high value on academic success and learning, and there were many great demonstrations of Great Thought clear across the school.



Important Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 28th September:

Staff Training Day and
Year 6 New Intake Evening

Wednesday 12th October

Year 7 Meet the Form Tutor Event
3.30pm - 6.00pm



In PSHCE and through our Careers sessions this week there has been a continued focus on preparation for the future, whether in terms of exploring safe and healthy relationships or understanding apprenticeships. Pupils and students were confidently sharing their ideas, discussing issues and demonstrating Great Vision as they considered what the future might offer for them and for wider society. It has been wonderful to see clubs back in action after school, as well as fixtures against other schools, offering pupils and students the chance to represent Longcroft in a range of competitions and events.

It is important to us that all pupils and students recognise and realise their potential, and appreciate the amazing opportunities that life can and will afford them. I am hugely proud of the way our community has presented itself this week and urge you to read more in our Newsletter. I look forward to celebrating the many 'Great Acts' to come as we progress through another exciting year for our school.

Mr Perry
Headteacher





LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

As we begin a new academic year, I am filled with hope and aspiration for our Lower School pupils; excited for all they can achieve. There are so many opportunities and experiences to look forward to, and there is no time to waste!

Every minute is precious when it comes to education and it's been fabulous to see our pupils rewarded this week for recognising just that. Lower School pupils have earned over 26,000 rewards for acts of Great Thought so far, as well as over 5,000 for Great Heart and 21,000 for Great Vision. We've also given out over 2000 points for those who have attended 100% for the previous week, reflecting the importance of excellent attendance.

As I have visited pupils in lessons across the curriculum, I have been hugely impressed by the quality of the work, their contributions in classrooms and behaviour towards one another. This further reflects a really impressive commitment to our core values and I look forward to sharing more examples over the coming months.

As our Year 8 pupils move into their second year at Longcroft they can reflect on their first year of secondary school and the developments in their interests, skills and understanding. It is also an opportunity for pupils to make the most of extra-curricular opportunities, such as sports clubs and teams, or taking part in our annual productions. I was delighted to see a number of Lower School pupils

at rugby training, and football is again proving popular. Tuesday saw the Library filled with enthusiastic pupils looking forward to playing Dungeons & Dragons – a popular enrichment opportunity led by Miss Sinclair and Miss Brown.

Year 9 will begin the process of researching and choosing their GCSE option subjects. They will be supported and guided through this important process by their subject teachers, form tutors, Care & Achievement Co-ordinator and their Year Leader Mr Wilson.

As we continue to foster positive learning routines amongst our Lower School community, I am grateful for your continued support as parents in ensuring that pupils have all their equipment and wear correct uniform as detailed in recent correspondence with parents. This will be checked daily by staff as the small things really do matter – they are the building blocks for success.

Mr Worthington
Head of Lower School

UPPER
SCHOOL**Mr Henderson writes:****Establishing Routines – Starting as we mean to go on!**

Upper School have made a great start to the year inside school, and it's important to establish really good routines around work outside school too. It might seem early to be talking about revision, but we as we understand more about cognitive science and maximising knowledge retention, we can better advise and support our pupils to learn and achieve well in their examinations. It is critical to regularly revisit and retrieve information we have learned, to securely build our long-term memory and be able to access all of that important stuff that's stored away when we need it. Therefore, we will be launching various tools and initiatives that are proven to help in this regard over the coming weeks.

**Year 11 Impact Analysis****GCSEPod**

Last year Longcroft School and Sixth Form were the highest performers in the North of England on the GCSEPod league table and pupils achieved record results in their GCSE examinations for the school with some truly extraordinary outcomes. It is a fabulous platform that we have invested in as a school for pupils to use unlimited and for free.

Year 11 pupils will already be familiar with how GCSEPod works and we will be launching it with Year 10 after half term. Pupils might want to consider listening on the way to school or the way home. They could pick topics from earlier in their courses that they haven't considered for a while, or perhaps something they need to revisit to support some new learning. Staff will on occasions set homework using the service, but there is an expectation that pupils will log in and make use of it regularly and independently. We monitor use and will prompt any pupils failing to engage but it has been hugely encouraging to see so many Year 11 pupils continuing to use the platform throughout the summer holiday!



