



GREAT HEART, THOUGHT AND VISION

LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —



NEWS LETTER



"What has motivated me to remain in the Army for so long, is the pride I have to be part of an organisation that requires selfless commitment to the service of our country."
Lt. Col. David Groce MBE

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We will remember them.

Today at 11.00am our community came together to remember those who have died in conflict. The Last Post preceded a two minute period of silence, which was followed by the Reveille. Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

We remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.



We are proud of our links to the armed forces, particularly through the Defence School of Transport, based at Normandy Barracks in Leconfield, and Remembrance is an important event in our calendar. This year, we are delighted to feature and celebrate the career of former Longcroft student Lt. Col. David Groce MBE - Commanding Officer of 7 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps.

7 Regiment RLC is one of the largest and most diverse regiments within the RLC and British Army, with over 600 personnel and 30 different nationalities represented. All soldiers in the Regiment have a specialist trade, many of which provide transferable skills useful in the civilian workplace.

David joined Longcroft as a Year 7 pupil in 1990. A keen sportsman, he played in a successful rugby team – an on-going interest as he is the current Chair of Armed Forces RL, representing them at the RFL Council. After

graduating from the University of Leeds with a BA in Accounting and Management, he joined the British Army and began a career that has taken him to over 50 countries including Australia where he studied at Canberra's world-leading Australian National University and tried his hand at Australian Rules Football. This week David returned from Nigeria, where he spent time training 40 Nigerian Majors. David was awarded Membership of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2019 Queens Birthday Honours.

We are proud and delighted that David, having just returned from Nigeria, has taken the time to offer us an insight into his exceptional career, his years at Longcroft and his thoughts on Remembrance.





Was it always your ambition to join the Army and what motivated you to do so?

I had wanted to join the Army for as long as I can remember, my grandfather had fought in the First World War and my dad served with the East Yorkshire Regiment in the Second World War, so there was a strong family link to the Army. Growing up in Leconfield there was also a large serving and Veteran community. My Dad passed away when I was 12, and just prior to his death he said it would make him proud if I joined, I am sure that was my main motivation. What has motivated me to remain in the Army for so long, is the pride I have to be part of an organisation that requires selfless commitment to the service of our country.

You've achieved a great deal in your career, but are there any moments that particularly stand out?

I have been incredibly fortunate to have experienced so many memorable events. Professionally, having been positioned on the Poland /Ukraine border in Feb 22 when Putin invaded and being the UK lead for the provision of International Military Aid to Ukraine is something that is unlikely to be topped. Personally, I've been afforded so many unbelievable opportunities, whether that is sporting, educational or travel. At the last count my military service has taken me to over 50 countries and to every continent (less Antarctica – but there's still time!), but the most rewarding is seeing the people that you have coached and mentored, fulfil their military potential.

What are the most challenging aspects of a career in the Armed Forces?

Being in the Armed Forces requires you to selflessly commit to the service of others and dedicate yourself to the team and be prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice. This is what makes Military Service unique, but that dedication places a strain and toll on the families. Going away, often at short notice to dangerous locations, for up to six months is really hard on families and the service person, in many ways it is a grief process. When deployed we are often required to deal with some challenging situations and witness the darkest side of humanity. This leaves a mark on everyone. The words of Korea Veteran, Howard Osterkamp sum it up perfectly... all gave some, some gave all.

For the Fallen

By Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncouth,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.



What does Remembrance mean to you?

There are three facets to Remembrance for me; it reminds me of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the World Wars to allow us the democratic freedoms we enjoy and take for granted. It reminds me of all the people I have known and served with who are no longer with us either through their death on the battlefield, or as a result of not being able to resolve their internal battle. Finally, it reminds me of how fortunate I am to have fought and survived and that I am blessed to be able to participate in the Acts of Remembrance with my family and comrades.

What are your memories of your years at Longcroft?

I have extremely fond memories of Longcroft School, it is where I met my wife in Mr Prescott's Form G! Over 30 years later, as a military spouse, Sally has endured the challenges and highs alongside me. Sport has always been a huge part of my life, the fundamental aspects of teamwork taught to me by Mr Baker and Mrs Dewar, have provided the foundation on which my career in leadership has been built. The example those two great PE teachers set has allowed me to progress to be the lead for Rugby League in the Armed Forces.

What advice would you give to a current Longcroft pupil who is considering a career in the Armed Forces?

