



GREAT HEART, THOUGHT AND VISION

**LONGCROFT**

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—



ISSUE 1

# Welcome

## to Longcroft School

Transition Newsletter

Partner with:



**Wonder**  
Learning Partnership  
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich

# Welcome



It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to our first Transition Newsletter of the year. A key aspect of my role as Head of Lower School at Longcroft and as Head of Transition, is to ensure that all pupils are prepared for life at secondary school, feel cared for, and are supported to succeed.

A successful transition not only means that our Year 7 pupils have been equipped to immerse themselves with confidence in to the many opportunities and experiences Longcroft has to offer, but also that Year 6 pupils can begin to feel part of our school community in the months and weeks leading up to September 2024. This Newsletter is designed to support the

transition process, capturing just some of things that have been taking place so far this term with Year 7, and also with our many feeder primary schools. It is an opportunity to look back on an exciting first term for our current pupils, and to look forward to what is in store for all those looking to join us next year.

You may be aware that demand for places at Longcroft school has been rapidly increasing over recent years and this is a really exciting time for us. In 2022 the school was highlighted by the Department for Education as one of 'the most improved schools in the country'. We then received a further record set of examination outcomes this summer, reversing national trends, and just this term have received a visit from Ofsted which resulted in some wonderful feedback about our children and their experience at Longcroft. You can read more about what inspectors had to say about our school at the end of this Newsletter.

As part of our transition programme, we have an exciting calendar of events, challenges, workshops and activities planned for this academic year. On 25th September 2023, we welcomed Year 6 pupils and their families into our school for our annual Open Evening and it was a record breaker, with huge numbers coming to find out what life at Longcroft is all about. We hope that the evening allowed those who attended to experience what makes our school community so special, underpinned by our values of great heart, thought, and vision.

In the next term, we have a menu of events to look forward to, and more details will be shared through our social media feeds and direct with primary schools in due course. With the help of Mrs Fox, our Year 7 Care and Achievement Coordinator, and Mrs Barry, our Head of Year 7, I look forward to visiting many of our local primary schools in the very near future. Please do contact us at [school@longcroft.eringing.net](mailto:school@longcroft.eringing.net) with 'Transition' in the title box if you have any queries or transition related questions at any time.

Enjoy our Newsletter and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

**Mr Worthington**  
Head of Lower School / Transition





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"Wonder is the beginning of wisdom" Socrates

## Welcome to the Wonder Learning Partnership

Welcome to the Wonder Learning Partnership family. Longcroft School and Sixth Form College are a partner school working with the Wonder Learning Partnership and its family of schools. Our family is one where children have a love of learning and colleagues have a real passion for teaching. We remain rooted within and at the heart of our communities as together we share our knowledge to create an exceptional learning journey for our children.

The Wonder Learning Partnership's vision is to build an Educational Trust foundation ensuring all our schools have the strategies, expertise and capacity they need to improve the education of our children. We aspire to ensure the education provided by our schools is forward-thinking and outward-looking, where aspirations are high and ambitions unlimited. We are a confident community, where teaching is inspirational, every individual is valued, and pupils are proud of their school.

We believe in teaching a broad and challenging curriculum, enriched with holistic education, which will spark children's imagination and create a lifelong love of learning. This seamless journey, enriched with great learning, fun experiences, and friendships, will provide a foundation for future success.

We look forward to you being a part of the Longcroft School community and we do hope you enjoy the wonderful activities and events Longcroft School has designed to make the transition to secondary school an enriched and happy one!

## Our Values

### Educate

We are committed to educating the whole child and believe every child should reach their potential.

### Empower

We will empower our whole school community through support, development, and value in the pursuit of excellence.

### Engage

We will engage in best practice to develop the personal qualities and aspirations of pupils and staff.

### Enrich

We will ensure our children are exposed to a wealth of experiences and opportunities.



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## Community School Engagement

### St Mary's Technology Visit

At Longcroft we are keen to support schools across the local community to benefit from our resources and technical spaces. It is always a joy to welcome pupils in to our laboratories, sports facilities and workshops for extended projects or one-off experiences, which are not necessarily possible to undertake in their own settings. This also forms part of our extended transition, with KS2 pupils having the opportunity to familiarise themselves with a secondary school environment.

