

# LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

# NEWS LETTER



The opportunity to see and hear five of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms and carefully chosen for their ability to communicate with young people in a direct and exciting way proved one not to be missed for a group of Upper School pupils who enjoyed GCSE Science Live! at Sheffield City Hall.

Accompanied by an experienced senior examiner who offered top tips on examination success, the presenters demonstrated that science really does offer solutions for many of the world's great problems.

Miss Sinclair said, "As always, we enjoyed an excellent day and our pupils represented Longcroft to its best."

Upper School

Sixth Form

Personal Development

Safeguarding

Extra-curricular Opportunities

Boccia event a success

Memory Lane



# LONGCROFT NEWS LETTER

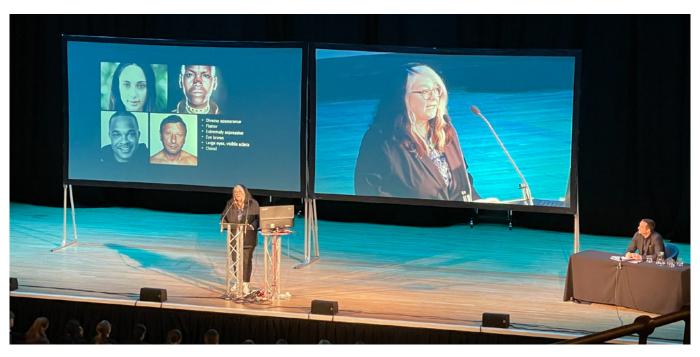


An eminent British neuroscientist and Wellcome Trust Senior Fellow at University College London (UCL), Professor Sophie Scott's research investigates the cognitive neuroscience of voices, speech and laughter - particularly speech perception, speech production, vocal emotions and human communication.

Year 11 pupil Tristan said,

"Professor Sophie Scott was my personal favourite because I used to find that laughter was a mundane occurrence exclusive to humans. But now I know that besides hyenas, animals laugh like us too."

Professor of physics at the University of Surrey Jim Al-Khalili won a Faraday Prize for science communication. His documentaries include Order and Disorder, Everything and Nothing, Chemistry: A Volatile History and Atom on the BBC and he appeared in Channel 4's Genius of Britain. His BBC Radio 4 series, The Life Scientific is now in its third series. He is also the author of several science books, including Paradox: The Nine Greatest Enigmas in Science and Pathfinders: The Golden Age of Arabic Science.



Finn is in Year 10. He said,

"Jim Al-Khalili was my favourite presenter as it was a fascinating topic, straight to the point and easy to understand." Luke, who is also in Year 10, agreed. "My favourite scientist was Jim Al-Khalili because his time travel talk was fascinating and taught me how gravity affects time."



Year 11 pupil Hazel chose Dr Tim Gabriel. She explained,

"He was really charismatic and passionate about chemistry and was very informative about what I can do with chemistry after school."

In 2007 Dr Gabriel received a personal commendation from former Prime Minister Tony Blair for his contribution to science communication.

Always a popular presenter, Professor Lord Robert Winston discussed pregnancy and the process of developing an embryo, alongside the methods of IVF. Sam explained,

"His speech was very interesting, presenting compelling evidence for his ideas posed. Additionally, his pioneering work is most exciting to hear about, providing lots of insight into his work. His presentation taught me lots about human fertility, which I found to be especially intriguing."



"I was instantly hooked and felt privileged when he showed us the path of an egg cell during ovulation and explained that this was the only path that had ever been recorded. His lecture really inspired me to continue exploring careers in biology — especially in medicine. I also found the lecture from the AQA chief examiner especially helpful in furthering

Thank you to Miss Rushby for once again organising such a wonderful opportunity for our pupils!

my understanding of how to answer questions as well as reminding me of useful revision techniques."





