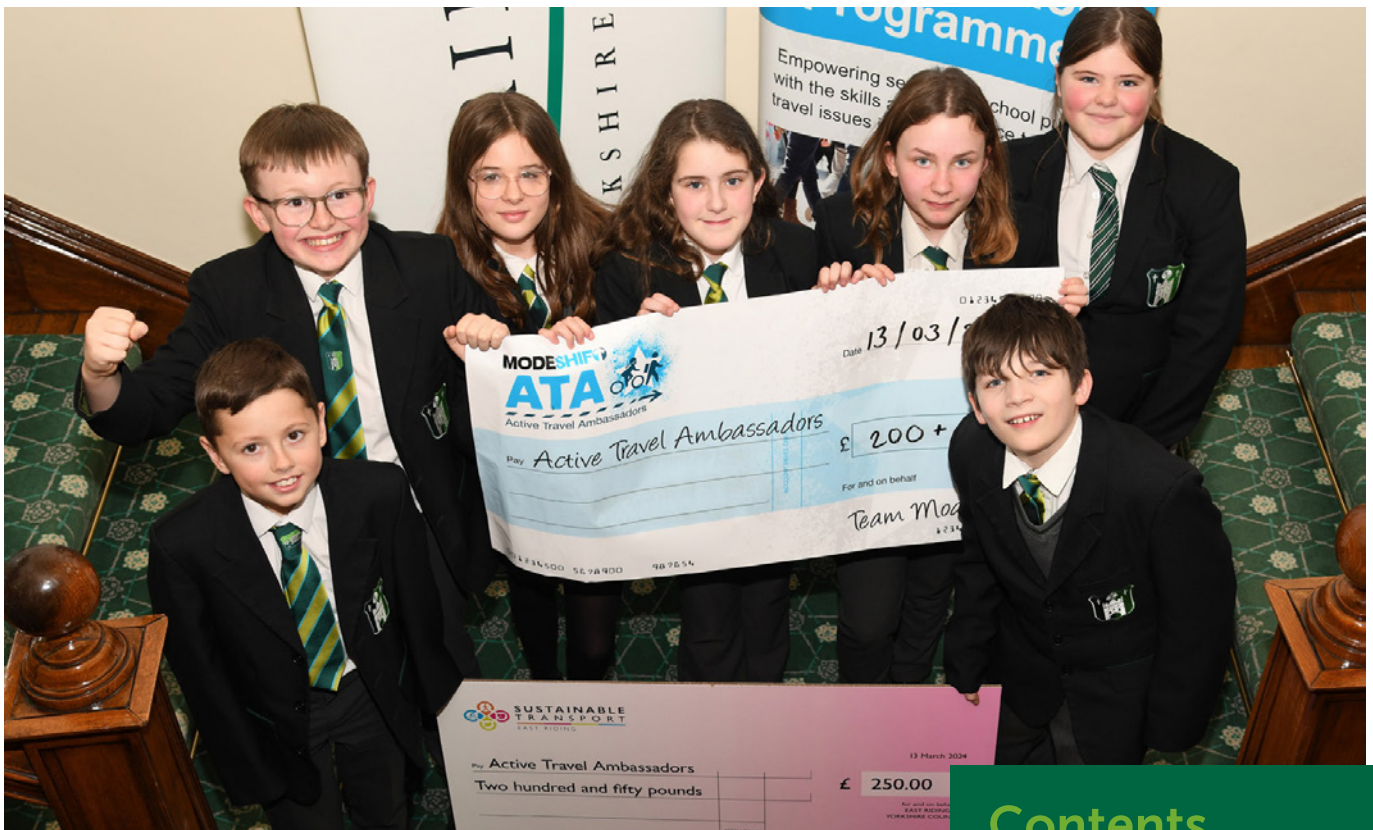




# LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

## NEWS LETTER



### Pupils Promote Active Travel!

"We were all proud of each other when we found out we'd won the money." — Year 7 pupil Emma

A group of Year 7 pupils who have been working alongside Mr Coupe and Modeshift's Jason McAleese travelled to Beverley's County Hall with the aim of earning £200 to support their bid to increase active travel by pupils.