Before the summer break, children from St Mary's C of E Primary School visited our Design Technology department to build a model version of Baghdad as part of their studies in Technology and Religious Education. The pupils enjoyed getting to grips using our tools to make shapes to contribute towards a large model of the city. All involved had a great time and produced an impressive end product to take back to St Mary's. We are very much looking forward to the next project.

## Transition Visits to Primary Schools

In the summer term, one of the aspects of the Head of Lower School role that Mr Worthington enjoys the most is preparing for our new, prospective pupils and parents visiting the school. These visits are vital as part of the transition process to ensure that our new starters get an outstanding start, where we offer excellent care in order for our children to thrive in September.

On both visits Mr Worthington was joined by Miss Fox, our Care and Achievement Coordinator for Year 7 and transition. Mrs Barry, Head of Year 7, also joined Mr Worthington on the visit. She said "It has been really lovely to get to know the children and they all seem very keen to get started!". As part of our visits, we answer all the questions that our new starters have for us on the day and provide the reassurances and support needed ahead of this big next step.

Thinking closer to home, our children have been wonderful ambassadors for the school, and have been of great assistance in aiding with school tours during the day, communicating and articulating well with regards to what makes Longcroft School so special. We know and care for every child as an individual. We actively encourage our children to demonstrate readiness for the future by developing the skills and qualities that will lead to success in life beyond school.



## Celebrating Rewards



Recognising the tremendous amount of effort our pupils display week in and week out; we value acts of Great Heart, Great Thought and Great Vision. In the case of Great Heart, we are keen to celebrate kindness and peers supporting one another. In terms of Great Thought, we retain our commitment to academic excellence and success, celebrating progress and efforts in scholastic endeavours. Finally, Great Vision commends preparedness in children – making sure we set our young people up for success beyond school life post-Longcroft.

Charlotte earned over a fantastic 2,200 rewards last year – an average of well over two rewards per lesson! Charlotte, who joined Longcroft from Cherry Burton Primary School, said: "I've particularly enjoyed Science – it's a bit more complex than other lessons. We didn't do a lot of science in primary school so I'm enjoying it now." She added, "I put quite a lot of effort into lessons. I also play the violin and rounders. In Year 8, I'm looking forward to the increased difficulty in lessons."

Neve accumulated over 2,100 ClassChart rewards – another exceptional total. She said, "I've enjoyed Science and History a lot. I get on with my work and try hard." Neve added, "Some of my History projects have been quite good. I've put a lot of time into them."

Aidan received the most ClassCharts rewards of any Year 8 pupil. He said, "I do what I can in lessons to help out and if something needs to be done I'll do it. In History I think I'm doing well, and RE which is my highest grade so far."

It was a delight to distribute certificates to pupils that have accumulated more than a thousand points on ClassCharts. Amongst the gamut of accolades described by teachers giving feedback to children include attendance to extra-curricular clubs, outstanding pieces of classwork and supporting one another in our community

## Outstanding Homework

In July, we congratulated Isaac and Lydia on the thought and effort they put into a recent piece of homework. Their History teacher Mr Cassidy said, "The theme is protest and revolt and Isaac and Lydia have done a great job here!"

Isaac, who joined Longcroft from Beverley's St Nicholas Primary School, earned over a fantastic 1,700 ClassChart rewards last year while Lydia, who joined Longcroft from Molescroft Primary School, has earned wonderful 1,680! Both pupils, who are in Miss Thomas' tutor group, have also been involved in a range of extra-curricular activities – congratulations to Isaac and Lydia on the great start they have made to their years at Longcroft!





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# School News

## Induction Events

It now seems so long ago, but back in July, we were delighted to welcome Year 6 pupils and their families to our Induction Evening. This is an opportunity to gather important information ahead of our Induction Day and of course starting school at Longcroft in Year 7. This is one of the most important events in our school calendar, introducing new pupils and families to their tutors for the next academic year and ensuring that pupils feel supported and cared for through what is inevitably a significant transition in each young person's school life. Miss Woodhead, one of our new Year 7 tutors, commented "I'm really looking forward to spending time with my new tutor group on the full induction day and helping them to progress throughout their Longcroft journey."