Whichever branch of the Armed Forces you choose to join, it will offer you unparalleled opportunities, but in return it will ask you for self-discipline, hard work, and commitment. It does not matter how long you serve; the military gives you a skill set which prepares you to excel in life. For those who stay longer, the social mobility it provides to you and your family is second to none. I firmly believe it is always better to regret the decision you made, than the opportunity you missed – so for those thinking of joining, seize the opportunity and run with it, your journey in the Armed Forces can take you to the most amazing places, and you will be a better person for it.

In previous years we've been proud to celebrate the achievements of another former Longcroft student Sergeant Michael Lockett MC, who was killed in action in Afghanistan aged 29. having received his Military Cross from the Queen in 2007.

David recalled, "I remember Locky well, he was an incredibly courageous soldier, I vividly recall hearing of his death. I saw the effects it had on the local and military community. Sadly, he is but one of far too many I have known who we have lost over the last 20 years."

We are grateful to David for this fascinating and unique personal insight into his career and life in the Armed Forces. He is undoubtedly an inspiration to our Longcroft community.

David is pictured proudly representing UK Armed Forces Rugby League at London's Cenotaph prior to the 2021 Rugby League Challenge Cup Final where he honoured the fallen alongside two World Cup winners - Jason Robinson OBE and James Simpson MBE.

Many of our current pupils and Sixth Form students have links to the Armed Forces with a number aspiring to follow in David's footsteps. Earlier this term we featured a picture taken by Year 11 pupil Jemma Garnham which charity Help for Heroes published in their 2024 Calendar. Jemma said, "Remembrance is an opportunity to remember the lives of those who sacrificed everything for us." She added, "My dad goes to the Minster on Remembrance Day. He also puts a small glass of port on the fire place to remember." She recalled Remembrance being a special occasion and of being taken to the Army Camp by her dad, dressed in his full, smartest uniform.

Lest we forget.



Headteacher's Welcome

What a privilege it has been this week to present our school and our incredible young people to a visiting inspection team from Ofsted.

Over recent days we have welcomed a team of Ofsted inspectors in to Longcroft, and they have undertaken a range of activities. These have included spending time in lessons, looking at our pupils and students work and talking to a range of stakeholders, including many different groups of young people. They have also conducted a wide range of meetings with leaders in the school and our governors to learn more about our journey and the ambition that we have for all in our care.

Thank you to all those who took the time to respond to the survey provided and share your reflections on the school and your experience of it. Many of you also shared messages of support directly to the school and to the inspection team, which were hugely appreciated by us all.

A report will now be collated and validated in a process which will take some weeks, and therefore I am unable to share any provisional outcomes at this stage. However, I very much look forward to sharing the final outcomes with you in due course, and building on the findings to further drive and accelerate the tremendous progress our school has made in recent years.

Outside of inspection, it has been another incredibly busy week at Longcroft with the usual clubs and fixtures taking place as well as our Year 11 'Walking Talking Mocks' event on Thursday evening. It has also been a poignant one, as we pause to reflect on those lost to war and conflict.

November is, of course, the month of remembrance and in preparing for Remembrance Day there has been time to pause and be still, including through assemblies for each year group and in observing our two-minute silence together as a community. We have reflected on the sacrifices made by so many, and pupils with family involvement in the military have shared their experiences and challenges. Please take time to read our lead article which includes reflections from former pupil Lt. Col. David Groce MBE and provides a great insight in to military and public service.

We know that for many of our young people the concept of war feels abstract and hard to imagine - only seen through images, stories handed down through the generations, or seen through the media. Current world affairs bring issues of war and conflict into sharp relief, and reinforce the importance of our role in education to maintain a living and robust knowledge and understanding of relevant history, and to promote respect, tolerance and peace. Through our curriculum and through our values, lived in to being each and every day, we humbly seek to do just that.

Mr D Perry
Headteacher



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

25,595

THOUGHT

132,904

VISION

93,153

GRAND

TOTAL:

251,652





LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

Thank you for your support with attendance. We were very happy with the response from our fantastic pupils to the 'Autumn Attendance Challenge'. All pupils who attended every day for the two weeks before half term received a Halloween Treat. I look forward to sharing our Attendance Competition for this next half-term in a future newsletter. Data released by the Department for Education shows that the higher your attendance is, the more likely you are to achieve well in your GCSEs. Further research shows that for every seventeen days a pupil misses from school, it affects their overall GCSE score by a whole grade!

During the last half-term, it was an absolute privilege to meet so many prospective pupils and families at our Open Evening, during my visits to primary schools and whilst completing tours, showing families around our school. As part of our Open Evening, we ran a Prize Draw for all of those who completed our pupil passport, visiting each department on the night and collecting a stamp. It was great to celebrate with our winner, Layla, who visited us on the final Friday before half-term.

