



# LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

## NEWS LETTER



### Orlaith Earns

### Residential Opportunity

*"I'll meet lots of new people and learn about different viewpoints and perspectives on the world."*

**Each July, a group of First Story participants who show great potential during the academic year are awarded fully-funded places to attend a week-long residential course at Arvon's idyllic Lumb Bank writing centre in rural West Yorkshire.**

The residential is an incredibly valuable opportunity for aspiring young writers to develop their confidence, creativity and ability. They will work intensively with professional practitioners, alongside a supportive group of like-minded peers, in a peaceful and inspiring natural environment - a space where new friendships are forged, and attending can be a life-altering experience.

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We were thrilled to learn that Year 9 pupil Orlaith has earned the opportunity to participate in this incredible residential - a supervised programme of teaching and learning activities, including group workshops and one-to-one tutorials. The residential is led by First Story's most experienced writers.

Potential candidates are asked to submit an extract of their own writing and responses to two short questions to the First Story team:

1. Include a short extract of your own writing (max. 100 words)
2. Explain why you are proud of the piece of writing and what it means to you (max. 150 words)
3. Explain why you would like to attend the residential and what you hope to gain from the experience (max. 150 words)

**Orlaith's extract, entitled 'The Dark', is featured here.**

The dark. What do you imagine when you hear those words? Pitch black? Ominous clouds of grey? The menacing teeth of fear? Not that. No. I don't mean those. I mean that first thought that came to your mind. The event that you shoved to the back of your brain; that you tried so hard to forget. Do you not hear the tragic whines of a violin echoing through your mind as you sprint away from that memory, the great weight of guilt stalking your every move? Do you not feel the mighty sabotage and stabbing concealed in the dark?

Orlaith said, "I started writing when I was very, very young. I can remember writing stories ever since I've been able to." She explained, "My primary school pushed it a lot. At St Mary's we'd do a piece of creative writing every Friday and I enjoyed it so much I'd carry it on when I got home."

Recalling her early writing, Orlaith continued: "The first pieces I can remember were fantasy stories about friends going off on adventures. My writing developed as I read more books and was interested in what they were about. I'd base a story on them." She added, "If I see something that interests me, I want to write about it. If I see something that would make a good description I include it."

Orlaith explained, "I like to read - Robin Stevens' 'Murder Most Unladylike' is one of my favourite series. She's really good. It's set in the 1920's, which is interesting because we didn't live then - it's about girls my age, which I can relate to, but in a different setting."

When asked about the breadth of her writing, Orlaith explained: "I enjoy all types of writing, but I prefer creative writing. It's fun to imagine a story in my head and portray it in words."



Orlaith is very much looking forward to the residential. She said, "I was very excited to find out about this opportunity – I was ecstatic! I'll meet lots of new people and learn about different viewpoints and perspectives on the world. I might be able to broaden the way I think."

This is not the first time Orlaith has enjoyed one of the fantastic opportunities created through Longcroft's link with First Story. She explained, "I went to Cambridge – writing with other First Story writers and hearing what they've done was interesting."

Looking to the future, Orlaith said: "I want to be a journalist when I'm older. I want to do something to do with writing and I hope I'll be able to make it into a career."

Writer in Residence Vicky Foster was delighted to hear Orlaith had been chosen. She said: "It's amazing news about Orlaith! I'm so excited for her. It'll be an wonderful experience. Lumb Bank is such a special place. I'm really pleased for her!"

Ms Carvill said, "This is a fantastic opportunity for Orlaith, which she thoroughly deserves. I'm thrilled for her!"

Mr Baker said, "I am proud that a Longcroft pupil has earned a place on First Story's Arvon summer residential – the field is always strong and Orlaith can look forward to an amazing week. I'm looking forward to hearing all about it." He added, "This is also an opportunity to thank the Friends of Longcroft School who work hard as volunteers to raise a significant amount of money for our school. Our work with First Story was made possible thanks to their fundraising, and also the enthusiasm of Ms Carvill."

**Congratulations on earning such an incredible opportunity Orlaith!**

## 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**

**76,222**

**THOUGHT**

**341,056**

**VISION**

**296,157**

**GRAND**

**TOTAL:**

**713,435**



# Headteacher's Welcome

**Today, our school community came together in celebratory mood, to recognise the imminent coronation of King Charles III. The role of the monarch in modern society has of course shifted significantly, but such events reflect the long and rich history of Great Britain and its evolving place in the world.**

In 924 King Athelstan became king of the Anglo Saxons until 927 when he is widely considered to have become the first King of England until his death in 939. What better time than to reflect on the original Longcroft motto given to us by King Athelstan after visiting Beverley, and what it means for us as a community, **'As free make I thee, as heart may think, or eye may see'.**

When I first came to Beverley and Longcroft, I came across a short video by Dr Jennie England relating to the heritage and restoration of St Mary's Church, in which she shares the story depicted of St John, King Athelstan and the origin and significance of these powerful words. This is a video I have shared in a previous Newsletter and is still available on the Church's website.