She didn't need to wait long, as the following week we were delighted to welcome Year 6 pupils to our annual Induction Day. Coming together from well over twenty different primary schools, our September starters enjoyed a range of different activities, working together in their new house teams as a formal introduction to our Longcroft Community.

The structure of the day contained different lessons from across the curriculum, with children learning new routines, experiencing the canteen and having extended sports sessions to promote team building and have some fun.

All of our tutor groups were able to spend time with their new form tutor in the morning and also got to know each other as a group. Tutor time at Longcroft School is thirty minutes every day; we recognise that tutors are central in both caring for pupils and, crucially, monitoring their progress both academically and socially. Tutors encourage success, aspiration, participation and the highest possible standards of work and behaviour. Every morning, a form tutor checks in with their tutor group and sets up a strong, positive foundation for a successful day.

Included in the curriculum activities was the subject of Science. Our children participated in a Chemistry exercise focusing on good experimental practices and safety. Part of the session included mixing different chemicals and



observing the reactions that took place. Thomas said, "the teachers in Science were friendly, we wore goggles for the first time". Emma stated that she had "enjoyed Science the most and had a lot of fun". Other activities throughout the day included a Murder Mystery theme in the English department, completing a Scavenger Hunt in Geography and looking at artefacts and primary sources in History. Jamie said "I got a lot out of the Geography session, I like to look at flags and learn about different countries".

Oscar said, "my favourite part of the day was making new friends already from different schools". Reflecting on the day, George said "I liked how the day went and doing new and different lessons. I want to see my timetable in September already to see what other lessons I'll be doing"

The pupils received a free lunch on the day, Arnie said the food was the best bit of the day (and he had enjoyed all the activities too!). After lunch, the children enjoyed Physical Education activities, participating in dodgeball and capture-the-flag. Pupils rotated across both activities, encouraging an activity lifestyle and group effort. Lots of pupils had said they enjoyed PE on the day and were looking forward to joining one of our many extra-curricular clubs.

We celebrated in the theatre at the end of the school day, rewarding all of the children for their efforts. Every teacher said each class were "ten-out-of-ten" for demonstrating acts of Great Heart, Thought and Vision.



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# A great start to Life at Longcroft

## Primary pupils joining and settling in

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome our rapidly growing cohort of Year 7 pupils at the start of September, and they immediately began to settle into school life and routines. From the outset we saw them making friends and growing in confidence with the support of Mrs Barry, Miss Fox and their form tutors, and we have enjoyed following their progress and celebrating their many achievements over the first term. It has been quite the start to life at Longcroft and we couldn't be prouder of this group of young people. We are now excited to see how they develop over the months and years to come.



## Photography Competition

Mrs Barry and Mr Worthington launched our annual photography competition for Year 7 as an opportunity to learn even more about our children and celebrate their work.

For our community and nature photography competition the challenge was for children to submit an image that represents community or nature. We had some fantastic entries such as, Chloe with some local nature photography including some lovely shots of squirrels, and Freya with her pet photography.

Another pupil, Max drew inspiration from one of his favourite pastimes, stating: "I like to go for walks on the seafront." Chloe said: "I went to North Cave Wetlands for a trip with my Auntie and little sister during the holidays because we wanted to spend some time seeing and listening to the birds. I took my camera with me because I really enjoy photography."

There was a great response from pupils and some exceptional shots!



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# School News



## Exhibiting our values through sport

In our community, we foster and encourage acts of Great Heart, Great Thought and Great Vision, in all that we do. This of course includes when representing our school in various ways. In their first football fixture, our Year 7 pupils represented Longcroft School against Cottingham High. They ground out a gritty 1-1 encounter, eventually coming through to win after the dreaded penalty shoot-out. What impressed us most about their performance was the sportsmanship and consideration for the opposition, who were crestfallen after the defeat. Our team cut short their jubilant celebrations to go over to our opponents, make sure they were alright, and give their support. It is heart warming to see our children demonstrating our values from the very outset, and winning with the spirit that we seek to nurture here at Longcroft School. Their conduct was exemplary throughout.

## Netball Success

We have had so many sporting successes over this first term, but at the very start of the competitive season our netball teams set off to a great start.

Huge congratulations were in order for our Year 7 and 8 netball teams following their fantastic results in matches against The Market Weighton School! This really built their confidence from the outset and the team have flourished since coming together. Many of the pupils had not met or played together when they first arrived but quickly gelled.