## **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 53,955

THOUGHT 286,274

VISION 194,483

**GRAND TOTAL:**534,712



# Headteacher's Welcome

Our final weeks of this half term have been full of activity, with a range of trips and events enjoyed by pupils and students across the school. GCSE Live! In Sheffield, the Thackray Museum trip, our UKMT Maths Challenge, PHD visit to our Scholars Programme and the development of our Modeshift campaign are just some of the highlights you will be reading about in our Newsletter.

As you will no doubt now be aware, this is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme for 2024 is 'My Voice Matters' which focuses on the importance of giving young people their voice, making them feel heard and empowered. This is key in promoting self-esteem and therefore well-being and mental health. I would like to thank all of my colleagues who make opportunities available to our young people which enable them to be heard and become actively engaged within our Longcroft community – there are so many ways that these opportunities make a positive difference to our children and our school.

As part of our response to Children's Mental Health Week there have been several special events alongside input through form time and assemblies. Our 'well-being walks' programme in partnership with Beverley Racecourse has continued, and our annual event with local charity 'Mental Health Mates' will be taking place immediately after half term (postponed due to weather). These opportunities not only make the very most of our stunning estate and surrounding areas but celebrate the benefits of physical exercise, nature and conversation on our health and wellbeing. In addition, this week has seen some incredibly moving creative writing from a special workshop with our writer in residence Vicky Foster; and at lunchtime our Theatre has hosted street dance and yoga, with pupils taking the opportunity to have some fun, get active and explore mindfulness, whilst highlighting the many benefits of doing so. Our commitment at Longcroft remains to educate children holistically; to ensure they are successful academically, but equally to prepare them well for life beyond school and the great challenges and opportunities this will bring. We never underestimate the importance of mental and physical health on well-being and emotional resilience and will continue to work with our young people to better understand these aspects of our lives and the steps we can take to improve them.

Across the school this week I have enjoyed seeing some of the incredible dishes created by our GCSE Food and Nutrition pupils. The creativity, technical competence and execution on display has been exceptional and I have every confidence that their hard work will be reflected in the outcomes they receive in the subject. Throughout the curriculum I have seen pupils focused and working hard, whether developing vocabulary in French, applying their knowledge of complex compound structures in Science or rehearsing scripted plays in Drama, it has been thoroughly impressive to see children committed to their learning and demonstrating their progress.

Thank you to all for your continued support of the school this half term. It has been great to see so many pupils and students being rewarded for their amazing efforts and contribution. They continue to make us incredibly proud and I hope you enjoy reading more about them in this week's Newsletter.

Mr D Perry Headteacher



# LONGCROFT NEWS LETTER



We have high standards at Longcroft and expect pupils to show each other respect, always wear their uniform correctly and try their best. We want all of our pupils to do well and we are supportive in helping children to achieve their potential. We have high expectations and encourage a positive "can do" mindset towards learning in all our pupils. We create positive learning experiences which develop our pupils' resilience in the face of a challenge and carefully scaffold learning so that all pupils make good progress.

This week, I have enjoyed spending time in various lessons across all year groups in Key Stage 3. Our teachers plan enjoyable lessons to include challenging content, encouraging wonder and discovery in each subject.

Part of Year 7 Science involves research and independent study into areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Being able to conduct independent research is important; it can develop inquisitiveness by providing opportunities for long term research and other work. Also, it can provide pupils opportunities to explore their interests in greater depth and make important decisions about how and where they will direct their focus. In particular, our Year 7 classes have enjoyed researching about the Particle Model. In some cases, pupils have even written about the journey of an Ice Cube to Water Vapour in the form of a story; using key terms such as kinetic energy and forces.

Another subject I have focused on this week has been Mathematics, a subject that is essential for everyday life and understanding of our world. A common theme across our curriculum is that we establish and reinforce consistent high expectations in each lesson. A particular highlight for me this week has been seeing how pupils in Year 7 and 8 have continued to develop their algebraic skills.