This half-term will see our Lower School pupils receiving their first Progress Updates for this academic year. Progress Updates are a summary of how much progress each pupil is making in each of





their subjects. They are produced to help both our pupils and parents understand exactly how each of our pupils is getting on.

In addition to understanding how much progress they are making, Progress Updates also present our pupils with a summary of their 'Attitude to Learning' in each subject. A pupil's 'Attitude to Learning' score summarise a wide range of attributes, with the highest being 'Excellent (Grade A)'. Attitude to Learning encompasses all those skills and approaches that make accelerated progress possible, such as neat presentation of work, self-motivation, independent learning, participation in lessons, response to teachers' feedback and organisation. These attributes and skills, when employed by pupils regularly and consistently, ultimately lead to better-than-expected levels of progress.

Throughout all subjects and lessons, teachers also expect and encourage high standards from all pupils, and this is reflected in the excellent Attitude to Learning scores our Lower School pupils have received in their Progress Updates during the last academic year. Their attitude is further evident in their inquisitiveness and desire to improve. Overall, pupils make exceptional progress when they are enjoying learning, which in turn feeds their enthusiasm and motivation in each subject. It is this enjoyment of learning which is reflected in our pupils' Progress Updates.

Mr Worthington
Head of Lower School



Congratulations to our Lower 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 7

Kai Wring
Oscar Purchon
Finley Staples
Olivia Chilcott
George Hogg
Rosie Fitton
Elspeth Collin
Sonny Marriott
Jake Redmond
Ben Taylor

Year 8

Lydia Chapman
Daisy Stokes
Charlotte Sutcliffe
Amy Thornton
Neve Meagher
Alfie Robinson
Scarlett Wood
Alex Matta
Sienna Rasen
Patrick Marham

Attendance Matters!

Each week we reflect on the importance of attendance at school by giving ClassCharts rewards for Great Vision to every pupil with 100% attendance the previous week. These pupils are then entered into a draw and the winner receives a £5 Amazon voucher.

Last week's winners were:

Year 7: Rosie Fitton

Year 8: Isabelle Chant

UPPER
SCHOOL**Mr Henderson writes:**

With mock examinations four weeks away, Year 11 pupils have started with a bang on GCSEPod. 2293 PODS have already been watched across a range of subjects. Teachers are helping pupils plan their revision by setting PODS for their subjects each week. Progress updates have come out this week which will allow pupils and their families to understand where extra focus is needed so they are ready for the mocks. This extra focus can be achieved through GCSEPod and Period 6/ Lunchtime sessions. Not only does it have the video PODS but it also has a Check and Challenge feature where pupils gain diamonds for how well they achieve on the tests. The results are stored and can guide pupils towards specific areas they should return to in their revision.

Year 11 Autumn Revision - Weekly Information

This week also the start of the weekly information sent to pupils and parents. Subject teachers have put together information on what pupils can revise at home, what they are covering in class and any specific links such as GCSEPod, SENECA and Sparx. This is a great tool that was used last year to help focus revision on to specific topics.

Walking Talking Mock for English, Maths and Science

On Thursday, the subjects in focus were Maths, English and Science. The evening gave both pupils and parents an in-depth look at exam materials, exam technique and areas in each discipline that we have identified to really focus and develop, in the run up to the exams. There was also a session on well-being to support our pupils and families to consider strategies for managing the inevitable pressures that this year will bring. It was wonderful to welcome so many pupils and their parents who attended the evening.

In Spring, we turn our attention to other subjects with examinations this summer.

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**

Anna Bruton	Ella Curley
Lydia Spratt	Daniel Parkinson
Lily Pepper	Amelia Purchon
Anika Matta	Hollie Calder
Grace Murden	Lucy Coombe
Erin Meagher	

Year 11

Lewis Allenby	Lucy Marham
Natasha Sharpe	Imogen Capes
Summer Mulvana	Adam Jefferson
Amelia Newsam	Rhys Attwood
Freddie Robinson	
Tyla Keenan	
El Ponton	

Each week Year 11 pupils who have been nominated by their teachers for going over and above expectations are invited to celebrate with Mr Cassidy on **Hot Chocolate Friday!**

Congratulations to this week's nominations:

Riley Lax - the first pupil to have submitted an application to college / apprenticeship. **Mr Coup / Mrs Wilson**

Lewis Allenby - fantastic SENECA use! **Mrs Scott**

Rossi Moulson - hard working and a supportive group member for his Drama exam. He is doing really well! Keep up the hard work. **Mr Thomson**

Eleanor Foster and **Katie Myles** – top performers in GCSE PE exam. **Mr Cassidy**

Hannah Woodhouse and **George Steele** – 2 grades above target in GCSE PE exam. **Mr Cassidy**

Attendance Matters!

