



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER

A Christmas Carol

Pupils enjoy a festive treat

Contents

Headteacher's Welcome

Page 3

Lower School

Page 4

Upper School

Page 5

Sixth Form

Page 7

Personal Development

Page 8

Safeguarding

Page 10

Celebrating Christmas

Page 13

Primary School Sport

Page 14

Library News

Page 16

Memory Lane

Page 15



On Tuesday over 100 Year 11 pupils and Sixth Form students visited Hull Truck Theatre where they enjoyed an adaptation of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'.

Adapted by Huddersfield-born playwright and actor Deborah McAndrew and set in Hull, the production starred Jack Lord as the famously cold-hearted and greedy Ebenezer Scrooge. Lord's credits include appearances in Coronation Street, Emmerdale and Cold Feet.

As well as delivering a poignant, relevant message in recognising the challenges faced by hard-working families with community and kindness triumphing over greed and selfishness, the production aspired to increase accessibility by casting two deaf actors who incorporated British Sign Language into their performances as Bob Cratchit and Mrs Cratchit. The experience was therefore enjoyable and inspiring for our party.

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

32,706

THOUGHT

167,724

VISION

148,091

GRAND

TOTAL:

348,521



Headteacher's Welcome

**What a wonderful week of celebration it has been;
and there is so much more to come as we continue to
recognise the many achievements of our young people
over the final days of this important term.**

Earlier this week I was invited to our SMASH celebration event which was led by the young people who have been a part of our most recent programme. Alongside the families of those involved I was treated to a carousel of activities and information, as well as some wonderful refreshments. As I listened to the pupils describe their journeys through the programme, what they had learned and how it had shifted their perspectives, I was struck by the maturity, confidence and empathy that they all displayed. A broad smile emerged on my face within seconds of arriving and I struggled to shake it off for the rest of the day. I felt an overwhelming sense of pride in each of them and what they had achieved; a sentiment shared by colleagues who joined me for the event.

Over the last term, pupils across the school have been receiving unprecedented levels of rewards for the positive acts of Great Heart, Thought and Vision they display each and every day. We expect to hit around 350,000 before the term is complete!.. and to be on track for the ambitious target I set of 1,000,000 by the end of this academic year. We have had a queue of young people excited to be using their reward credits to purchase items from our shop, including the queue jump pass which is proving particularly popular for those that enjoy the range of food available in our school canteens.

A further highlight came on Wednesday evening when a packed audience filled our theatre to watch the Longcroft Talent Show. The event could not have been more aptly titled given the striking array of brilliant acts who featured on the bill. The quality and range of performances, from bands to solo dance, challenging drama pieces to comedy and more, was quite exceptional. The event was led by our student comperes who steered the evening brilliantly and the response of the audience throughout reflected just how impressive our young people were. The whole evening was incredibly uplifting and a great celebration of our school, our values and our children.

Whilst we are nearing the end of the term, there are still 5 incredibly valuable days to go with much learning planned. There is also however many more opportunities next week to celebrate together. We have rewards assemblies, trips and events scheduled at various points for different Year Groups and an inaugural well-being day to look forward to for our Sixth Form packed full of activities.

This week's Newsletter reflects so much more that has been taking place in school over recent days so please do enjoy reading the various articles and contributions. Have a great week.

Mr Perry
Headteacher



LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

This term we have celebrated successes with our Lower School pupils relating to their academic progress, achievement and effort. While recognising that success may look different for each individual, we have a culture of aspiration and high expectations for all our pupils - particularly in terms of effort.

I am delighted with the way our Year 7 pupils have settled in, demonstrated by the effort grades they have earned on their first Progress Update, while the majority of pupils in Years 8 and 9 continue to earn the A and B grades which show their on-going commitment to success.

At Longcroft we encourage resilience and organisational skills through rewarding Great Vision. We do this by encouraging the pupils to demonstrate readiness for the future by developing the skills and qualities that will lead to success in life beyond school.

In a classroom, this looks like good organisation and a willingness to work independently. Around school we actively promote careers, pathways beyond education and, this week in assembly we are talking to the children about employability skills. Good attendance at school is not just valuable, it's essential. Going to school is directly linked to improved performance in examinations which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects. As well as this, going to school helps to develop friendships, social skills, team values, life skills and cultural awareness as well as career pathways referred to above.