Mr Coupe said: "Longcroft's Active Travel Ambassadors have been working closely with Jason to put together their campaign to increase the amount of active travel options taken

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by pupils at the school. In order to gain the funding for their campaign, which will run in the summer term, our amazing ATAs went to County Hall and presented their ideas. Having created an exceptionally innovative PowerPoint presentation, packed full of information about their project, each of the ATAs excelled themselves in their clear and enthusiastic presentation. After some excellent feedback from the judges, the pupils were awarded £480 of funding, which is an amazing starting point for their campaign. The ATAs won the original £200, plus an additional highest-possible award of an extra £30 in recognition of the quality of their presentation and ideas, which ERYC then match-funded up to a total of £480."



George said, "Being an ATA is so cool and fun because you get to experience different things, work as a team and win money."

Toby added, "Our presentation was the best because we explained our problems well and then how we were going to fix them."

Emma said, "I became an ATA because I thought it would be fun and I wanted to show people how to travel without cars. It was nerve-racking but also fun at the same time because our PowerPoint was good. We were all proud of each other when we found out we'd won the money."

Mr Coupe said, "I am really enjoying working with this wonderful group of pupils – they are full of ideas and enthusiasm. Jason has been tremendous. He is extremely experienced and we have benefited from his support, both in several of our planning meetings and on the day."

Team Modeshift works to unite sustainable practitioners across the country and we are very much enjoying and benefitting from their support.



#### Feedback the pupils received included:

*Well done. Excellent. And parental fear is the biggest barrier. I like how you are targeting this.*

*I really like that you will engage the whole school with your campaign ideas. Keep up the good work!*

*Great visual presentations. You identified the problem.*

*Good use of music at the start – made us sit up and listen. Good monitoring plans. Modeshift can help promote your event nationally through education and workplaces.*

Mr Coupe explained: "With this funding, the ATAs hope to run a raffle available to pupils who cycle or walk to school alongside a poster competition to promote active travel and road safety, which they will be aiming to open up to our feeder primary schools. We would just like to thank Jason, Christian and all the team at Modeshift for the support they have given the school in getting us this far. All that is left is to put our plans into action! Watch this space!"





## 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**

**66,411**

**THOUGHT**

**344,885**

**VISION**

**231,551**

**GRAND**

**TOTAL:**

**642,847**





## Headteacher's Welcome

**Our values are that which define us, that underpin our actions and our interactions. At Longcroft throughout this Spring Term we have seen so much to demonstrate Great Heart, Thought and Vision across our community. It has been a busy climax with lots of activity over the final two weeks and it doesn't stop for the Easter Holidays!**

At Longcroft we are committed to encouraging active and safe travel. We recognise the benefits of regular activity on physical and mental health and acknowledge the long term impact on our young people of establishing positive routines now and in their lives beyond school. In the last two weeks our Active Travel Ambassadors have performed brilliantly, presenting their business case and financial bid at County Hall, and securing maximum funding for project development at Longcroft. This means that they can now begin to plan the implementation of their scheme to promote active travel with our community and you will hear more about their work in the weeks and months to come.

Sadly, our community has learned in the hardest possible way the importance of safe travel, particularly on bikes. Wearing a helmet to school for example is non-negotiable. We have a number of schemes now built in to our curricular and extra-curricular offer with a range of events scheduled and work with local partners to offer support, maintenance and guidance. This week, the East Riding Sustainable Transport team have been in school handing out free bike helmets, lights and locks to our pupils and students. This amazing offer represents a very significant financial investment from the scheme to support safe and secure cycling, and we are hugely grateful to the team for their continued work with us.

With the exam season looming, last Friday we took all of Year 11 to Hull University for our 2024 Longcroft Revision and Study Skills Conference. It was an amazing event and our pupils represented themselves and the school exceptionally well. We explored research informed revision strategies and gave pupils the opportunity to experience seminars as well as time to rehearse what they had learned. Hearing pupils reflect on their future plans and articulate their commitment to realising their ambitions was hugely encouraging and we are with them every step of the way!