It is from this motto that we draw our school values of Great Heart, Great Thought and Great Vision. Academic excellence sits at the heart of the education we seek to provide at Longcroft and I unapologetically make examination outcomes a high priority. However, our ambition for a truly world class, holistic education reaches far beyond the narrow metric of success that grades alone provide.

Our aim is to empower and enable those we serve to thrive not only intellectually, but emotionally and physically – preparing them to take their place in the world with confidence, character and optimism, committed to making a positive contribution. There are many layers to a truly exceptional education, and we must work in partnership with families to create an authentic sense of 'freedom', as outlined in our motto, to reimagine what might be possible, removing any barriers to progress along the way.

Our Newsletter encapsulates some of the incredible and inspiring activity and achievements that our young people demonstrate; not only during their time at the school but beyond. This week is no different with Orlaith's literary achievements and Anna's football success excellent examples.

I wish all of you a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend.

**Mr Perry**  
**Headteacher**





## LOWER SCHOOL



**Mr Worthington writes:**

### Anna's County Honour

**Congratulations to Year 9 pupil Anna who captained the East Riding Under 14 football team in the English Schools Football Association's District Cup Final against Sefton. The match, which saw Sefton lift the cup following their 3-0 victory, was played at Stoke City's Bet365 Stadium.**

Anna said, "It was unbelievable experience and the first time I'd played in a professional team's stadium."

Anna, who plays for AFC Tickton Kingfishers, added: "The coach asked if we were up for next year and hopefully we'll all be playing again. It's a good opportunity and a great experience." Anna explained that her brother Owen, who plays ice hockey for Great Britain, always encourages her to take opportunities because you never know what they might lead to in the future. While she has lots of interests and is involved in a range of extra-curricular activities Anna added, "If I had the opportunity to progress in football I'd like to take it in the future."

Anna includes current Sixth Form student Kasey Leak who plays in goal for Hull City Ladies among her inspirations. She said, "Kasey inspired me when she was coaching us this season. Of the Lionesses, Leah Williamson inspires me – she's a great leader."

Mr Baker said, "Anna thoroughly deserved the honour of representing the East Riding and was an excellent choice of captain for such a big occasion. I am really looking forward to watching her progress, and I'm sure this won't be the last time she gets to play on a professional ground!"





## Pupils' Effort Rewarded

One of the biggest joys of working in education is seeing young people succeed and reap the rewards of their hard work and effort. At Longcroft we recognise acts of Great Heart, Great Thought and Great Vision and ensure that the children are aware that we appreciate their endeavours.

Pupils collect ClassCharts points on a daily basis, and these can be cashed in for rewards at our rewards shop. The shop is open every Friday, run by Mrs Block and Mrs Spruce-Wan. Mrs Block said, "It's a treat on a Friday to see plenty of happy, smiling faces eager to collect rewards that the children have worked hard for."



With the start of the Summer Term now fully under way, I would encourage pupils to look at their ClassCharts rewards totals via the application online and consider making their purchases in good time.



As Head of Lower School, I have enjoyed giving out our Certificates of Excellence this week to those pupils who have now amassed 1000 ClassCharts points, which is an amazing effort at this point in the academic year. Some of our children may even hit the 2000 mark by the end of July which would be outstanding. With two half-terms left to go, anything is possible!

### Here are our top five ClassCharts reward point holders in Lower School by year group.

	Year 7
<b>1st</b>	Charlotte S 1436
<b>2nd</b>	Annabel S 1371
<b>3rd</b>	Neve M 1337
<b>4th</b>	Scarlett W 1336
<b>5th</b>	Lily T 1334

Year 8
Aidan C 1254
Lexie B 1237
Sam A-B 1233
Olivia H 1225
Ben C-S 1200

Year 9
Charlotte S 1373
Lily P 1363
Mathilda S 1346
Freya K 1343
Grace C 1332

Well done to all of our pupils who are being recognised and rewarded for making the right choices day-in and day-out, going above and beyond and acting as positive role models in our Longcroft School community.

**Mr Worthington**  
Head of Lower School

Every Monday, a pupil who attended every single day in the previous week is chosen at random to receive a £5 receive an Amazon voucher.

### Last week's winners were:

Year 7: Charli D

Year 8: Stan K



## UPPER SCHOOL



### Mr Henderson writes:

**With less than two weeks to go before the first exam, Year 11 pupils have been hard at work in lessons, Period 6 sessions and revising at home. We have also seen the busy a focus on coursework completion and Art examination preparation with teachers telling me they are pleased with the pupils' progress.**

Thank you to all the parents and pupils who attended the walking talking mocks last week, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and some is shown below.

"Useful to know about exam structure and marking schemes and exam specifications."

"Useful to understand the type of different questions and how to answer them to maximise marks."

"Thank you, tonight was very informative."

"Excellent PE session, Great to get a better understanding of what's required for the 6 mark question."

"We found both evenings very helpful, we got loads of excellent tips for revision and how to approach the exams, ie. Which questions to attempt first. Thank you for organising the evening."