Passport to the Prom (Year 11)

Coinciding with the GCSE pod re-launch is the introduction of this year's Prom Passport. In order to earn access to the Prom, our passport holds our minimum expectations of Year 11 pupils with respect engagement in learning (including number of hours completed with GCSEpod), attendance and behaviour. Expectations will be clearly laid out through assemblies and the Pupil Bulletin.

Looking ahead

Next week is a particularly busy one for Year 11 pupils studying Geography and Modern Foreign Languages. The geographers will visit Dalby Forest to complete fieldwork while linguists have a mock oral examination.

Rugby team start the season well

After our success last season, this year's Year 11 rugby team enjoyed their first game together in a fixture against Hull's St Mary's College.

While Longcroft finished on the wrong end of the 32 – 18 scoreline the players can be proud of the way they played – for many of the boys it was their first game of rugby and they represented their school well.



Captain Luke Foreman, who is on Hull KR's Scholarship programme, was outstanding and boys such as Harrison Adams, Max Sawyers and Ben Shrimpton who played in the Year 11 team last year were able to dominate against players of their own age. Jack Robinson was another player who stood out while some less experienced players can be delighted with their performances.

Mr Cassidy said, "I was very pleased with the effort. A bit of inexperience told in the end but the opposition were strong and I was happy with the performance."

Congratulations to all the boys, who played with great skill and commitment. It was great to see them representing Longcroft.

Mr Henderson
Head of Upper School



SIXTH FORM



Mr Chapman writes:

A big thank you to Year 13 students and their parents who attended the UCAS information evening on Wednesday night. With this dedication and aspiration, our Year 13 students are well on the way to the university placement success of last year.

Great Heart and Thought are needed for the step up to A level and BTEC qualifications. Many students find the first real test is their ability to learn independently.

The Sixth Form experience starts with the teaching in the classroom of the subjects students have chosen and are passionate about. Students soon realise that to be successful and know their subject in depth, they are required to undertake an hour's independent study for every hour with a teacher - currently this is 4 hours per subject.

Homework mostly takes the form of work set by the teacher, for instance Maths has a rigorous format of book questions and online assessments. Other forms of work subjects require are expected reading of texts and the continual completion of coursework. All subjects require this dedication to independent study for the students to be fully prepared for their examinations. It can take time for some students to make the transition, but I have seen and been informed our current Year 12 students have produced work to excellent standards already.

To help with what independent study can look like, some ideas are listed here:

- » Reading back through class notes and relevant sections of the text book to review and consolidate work undertaken in the classroom.
- » Making additional notes or resources such as flashcards to consolidate understanding and check knowledge (these are also useful revision resources for later)
- » Completing extra practice questions to secure skills
- » Researching relevant information
- » Further reading into your subject area, for example using Oxford University's Oxplore site
- » Reading news articles, watching documentaries or listening to podcasts.

Happy studying!

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Mr Coupe writes:

Welcome to the first Personal Development update of 2022-2023. Last year we had a fortnightly PSHE and Careers Update. Developing this further, over the coming year, I will be providing an update on the work we are doing to support pupils' wider personal development as they move through the school.

Whilst we will continue to focus on PSHE and Careers, this year we will also look more widely at how this development is supported in other ways, through such elements as our assembly programme, the extra-curricular activities we offer, our whole-school events and indeed all aspects of our curriculum. In doing so, I hope to demonstrate how, as well as securing the academic progress of our young people, we also strive to instil in them the values, perspectives and strength of character that they will need to thrive in their lives beyond the school. We are helped in this endeavour by the clarity we have developed around our shared Longcroft Values of Great Heart, Thought and Vision which underpin everything we do.