In this first match, our Year 7 team won 11-0! Mrs Holt has been extremely impressed with the players' effort and enthusiasm.





## Bookbuzz

Soon after joining our Longcroft community in September, Year 7 pupils enjoyed receiving free books chosen as part of the BookBuzz scheme. Bookbuzz is a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13-year-olds. Participating schools give children the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 16 titles. They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.

We are delighted that our pupils are able to benefit from this wonderful programme each year, with the amazing support of our Friends of Longcroft School (FOLS). Year 7 pupil Ava said, "The book I chose was 'The Rise of the School for Good and Evil' because the front cover reminds me of Harry Potter and I love Harry Potter." Oscar explained, "I chose the BookBuzz book 'Dread Wood' because I have read and enjoyed similar books and it sounded exciting." Millie also chose 'Dread Wood' – she explained, "I chose it because I love horrors." 'Dread Wood' was certainly a popular choice from the 16 books available – Gabrielle added, "It was the one that stood out to me the most and it looked most interesting." Sam said, "I chose this book because I like scary stories and it sounds interesting."

Pupils heard authors briefly describe their book as well as having the opportunity to read the blurb. This was an important factor in Olivia's choice – she explained, "The BookBuzz book I chose was 'Dread Wood' because I like scary things and when I read the blurb it made me want to read on." Other books also proved popular. George said, "The reason I chose the BookBuzz book 'Strikeout' is because I love football and it is my favourite thing." Rosie explained, "The BookBuzz book I chose was 'Swarm Rising' because it sounds adventurous." We are grateful to our amazing Friends of Longcroft School (FOLS) who volunteer their time to raise money which can be used to fund initiatives such as this one. It was a pleasure to welcome former Longcroft student Rebecca, now a member of FOLS, who visited our Library to help Ms Carvill present pupils in Miss Woodhead's tutor group with their books.



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## Open Evening

At the end of September, we held our Longcroft Open Evening with record numbers of families arriving to learn about our school. We received so many lovely messages from those who attended, complimenting the contribution that our Year 7 pupils made in particular and the confidence they demonstrated! Mr Worthington was incredibly proud of them.

It is always one of the most pleasing aspects of our Open Evenings, to see so many of our pupils volunteer their support, helping out in various ways. Having been here for just a few weeks, Year 7 were incredible and in their primary role as tour guides were already demonstrating how passionate and knowledgeable they are about our school.

It is fantastic to have the opportunity to showcase what we do for our children. It was great to have the buzz of activity around each department, highlighting the different opportunities available to pupils at Longcroft. During the Open Evening, we enjoyed taking the opportunity to talk about our school community and ethos, assisting visitors in exploring our site and informing families about the wide range of enrichment opportunities we offer our pupils.

We have now had confirmation of record numbers submitting applications to Longcroft for 2024. Mr Worthington is already looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 pupils and having them become tour guides and volunteers themselves. This is an incredibly exciting time for all in our community.





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# School News

## Visits to Primaries

In October, I had the pleasure to visit both St Marys' and Molescroft Primary School in Beverley as part of my work throughout the year to support children across our region prepare for the transition to secondary school. We recognise how the progression from Primary to Secondary School can be quite daunting, and as part of my visits I have the chance to present on 'what life is like at secondary school' and to take any questions that children have. I always enjoy discussing the ethos of each school with the children, and how a secondary school such as ours helps Y6 make the transition into Y7.

It is important to recognise that at Longcroft, we ensure that all our new pupils receive the same level of support, whether they are from one of our local catchment primary schools, or from a school outside of our catchment area. For these pupils, we are aware that they may not know as many children, and we ensure



that they have plenty of opportunities to get to know other pupils and to make friends at their new school.

As a follow up, each summer, we visit primary schools to meet pupils that have been allocated places at Longcroft so that we can get to know them, and to give them a chance to answer questions they may have, as well as to learn more about why life at Longcroft is so special.



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# School News

## Charlie's Bahrain Adventure

We have so many exceptional pupils at Longcroft who achieve amazing things not only inside, but also outside of school. It is important to us to celebrate our young people's achievements and celebrate them at every opportunity.