Each week we reflect on the importance of attendance at school by giving ClassCharts rewards for Great Vision to every pupil with 100% attendance the previous week. These pupils are then entered into a draw and the winner receives a £5 Amazon voucher.

Last week's winners were:

Year 10: C J Featherstone

Year 11: Kieran Hope



LONGCROFT
THE EAST YORKSHIRE
SIXTH FORM



Mr Chapman writes:

We love having guest speakers in our assemblies, they help enrich the experience of all our students. This week Maxine Charlton, Deputy Head of Admissions at the University of York, kindly agreed to help our Year 13 students with their UCAS personal statements.

The UCAS process helps students to gain entry to university and degree level apprenticeships, so getting it right is a really important task.

Maxine talked the students through so many aspects of the process, focusing on the most difficult part - the personal statement. In just 4000 characters students need to get across who they are, their passions and motivations, and their academic potential. She gave insightful top tips such as to talk about specific subject areas of interest and give relevant examples of extra-curricular activities or volunteering experiences that link to the chosen subject.

Maxine's insight has already inspired a number of pupils to complete their personal statements to an incredible standard! We can't wait to welcome her back again next year.

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form



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Issue 168 November 2023

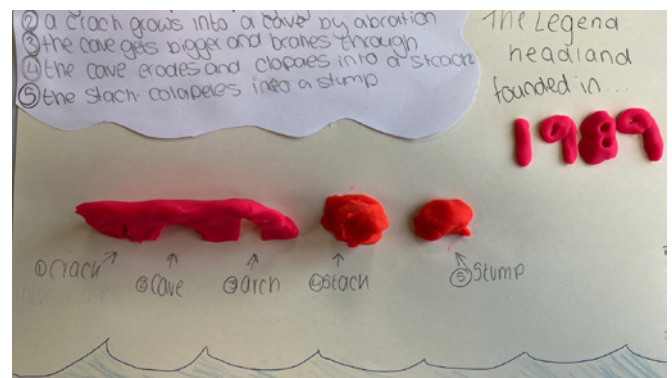
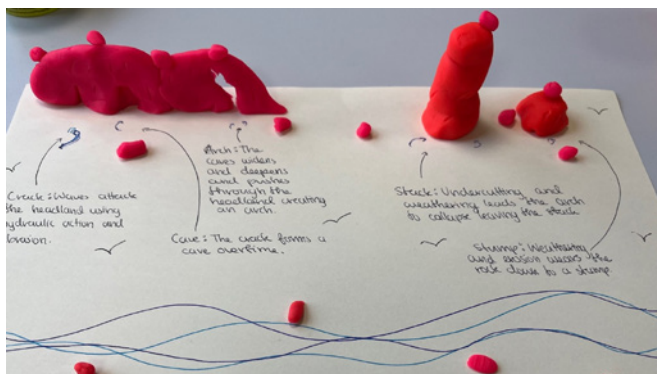
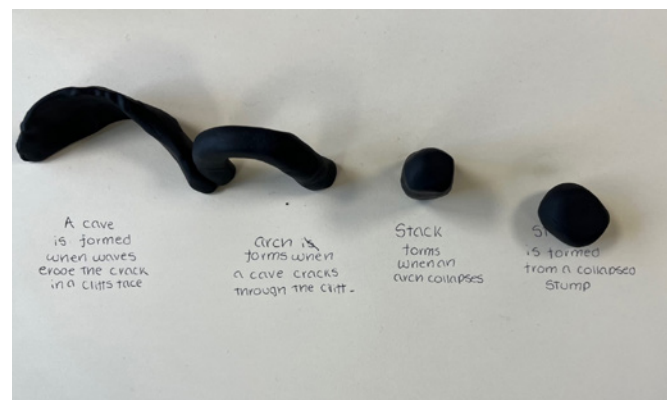
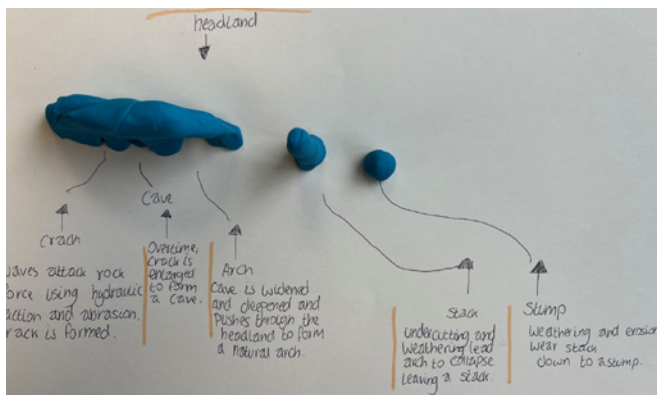
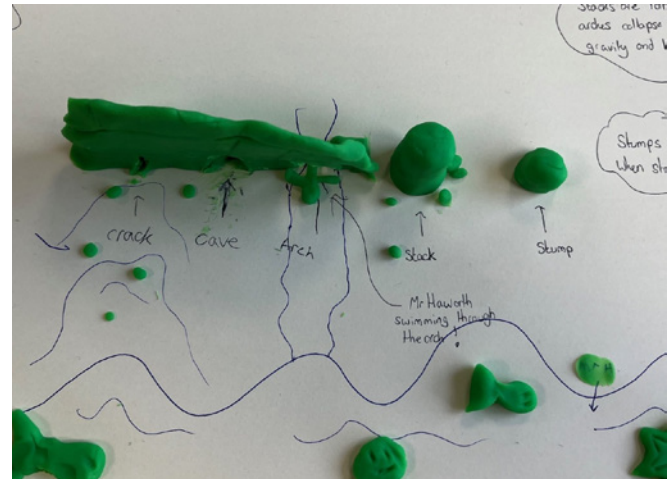
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IN FOCUS GEOGRAPHY