### Year 11 Drama Exam

Year 11 pupils studying Drama completed their scripted performance exam Friday 28th April in front of a visiting moderator. Year 11 began working on their pieces January and have committed to many months of lunchtime and after school rehearsals to bring their pieces to life. Extracts included John Godber's Bouncers, Shakers and Teechers and solo monologues based on drink driving. It has been three years since the school have had a visiting moderator and feedback about how hard the group had worked on their performances was positive.



Mr Henderson | Head of Upper School





*Congratulations to our Upper School pupils on the number of ClassCharts rewards they are receiving each week. The pupils who earned the most rewards last week are listed below.*



## Year 10

Seth H  
Alissia D  
James G  
Eloise M  
Libby W  
Connor R

Olivia L  
Lewis K  
Hannah W  
Dom F

## Year 11

Dillon D  
Sophie D  
Emma M  
Phoebe F  
Grace H

Max S  
Yousef R  
Harry C-S  
Xavier C  
Kate H

**Congratulations to Dillon who managed to top the ClassChart points in Year 11 and in the whole school this week.**

Every Monday, a pupil who attended every single day in the previous week is chosen at random to receive a £5 voucher or an Amazon voucher.

*This week's Year 10 winner is Louie L—congratulations Louie*

## Year 10 Over and Above Celebrations

Each week Year 10 pupils who have been identified by their teachers for outstanding performances are invited to celebrate with Mr Cassidy on Hot Chocolate Friday.

**James G** – Overall Awesomeness! **Mr Charlesworth**

**Ryan M** – Polite, respectful and always tries hard to positively contribute every lesson. **Mr Pearson**

**Ella Harris Smith** – Top performer in end of unit assessment – 73%. **Mr Cassidy**

**Well done to all of you!**





## YEAR 11 STAR OF THE WEEK

Each week a Year 11 pupil will be named as the Year 11 Star of the Week. This is an opportunity to recognise the hard work and efforts of a member of the year group — an Upper School pupil who makes a significant contribution to school life and through their endeavours provides an exceptional role model for both their peers and younger pupils.



*Our Year 11 Star of the Week is an opportunity to recognize the hard work and efforts of one of the year group. This week our winner is James S.*

James said, "I'd like to thank Campbell and Charlie for nominating me as Star of the Week. I think it recognises the contribution I've made to lessons over the years."

Mr Thomson said, "A valuable member of the year group, James has always strived to achieve the highest grades in all subjects. He is a hardworking, conscientious student and is preparing meticulously for his summer

exams. James was also nominated by several students this week for his dedication to extra curricular activities over the years at Longcroft and efforts in Period 6 sessions."

Mrs Ellis said, "James is a legend! He's always so polite and sets an excellent example for others."

Congratulations James!





## SIXTH FORM



*Mr Chapman writes:*

**Year 12 student Phoebe has been accepted onto a summer school at the University of Surrey in Guildford to work in the Nursing sector.**

This summer school will help Phoebe with her career plans to enter the nursing profession.

Phoebe said...

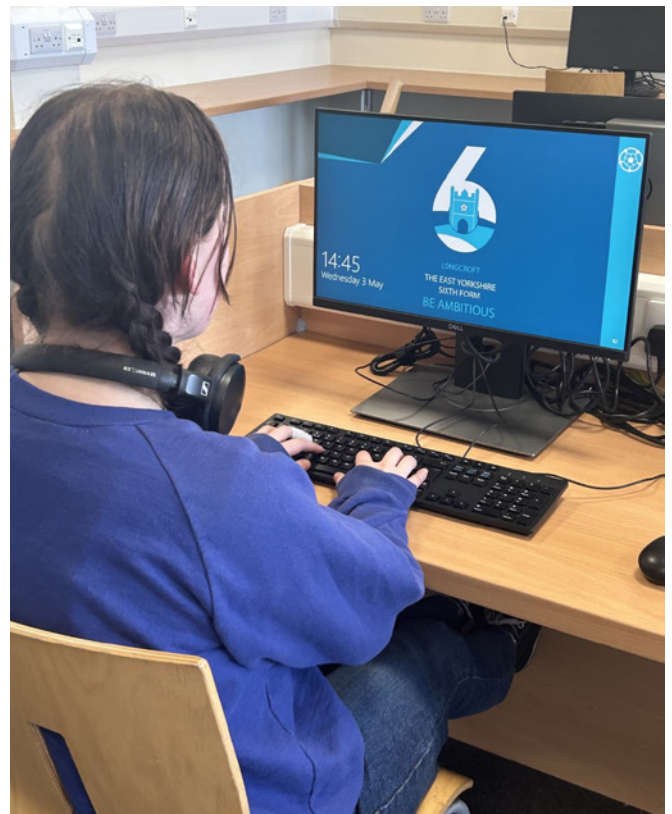
"I am excited to have been given a place on the University of Surrey Summer Camp 2023 in the Nursing sector. The summer camp runs throughout June and July, and is an opportunity to take a tour of the campus, take part in lectures, workshops, seminars and tutorials within the chosen subject area, delivered by staff who are specialists in these fields. Furthermore, the summer camp is an excellent way to meet new people who are interested in fields of learning similar to my own. The summer camp will be a great way for me to further my education, and my knowledge of Surrey University, which I aim to apply for and attend to achieve a degree in paediatric nursing."