It was our Spring Term Performing Arts Showcase this week and our amazing pupils and students did not disappoint. With an array of talent on display it is no wonder we have already received so many kind messages of recognition and support. One example from an audience member who e-mailed after the performance was: 'After attending the Performing Arts Evening, I came away recognising that learning has improved immensely. Pupils can now be very expressive, more confident, more knowledgeable, more concise, more creative. What a huge pleasure this evening was, a credit to all the teachers and students involved. Truly amazing. Well done Longcroft.' Our FOLS were on hand to serve refreshments which were very well received and a huge thank you to all involved in making the event possible.

Our 'attendance challenge' has been an end of term focus for the school and what a great reaction we've enjoyed. So many of our young people received their 'golden tickets' and made their way to our rewards station for their Easter Chocolate treats at lunchtime. As a community we are all aware how important attendance is to a successful education, so it is great to be in a strong position currently compared to schools nationally. There is still much work to do and we will maintain a strong focus on attendance across the summer term. Thank you in anticipation for your continued support in ensuring children are in school, learning and enjoying the array of experiences on offer.

There is lots more to read about in this week's Newsletter including events over Easter with an extensive programme of intervention and revision as well as our literary trip to Cambridge University so do enjoy.

I wish you all a restful Easter and look forward to welcoming pupils and students back to school for the summer term.

**Mr D Perry**  
Headteacher





## LOWER SCHOOL



### Mr Worthington writes:

**This term we have celebrated successes with pupils related to their academic achievements and efforts in lessons. We recognise that success looks different for each individual, but have high expectations for all pupils in terms of effort. What has been particularly pleasing is seeing how the Year 7 pupils have settled in, demonstrated by their effort grades on their first Progress Update.**

There were a select group of pupils with many outstanding effort grades. Year 7 pupils with seven or more A grades were:

- » Beth Dawson
- » Oscar Purchon
- » Olivia Chilcott
- » Shanice Munaku
- » Sophie Clayton
- » Millie Freer

In Year 8, five pupils achieve the feat of seven or more A grades:

- » Neve Meagher
- » Charlotte Sutcliffe
- » Scarlett Wood
- » Brenton McKie
- » Lily Curtis

Again, a big congratulations to Lily with nine 'Outstanding' effort grades in her Progress Update!

A special mention needs to go to Beth and Oscar, who achieved nine 'Outstanding' effort grades across their subjects. Well done!

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



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

This week, we are celebrating with pupils who have achieved high attendance this term. As well as those who have achieved the long-term goal of 100% attendance for the year, we are rewarding children who have been in consecutively for the last fortnight. We acknowledge that it is not always possible for a child to achieve 100% for various different reasons, but we are keen to encourage that the children attend every day possible.

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

## Year 7

Holly Abel  
Carlos Aparicio Dans  
Betsy Appleby  
Olivia Chilcott  
Henry Coates  
Beth Dawson  
Sophie Day  
Dexter Forsyth  
Isabelle Johnson  
Shanice Munaku  
Dylan O'Connell  
Millie Oliver  
Oscar Purchon  
Isaac Savage  
Lily Smedley  
Max van den Ban  
Amalie Wade  
Jack Wallis  
Alexander Waterson

## Year 8

Hailey Berango  
Ruben Gabell  
Alex Matta  
Neve Meagher  
Logan Smith  
Amy Thornton

## Year 9

Ellie Eaton  
Charlie Moses  
Gracie Pawson  
Sienna Robinson  
Benjamin Smedley  
Millie Wisher  
Evie Woad



**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

Oscar Purchon  
Imogen Trolle  
Beth Dawson  
Owen Harper  
Harry Hugill  
Leo Caley  
Ashley Griffin  
Jake Redmond  
Tymofii Merkulov  
Leonid Vaskov

## Year 8

Neve Meagher  
Alfie Robinson  
Mia Robinson  
Sienna Rasen  
Reagan De Kock  
Eddie Pickering  
Luke Hiles  
Billy Seaward  
Sasha Huzzard  
Bradley Elvidge

## Year 9

Sadie Colclough  
Molly Rawson  
Alicia Hicks  
Ava Bryce  
Ben Carlyle-Smith  
Evie Woad  
Lily Logan  
Poppy Cooper  
Sienna Robinson

