



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



Murder Mystery, She Wrote

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Crime fiction is incredibly popular with Longcroft pupils and students and is one of the biggest selling genres in books. It can deepen one's understanding of the human psyche and hone our deduction skills. How? Why? Who? There is nothing like a murder mystery to satisfy a yearning for justice.

On Monday pupils in Year 9 were treated to a visit from local crime novelist Anne Wedgwood, who spoke to them about the writing process and publishing. Anne's books, set in beautiful Beverley, pay homage to some of the town's most famous landmarks: the Westwood and the Black Mill. Anne has lived in Beverley for over 15 years. Pupils asked her how important setting her books in Beverley was.



"It's much easier to write a book set in a location you know, are familiar with. I do a lot of my planning when I'm out walking on the Westwood or driving around Beverley. I'm not a very descriptive writer but I get inspired by my surroundings. I prefer writing dialogue, but I can tell a tale, I'm a good plotter."

Anne certainly can tell a tale. In fact, her first two novels, *The Botanist*, and *The Soloist* are hard to put down. Pupils asked how long it took her to write her first book.

"The Botanist took three years because I wrote several different versions of it. My second book took only a year, and the third due to be published in 2023, the same. I get on with it and set myself a target of 3,000 words a day and use a timer."

Anne is clearly incredibly disciplined. She also stressed the importance of editing in the writing process:

"Every morning I read what I wrote the day before and make changes. My family are very supportive, especially my children. They give me lots of hints. If I'm writing about

characters their age, they help me a great deal; tell me what young people are up to today. I also do a lot of research and fact checking."

Anne takes her inspiration from several sources.

*"I've always enjoyed detective novels. I am a great fan of Ruth Rendell, who also writes under the name Barbara Vine, and I really enjoy Agatha Christie. In terms of characters, some of them are based on different parts of myself or others. Like Lillian, the main protagonist in *The Botanist*, I love Scrabble."*

Although the books are murder mysteries, they're very much about families and relationships, particularly how families can unravel and fracture. It's quite difficult writing a murder scene. It's easier if it's a spontaneous act, but if it's calculated it's harder, tricky. I find one of the tips of writing is to show, not tell. Dialogue is a powerful tool to lead a story. You need to leave the reader wanting more, not necessarily a cliffhanger, but a question posed."

Anne read an extract from her book *The Botanist* to pupils. Judging by the

intense concentration on their faces, they were obviously impressed. She also spoke about the challenges of getting published.

"It's hard to get published. I use a hybrid publishing company, which means the costs and profits are shared. This allows bookshops to display my books. They have such limited space, so must be confident they are stocking the books people want to buy."

Anne's crime novels are not gory. In fact, they're quite cosy. DI Sharon Twist (better known as Ronnie) leads the investigations, but she very much plays second fiddle to the main characters. Like any good crime novel, Anne's books combine an exciting story and intriguing characters with a tightly structured plot. They have psychological subtleties and leave you wishing for more.

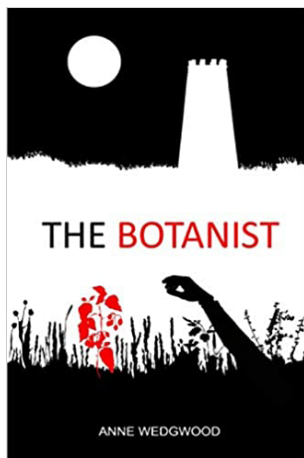
Our Year 9 pupils were very impressed:

"I enjoyed learning about how she got into writing." Sophie Wallis

"I found the talk very interesting, especially hearing how an author works. It was good to ask questions." Orlaith Brown

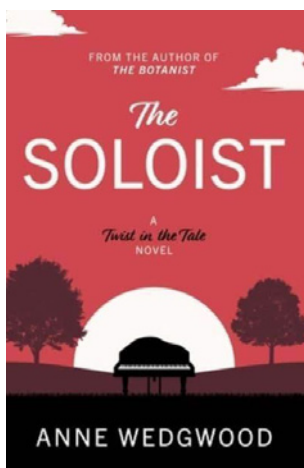
"I like that the novels are set in Beverley. She explained how the location helped her visualise a situation much more easily." Ellie Stevens

A huge thank you to Anne Wedgwood for taking the time to visit Longcroft library and talk to our pupils and sign copies of her books. Anne's works are available in the school library for loan.