One way in which we have reflected on our shared values over the last week or so is through our assemblies about the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Given the significance of the passing of such a central figure in our national story, I have been reflecting on what unites us in difficult times. As a school, we have an obligation to promote our shared national values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. These values, which are sometimes called the British Values, have been identified as being central to our society. At Longcroft, we are mindful that we need to help pupils understand the importance of these values by talking about them, but also that we want our young people to live out the values in their everyday life. So, whilst we learn about the British Values in PSHE, discuss them in assemblies and reflect them in our whole school events such as mock elections and in our School Council, we also see them as fundamental to our Longcroft Values.

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For example, the British Values of democracy and of mutual respect and tolerance are of course founded on that sense of the importance of diversity, inclusivity, and respect for others that is central to our Longcroft Value of Great Heart. The British Value of the Rule of Law is at the heart of our Longcroft Value of Great Thought, whereby we encourage pupils to consider the consequences of their actions, working rationally and carefully around problems understanding context and nuance, before choosing the right course of action. And what is Great Vision, if not a value founded on the concept of individual liberty? By raising the gaze of our pupils to consider their longer-term aims and objectives, and to reflect the skills and perspectives they will need to show when they move into the adult world, we are helping them to make well-informed choices about their future direction, and build the strength of character necessary to make the most of those choices – ‘reimagining what is possible’. In this way they will maximise their ability to have life paths of their own choosing beyond Longcroft and to express their own individual liberty. So, these national values are intrinsically linked to the Longcroft Values that are at the heart of our Personal Development Curriculum. I am looking forward to exploring these further in forthcoming weeks.

Mr A Coupe

Head of PSHE and Careers Education





TEACHING & LEARNING

**Mr Taylor writes:**

It's been a real pleasure to see the fantastic range of work our pupils have produced in the first few weeks of term. To have settled so quickly back into the classroom is a real credit to them. They have done so in a calm and purposeful manner.

I thought it would be sensible at the beginning of term to reemphasise the Longcroft Learning Cycle to you and introduce it for the parents of our new intake in Year 7. This Cycle forms the basis of each lesson we teach, giving our pupils the security of a consistent structure through which to learn which is evidence based, improves knowledge acquisition and accelerates progress. It has five elements to it, and each is denoted by an icon displayed on PowerPoints and other documents used to deliver lessons. You should see reference to these if you look in your child's book. The phases are as follows:

STARTER

CHALLENGE

TEACH

DO

PROVE

I look forward in the coming weeks to showing you some examples of the high quality resources our teachers are using to make sure our pupils are getting a quality classroom experience. I will also share with you examples of the work that is produced in each phase of the lesson.

Mr Taylor**Head of Teaching and Practitioner Development**

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THE LONGCROFT LEARNING CYCLE





IN FOCUS

SCIENCE

This week we feature Year 7 pupils' work using microscopes in Science.

Pupils described how to use a microscope. They then described the functions of the structures of animal and plant cells.

Pupils drew diagrams of animal and plant cells before identifying and labelling the nucleus, cytoplasm and cell membrane. Jasmine Stephenson then wrote, "The nucleus in a cell is like the brain, it controls everything." She added, "The cell membrane decides what comes in and out of the cell." Well done Jasmine!

In future editions of our Newsletter, we look forward to featuring older pupils' and Sixth Form students' work and demonstrating the development of their scientific understanding as well as their practical skills.







The Friends' Corner



FOLS Meeting

6.30pm Tuesday 27th September

fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Charity Reg No. 515674

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer and the children have settled back into a routine for the new school year. FOLS are once again getting ready for our first meeting of the school year and would like to invite all parents, grandparents and carers, to join us and see what we do. If you would like to come along at 6.30pm on Tuesday, at Longcroft School, please contact us on fols@longcroft.eriding.net and pop down. We hope to see you there!

FOLS Cash Draw

We run a monthly cash draw, which costs £1 per month (paid annually). This is usually drawn on a quarterly basis, 50% of which goes into our funds for supporting our school, 50% of which is paid out in prize money to the winning number. The more that join, the bigger the prize money is!

Cash Draw numbers can be purchased through the school Parentpay app, or can be purchased directly from FOLS, so you don't even need to be a parent! Members of staff, grandparents and our extended community can also join – just contact us at fols@longcroft.eriding.net for further information on how to pay.