We are celebrating with pupils who have achieved high attendance this term. As well as those who have achieved the long-term goal of 100% attendance for the year, we are rewarding children who have attended school

consecutively for the last fortnight. We acknowledge that it is not always possible for a child to achieve 100% for various different reasons, but we are keen to encourage that children attend every day possible.

Well done to all pupils with 100% attendance. As well as our fortnightly attendance challenge, on a weekly basis there is a £5 Amazon Voucher competition for those with 100% attendance in the previous week.

This week we are grateful that representatives from IntraHealth have visited school to speak to our Lower School pupils about the importance of immunisation. One of the UK's largest providers of immunisation and vaccination services in schools, IntraHealth have been delivering immunisation programmes since 2009 and their secondary school immunisation service is delivered to 56,000 children.

Finally, congratulations to the many Lower School pupils who participated in the fantastic Talent Show on Wednesday evening. This fabulous occasion, enjoyed by an enthusiastic capacity audience, demonstrated once again the exceptional ability our wonderful pupils possess - on this occasion in the performing arts.

Mr Worthington
Head of Lower School

UPPER
SCHOOL*Mr Henderson writes:*

Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to attend the Leeds Playhouse adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' at Hull Truck Theatre this week. What a delight it was to see the much-loved Charles Dickens novella come to life with a lively and vibrant production.



Pupils came away with a visual representation of a novella we have studied within the classroom for the GCSE English Literature course, and were enriched for the experience.

The dynamic setting and lighting within the production, along with the versatile use of the script made for a compelling watch. Pupils' comments included:

"I really loved it; especially how they managed the fact that one actor played many roles, seamlessly."

"It was great, not what I expected—very inclusive!"

There were lengthy discussions regarding the original text versus the Leeds Playhouse's adaptation, which lead to the conclusion that the play was a successful in delivering the Christian messages Dickens' intended but also ensuring relevance for modern audiences.

The performance embedded British Sign Language to make an inclusive show during the festive season. The character of Bob Cratchit, taking a leading role, signed his part throughout - reinforcing Dickens' message that we ought to eradicate "ignorance" and "want" from society; a truly thoughtful adaptation and a wonderful experience for our pupils to reinforce their understanding of a key GCSE text.



"A Christmas Carol was an excellent experience. The set and stage were simple, but that allowed a much greater understanding of the point in the play and the acting was up close. The actor who played Scrooge was excellent, having the talent to convincingly portray an angry, selfish old being. This highlighted a convincing change to the selfless and charitable person in the end. The actors in general were exceptional, communicating through emotions really well. In my opinion the deaf actor was a very good performer, doing so well to keep up with all of the timing and dancing, despite not being able to hear. Lighting of the set and the smoke used really enhanced the tone and mood, leading to a greater immersion into the play for the audience."

—Edward

"The actors were great. They showed emotions very well, and the tone and atmosphere through the lights and sounds was moving and dramatic. They did sign language which I think was great as it made the show more inclusive."

—Ryan

"The performance of A Christmas Carol was exceptional when I arrived at the jaw dropping venue, I almost thought I was in a palace. When I entered I really felt like I was in a movie myself. That person that played Scrooge was very enthusiastic and Bob Cratchet really showed a lot of emotion. The staging and set was simple which meant you could really focus on the acting."

—Ashton

Mr Henderson
Head of Upper School





SIXTH FORM



Mr Chapman writes:

In preparation for their mock exams, our Year 13 students have been trying out lots of revision techniques.

We have had conversations about how they learn best. Some thought this was through listening, while others felt they needed to physically engage in an activity to understand things clearly. Many wanted to incorporate visual elements into their revision, such as colours and shapes linked to key themes, dates or theories.

Some students have been using tried and true classics such as mind maps, useful for linking themes and ideas throughout the subject; flashcards, best for quick fire memory tests of definitions, equations and themes; and highlighting notes, allowing them to identify and visualise the most important information on a page.