**The Botanist by Anne Wedgwood published in 2020**

Set in the beautiful market town of Beverley, East Yorkshire, this is the first in the series of 'Twist in the Tale' mysteries. Lilian Templeton, a retired doctor, has a dead body in the garden and the gas men are going to dig it up very soon. DI Ronnie Twist is not impressed by Lilian's little old lady act, and a game of cat and mouse ensues. How many people has Lilian murdered? Will she get away with it?

This is a real page turner and easy to read in one sitting. Lilian is a delightfully drawn character, and despite her actions one can't help feeling a tinge of sympathy. A fabulous plot, full of surprises, and written in a refreshingly gentle style.

**The Soloist by Anne Wedgwood published in 2022**

This is the second novel in the Twist in the Tale series, again set in the market town of Beverley. The Rosewoods seem to be the perfect family, but pianist Max Silento has been murdered, and someone did it.

Scarlet, carer to retired judge Ada, has had a troubled upbringing, and would do almost anything for her benefactor, the judge, and the Rosewood family. Going to jail was never part of the bargain though. Employing her newly discovered detective skills she seeks to uncover the killer before she is arrested.

This classic 'whodunnit' keeps you guessing. An intriguing plot. Highly entertaining to read.

Thank you to our Librarian and Literacy Co-ordinator Ms Carvill for organising another fantastic opportunity for our pupils, and for writing this article.

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

30,104

THOUGHT

155,641

VISION

136,450

GRAND

TOTAL:

322,195



Headteacher's Welcome

As we enter the advent period, the Christian tradition speaks of hope and joy; themes that are unfailingly reflected in all that our amazing young people bring to our Longcroft community each and every day.

Our Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students have been busy preparing for their mock examinations this week, with excellent numbers attending revision, intervention and support. The maturity and spirit with which so many are approaching this challenging and highly significant period in their education is to be commended, and we are very proud of their hard work and commitment.

Across the school at this stage of the term, extended projects and pieces of work are beginning to come together. In Design and Technology for example our Year 7 pupils are putting the final touches to their clock designs which are featured on pages 16 and 17. There are a number of stages in the development of these products, from design to construction using a range of digital software and machinery. Our pupils are rightly proud of their excellent work and the knowledge and skills they have developed over the course of their projects.

Every day is filled with carefully planned learning right across our school and curriculum as well as many opportunities for enrichment. It is therefore essential that pupils and students are in school and engaged right up until the last day of term. On Monday our latest attendance challenge will begin and we are looking forward to celebrating our achievements together, including through attendance prizes and end of term rewards.

We know that for many families across the country and within our own community, this Christmas period will be particularly challenging. In a wonderful demonstration of Great Heart, our Sixth Form Ambassadors in conjunction with the Student Council will be leading a charity campaign to collect donations for the East Yorkshire Foodbank. This local organisation is part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. They are founded with the conviction that no one in our community should have to face going hungry and provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. You will hear more over the coming days about how you can help so please do support if you are able.

I wish you all a hopeful and joyful advent.

Enjoy this week's Newsletter.