Find Friends of Longcroft School on Easyfundraising or Amazon Smile—here are a few examples of sites who donate to us when you use them.

Confused.com

Compare car insurance quotes and
save up to £341*

Donation increased to £18

JUST EAT

Donation increased to 13%

Booking.com

Save at least 15% on local breaks,
longer trips or anything in between

4% Donation



Memory Lane

This week we feature 9N - Dr Souter's Year 9 tutor group from 1999/2000.



Back row:

D Tomblin; Z Powell;
A Brown; G Clark;
P Walton; C Maw;
B Wainwright.

Middle row:

D Fisher; J Sutcliffe;
H Jones; H Gillespie;
C Rymer; B McDonnell;
S Pugh; T Mason.

Front row:

G Whitehead;
C Goldsbrough; K Peacock;
T Gill; N Witty; H Smith; H
Southern; R Gillyon;
S Waller.



Follow us on Twitter to
see more pictures from
Memory Lane
[@SchoolLongcroft](https://twitter.com/SchoolLongcroft)



Find us on Facebook
Longcroft School &
Sixth Form College



LIBRARY NEWS

Further to our article on BookBuzz, Ms Carvill has offered some information on five of her personal favourites from the 17 titles pupils are able to choose from. Copies of all the books are available in the Library and pupils are encouraged to read as many titles as they wish.

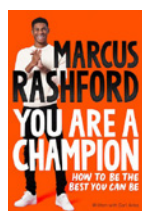
When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle



Without doubt, this was my favourite title in this year's selection. Set in 1941 it tells the story of Joseph Palmer who has been sent to London to stay with a total stranger, Mrs F. All Mrs F cares about is her half-empty zoo and the gorilla, Adonis, that lives there. Joseph has his own issues, not least his anger. As the war rages, and bombs drop from the sky, bonds deepen, and secrets are revealed.

This brilliantly written novel builds in intensity and has the most climactic of ends. I couldn't put it down.

You Are a Champion by Marcus Rashford with Carl Anka



This is the ideal book for pupils who prefer non-fiction and who want to develop their ambitions and build their self-confidence. It's packed full of stories from Marcus's own life, brilliant advice, and top tips on how to dream big, never stop learning, and navigate adversity.

Marcus Rashford's book shows you how to find your voice, believe in yourself and understand what being a champion can mean for you. A fabulous read.

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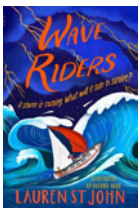
Tragedy at Sea: The Sinking of the Titanic by David Long, illustrated by Stefano Tambellini.



This extraordinary true story details the construction of RMS Titanic and her doomed maiden voyage to New York. It's packed with facts and excellent illustrations, from the vision behind the ship to the feats of engineering it took to build it and the events that led to the disaster.

The title is printed in a dyslexia-friendly format and will appeal to pupils who enjoy reading about dramatic real-life events.

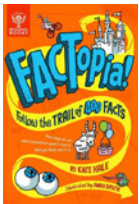
Wave Riders by Lauren St John



There is nothing like a good mystery to catch your imagination and pull you in; especially when it includes world travel.

Jess and Jude are sailing the world with their guardian Gabe. It seems idyllic until disaster strikes, and Gabe disappears overnight. Suddenly the twins are totally adrift in what is a dangerously sinister world. Ocean storms become media storms as the feisty twins face an adventure of a lifetime and solve the mystery of who they really are. Gripping.

Factopia! By Kate Hale, illustrated by Andy Smith



This book is packed with hundreds of fun, funny, and fascinating facts. It covers a wide range of topics, from nature to robots, the human body and space. It's the type of book that you can dip in and out of, read page by page, or follow the trail through the book that connects the facts together in unusual and different ways.

A great book for those that enjoy quality images and illustrations and accessible text.





Care and Achievement Co-ordinators

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

They support children to achieve academically by establishing a positive learning environment, 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

zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 10 and 11

Mrs Ellis

07900 394085

annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net