We wish Phoebe the very best for this exciting opportunity.

<https://www.surrey.ac.uk/events/20230626-faculty-health-and-medical-sciences-residential-summer-school>

**Mr Chapman**

**Head of Sixth Form**





## TEACHING &amp; LEARNING

**Mr Taylor writes:**

**Stress is not always a bad thing. We are all familiar with the feeling of stress or fear: stress hormones increase our heart rate, our muscles tighten and our breath quickens. This increases our stamina and makes us more alert so these changes before or during an exam can actually make us feel more motivated, more alert, confident and enthusiastic. Riding a roller coaster is a good example: our body goes into exactly the same stress mode when we are on the ride, and for most people this is what makes it so exhilarating and exciting!**

Stress can become a problem if it is too extreme or lasts for a long period of time, with no relief. Feeling permanently tense, nervous and anxious is unpleasant for the sufferer, and indeed for those around them. If you notice more regular signs of aggression or panic in your daughter, this might give you pause for thought. Severe or prolonged stress can impair concentration and make things worse, but over-reacting to normal stress might reinforce it unhelpfully. So it is important to be able to differentiate between acceptable and unacceptable levels of stress.

**Symptoms of excessive stress include the following:**

- » Physical effects such as headaches, dizziness and stomach upset;
- » A preoccupation with thoughts of exams making it impossible to relax;
- » Withdrawing from friends, family and hobbies;
- » Constant tiredness due to problems sleeping;
- » Loss of appetite or its opposite: over-eating;
- » Seeing only the negative side of things;
- » Becoming more aggressive and short tempered with family and friends.





Your children may well demonstrate some of these symptoms from time-to-time, so it is important to keep a sense of perspective: one event does not turn healthy stress into problem stress.

In order to minimise exam anxiety, there are many things young people can do. You may be able to help – or you may find your help is shunned (“what would you know about it, you’re only mum/dad?”).

Feeling prepared and organised can reduce stress. All students should have produced a sensible revision timetable which takes into consideration the number of subjects and topics to be covered, the amount of time between now and the exam, and required rest periods (very important). It is never too late to talk to teachers about revision timetables, so you can encourage your child to do this if you think they haven’t got it sorted out yet.

**During the exam period time, students need a healthy balance between studying and not studying.** Keeping up with hobbies and other activities is a really good way to relax and unwind between periods of working. It is vital to have time away from all thoughts of exams and revision; this real rest for the brain makes the revision sessions much more productive.

Short study bouts of 20-30 minutes, with a 5-minute break between, enable the brain to take more in. Long periods of continuous study are counterproductive and it becomes increasingly difficult to concentrate productively. During these regular breaks, physical exercise is a really good idea – even if it’s just running up and down the stairs several times. Or putting on headphones and dancing energetically to loud music (probably best done in private!) This really reduces anxiety levels.

**They also need sleep.** Regular bedtime, no late night working and plenty of sleep is probably the most important way to improve concentration and performance.

**Mr Taylor**

**Head of Teaching and Practitioner Development**







# IN FOCUS MATHEMATICS

## Angus's Exceptional Achievement

**This year for the first time pupils in Years 7 to 11 and our Sixth Form students have had the opportunity to test themselves by taking the UK Mathematics Trust Challenges. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 take the Junior Challenge, Years 9, 10 and 11 the Intermediate Challenge and Sixth Form students the Senior Challenge.**



Mr Baker explained, "I am grateful to Mrs Powell who took on the responsibility of organising our entries.

The UKMT Challenges provide an opportunity for those with an aptitude for maths to test themselves against not only students across the country but internationally – over 200 mathematicians from Longcroft have done so this year and we have had some impressive results. All pupils earn a certificate and it is one they can be proud of."

This week we celebrate the truly exceptional achievement of Year 11 pupil Angus who, having achieved a score in the UK Mathematics Trust's Intermediate Challenge that placed him in the top 600, qualified for the Maclaurin Mathematical Olympiad.

The Maclaurin Mathematical Olympiad is a two-hour challenge consisting of six problems which require full written solutions. Angus achieved a score which saw him awarded a Merit.

Angus said, "It was quite hard – there were points where I was banging my head against the desk!"

He added, "The questions were interesting and challenging – more than in normal lessons, which I enjoyed."

Angus explained, "I am planning to study A Levels in Maths, Chemistry and Physics and then I'll probably go to university. I prefer the engineering/ mechanics side of maths."

Next year, as a Sixth Form student, Angus will be taking the Senior Challenge. He said, "I'll be trying to do even better next year, although I will be taking the Senior Challenge."

Mr Baker said, "That Angus qualified for the Maclaurin Mathematical Olympiad is exceptional – even more impressive is that he earned a Merit, demonstrating his outstanding ability as a mathematician."