Mr Perry
Headteacher



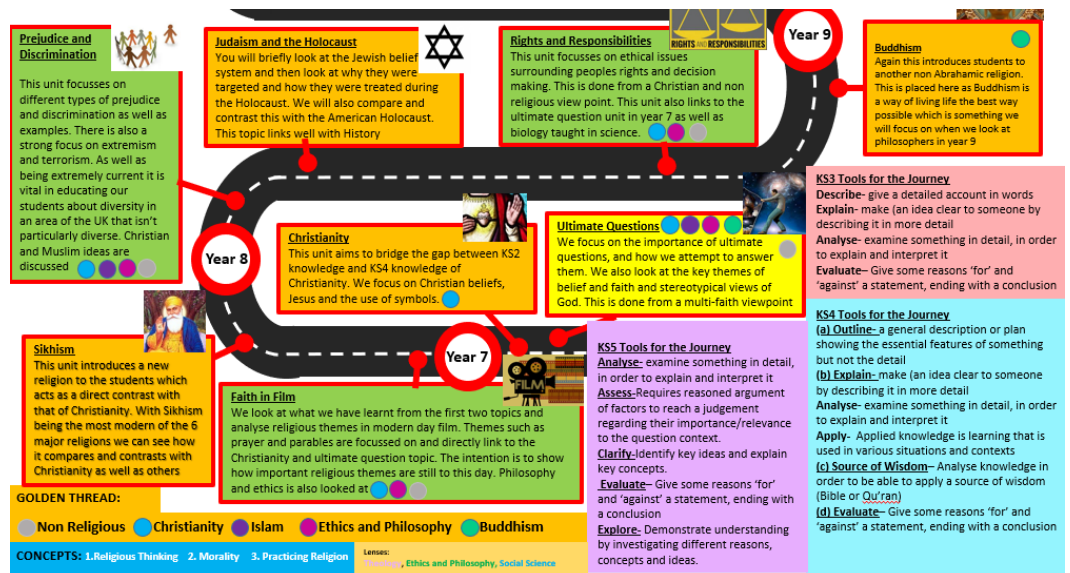
LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

At Longcroft we believe that Religious Education is relevant for all children, whatever their religion or beliefs. Whether it is taking a multi-faith outlook over the big questions around belief and religion, or looking at prejudice and discrimination in society, RE can promote respect for others as well as leading to stronger self-respect. Religious Education has never been more relevant, engaging or challenging as religion and religious issues are in the news every day.

For pupils to be able to understand our constantly changing world they need to be able to interpret religious issues and evaluate their significance. Religious and moral education enables children and young people to explore the world's major religions and views which are independent of religious belief and to consider the challenges posed by these beliefs and values.



From the pupils' first lesson in RE at Longcroft, the subject offers valuable insights into the diverse beliefs and opinions held by people today. It helps with pupils' personal development and supports an understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural questions that surface again and again in their lives.

Currently, pupils in Year 7 are looking at the ultimate questions around belief and existence. Ben said that he had enjoyed exploring the topic stating: "It really makes you think and look at ideas from other peoples' viewpoints."



I enjoyed looking at the pupils' work in this lesson. In tackling difficult questions, RE provides pupils with insight that can work to challenge stereotypes, promote cohesion, and tackle extremism. RE does important work encouraging young people to value themselves and the communities within which they live. In terms of cultural influence, we also study religion in order to learn more about how different aspects of human life—politics, science, literature, art, law and economics have been and continue to be shaped by changing religious notions.

Some of our Year 9 pupils are already looking ahead to studying RE at GCSE and will be choosing it as an option. When asked about their experiences in lessons, Matilda said: "RE looks at a lot of different opinions. My classroom is a really safe space where you can say what you think about a topic and explore your ideas further." As part of a wider discussion, Ella said she enjoyed the subject and that her teacher had encouraged her: "I like RE because I'm allowed to reflect on different issues and have dialogue about beliefs in a calm, supportive environment." Freya also commented that she enjoyed the subject and liked looking into different faiths and belief systems.

I am impressed by the way our pupils have engaged with these concepts, showing higher-order thinking and developing key skills that will equip them for the wider world. The image highlights the Learning Journey our Lower School children enjoy.

Charlie is King of the Road

Year 7 pupil Charlie Woolfitt raced to victory in the London Cup at Rye House Stadium earlier this month.

Charlie, who has been racing for three years, competed in the Honda Cadet class. His time of 11 minutes 20.856 seconds saw him cover the 14 laps at an impressive average speed of 43.7mph to win by over a second. Charlie also earned the fastest lap with a time of 47.754 seconds on lap 6, which made him the only driver on the day to drive a sub-48 second lap.

Charlie said, "I started because I wanted



something to do and I have a passion for racing. I liked going to watch my dad, and said I wanted to do it myself." He explained, "I started at a track called Wombwell in Barnsley. Someone got us a kart and an engine and helped us starting out."