In our Mathematics lessons, we provide an environment where pupils can learn and become confident users of the subject and its applications. It is one that enables our pupils to develop a deep and lasting understanding of procedures and concepts so that their chances of success are maximised. I was very impressed at the willingness of the pupils to share their successes with me in the subject, and all were keen to demonstrate their new skills acquired at a higher level. I was particularly impressed with the resilience of pupils when expanding brackets for the first time, sharing their answers on their whiteboards so that staff can monitor progress. Assessment for Learning is a vital tool in spotting areas for development and staff, alongside our live marking strategy, are keen to support at every opportunity.

In all of the above examples, what impressed me the most was how the pupils reacted to high expectations and challenge in their lessons. As ever, our school has felt focused, calm and purposeful and our children are enjoying their learning. We wish the children a restful and enjoyable half-term.

**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

Gabrielle Daniels-Robson

Ashley Griffin

Lily Smedley

Sonny Marriott

Jasmine Hind

Angel Butler-Shorrocks

Jake Redmond

Thomas Greensides

**Emily Thomson** 

Freya Phipps

### Year 8

Kiara De Kock

Will Balmforth

Jacob Fergusson

Henrik-Bror Berntsson

Alfie Robinson

Jack Avre

Lila Garniss

Evie Suadon

Curtis Gordon

Madilyn Duff

### Year 9

Ben Carlyle-Smith

Maisie Foster

Sam Al-Budri

Levi Petherbridge

Ellie Mulvana

Charlotte Burnett

Gracie Pawson

Molly Rawson

Libby West

Thomas Wells

### **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: Annmariya Binoy

Year 8: Aaron Davies

Year 9: Darcie Polson





This week I have asked the teachers of some of our form time intervention sessions to share how well Year 11 pupils are progressing, as we approach the final set of Mock exams. I have been able to see some of the pupils in these sessions over the last two weeks and have been impressed by the focus and dedication shown in the areas they need to develop.

Mrs Shepherd said, "In Spanish intervention, the pupils and I decided that grammar (time frames, tenses and verbs) was the best place to start. Last week's focus was the past tense time frame – more specifically the preterite tense which allows pupils to talk and write about completed actions in the past. It was amazing to see such progress in a 30 minute time slot! It was wonderful to see pupils recalling prior learning in order to contribute to the intervention session, as well as seeing those lightbulb moments when something clicks! Amelia and Millie have lacked confidence in applying this tense before, but it was fantastic to see them confidently using the preterite tense. Well done, everyone!"

Mrs Scott has led our Science intervention. She explained, "In Science intervention we are currently following a mock revision plan, which is attached on ClassCharts as a PDF for all pupils. On this plan, there is information about each exam date and time, revision resources and a revision schedule that breaks down Science revision into 2 topics each week. Pupils are given a revision booklet every week, with exam questions and a mark scheme. There is then SENECA revision set to support this booklet."

Mrs Scott added, "Pupils should be completing the exam questions and correcting using the mark scheme every week; this is vital to give them exam question practice."

The form time revision sessions reflect the revision timetable to ensure pupils have input from specialists over the key content needed for each topic. Mrs Scott said, "Many pupils have made a real improvement in Science this term, and are regularly completing the revision. Lydia, Rosie, Samantha, Lewis, James, Ella, Hannah, Megan and Mia have all made superb progress, working 2 grades above target. Well done!"

Each week Science are running a P6 in B7 on a Wednesday and a Thursday lunchtime revision session in B7 – please do come along and continue to make fantastic progress!

Mr Dyson said, "Wednesday and Thursday form time intervention sees both Product Design and Engineering pupils come together to spend time on their practical outcomes for this year's non exam assessments. Pupils have spent all academic year preparing and planning for their practical outcomes, and have been given some focused feedback based on their current attainment in order to continue working independently to complete their practical tasks."