# Memory Lane

This week in our Memory Lane feature we take a trip back to 2014 and feature  
Miss Ledingham's tutor group – 11B.



**Back row:**

Tom Allen and  
Brad Graham.

**Third row:**

Jacob Butler;  
Francis Cowen;  
Daniel Deeming;  
William Woods;  
Brad Walker;  
Elise Atkinson  
and Joe Mankel.

**Second row:**

Josh Drew;  
Abigail Taffinder;  
Georgia White;  
Molly Whincup;  
Beth Clegg; Paige  
Neilson and Amy  
Holt.

**Front row:**

Kane Jones;  
Gabrael Harrison;  
Lauren Spinks;  
Miss Ledingham;  
Beth Whitfield;  
Zoe Graham and  
Lorna Appleton.

In doing so, we take the opportunity to remember much loved  
former pupil Francis Cowen.





Francis joined Longcroft in 2009 from Cherry Burton Primary School. A particularly strong mathematician, Francis earned A grades at GCSE in both Maths and Further Maths and went on to study Accounting and Finance at Leeds Beckett University.

Mr Cassidy, his Year Leader, said: "Francis was a very popular member of the year group - a real character and I have so many happy memories of his years at Longcroft."

Mr Thomson taught Francis Drama for several years and remembers him fondly. He said, "Francis was a fantastic Drama student and really excelled in his performance

exams. He had the ability to command an audience and I remember fondly his comedy performances. A great personality and an asset to any group I am really pleased to have the opportunity to teach him Drama GCSE."

Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy are with the family and many friends of a wonderful young man who brought so much to his year group and our school during his years at Longcroft.



## Former students earn representative honours

**It is always a pleasure to celebrate the ongoing achievements and successes of our former students, and this week we feature three members of last year's Year 11 who have continued their progress in their chosen sports, earning representative honours.**

Ice hockey player Owen Bruton represented Great Britain who secured the bronze medal at the U18 World Championship Division II Group A in Serbia following a final day which saw them lose 2-1 in overtime to Lithuania.

Lithuania took gold and Croatia claimed silver while Great Britain also faced Romania, Spain and hosts Serbia. The team won three of their five matches, beating Romania, Serbia and Spain, and suffered only one regulation-time defeat. Owen scored for his country in the 3-2 victory against Spain.



Jack Charles and Will Hutchinson, who both play for Hull FC's Academy team having been key members of Longcroft's East Riding Cup winning team last year, represented Yorkshire against Lancashire in the first of a three match Academy Origin Series at Castleford.

Will, who plays hooker and has already appeared for Hull FC's reserve team, said: "I've had to put extra hard work in to get this opportunity. The fact that I didn't have a full-time Academy contract in the first place and now I've been called up to Yorkshire. It's all happened so quickly, but I feel like my development is going really well."

Jack started the match at stand-off, while Will came off the bench. The Yorkshire team were on the wrong end of a 20-42 defeat against their opponents from across the Pennines, but hopefully Jack and Will can retain their places for the rest of the series. The second tie is at Hull KR's Craven Park and the third at St Helens' Langtree Park.

Mr Baker said, "All three boys are inspirational characters and extremely dedicated to their sport. It was a pleasure to get to know them during their years at Longcroft and I enjoy following their progress. It is worth noting that all three are playing Under 18's and so they are in their first year at this level."







# Intra-School Sport

**Before Easter we held the final intra-school sport competitions for invasion games.**

Mrs Henderson said, "The pupils enjoyed the competition and worked well together to achieve a positive result. Our Sixth Form students assisted with refereeing which was really appreciated."

## Football – Girls

	Adams	Ennis	Grainger	Trott
Year 7	3rd =	1st	2nd	3rd =
Year 8	2nd	3rd	1st	4th
Year 9	1st	4th	3rd	2nd
Year 10	1st	2nd	4th	3rd

## Rugby – Boys

	Campbell	Farrah	Ainslie	Wiggins
Year 7	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Year 8	4th	1st	3rd	2nd
Year 9	3rd	2nd	1st	4th
Year 10	1st	2nd	3rd=	3rd=



## LIBRARY NEWS



**Ms Carvill writes:**

### Porthole Anthology Book Cover Design Competition Results.

**A huge thank you to those pupils who entered the library competition to design a book cover for our new First Story anthology, due for release in July 2023.**

Three of the designs, along with a mood board completed after discussion with our cohort will form the inspiration for the cover, and have been submitted to the designer, Lee Harrison. Lee worked as a writer in residence with our school for our Outpost 8 anthology published in 2021 but is also an incredibly talented professional artist.

Congratulations to Summer, Ella, and Ava. They will receive prizes in assembly.

**First Prize – Summer M 10LSI**

**Second Prize – Ella T 10SWL**

**Third Prize – Ava M 8JHL**





## The Yoto Carnegie Shortlist books have arrived.

Every year we look forward to the announcement of the Yoto Carnegie shortlist to determine which book will become the Yoto Carnegie Medal winner for writing. It's the UK's longest running and best-loved book award for children and young people and unique in being judged by children's and youth librarians.