In October we received the great news that Charlie had successfully retained fourth position in the British Karting Championship. This meant that Charlie qualified to compete in the 2023 Rotax Max Challenge Grand Finals in Bahrain. The competition takes place in Sakhir, and everyone at Longcroft is now waiting to see how Charlie deals with the incredible challenge of the International Karting Circuit.

Charlie said, "My second place in the final round of the British Karting Championships earned me fourth place overall and a ticket to the World Finals in Bahrain. I'll be representing Team UK." He added, "It feels good – like I've achieved something. My family are proud of me, and I'm looking forward to going to Bahrain."

We can't wait to see how he gets on, but what he has already achieved is quite exceptional.



## Year 7 Girls Football Success

Our Year 7 football team continued their fantastic start to the season when they were crowned East Riding Champions following a 5 a side tournament at The Market Weighton School.

The team won all their five matches and proudly lifted the trophy. Head of PE, Mr Martin, said, "They were fantastic." Rosie said, "I enjoyed playing in the tournament – it was fun! I scored two goals." She added, "I've been playing for about five years, and I play right wing."

Goalkeeper for the side, Summer, has been playing football since she was very young. She said, "We were all pleased we won." Lottie added, "I played in midfield and I scored a goal. I really enjoyed it" The victorious team members are pictured with their trophy!



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## East Riding Champion Megan is Number One

Towards the end of our first half term, cross country runners from across the school took part in the East Riding Schools' Championships. This annual event sees the best Cross Country athletes from across the region battle it out for the opportunity to progress through to Humberside and National competition. In challenging conditions, 18 East Riding secondary schools brought over 500 pupils to compete at this year's Championships with standards exceptionally high. There were some amazing individual performances from our pupils and it was a great achievement for everyone who completed the tough course. The top 25 athletes will go on to represent East Riding Schools on the Humberside stage later in the year.

Year 7 pupil Megan won her race with an outstanding performance, seeing her crowned East Riding Champion. She said, "It felt good to win." She explained, "I compete for Kingston upon Hull Athletics Club - I started in Year 5. I run on the track as well. I do 800m and 1200m - next year I'll be doing 1550m as well." Megan added, "I'm looking forward to representing the East Riding."

As always at Longcroft, we have enjoyed some excellent results in this competition and alongside Megan, a number of our runners qualified to represent the East Riding, including Elizabeth D and Ben T from Year 7.

Head of PE Mr Martin said, "The conditions were extremely challenging and I was proud of the way our athletes competed. They represented Longcroft exceptionally well." Mr Baker said, "To be East Riding Schools' Champion is a wonderful achievement. I'm looking forward to seeing how Megan progresses throughout this year and beyond."

Congratulations to everyone involved.





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# School News

## Halloween Fun and Attendance Rewards

Attendance is hugely important to us at Longcroft and at the end of each half term we hold our attendance challenges. At the end of October, all pupils with 100% attendance for the two weeks before half term received a Halloween Treat, and we were hugely impressed with the Year 7 response. The vast majority of our Year 7 pupils met the challenge and formed queues of excited children collecting their well-deserved rewards!

The night before we had hosted our first cinema night of the year which also had a Halloween theme. Large numbers of Year 7 pupils joined us for hotdogs, popcorn, drinks and sweets to watch Hocus Pocus, the film they had chosen to screen. It was a fabulous event in our school Theatre and a great way to end the first half term for our new arrivals. Our Friends of Longcroft School (FOLS) hosted the event and we are hugely grateful for their support.



## Passport Prize Draw

During the first half-term we found it an absolute privilege to meet so many prospective pupils and families at our Open Evening, during visits to primary schools and, also, 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.



## The Riot Act Visit

We were delighted to welcome drama group The Riot Act back to Longcroft. Originally founded in 2009, the team of dynamic and experienced education providers deliver innovative and memorable learning experiences on a range of topics including road safety, promoting active travel and mental and physical health.

'What Went Down...' is a powerful, engaging drama which demonstrates safe behaviour around roads. The performance highlighted the importance of recognising and understanding how peer influence effects our choices and behaviour and how to deal with it.

Our Year 7 pupils enjoyed the performance. Ava said, "I thought it was amazing. If I was a judge, I would give that a ten out of ten!" George added, "I thought it was awesome; it explained it all really well."