Charlie added, "I like the speed and the concentration needed. A race like the final of the British Championships can last 15 minutes and the heats are usually about 7 or 8 minutes. My highest place in the British Championships was third."

Charlie says his biggest influence in motor racing is Lewis Hamilton. In the future he aspires to race in the IndyCar series. He explained, "I'd like to race on oval circuits as well as street circuits and there are some really good ones like Indianapolis. I went to Indianapolis. It was very loud and really fun, and a great atmosphere."

We are looking forward to keeping up with Charlie's career in racing and wish him well for the 2023 season.

More Netball Success!



The Year 9 Netball team enjoyed an impressive victory against Goole last week, winning 19-5. With the win comfortably in the bag at half time, the girls enjoyed playing out of their usual positions in the second half. It's great to see so many of this team playing for local clubs and doing well!

The Year 7 team had a double game week this week, narrowly losing to Goole (4-1) but then convincingly beating Driffild (10-2). Well done to Mia, Caitlin, Sophia and Devon who all played superbly in their first match for Longcroft.

Mr Worthington
Head of Lower School





UPPER SCHOOL



Mr Henderson writes:

Celebrating Success in Upper School

At Longcroft we are very fortunate to have fantastic pupils and each day they demonstrate 'Great Heart, Thought and Vision'. In Upper School so far this academic year, our pupils have earned over 95000 positive comments across Years 10 and 11. An outstanding achievement. Alongside this Year 11 pupils have completed over 7000 GCSE PODS and nearly 100 check and challenge tasks ready for their mocks. The Top Podders, who this week have received an Advent Calendar, are:

Karla Burke

Harvey Walters

Edward Smedley

Phoebe Wilson

Toby Mowforth

Danielle Harrison

Musicians Impress

Year 11 pupils studying GCSE Music completed solo practical performances with Mrs Harris this week. Each pupil had a 15 minute time slot to perform and Mrs Harris was impressed, describing the pupils as "exceptional". Well done to everyone involved. We look forward to hearing many of the pupils perform in our Christmas Concert on Wednesday evening.



Period 6 and lunchtime sessions have been attended by our pupils for the past 4 weeks; please help your son/daughter to attend as many as possible on the run up to their mock exams.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Others
Subject/ Room/ Time	Maths Foundation Mrs Wilson Room 16 3.15-4pm	Food NEA Catch up Ms George A7 3.15-4pm	Maths Foundation Mrs Wilson Room 16 3.15-4pm	SENECA Science group
	Maths Higher Mrs Low Room 18 3.15-4pm	RE Mr Fox C3 3.15-4pm	Maths Higher Mrs Low Room 18 3.15-4pm	Music/Drama See teachers on an individual basis
	PE Mr Taylor Room 1 3.15-4pm	Science Mr Henderson/ Mr Rogers/Mr Perry Room B7 3.15-4pm	Geography Miss Brown/ Mr Davies C5 3.15-4pm	Art Lunchtimes every day.
		French Mrs Barry A4 Lunchtime	History Mr Pearson C1 3.15-4pm	Art See teachers for after school individual help
		Spanish Mrs Shepherd A2 Lunchtime		Product Design Mr Dyson Afterschool individual help
		English Mrs Foster Room 4 Mrs Smith Room 8		Product Design Mr Dyson Lunchtimes every day.
		PE Mrs Holt Room 1 Lunchtime		

We have shared many amazing accomplishments of our Year 10 and 11 pupils over this term. We take immense pride in the achievements of our pupils and the amount of talent which they both have and demonstrate. Whilst academic success is important, equally, we must recognise the 'Great Heart and Great Thought' displayed on a weekly basis by pupils in all areas of life. Please do continue to share with us your child's achievements, particularly from outside school—they really are inspiring to all members of the community.

Mr Henderson
Head of Upper School



SIXTH FORM



Mr Chapman writes:

I've been hugely impressed with our Sixth Form students this week. Over the last fortnight, since Progress Update 1, Miss Taylor (our C&A in the Sixth Form) and I have been conducting one-to-one tutorials with students. We have now seen them all and we are both quite taken by their superb attitudes, diligence, focus and propensity for work, learning and growth. Each and every one of them.