Students have also experimented with new techniques such as group revision, where they take turns to explain a concept unfamiliar to their peers in a way that could be understood with limited knowledge. They have also been using familiar games like Pictionary and Scrabble to test their knowledge of key vocabulary and to try understanding topics in an abstract way.

Students in Year 12 are already preparing notes from their lessons by creating condensed versions of their lesson notes. The challenge? To fit two hours' worth of notes onto one side of A4. Some students are creating quizzes for one another, establishing a creative and fun way to revise their knowledge.

We are extremely proud of all the Sixth Form students - the atmosphere is extremely focused and calm as all they prepare for their exams, either imminently or in the future.

Congratulations also to the students who participated in Wednesday evening's Talent Show. This wonderful occasion saw pupils from all five year groups and Sixth Form students share the stage in friendly competition and our Sixth Form students were exceptional role models, both in terms of the quality and maturity of their performances and their encouragement of younger performers. A lovely event, enjoyed by a capacity audience, brilliantly compered by Josh and Caleb!

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Mr Coupe writes:

Welcome to this week's Personal Development Update. Following on from our recent Green Careers Week, and as part of our value of Great Heart, we recognise the need to consider and reflect on what more we could do as a school to encourage our students to think an act in a more sustainable way. Therefore, this week I invited interested pupils in Years 7 and 8 to attend a meeting to discuss another exciting initiative to address environmental concerns. The response was overwhelming with 30 pupils attending to hear about the launch of our brand-new Longcroft Green Team.

The Green Team will form the heart of Longcroft's response to the issue of sustainability, through encouraging staff and the pupils to consider the environmental impacts of their actions, as well as looking for practical changes that we can make to the way we work to ensure that we reduce our consumption of resources.

In the first instance, as a launch project for the team, we will be working with an organisation called Modeshift, on a project that will see the Green Team working as Active Travel Ambassadors in school. This exciting project centres around the promotion of more active and sustainable methods of travel to and from school. Whilst we recognise that not everybody is able to get into school by cycling, walking or similar, we also note the various benefits of these. Active travel has been shown to have environmental benefits, mental health benefits, physical benefits and social benefits. Through this programme, The Green Team will investigate the barriers that members of our community face when considering active ways to get to and from school, and will then design a campaign and practical changes that we could make to overcome these challenges. As part of the project, the Active Travel Ambassadors will have an opportunity to showcase their ideas at a Dragons' Den event at County Hall, pitching for funding to help their project come to success. Through this project we will encourage and support our pupils to undertake active travel to and from school and through this, to reap the benefits.



With the Green Team starting with such a practical, structured project that will make a real and tangible change to our school, it is hoped that the Modeshift programme is just the beginning. We hope that the Green Team can go on in future years to continue to make positive changes to our school environment and help to play our part in addressing one of the major challenges of our times. Given the enthusiastic turnout at our first meeting, I am sure the Green Team will make an impact!

For this week's Labour Market Information section, I'd like to talk a little about the situation across the Humber. Since the opening of the Humber Bridge, at that time the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world, in 1981, the economies of the north and south bank of the Humber Estuary have become increasingly intertwined. Over the water, there are 83,100 economically active people, making up 73% of working age population. Average wages in North Lincolnshire rose from £25,520 in 2008 to £30,310 in 2020. The largest employment sector, with 16,675 people employed, is the Manufacturing Sector, but particularly noteworthy is the recent rapid rise in employment in the Energy Sector, and the continued strength of the Ports & Logistics Sector (6,580 and 6,745 people respectively). With an overall population of 172,300 people in the county, another important sector is Business and Retail. With travel over the Humber Bridge making the journey easier we will see increasing numbers of our young people commuting into the county in their future employment.

Mr A Coupe

Head of PSHE and Careers Education





SAFEGUARDING



Mr Rogers writes:

Having good mental health is a significant priority for us. We spend a great deal of time providing information and guidance to our pupils about how to support good mental health.

The Department for Education have put together some useful links and sources of support so that children and young people, parents, carers, can get the advice and help they need.

The list below is not exhaustive, and many other useful organisations and services exist, but it is hoped that these will help children, young people and adults navigate the key resources and get the support they deserve.