## 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: Max Dixon

Year 8: Marcus Lawley

Year 9: Amy Docherty





**LONGCROFT**

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

# LEARNING HUB

**PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

**INFORMED | EMPOWERED**

## ***AUTISM INFORMATION EVENING***

**DATE: 23RD APRIL**

**TIME: 6-8PM**

**EXPERT FACILITATOR:**


**CATH MURDOCH**

**SPECIALIST INCLUSION PRACTITIONER**

### **Event Aims:**

- ✓ Share expert advice to support understanding of how Autism effects your child
- ✓ Provide information to help you and your child navigate the challenges Autism can bring
- ✓ Signpost further sources of support, advice and guidance

**More Information / Book a place:**

 01482 862171

 [SEN@longcroft.eriding.net](mailto:SEN@longcroft.eriding.net)



**REIMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE**



## UPPER SCHOOL



*Mr Henderson writes:*

### The University of Hull plays host to our Longcroft 2024 Year 11 Revision Conference

It was an incredible sight to see our Year 11 pupils in new surroundings focused on developing their revision and exam preparation skills on Friday. With around 150 of our pupils at the University of Hull's impressive conference facilities, we enjoyed the Longcroft Year 11 Revision Conference 2024. Pupils participated in seminars on evidence informed revision techniques, which included effective mind mapping and use of flash cards. Pupils were also able to discuss the revision they had been working on and consider any barriers they needed support to overcome, or ways to further sharpen and improve their approach.

During the day, there was an opportunity to take a tour around the main parts of the University campus and enjoy the facilities, to gain some insight into student life. It was fantastic to hear about the hopes and aspirations our young people have, including for many a higher education route through a university. Pupils were able to see and discover how university students take full responsibility for their learning and actively seek out the library, often working in collaboration with peers – it was an impressive hub of activity. Pupils really enjoyed the day.







*"The day helped me see the environment of a university." Isobel*

*"It helped me focus more than I would outside of school." Millie*

*"I enjoyed having the ability to revise in a different environment other than school and home." Isobelle*

*"It was beneficial to work in a focused environment." Summer*

*"It was good to spend a day revising with friends as we could bounce ideas off each other." Hannah*

*"It was a chance to learn new revision techniques and revise with friends." Freddie*

*"The day helped with revision and gave me my first experience of university." Ruby*

*"The day helped me get started for the last push on revision." Amelia*



## Easter Revision

Thank you to all pupils for an amazing response to our Easter revision sessions; we have over 100 pupils booked into over 35 different sessions. It is a testament to pupils' maturity and growing understanding of the importance of the next few weeks to their futures.

**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

Callum Tuke  
Amelia Dale  
Isabel Thorpe  
Oliver Sysum  
Abel Sabu  
Cal Skinner  
Erin Meagher  
Lucy Coombe  
Andryana Murray  
Mathilda Smith

## Year 11

Grace McKenzie  
Lewis Allenby  
Hannah Woodhouse  
Olivia Langdon  
Summer Mulvana  
Freddie Robinson  
Evie Barwick  
Amelia Newsam  
Mary Anderson  
Lauren Matthews  
Ella Thornton

## 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: Jack Daniel  
Year 11: Libby Raper



## Mr Chapman writes:



**This week, in the midst of all the trials and tribulations of being a Year 13 student with A-Level examinations looming, our most senior of students found the time and space to lead the Sixth Form student body to a wonderfully successful bake sale!**

As the photo shows, several Year 13 students made the extra effort to slave over the oven (with the occasional student diverting via the supermarket) to prepare some sweet treats for pupils in the main school to enjoy at lunchtime. Part of a suite of fundraising opportunities led by our Sixth Form team, including work around local food bank and international appeals, today the focus was on ensuring all students have access to end of year celebrations. In the life of the Sixth Form, the way in which their year ends is hugely important and can provide the incentive that many of them need and deserve. With an absolute commitment to inclusion, it's important to our community that no one misses out.

Led by Jessica Leck, the students assembled their goodies together first thing in the morning in the Sixth Form area before porting the trays down to our undercover area where many of our main school pupils enjoy their break and lunch times. Well done to everyone involved - great to see teamwork in action.