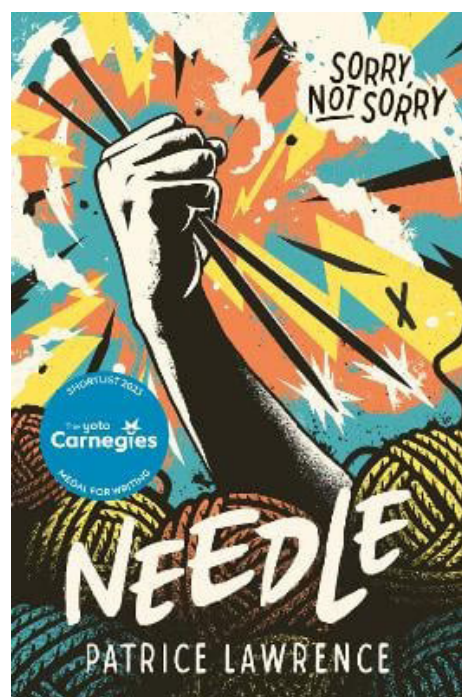
This year the Yoto Carnegie Medal features an all-female shortlist dominated by YA fiction and includes two **previous winners**: **Katya Balen** (2022) and **Ruta Sepetys** (2017).

Over the last few days, I've read all seven of the books and I can confirm they are outstanding. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

### **When shadows Fall by Sita Brahmachari** **Reading Age 13+**

*When Shadows Fall* pays tribute to all that is most meaningful in the world and gives voice to free expression: art, literature, music, dance. Themes include nature, family, friendship, love, and loyalty.

The story of Kai's life, from toddler to teenager, is narrated by him, his close friends, and the ravens that inhabit the wild wilderness near his home, currently threatened by housing developers. At first Kai's world is one of innocent bliss, but when tragedy strikes things spiral out of control. The novel tackles some difficult topics: a suicide attempt, infant death, refugees, gang culture, and drug abuse, but matched against the darkness is hope and light. The mix of verse, prose, and superb illustrations add to its depth and richness. An exceptional book.



### **Needle by Patrice Lawrence (dyslexia-friendly)** **Reading Age 12+**

Charlene loves knitting and wool, creating landscapes of colour and design. It provides therapy, a temporary reprieve from the ongoing stress that inhabits her troubled life. Mum has died, nobody knows where her father is, and she is not allowed to see her little sister Kandi, who she loves more than anything.

This heart-rending novel blows the whistle on the British care system, juvenile justice procedures, and overly punitive school behaviour policies. Charlene is hurt and angry, and she has every right to be.

Needle, a novella, is not an easy read but it does provide hope. There are good people out there. This book deserves to be read by children and adults, especially social workers, teachers, pastoral teams, and lawyers. Poignant and profound.



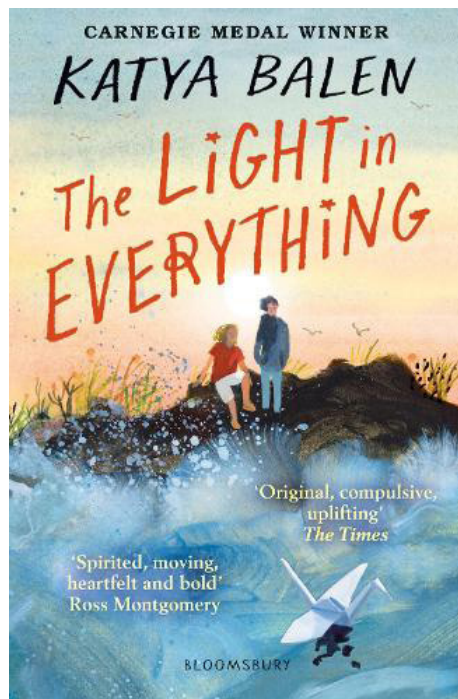
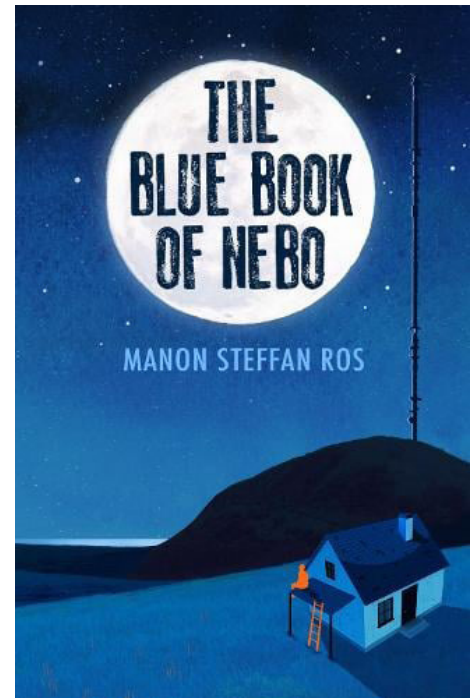
### The Blue Book of Nebo by Manon Steffan Ros

Reading Age 12+

The End came in 2016, when Dylan was just 6, and a nuclear explosion occurred in a nearby town in Wales. Most people died or fled, but Dylan and his mother, Rowenna, stayed put, learning to survive in a post-apocalyptic world.