Seeking specialist support for children and young people

Local children and young people's mental health services (CYPMHS) are continuing to provide support for young people. Children and young people or their parents or carers can also contact their GP or refer to NHS 111 online. Local CYPMH services will also have information on access on their websites: many offer self-referral or single points of access.

NHS trusts have established 24-hour urgent mental health helplines in most parts of England for people of all ages. And remember to refer to your local children's services if you have any safeguarding concerns.

General information relevant to children and young people's wellbeing and mental health

These resources are dedicated to children and young people's general mental health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on mindfulness with developing coping skills in young people:

- **NHS Apps library** helps people find apps and online tools to help manage their health and wellbeing. For example:
- **Calm Harm** is designed to help people resist or manage the urge to self-harm.
- **Catch it** helps people manage feelings like anxiety and depression and improve mental wellbeing.



- **The Student health app** is designed to reduce your worries, feel more confident and get the support you need at what can be a challenging time for any young person.
- **Thrive** helps you prevent and manage stress, anxiety and related conditions.
- **Place2Be** has a host of mental health resources available. They organise Children's Mental Health Week every year.
- **SafeSpot** is an iPhone and Android app that promotes positive mental wellbeing in children and young people and has been designed to help children and young people with their coping skills.
- **MindEd's** advice and resources for families on supporting children's mental health.
- **BBC's wellbeing resources** for families.
- **Young Minds: a letter about how I'm feeling:** worksheet to help pupils express their feelings and understand what may have triggered them. For use with pupils in school or at home.
- **Mentally Healthy Schools:** tools to support an emotional check-in with pupils.
- **Mentally Healthy Schools:** an anxiety thermometer as a wellbeing measurement tool.
- **NHS: Mental Health Helplines for Urgent Help** - NHS 24-hour advice and support for you, your child, your parent or someone you care for. Help is available to speak to a mental health professional.
- **Public Health England Every Mind Matters:** Looking After Your Mental Health Resources aims to support everyone to feel more confident in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing by promoting a range of self-care actions.
- **Public Health England:** Every Mind Matters Self-Care Tool. When you complete the 5 'Survey' questions, a 'Mind Plan' is generated, with signposting options to many useful resources.
- Anna Freud: **self-care strategies for young people** feeling low or anxious and **self-care tips for parents and carers.**

Mr Rogers
Deputy Headteacher
Head of Care and Achievement





The Friends' Corner



Volunteering with FOLS

fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Charity Reg No. 515674

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.





Festival of Angels

Huge shining angels, suspended amid ethereal light and sound high above the pews of St Mary's Church, Beverley, are the centrepiece of a Festival of Angels from Sunday 11th December 2022 to Saturday 14th January 2023.

The breathtaking figures, devised by 3D artist Anne-Marie Kerr, are made with willow and tissue, and depict seven Angels including Gabriel, Michael and Uriel. They will be bathed in light and accompanied by music.

Warming refreshments are available with activities for children, and there will be special sessions from 4.00pm to 7.00pm from Monday to Saturday between the 12th and the 23rd December and again between the 27th and the 31st December.



Beverley Minster Christmas Tree Festival

We were delighted to contribute to the annual Beverley Minster Christmas Tree Festival – our pupils, Sixth Form students and staff from Design Technology and Art made a variety of beautiful decorations.

The festival, which features 120 trees all individually decorated by local people, charities and businesses, is open until Sunday 11th December. Entry is £5 for adults, and free for accompanied children.



Primary Sports Hall Athletics

Longcroft hosted the Primary Schools' Sports Hall Athletics competition with five schools attending: Molescroft, Cherry Burton, St Johns, St Marys and Swinemoor. It is always a fun exciting event for all taking part; the track events create a lot of excitement. Well done to Molescroft on a strong score on the night which saw them win the event—they now go through to the next round of the competition at Headlands in the New Year.

As always thank you to the amazing Longcroft Leaders who make the event possible on the evening.

Girls' Football

The girls' football teams travelled to Hornsea for a fixture. They had a good evening with strong performances. Year 9 won 3-0 and the Year 7 team were unlucky to lose 1-0 after many attempts on goal. Well done to all who participated!



Memory Lane

This week we feature 7C from 1997.



Back row:

Daniel Blake; James Merrylees; Nicholas Guest; James Bruin; Stuart Noble.