Mr Dyson added, "I have been incredibly impressed with their resilience when challenges and problems arise as they always do when completing practical tasks. Pupils are completing a range of stages currently, including material and component preparation, marking out, sanding, drilling and creating production aids and templates as well as surface finishes, using a range of skills they have been taught over the previous two years effectively. They are utilising the time they have been given well, and I hope to see this for the two days which we are running over the half term holiday. Notable mentions go to Alfie, Leo and Laura for the commitment they are showing during lessons and during extra-curricular time."

He concluded, "I look forward to seeing and showcasing some of the pupils' fantastic outcomes at the end of the academic year."

In Maths, intervention is focused on topics that are being identified through Mock papers and subsequent exam practice questions. The topic focused on most recently was linear graphs and identifying gradients, y-intercepts, and identifying equations from given details and graphs. Isobel recognised common mistakes and was engaged in developing her understanding of this area.

The online Sparx homework tool, to aid and develop understanding, is being used consistently well – particularly by Tyla, Ruby and Sam.

## **Half Term Revision Sessions**

### Pupils should arrive at the Main Reception at the start time to sign in.

#### Monday 12th February

Design Technology – 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.00pm to 3.00pm – Bring pack up – Mr Dyson

#### **Tuesday 13th February**

English – 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.00pm to 3.00pm – Mrs Thomas

Design Technology – 9.30am to 12.30 and 1pm to 3pm – Bring pack up – Mr Dyson

Maths Higher - 9.30am to 12.30pm - Mrs Low

#### Wednesday 14th February

Maths Foundation – 9.30am to 12.30pm – Mrs Low

English - 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.00pm to 3.00pm - Mr Deer

### **Thursday 15th February**

Science - 12.30pm to 3.00pm - Miss Sinclair and Miss Rushby

Music and Drama rehearsal – 9.30am to 3.00pm – Mrs Harris

Mr Henderson Head of Upper 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 10

Anika Matta

Joe Dawson

Charlotte Britt

Matthew Harris

Poppy Robinson

Anna Bruton

Hayden Berango

Oliver Sysum

Jasmine Lambert

Charlotte Skilbeck

### Year 11

Freddie Robinson

Lydia Curley

Rossi Moulson

Imogen Capes

Mary Anderson

Leo Gamble

Ruby Rooney

Grace McKenzie

Heidi Jackson

Alfie Knight

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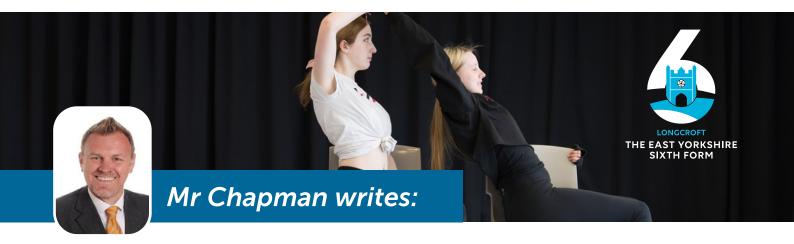
### Last week's winners were:

Year 10: Daniel Parkinson

Year 11: Alex Ryan







### **Jasmine's Music Festival Success!**

I am always proud to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful Sixth Form students and the contributions they make to our school and the wider community.

This week I am delighted to congratulate Year 12 student Jasmine on earning a well-deserved first place in the 15 to 18 year accompanied woodwind solo class on her flute at the Cottingham Music Festival.

The Cottingham Methodist Church Musical Festival is organised by a Committee of Church members and friends and is a significant event in the local music calendar. The first Festival was held in 1978 as part of the Church Centenary Celebrations and has continued every year, apart from 2020. Membership of the British and International Federation of Festivals means Federation Adjudicators are used. The adjudicators are rigorously trained to use official descriptors and are monitored regularly.

Over the years, a number of Longcroft students have entered and performed, and I am always proud to hear the praise their performances earn.

Jasmine performed 'Nocturne' – a beautiful piece by David Baker. She said, "It's a unique piece and everyone felt it had a special feeling to it – it moved everybody."