We have analysed their Progress Updates, uncovered strengths to celebrate and areas to develop and together, agreed targets and next steps on an individual basis.

Teachers were overwhelming positive with the effort seen by their students in their studies and now we start to get a sense of, for Year 13, what grades the students are likely to finally achieve and, for Year 12, the direction students are heading in academically. Almost all of the 268 effort grades awarded by teachers were Grade 1 (Outstanding) or Grade 2 (Good) with only a minority being given less. They have their own specific support plan to help them to improve with our care and guidance.

This week I'd like to give a special mention to our Year 13 students who are days away from their Mocks (like Year 11, of course). The grades are significant for themselves, as they rehearse for their finals in the summer, for their teachers, as they hone the support that students will require in their final weeks in the Sixth Form and for myself as I prepare their final references that will support this cohort's application to universities across the country.

Exciting, life-affirming times ahead for these Year 13 students. Stand by Year 12 – it will soon be you!

Many of our students are involved in extra-curricular activities, and our PE team very much appreciate the support they receive from members of the Sixth Form who coach, referee and help with the organisation of training and tournaments. These students also play themselves, and this weekend saw Kasey Leak playing a key part in a great performance as Hull City Ladies secured a place in the Semi Final of the East Riding County Cup! Kasey's teammates included former Longcroft pupils Olivia Dale and Louise Dealtry-Todd.

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form





SAFEGUARDING



Mr Rogers writes:

As a parent you will be aware the amount of time your child is spending online. However, I am often told by parents that they are not sure how they can keep their children safe online, how to put restrictions in place or how to monitor their use. It's easy to assume that mainstream apps have their own protections in place, but this is often not the case and these can be circumvented by children with the know-how.

I have found an incredible resource for all adults who want to know more about keeping young people safe online.

The London Grid for Learning has published some handy material to help make sure children stay as safe as possible outside school. You can find out more here: [Home Page - London Grid for Learning \(lgfl.net\)](https://www.lgfl.net/home-page)

You can always speak to us for advice, but there are many other places to go for help.

If you are worried about any child, call the [NSPCC helpline](https://www.nspcc.org.uk). In an emergency, call 999.

There are plenty of specialist helplines.

Visit reporting.lgfl.net to find out how to remove content from social media and where to report bullying, racial hatred, terrorism, sexual abuse and more.

There are also links for children and young people to get help directly, such as [Childline](https://www.childline.org.uk) or [The Mix](https://www.themix.org.uk) (for 13-25s).

Mr Rogers

Deputy Headteacher

Head of Care and Achievement

UK Chief Medical Officers' advice for parents and carers on Children and Young People's screen and social media use

Technology can be a wonderful thing but too much time sitting down or using mobile devices can get in the way of important, healthy activities. Here are some tips for balancing screen use with healthy living.

Sleep matters Getting enough, good quality sleep is very important. Leave phones outside the bedroom when it is bedtime.		Sharing sensibly Talk about sharing photos and information online and how photos and words are sometimes manipulated. Parents and carers should never assume that children are happy for their photos to be shared. For everyone – when in doubt, don't upload!	
Education matters Make sure you and your children are aware of, and abide by, their school's policy on screen time.		Keep moving! Everyone should take a break after a couple of hours sitting or lying down using a screen. It's good to get up and move about a bit. #sitlessmovemore	
Safety when out and about Advise children to put their screens away while crossing the road or doing an activity that needs their full attention.		Talking helps Talk with children about using screens and what they are watching. A change in behaviour can be a sign they are distressed – make sure they know they can always speak to you or another responsible adult if they feel uncomfortable with screen or social media use.	
Family time together Screen-free meal times are a good idea – you can enjoy face-to-face conversation, with adults giving their full attention to children.		Use helpful phone features Some devices and platforms have special features – try using these features to keep track of how much time you (and with their permission, your children) spend looking at screens or on social media.	



LIFE SKILLS HUB CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES 2022

Can you answer yes to these 3 questions?