Gabrielle explained, "The Riot Act was very good - entertaining and educating." George said, "I thought Riot Act was a really good performance that teaches you a lot about road safety." Oscar added, "I thought it was good and a fun way to educate us on road safety."

Josh said, "I thought the Riot Act was good and I would love to see it again." Sam added, "I thought the performance was good and it was funny and entertaining." Elspeth concluded, "I LOVED it! It was so good, and didn't lose character once!" The Riot Act's performances are a key feature of our PSHE programme and we look forward to welcoming them back to Longcroft in the future.



## Arnie Carr

Mr Worthington also had the pleasure of interviewing Arnie Carr, a mini-bike racer, ahead of his participation in international competition.

He asked him what it is that he enjoys about racing and how he came into the sport. Arnie competed in his first 8 hour endurance race, out in Andalucía in Spain. He admitted it was very tiring but enjoyed the experience, managing to get up to seventh position in the first session. "I was competing against people from different countries, some people from England and others for Europe. It was a really thrilling experience. In the Saturday race, it was great to be tested against International opposition".

Arnie's team did really well, finishing the Streetstock Class P1 and Honda Cup P1.

The day before, Arnie competed in three sprint races and managed to finish fourth from the back of the grid which is really impressive. "I've been riding since I was six, following up on my dad's interest who also is into superbikes. My role model is Brad Binder, the South African Moto GP star. One day, I want to be professional in British Superbikes and I really like the idea of appearing on television doing the hobby I really enjoy".

As a school, we really look forward to following Arnie's progress and are behind him all the way! As part of Arnie's races, he took the chequered flag in one of them and long may that continue.



## Attendance Rewards

Our Year 7 pupils have started to collect their first reward certificates for 500 ClassChart Reward Points. At Longcroft we create a positive and motivated atmosphere, within which pupils can take pride in their achievements. We believe that through formal recognition of achievement, a positive attitude to learning or community mindedness, pupils should be rewarded. Our ClassCharts rewards are designed promote a positive ethos through a culture of praise; we celebrate acts of Great Heart, Great Thought and Great Vision.

Praise and encouragement are integral in developing self-confidence and self-esteem that leads to further personal development. It is very important for us to motivate and encourage pupils by recognising their effort and achievement. ClassCharts is also a live tracking online application to ensure parents are kept informed of their son or daughter's progress and achievements. This can help to prompt conversations about their day, what they learnt and what they achieved.

Everyone likes to have their hard work and effort recognised and rewarded; it helps to build resilience, determination and ambition, and it inspires others to work hard and achieve. We go beyond issuing daily ClassCharts rewards to ensure that outstanding achievements are recognised and rewarded. Pupils with the highest number of rewards in each year group are celebrated in our weekly Newsletter, and pupils with the highest number of each type of reward are also celebrated. Pupils receive certificates each week in recognition of this. All reward points can be used in our Friday Rewards Shop at our Finance Office. This helps our pupils to equate dedication, determination and hard work with reward, and also encourages our pupils to practise their understanding of saving and budgeting.

Mr Worthington enjoyed catching up with Amelia, Holly and Leo from Mrs Scott's form; Dexter, Rosie and Elspeth from Miss Woodhead's form as well as Mr Charlesworth's tutor group including Owen, Harry and Imogen.





## Performing Arts Events

Our performing artists treated a capacity audience to a wonderful Performance Evening filled with a fabulous range of music and drama. Our Musical Theatre Ensemble opened the evening with songs from hit musical 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'.

Year 7 pupils performed 'Disney Dazzle' – a range of songs from Disney films, including 'Part of My World' and 'Under the Sea' from 'The Little Mermaid'. Melody has been singing since she was five years old, and dancing since she was two. She said, "I love performing – it makes me happy." Owen, who is also in Year 7, said, "I like singing because I find it relaxing and it's a good way to enjoy yourself." He added, "I enjoyed the evening because it was nice to have my parents watch me."

The evening would not have been possible without our team of performing arts teachers who do a wonderful job of inspiring our pupils and preparing them to perform – Mrs Harris, Mr Thomson and Mr Chapman.