Middle row:

Robert Marshall; Chris Mason; Matthew Taylor; Gareth Edwards; Christopher Warnett; Craig Parker; Alistair Stone; Chris Baines; Kimberley Wood.

Front row:

Rachel Fisher; Gemma George; Emma Thompson; Alison Daniels; Jane Locke; Kate Peck; Anna Williamson; Roxanne Hyde; Kay-De Plumpton.



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

FIRST STORY SIX WORD STORY COMPETITION

Well done to our fabulous writers who entered the 6-Word Story Competition 2022. We had a record number of entries this year, over 200, making judging incredibly challenging. Thank you to the English department for supporting the competition and our wonderful First Story writer in residence, Vicky Foster, for judging it. Vicky was delighted by the amazing response and selected her top 6 stories, which she described as

‘really strong—interesting images, metaphors, wordplay, and twists. They’re all brilliant.’

Hiding children from fire, leaking petrol.

—Brett Ketteringham Year 9

Dad’s home. Quick, call the police!

—Blake Noble Year 11

Another drink. Was it worth it?

—Layla Robinson Year 11

Want to dance, can’t hear music.

—Amelia Dale Year 9

I need a pen, to start.

—George Coughlin Year 7

Where’s Dad? At shop? Who’s downstairs?

—Adam Ladley Year 7



Prizes will be handed out to the top six winners in the final week of term and three of the stories will be submitted to the national competition. Below are some more of your wonderful stories:

The blood on me isn't mine
—Anna Richardson-Lock Year 7

Their eyes meet. History repeats. Again.
—Poppy Scargall Year 11

I still see them. They're real.
—Charlotte Godber Year 11

Cancer won, now he is gone.
—Kathryne Sowerby Year 8

Did I lock the front door?
—Taylor Adams Year 9

I swear, I didn't do it.
—Brenton McKie Year 7

I'm ready for victory! Are you?
—Lily Curtis Year 7

Sir, what's my next spy mission?
—Daniel Kemp Year 7

The flash of fire; hell's rising.
—Sam Smedley Year 9

The cat growled; the earth barked.
—Ryan Campbell Year 11

What have you done to me?
—Hermione Read Year 7





Reading for The World Cup

Just to remind you that the library is challenging all pupils and students to read as many books as possible about football to mark the World Cup. The Christmas holiday is the perfect time to catch up on reading fabulous fiction and fascinating facts. Prizes will be awarded in January to pupils who excel. Here are some amazing new arrivals to sample. Copies of our football books are on display in the library and A7.



Play like A Girl - Life Lessons from the Soccer Field by Kate T. Parker

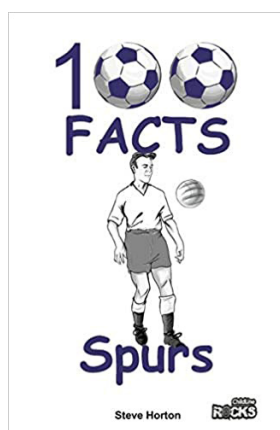
This inspiring book features a collection of photographs of female soccer enthusiasts of all ages, with accompanying life lessons that the game has to teach, and quotations from each of the subjects photographed. It's a celebration of the power of soccer to build confidence, body positivity, and the importance of teamwork. An inspiring book.



Furia by Yamile Saied Mendez

Camila Hassan plays the dutiful daughter at home in Rosario, Argentina, but she's also leading a double life. On the field she is La Furia, and when her team qualifies for the South American tournament, she has the chance to test her talents.

Her parents don't know about her passions though. Will they give permission to let Camila follow her dreams? A Reese Witherspoon, Hello Sunshine Book Club YA Pick recipient of the 2021 Pura Belpré Young Adult Author Medal. A poignant tale about having the courage to stand up for yourself.



100 Facts Spurs by Steve Horton

This book is packed with fun, quirky and enlightening facts about Spurs. Guaranteed to make you smile and increase your knowledge about an incredible team. The story begins in 1882 when the team was formed by a bunch of teenagers who attended a bible class in Tottenham and relates the history of one of our most popular teams. Sketches by artist Becky Welton depict some of the stories. A great read.



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