The story is told through their shared diary entries in a blue notebook. Dylan, now a teenager, writes of his memories since The End, but Rowenna charts her life before.

Sensitive, emotional, and thoughtful, this book could well become a future classic. Be aware there is some description of death and brief implied sexual content. A superb read.



### The Light in Everything by Katya Balen

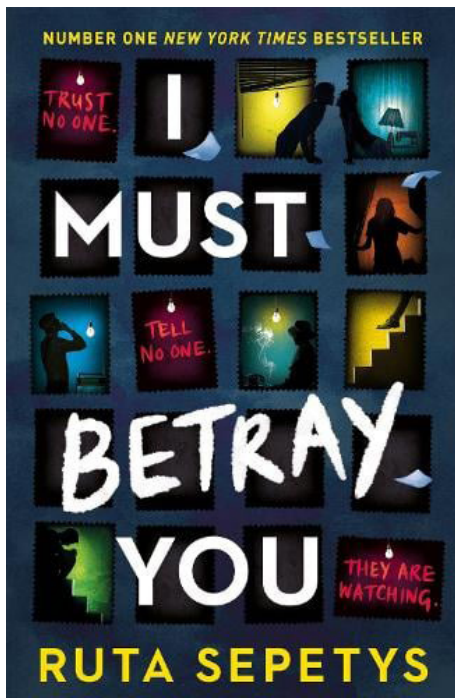
Reading Age 11+

Beautifully written, this powerful novel flows off the page. Tom and Zofia could not be more different, but Tom's Mum and Zofia's dad have fallen in love, and everything is about to change.

Set against an idyllic seaside backdrop, the story is narrated by the two children, both trying to come to terms with their insecurities and fears. As they face their individual challenges each must learn compassion and empathy if they are to make a happy future life.

The book contains some references to domestic violence. A touching and ultimately uplifting celebration of family and love.



**I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys****Reading Age 14+**

This fabulous historical thriller is based on the events surrounding the Romanian revolution in 1989. Ceausescu, a tyrannical communist dictator, has been ruling the country for decades. It's a climate of fear and isolation, where people stand in endless queues just to buy the basics.

Seventeen-year-old Christian, and his family live in a concrete block of flats in Bucharest where the water and electricity are rarely on, and he must go to school on Saturdays too.

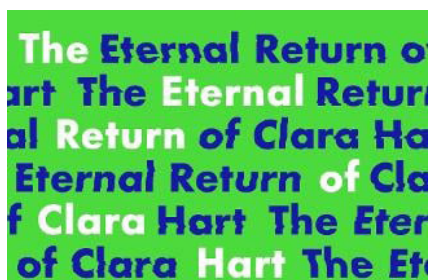
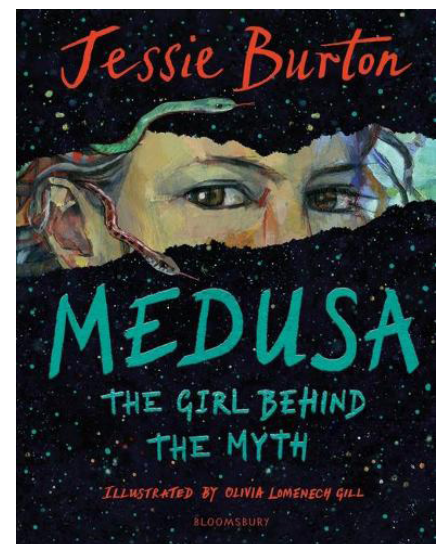
One day Christian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He has no real choice but to comply. Romania is a place where you can only talk in whispers, everywhere there is suspicion. Can he trust his girlfriend, his best friend, even his family?

A brilliant insight into a terrifying world.

**Medusa by Jessie Burton****Reading Age 13+**

This powerful, feminist retelling of a Greek myth brings Medusa to a new audience. The narrative provides insight into Medusa's motivations and innermost thoughts and explains how she and her sisters came to be cursed as Gorgons by the goddess Athena.

It's a tale of beauty and ugliness, the abuse of power, and finding the self-awareness to be comfortable with who you are. The book is beautifully illustrated by Olivia Lomenech Gill. A fascinating read.