This week we feature work from Mr Haworth's Year 10 GCSE Geography class. Pupils made models to demonstrate their understanding of how headlands are eroded to form caves, arches, stacks and stumps as part of the Coasts unit of work.

Mr Haworth said, "Pupils competed for 1st prize, which went to Isobel Thorpe, Amber Sempers and Ava Brockwell although all of the models produced were excellent."





Boxers put on a great show!

Several of our Lower School pupils were involved in Track Fitness and Boxing Club's latest show at Beverley's Leisure Centre.



Max and Rosie did well in their skills bouts and Luci and Oscar won their bouts, while unfortunately Holly's bout was cancelled after her opponent pulled out.



Mrs Newsam enjoyed the evening. She said, "I may have a sore throat from all my shouting but I was incredibly proud of all our boxers! It was nice to see so many past and current Longcroft pupils supporting the event."

Congratulations to everyone involved in this fantastic evening!





Football Update

Our girls' football teams travelled to Holderness Academy on a very wet evening before half term. All the games were very competitive with tight scorelines. The Year 7 team retain their undefeated record and the Year 9/10 team were also victorious while the combined Year 7/8 team fought hard to come back, finally being defeated by only one goal.

Mrs Henderson said, "Well done to all teams for their perseverance through a very wet evening, good teamwork supported by great individual skills."



Extra-curricular Opportunities

We are proud to offer an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities, a selection of which are listed here.

In addition, our **Homework Club** in A7 is open to all pupils each morning (8.15 – 8.40am) and after school until 4.15pm.

Monday

Film Society – Year 11 pupils and Sixth Form students meet to watch, discuss and explore different genres of film.

Tuesday

Dungeons & Dragons – an opportunity for pupils of all ages, Sixth Form students and staff to enjoy this fantasy table-top role-playing game.

Rugby – all year groups

Orchestra – open to all instrumentalists of all abilities

Wednesday

Netball – all year groups

Choir – an opportunity to prepare for Christmas performances.

Drama Club – in Room 65

Thursday

Girls' Football – all year groups

Hockey – all year groups

Production Rehearsals – opportunities for our cast and crew to rehearse for this year's production

Friday

Badminton – all year groups

Table Tennis – all year groups





Memory Lane

This week we feature three of our football teams from 1976/77 – the First Year, Second Year and Fifth Year teams are pictured.