Just days later several of our Year 7 pupils joined the rest of our whole school choir for a glorious Carol Service at the Beverley Minster, which was held to raise money and awareness for Macmillan Cancer Support. It was a truly exceptional evening with a range of performers and some heartily sung carols; but an absolute highlight was our Longcroft choir, the only secondary school involved. Our young people shone brightly under the church lights and on what was a beautiful stage, both aesthetically and in terms of the acoustics. We were full of pride to see the children sing so well, and be received so enthusiastically by the packed congregation.





## Travel Ambassadors

There are lots of opportunities to get involved in pupil and student leadership programmes at Longcroft, including through our form reps and student council. However, we also have specialist projects, which give other groups the opportunity to lead initiatives across the school.

Known as the Longcroft Green Team, our Active Travel Ambassadors were quickly in to their roles, helping our environment by encouraging members of the Longcroft community to favour active means of travelling to and from school such as cycling and walking.

Our amazing Green Team were awarded £500 when they visited County Hall in Beverley and pitched a campaign to a panel of industry experts including Jenny Wiles from Active Travel England.

Mr Coupe explained, "We are delighted to work in partnership with Modeshift, the UK's leading sustainable travel organisation, and Sustainable Transport East Riding to encourage safe active travel."

He added, "Last week we were proud to contribute to a film that will further promote active travel. Our pupils were filmed demonstrating how to cycle safely and some had the opportunity to make a sustainable smoothie using pedal power!"



Sienna said, "Making smoothies in a carbon free way is a better alternative."

Mr Coupe finished by saying, "It is a pleasure to work with someone as enthusiastic as Active Travel Ambassador Coordinator Jason McAleese and his team. He is extremely supportive, proactive and encouraging and our pupils are really enjoying their role as ambassadors."

Modeshift aims to secure increased levels of safe, active and sustainable travel in business, education and community settings. We do this by representing our members needs and supporting

sustainable travel practitioners through a range of new and existing services.

Modeshift works with its members and partners in striving towards a world in which communities are free to make healthy and sustainable travel choices where active travel is seen as the norm.

Congratulations to all those involved in last year's Green Team, and it is wonderful to see our new Year 7 cohort emulate their achievements with even bigger ambitions for this year's initiative!



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# School News

## It's Official!

As we take the opportunity to reflect on a wonderful 2023, we are proud and delighted to confirm that our status as a 'Good' provider has been secured following the recent Section 5 Ofsted Inspection of Longcroft School and Sixth Form College.

Inspectors were hugely complimentary about our school and effusive in their recognition of the journey the school has travelled since previous inspections. They acknowledged the hard work of our dedicated staff, and the profound impact that the Wonder Learning Partnership has had in driving rapid improvements, having been commissioned by the local authority to support the school in 2019.

Over recent years the school has been transformed, not least physically, with significant investment to reconstruct the site and provide state of the art facilities, unparalleled in the region; progress that has been matched with increasingly high standards of teaching and pastoral care.

Mr Perry said, "This judgement is an important milestone for our community, a recognition of our incredible young people and their many achievements, supported by our committed staff and wonderful families. It will provide a platform for further growth and development."

Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, he added, "Our focus, remains on providing a truly exceptional, world class education for the children it is our privilege to serve – quite simply, each and every one of them deserve nothing less."



*"Pupils enjoy coming to school and are happy and safe."*



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# School News



**'Pupils enjoy coming to school and are happy and safe'**

A curriculum that is **'ambitious, broad and well-sequenced'**

**'Pupils have access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities and enrichment'** are engaged in those opportunities and **'feel a sense of pride in their achievements'**

**'Leaders have high expectations of pupils' behaviour'**

**'Pupils behave well at Longcroft'**

**'Attendance that is consistently above national comparisons'**

**'Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well supported'**

**'Teachers know their pupils/students extremely well'**

**'Developing a love of reading is a priority for the school'**

Sixth Form students **'enjoy the provision and value the positive relationships that they have with teachers' ... 'Students receive a personalised experience in the sixth form' ... 'they are 'known and supported as individuals'**

**'Pupils/Students are ambitious for their futures.'**

**'Leaders' are ambitious for the school and its pupils' and 'there is capacity and ambition at all leadership levels to improve the school further'.**

**This is a hugely exciting time for Longcroft School.**



GREAT HEART, THOUGHT AND VISION

**LONGCROFT**

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

# ISSUE 1

# Welcome

## to Longcroft School

Transition Newsletter

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