## Looking to the future...

Also, this week, Year 11 interviews continued. As we meet pupils in Year 11 to talk about their A Level options, I have been hugely impressed with the integrity, attitude and maturity demonstrated. Lydia Fergusson, in Year 11, said "I enjoyed my interview as I felt comfortable both asking and answering questions. Mr Chapman gave us positives of becoming Sixth Form students and explained why Longcroft would be the best place for us." It is clear that many pupils are realising the benefits we offer and that set us apart from other providers. Smaller class sizes and the bespoke pastoral care in particular are commonly noted, as well as access to our state of the art facilities which are undergoing constant investment as the sixth form thrives.

The interviews continue for two more weeks after Easter - there are lots of interested pupils to see!

**Mr Chapman | Head of Sixth Form**

# THE EAST YORKSHIRE SIXTH FORM



'Teachers know their students incredibly well' and 'as a result of the quality curriculum, students achieve strong outcomes'  
**Ofsted 2023**

## ABOUT US WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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- Great academic outcomes
- Every student known as an individual
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- Over £7.5 million investment
- State of the art facilities
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- Superb enrichment

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# BE AMBITIOUS



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## DEVELOPING HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Quality sleep is paramount for wellbeing as it impacts our cognitive function, emotional balance and overall health. A World Health Organisation study highlighted that 44% of young people reported difficulty sleeping – potentially affecting their mood, concentration and immune system. Our guide offers expert tips for helping children to sleep more healthily.

### 1 MINDFUL TECH USE



Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. While phones, laptops, tablets and so on can serve as a helpful means of stress relief, it's advisable to minimise their use right before bed. These devices can keep the mind racing long after they're switched off, impacting how easily and how well a person can sleep.

### 2 EFFECTIVE SLEEP PRACTICES



Offer practical advice on reinforcing certain habits that have a positive influence on sleeping patterns. Children could start keeping a diary which they add to each evening, for example – or they could use up excess energy by exercising during the day.

### 3 HYDRATION HABITS



Underline the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, while limiting drinks close to bedtime to prevent disruptions during the night: it's a lot harder to switch off if you keep needing to get out of bed for the toilet. Avoiding caffeinated drinks later in the day also allows the body and brain to slow down naturally, without any chemicals firing them back up.

### 4 CONSISTENT BEDTIME SCHEDULE



Assist children in developing consistent bedtime routines that tell the body it's time to wind down, promoting a more relaxed state. Establish specific activities for young ones right before going to bed – such as brushing their teeth – to set up an association between that action and falling asleep.

### 5 OPTIMAL SLEEP ENVIRONMENT



Ensure that the bedroom is comfortable, dark and free from distractions, fostering an ideal space for quality rest. The room's temperature should also be suitable for sleeping – that is, not too hot and not too cold – while rooms should be kept as tidy and free of clutter as possible.

### 6 RELAXING EVENING ACTIVITIES



Recommend activities that have a calming effect on the mind – such as reading or gentle stretching – in the lead up to bedtime, to prepare the mind for a peaceful night's sleep. Doing something quiet, relaxing and low intensity signals to the brain that it's time to rest and makes falling asleep much easier.

### 7 PRIORITISING ADEQUATE SLEEP



Emphasise the crucial role of sleep in maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. It's especially important to sustain a healthy sleep pattern during challenging and intensive periods in our lives: during the exam season for children and young people, for instance.

### 8 NUTRITIONAL BALANCE



Highlight the significance of a healthy, balanced diet – and its role in establishing a more consistent sleep pattern. Try to lean towards preparing meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables, served in reasonable portion sizes: not only is this a lot healthier, but it also reduces the chances of feeling too full to be comfortable in bed.

### 9 PARENTAL SUPPORT



Parents and carers, of course, are uniquely situated to support their children in establishing and maintaining healthy sleeping habits. Parents can review their own sleep habits (incorporating anything from this list that they don't do already) to model a balanced bedtime routine and reinforce the importance of self-care.