Jasmine added, "This is the third year I've entered – it's an opportunity to show my hard work and to gain experience. The first year I entered I came fourth and last year I was second. I normally perform in a wind band or orchestra but this is as an individual."

Jasmine concluded, "It was a really great feeling to win and I got really good feedback."

The adjudicator Martin Wallington commented, "What a spellbinding opening! Fantastic! Lovely overall feeling to your performance - you really get it!" A graduate of Chetham's School of Music and The Royal Northern College of Music, Martin recently retired from playing the viola with the BBC Philharmonic after 36 years in the job making his feedback all the more valuable."

Well done Jasmine!

Mr Chapman | Head of Sixth Form







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# BE AMBITIOUS









It's been another busy fortnight for personal development here at Longcroft School, as we work to develop our young people's understanding of the wider world, and help them to prepare for their adult lives.

Last week we held the first of our Year 9 visits to Beverley Racecourse, which was based around theme of wellbeing and careers. Pupils took time out from their busy day to enjoy walking the racecourse and engaged in some 'nature-bathing'. Once they reached the main stand of the racecourse, pupils were given a guided, behind the scenes tour of this important local employer. Following the tour Beverley Racecourse working with the Cornish Bakery, provided refreshments for the pupils who stayed to eat their lunch before returning to school in time for their Period 4 lessons. In coming months, we will be taking the other Year 9 pupils up to visit the course.





On Thursday last week we also held the second of our Scholars Programme events where a group of Year 9 pupils continued their sociological study under the direction of a PhD student. This year their study relates to the sociology of social media, looking at issues around the creation of online content and the various algorithms that are used to feed that content to the public. Clearly this is a very pertinent and timely topic for the pupils to be studying, but more importantly the programme introduces pupils to university-style learning and open their eyes to the possibility of studying at a university in the future.

# LONGCROFT NEWS LETTER

This week we have had a number of further personal development events, including the launch of the National Citizen Service with Year 11 pupils. This service offers young people the opportunity to undertake a week's outward-bound activities over the summer holiday after their GCSE exams. Pupils can choose a programme that suits them and their future aspirations. The programmes on offer include 'Live It' which is all about living independently, 'Boss It' which is all about entrepreneurship and business, and 'Change It' which is about social action and wellbeing. All the programmes also include the full range of outward-bound activities. Parents of Year 11 pupils have been sent further information via email and pupils have been given a flyer about these opportunities.

Also, this week we were pleased to invite the NHS nurses from CHCP to come into school and speak to our Year 10 pupils about sexual health. These talks are for pupils in Years 10 and 11 and they supplement our standard PSHE programme regarding sexual health. While this is a challenging topic, it is also vital to ensure the future happiness and wellbeing of our pupils. Following the talk the nurses held a drop-in session for Year 10 and 11 pupils to access more personal advice and support.

On Tuesday, we also held an interesting event for Year 7 pupils to learn more about electricity. A joint presentation was given by BAE systems, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force about science, technology, engineering and maths with a particular focus on electrical and mechanical engineering. Pupils



enjoyed a lively and interactive presentation that taught them all about the nature of electricity and issues that surround its generation and use. They considered the difference between renewable and non-renewable energy sources, as well as how electricity works and flows through circuits. This was a really interesting and unusual presentation based around practical activities for the pupils to enjoy.



Meanwhile, we have also been helping Year 11 pupils to access individual advice and guidance around their future careers with weekly appointments being rolled out across the year group. This year, we are very pleased to be providing face-to-face interviews between the pupils and a Level 6 Careers Adviser who can guide the pupils and advise them on their future paths, both in terms of college and sixth form options, as well as potential university routes and their final career options.

As you can see, this has been a very busy half term for Personal Development at Longcroft, and we look forward to continuing this work in the coming months as we support our young people to develop a greater understanding of the world beyond school.