Follow us on Twitter to
see more pictures from
Memory Lane

@SchoolLongcroft



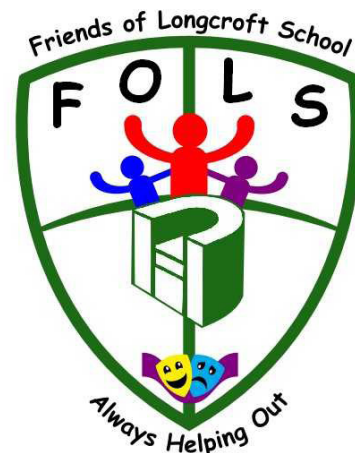
Find us on Facebook

Longcroft School &
Sixth Form College





The Friends' Corner



AGM Reminder: Wednesday 15th November

fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Charity Reg No. 515674

The Friends of Longcroft School are holding their AGM at 6pm on Wednesday 15th November in the staff room at Longcroft.

As a registered charity this is something we are legally obliged to do. It gives us the opportunity to elect new people into the posts of Chair, Treasury and Secretary (required posts on a committee) but also gives us the opportunity to discuss what the FOLS have achieved so far and what their plans are for the future.

We aim to keep it as light and informal as we can and everyone is welcome to attend. You don't need to sign up for the committee but it would be lovely to meet new 'friends'.

With people's help we can raise more money, which all gets ploughed back into the school so every child can benefit from the FOLS' work.

So why not come along and find out more about the FOLS — we would love to see you.

Thank you

Thank you to all the children who came and the parents who supported the FOLS Hocus Pocus cinema night. There was a lovely atmosphere and we raised £200 towards the school's project of providing a 'reading room' for all the children.



We'd like to thank all the staff who helped the FOLS hold the event, the Friends of Molescroft School who provided the FOLS with the cooking equipment for the hot dogs and to the FOLS who gave up their own time to prepare and serve the food.

The event only took up a few hours of the FOLS helpers' time and it was fun so if you fancy joining us and helping at one of our future events, please contact us on fols@longcroft.eriding.net or follow the FOLS on Facebook.



LIBRARY NEWS



Ms Carvill writes:

Marking Remembrance Sunday 2023

“The two most powerful warriors
are patience and time.”

—Leo Tolstoy

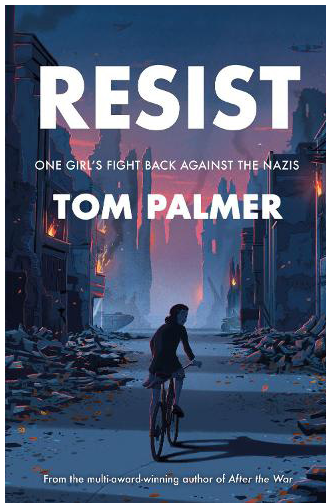
Remembrance Day is a time to pay tribute to, and remember the selfless contributions of all those in the armed forces and civilian servicemen and women in WW1 and WW2 and subsequent conflicts throughout the world. This year's theme, *Service*, recognises the physical, mental, and emotional challenges many of them faced, and the pressures that come with protecting and defending one's nation.

Countless books have been written about wars, especially WW2 which offered a defined menace in the Nazis. The battle of good versus evil is a theme that permeates literature.

Stories about war are incredibly important to young people. Reading them raises their awareness about displaced people, often the elderly, the poor, and children. It helps them connect emotionally, and empathise with what it feels like to be a refugee, to lose your home, to lose your family.

Most significantly, stories about war help our young to understand the misunderstandings and prejudices that cause wars; to consider how differences can be overcome, and how hate can be redirected into hope, and how they can help create a better world.

Below are a few favourites:



Dyslexia-Friendly

Resist: One Girl's Fight Back Against the Nazis by Tom Palmer

AR Book Level 4.9- Colour Code Blue

The Second World War is raging in the Nazi occupied Netherlands and people are starving and under constant threat. Edda's beloved uncle has been murdered and her brother has been captured by the Germans. What can a teenage girl do to prevent Nazi oppression and how many risks can she take?

Inspired by the childhood of Hollywood actress Audrey Hepburn, this is a tale of heroism and heart and the incredible work of the Dutch resistance in WW2. Historical fiction at its best by an award-winning author. Truly accessible and heart-wrenching.