Are you between 4 and 16 years old?

Are you in the East Riding school area?

Are you entitled to free school meals?

If so we have some **FREE** festive fun planned at Life Skills Hub, Cottingham and you are invited.

All sessions need to be booked in advance and are from 10am till 2pm and include a free hot meal.

MUSIC • ART • YOGA • COOKERY
SPORT • AROMATHERAPY • NATURE WALKS

We have sessions running on
**December 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd,
23rd, 28th, 29th and 30th.**

To book your place and for more information
please contact **Nicola on 07588333453**
or you can email her at **np.lifeskillshub@gmail.com**



**LIFE SKILLS
HUB**



Department
for Education



TEACHING & LEARNING

*Mr Taylor writes:*

Hello again. Continuing our Literacy theme, this week we look at how we can support our child with their writing.

The best ways to support writing at home

Follow these tips to support your child's writing at home.

Provide a place for your child to write.

The area should be an area that is quiet and well lit. Stock the "writing centre" with supplies such as paper, pencils and crayons. You can also gather family photos and magazines in the centre that can be used as story starters.

Read, read, read!

The best activity to improve writing is reading. If your child reads good books, they will be a better writer. Reading exposes pupils to general vocabulary, word study and content-specific vocabulary. Through reading, pupils see a variety of authors' techniques that they can use in their own writing.

Encourage your child to keep a reflective journal/diary.

This is excellent writing practice, as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school. This reflective journal can be used to develop the "senses" of writing. Have your child write about what he saw, heard or felt on a trip or adventure. Provide experiences in your community that will interest your child and spark their writing. Especially encourage your child to write about personal feelings — pleasures as well as disappointments. When reading your child's journal (only if your child invites you to, of course), share your own feelings and ideas paired with positive feedback about your child's writing.

**Provide authentic writing opportunities for your child.**

Have your child write their own thank-you notes, party invitations and letters to family. Let your child make the grocery list. Finding a pen pal for your child would make writing "real." Helping children make the connection between writing and the "real" world will increase an interest in writing.

Be a writing role model.

Make sure your child sees you as a writer. Point out times that you use writing to communicate with others. Discuss authentic writing in the community such as articles and letters in the newspaper, on billboards or in written advertisements. Discuss the purpose of the writing and the target audience. When your child writes, you should write. You can schedule a day of the week that you will turn off the television and share your writing.

Ask questions.

Always ask your child questions when they write. Ask specific questions about your child's writing such as: "How did that happen?" "How did that make you feel?" "Can you tell me more about that...?" "What are some other words you could use to describe...?"

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



The Friends' Corner



Christmas Concert Refreshments

As we move into the month of December, we look forward to the Christmas Concert next Wednesday (7th December). FOLS will be there with our refreshments stall to provide drinks and snacks to enjoy whilst watching the concert. I am sure it will be a wonderful evening, so **please remember to bring some cash** so that if you would like to purchase anything, you don't miss out. We hope to see you there!

fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Charity Reg No. 515674

Volunteering with FOLS

We are creating an auxiliary team of helpers, who would like to lend a hand but can only manage the odd occasion. This may be for activities such as making hot drinks and to serve refreshments to raise funds which will be used to fund projects and purchases that benefit the children of Longcroft School. We are all volunteers and would love to invite parents to join our group of dedicated volunteers, but understand that not everyone wants to make a long-term commitment to be a member of the committee.

If you feel you could help, please contact us on fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Don't miss the FOLS BIG Christmas Cash Draw

Anyone who is in the Cash Draw at the start of December will be entered into the Christmas draw, with the 1st prize of **£175**, 2nd prize of **£50** and 3rd prize of **£25**! So, at a cost of £12 per year, why not join and get the chance of winning one of these cash prizes?

If you have missed the deadline for the Christmas draw, please still support us, as the more people that are in the draw the larger the monthly prize fund will be.

Remember that the remaining 50% of the money raised goes back into our fund to provide items and services that directly benefit the students of Longcroft School.