Mr A Coupe **Head of PSHE and Careers Education** 







# Caring for Your Child's Mental Health: A Parent's Guide for Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is an important occasion that draws attention to the significance of mental well-being. For parents, it's an ideal time to reflect on how they can support their child's mental health. In this article, we'll explore the significance of Children's Mental Health Week and provide a comprehensive guide for parents on how to foster their child's mental well-being.

### **Understanding Children's Mental Health Week:**

Children's Mental Health Week is an annual event dedicated to raising awareness about mental health issues, reducing stigma, and promoting open conversations. It serves as a reminder that mental health is just as important as physical health. For parents, it's an opportunity to engage with their children and strengthen their emotional well-being.

### The Importance of Supporting Your Child's Mental Health:

Children and adolescents face numerous challenges as they grow and develop. Academic pressures, peer relationships, and self-identity can all contribute to stress and emotional struggles. As parents, your role in supporting your child's mental health is crucial. Here are some ways you can help:

#### 1. Open Communication:

Maintain an open and non-judgmental line of communication with your child. Encourage them to express their thoughts and feelings freely. Active listening is key to understanding their concerns.

#### 2. Be Attentive:

Pay attention to changes in your child's behaviour, mood, or habits. Sudden shifts might be indicative of underlying issues. If you notice anything concerning, don't hesitate to seek professional help.

#### 3. Create a Supportive Environment:

Foster a safe and nurturing home environment where your child feels loved and accepted. Encourage a healthy balance between academics, extracurricular activities, and relaxation.

#### 4. Teach Coping Skills:

Help your child develop effective coping strategies. Teach them mindfulness techniques, deep breathing, or journaling to manage stress and anxiety.

#### 5. Encourage Physical Well-being:

Physical health is closely connected to mental health. Promote a balanced diet, regular exercise, and sufficient sleep to ensure your child's overall well-being.

#### 6. Break the Stigma:

Talk openly about mental health in your family. Encourage your child to view mental health issues without shame or stigma, just like any other health concern.

#### 7. Seek Professional Help When Needed:

If your child is struggling with persistent mental health issues, don't hesitate to consult a mental health professional. They can provide expert guidance and support.

#### 8. Lead by Example:

Demonstrate healthy coping mechanisms and emotional regulation in your own life. Children often learn from their parents' behaviours and attitudes.

### Conclusion:

Children's Mental Health Week serves as a reminder of the importance of mental well-being for individuals of all ages, including children and adolescents. As parents, you play a pivotal role in nurturing your child's mental health. By maintaining open communication, being attentive, and creating a supportive environment, you can help your child build resilience and thrive emotionally. Remember that seeking professional help when necessary is a sign of responsible parenting, ensuring that your child receives the care they need to flourish mentally and emotionally.

Mr Rogers
Deputy Headteacher
Head of Care and Achievement



# 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 and 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

### **Friday**

**Badminton** – all year groups









# **Boccia Event a Success**

On Tuesday 30th January Longcroft hosted a Boccia event for pupils from some of our local primary schools.

Mrs Henderson said, "The focus of the event was to engage and develop skills for pupils who do not usually get the opportunity to represent their school. We had eight teams participate from four different schools."

The event was a great success and Mrs Henderson added, "It was a lovely evening with all participants enjoying the event and showing progress in their Boccia game skills. Well done to all who participated and thank you to the Longcroft Leaders who did an excellent job on the evening officiating the games."





# **Memory Lane**

This week we return to 2010 and feature two Year 11 tutor groups. 11L are pictured with Mr Rymer, while 11F are pictured with Mr Bull.





### **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

vicky.fox@longcroft.eriding.net



Years 8 and 9

Mrs Newsam

07827 587483

zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 10 Mrs Ellis 07900 394085

annette. ellis @long croft. eriding.net



Year 11
Miss Harsley
07810 416081

katie.harsley@longcroft.eriding.net



Sixth Form Miss Taylor 07423 261292

emily.taylor@longcroft.eriding.net