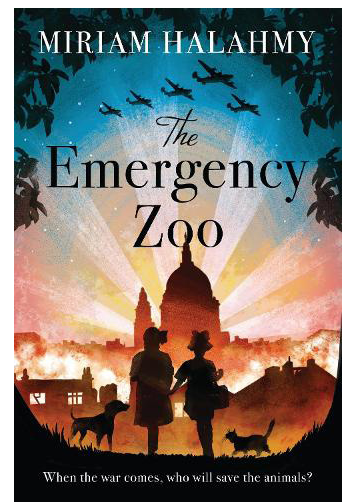
Year 7

The Emergency Zoo by Miriam Halahmy

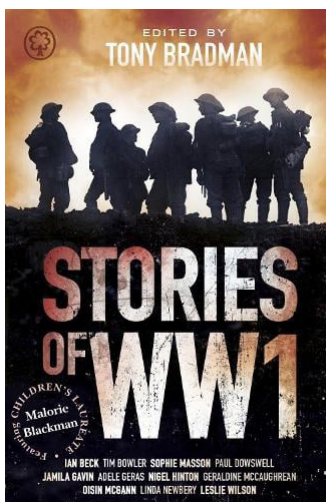
AR Book Level 5.4 – Colour Code Red

Britain is on the brink of war, and London's children are being evacuated to the countryside. When best friends Tilly and Rosie discover that they will not be able to take their pets with them, and like countless other animals their pets will be taken to the vet to be put down, they must act.

This touching tale of resourcefulness and friendship is set in a time when children had more freedom but fewer rights. It's inspired by real events, ones that will come as a surprise to many animal lovers.



A heartening tale of courage and a defence of animal welfare. Superb.



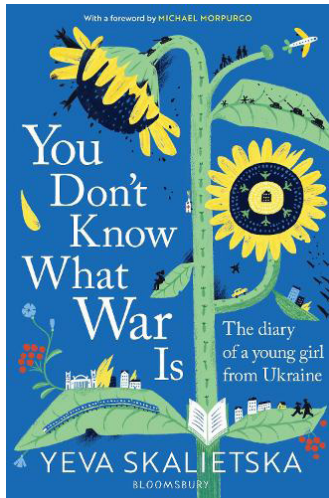
Year 8

Stories of World War One by Tony Bradman

AR Book Level 5.5 – Colour Code Red

This collection of stories by 12 renowned writers poignantly brings WW1 alive to teenagers and highlights the horrendous long-term effects on survivors, physical and mental.

This is a serious book about the horror of war, presented from diverse angles. Its stories are powerful and vivid and leave you in no doubt about the futile nature of war; the loss of so many of our young and the impact on their families. But you are also reminded about the power of kindness and how the worst of times can bring out the very best in people. A moving read.



Year 9

You Don't Know What War Is: The Diary of a Young Girl from Ukraine by Yeva Skalietska
AR Book Level 5-4- Colour Code Red

This gripping memoir was shortlisted for the British Book Awards 2023 Non-Fiction Book of the Year and was The Sunday Times Children's Book of the Year in 2022.

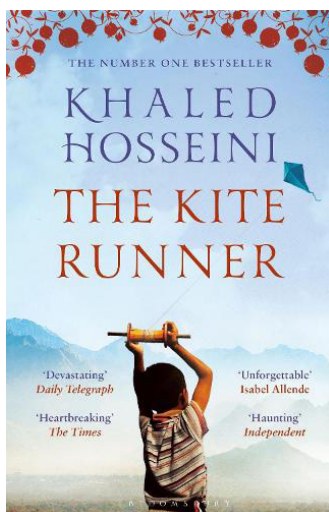
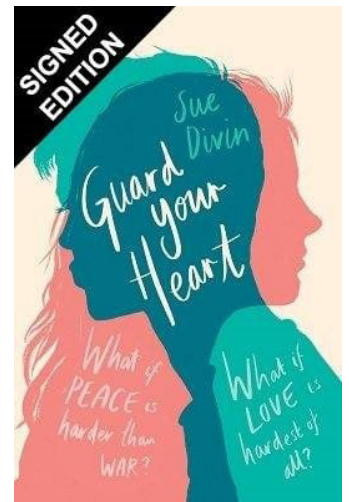
The diary follows twelve days in the life of 12-year old Ukrainian refugee. Yeva's world is turned upside down when the Russians invade and she wakes to the terrible sounds of shelling. Yeva records the terrifying events hour-by-hour as she and her grandmother travel from Kharkiv to Dublin. This is a truly gripping read, and powerful insight into what war is like through the eyes of a child. Exceptional. Be aware there is some disturbing imagery and mild profanity.

Year 10

Guard Your Heart by Sue Divin
AR Book Level 5.1 – Colour Code Red

This sensitive exploration of the Northern Ireland troubles was shortlisted for the Carnegie Prize. It tells the tale of Aidan and Iona, a Catholic boy and Protestant girl brought together following a sectarian attack.

Despite their differences their friendship grows, but it seems that everything is keeping them apart. A touching love story set against a relentless backdrop. A great read.