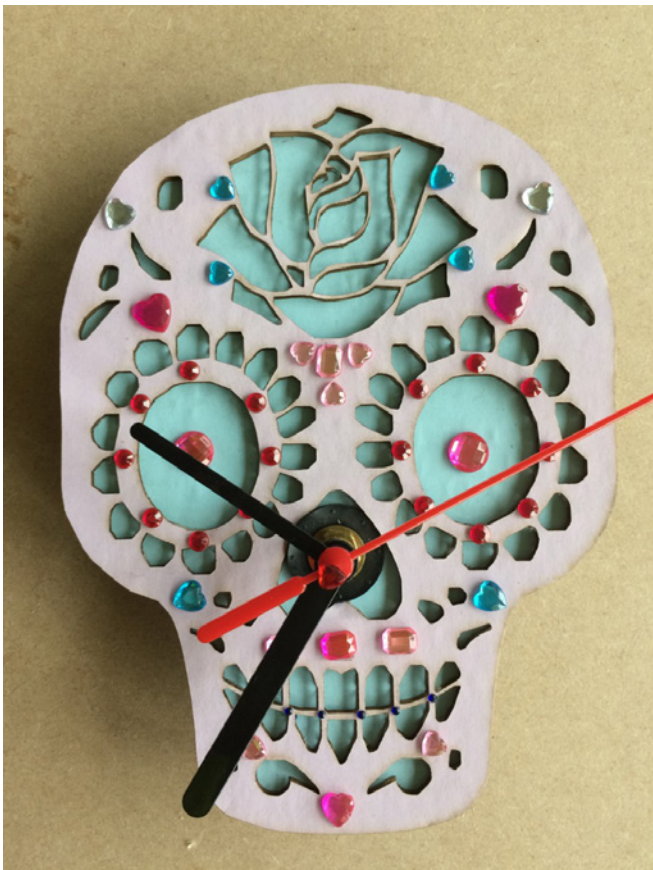
IN FOCUS

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Pupils in Year 7 have demonstrated their design and making skills, making clocks using a skull-shaped template. Mr Dyson was impressed by their creativity. Some of their work is featured here.

Year 10 pupils Jake and Lewis have been using machinery to make bottle openers. Mr Dyson said, "Pupils learn to use tools and machinery safely in Lower School. Those who choose to study Design Technology in Years 10 and 11 then make more complex and challenging products. I'm delighted with the development of their practical skills."







Former Pupils' Sporting Success

We were delighted to hear that three pupils from last year's Year 11 have continued to enjoy success in their sporting fields.

Having made her debut last season, footballer Louise Dealtry-Todd is now a regular in the Hull City Ladies first team and recently featured on the cover of the programme for their match against Newcastle United. Nominated for the England Colleges National Trials, Louise was successful in progressing to phase 2.

Boxer and national champion Tallulah Pulling took on Normanton's Farrah Cunniff, also a national champion, in a top of the bill contest for the Yorkshire challenge belt and came away with the title.

Sam Hancock, who made his Great Britain debut last year, enjoyed a fantastic performance in trampoline at the 2022 World Age Group Championships in Sofia, his score of 94.270 earning him 22nd place.



Congratulations to all three former pupils who are inspirational role models and a source of great pride.



Memory Lane

This week we feature 7N, Ms Buck's tutor group from 1997.



Back row:

Christopher Maw; Zachary Powell; Alexander Brown; James Sutcliffe and Philip Walton.

Middle row:

Daniel Fisher; Thomas Mason; Ben McDonnell; Gordon Clark; Tammy Gill; Ben Wainwright; David Tomblin and Mark Farniss.

Front row:

Gemma Whitehead; Hannah Gillespie; Nicola Witty; Kirsty Peacock; Ms Buck; Carly Rymer; Hayley Smith; Rebecca Gillyon and Danielle Leach.



Follow us on Twitter to see more pictures from Memory Lane
@SchoolLongcroft



Find us on Facebook
Longcroft School & Sixth Form College



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



Years 10 and 11

Mrs Ellis

07900 394085

annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net



Sixth Form

Miss Taylor

01482 862171 ext. 1338

emily.taylor@longcroft.eriding.net