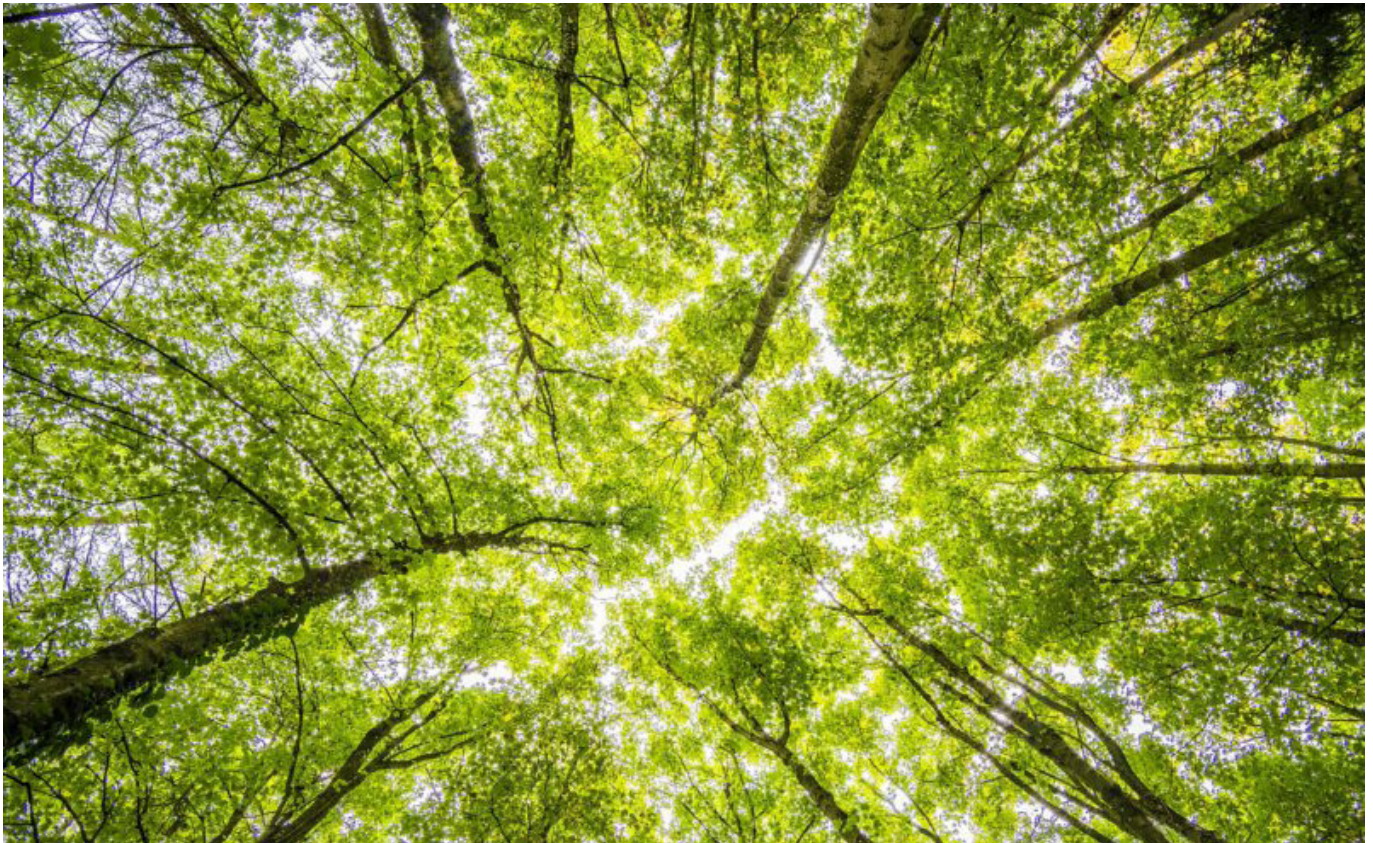
**The Eternal Return of Clara Hart by Louise Finch****Reading Age 14-17**

Spence witnesses a classmate die in what appears to be a tragic accident and suddenly sees his long-term friend Anthony in a different light. Spencer has always hated Anthony's sexist jokes, but he never says anything, but when he sees him assault a drugged girl, Clara Hart, his stance changes.

The next day starts the same way as the last – Spencer wakes up in his car, wearing his school uniform, all over again. And then he sees somebody from the party: Clara Hart. Caught in a loop, Spencer is condemned to experience the same 24 hours over and over. Can he protect Clara and prevent the terrible events of the party? Can he muster the courage to call out his friend? A sensational YA debut about toxic masculinity and gendered violence. Superb.



# First Story Eco-Poetry Competition 2023



**Could you write a winning poem about the natural world?**

**Our Eco-Poetry Competition is now open to all pupils and students. Fabulous prizes will be awarded to our three winning entries which will be forwarded to the national competition.**

**Submissions close at 5pm on Thursday 25th May 2023, so get writing!**

**Poems can be written in any style and form and do not have to rhyme. Please give your entries to your English teacher or Ms Carvill.**





## 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**

**Miss Fox**

**07342 342858**

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**Years 8 and 9**

**Mrs Newsam**

**07827 587483**

[zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net](mailto:zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net)



**Year 10**

**Miss Harsley**

**07810 416081**

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**Year 11**

**Mrs Ellis**

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**Sixth Form**

**Miss Taylor**

**01482 862171 ext. 1338**

[emily.taylor@longcroft.eriding.net](mailto:emily.taylor@longcroft.eriding.net)