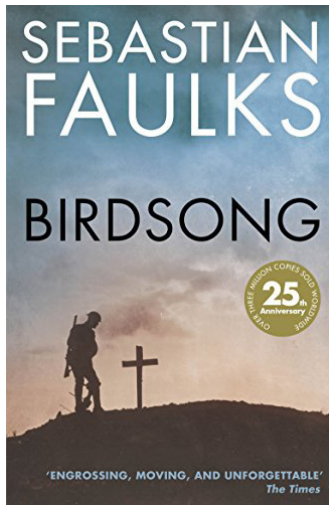


Year 11

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
AR Book Level 5.2 – Colour Code Red

Following its publication in 2003, Hosseini's debut novel became a bestseller with over seven million copies sold. It tells the story of Amir, a 12-yearold boy from Kabul and is set against a backdrop of terrifying events, from the fall of Afghanistan's monarchy to the rise of the Taliban regime.

A gripping and haunting tale of betrayal and redemption by an exceptional storyteller. Impossible to put down. I can't recommend this book enough.



Year 12

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks
AR Book Level 6.1 – Colour Code Yellow

This epic tale of love, death, and redemption is beyond exceptional and arguably one of the finest books ever written about WW1.

Stephen Wraysford arrives in Amiens to stay with the Azaire family in the summer of 1910, but soon a passion emerges and the household's stability is threatened. Six years later, Stephen returns to France and finds himself in a maze of tunnels under the trenches. He must fight for everything he has known and loved.

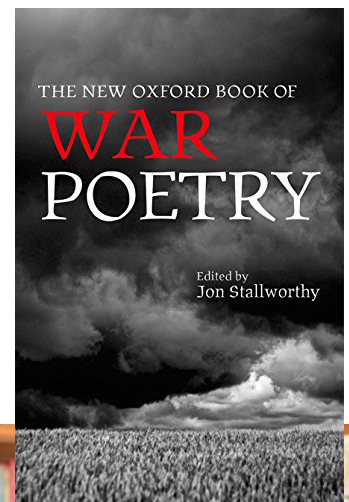
Mesmerising, moving, and unforgettable.

Year 13

The New Oxford Book of War Poetry by John Stallworthy
No AR

This classic poetry anthology spans centuries of human experience of war, from Homer's Iliad to the wars of the early twenty-first century.

Awash with powerful feelings, it features well known favourite poems as well as some refreshing surprises. An exceptionally moving and emotionally charged collection. Excellent.





The First Story Six-Word Story Competition 2023

The Six Word Story Competition is back. It's one of our most popular competitions and last year we had a record amount of entries. Can you write an original story in just six words? Can you win the national First Story Competition 2023?

It might sound easy, but it's not. In fact, writing a compelling story in just a few words can be incredibly challenging. You need to think out of the box. Here are a few tips:

Six-word stories don't have to be serious, they can be funny, scary, mysterious or whatever genre you like. Consider key elements in your story: character, plot, problem.

A good way to start is to write your story in a short paragraph. Once you're satisfied that you've come up with something original you can begin editing; cut out anything unnecessary. Editing can be tricky. You'll need to engage in some mental gymnastics.

Think about punctuation. It can really help convey meaning without needing extra words. Colons are great, you can use speech marks too. Remember, you can have more than one sentence as well. Below are some examples:

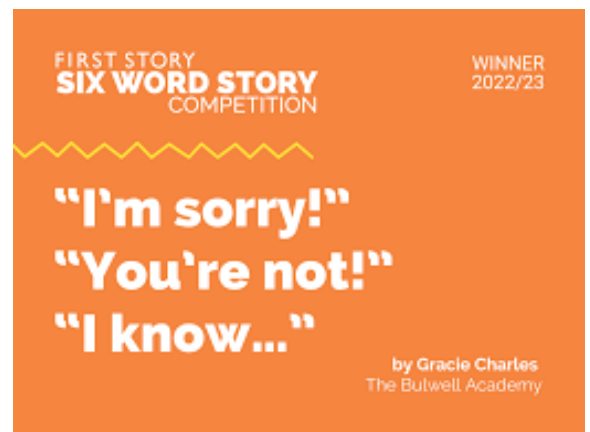
Alexa, where did my parents go?

Brought roses home. Keys didn't fit.

Christmas came around....so did bailiffs

As usual, we will have an inhouse competition open to all year groups, with three winners being put forward for the national competition.

Please bring you entries to the library by Friday 8th December. Prizes will include Goodie Bags, books, Online Publication, Classcharts and sweets.



"The first draft is just you telling yourself the story."

– Terry Practchett



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.



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