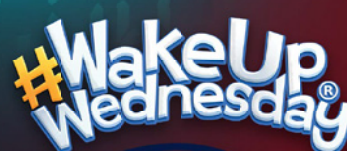
### 10 MILITARY SLEEP METHOD



Look up 'the military sleep method': it's a technique for falling asleep quickly, which incorporates deep breathing exercises. You could encourage children to try it or even use it yourself. While it can take a good deal of practice to perfect, eventually it will start to feel natural – and the results are often extremely impressive!

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK: 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at a large secondary school.



The National College®



**FREE MEAL  
PROVIDED**

**FREE EASTER**

**FOR AGES  
5-12**

# Holiday camps

**HAF**  
Holiday Activities & Food

**KIDS  
TAKEOVER**  
HAPPY HEALTHY KIDS

 **GREAT VENUES TO CHOOSE FROM**  
See reverse for details

**FREE**

Free for children who receive  
benefit-related free school meals

**25TH MARCH - 5TH APRIL**

**VARIOUS TIMES & DATES**

Not running weekends  
and bank holidays

**BOOK NOW!**

Call our team on

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QR code to  
book online

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[info@firststep-sports.co.uk](mailto:info@firststep-sports.co.uk)



This holiday club is part of the East Riding of Yorkshire  
HAF programme and is free for children and young  
people in receipt of benefit-related free school meals.





**BOOK  
NOW!**

[bit.ly/active-east-riding](http://bit.ly/active-east-riding)

See reverse for details



**FREE EASTER**

**FOR AGES  
5-12**

# Football camps

**HAF**  
Holiday Activities & Food

**BALLERS  
ACADEMY**

**FREE**

Free for children who receive  
benefit-related free school meals

**25TH MARCH - 5TH APRIL**

**VARIOUS TIMES & DATES**

Not running weekends  
and bank holidays

**GREAT VENUES**

**BRIDLINGTON**

**DRIFFIELD**

**BEVERLEY** **GOOLE**

**COTTINGHAM**

**WITHERNSEA**

**WILLERBY** **BROUGH**

**FREE  
MEAL  
PROVIDED**

**BALLER OF  
THE WEEK**

**SKILLS  
AND DRILLS**

**GAMES AND  
TOURNAMENTS**

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Sports Group





## Becky back on the road to success!

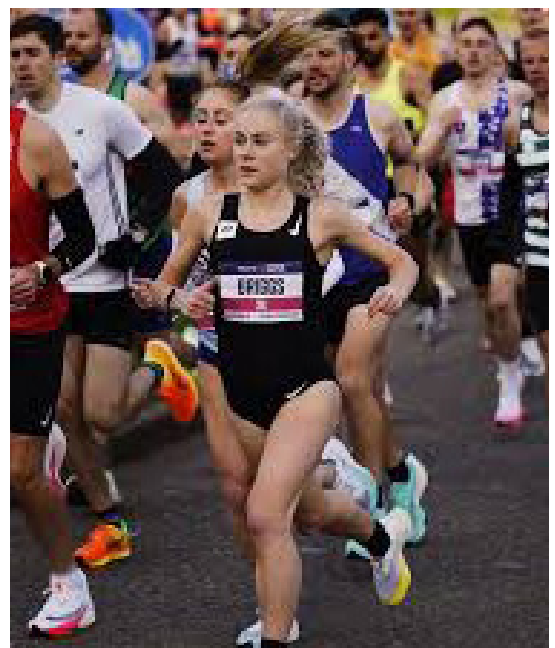
**Former student Becky Briggs made a successful return from injury when she won the Bath Half-Marathon on Sunday.**

Becky, who left Longcroft in 2018 and subsequently graduated with a BSc in Sport and Exercise Nutrition from London's prestigious St Mary's University, represented Great Britain in 2022's European Championships in Munich when she competed in the Marathon. Her time of 2:29:05 saw Becky win that year's Manchester Marathon in what is still the European U23 Marathon record.

Thousands of runners took part on Sunday as the race celebrated its 42nd year and organisers said around 20,000 spectators lined the course to cheer on the runners. Becky, who was representing City of Hull AC, won the women's race in 1:14.24, crossing the line thirty seconds ahead of local runner Anna Domville from Team Bath who clocked 1:14.54 with Katie Olding of Thames Valley Harriers third in 1:15.16.

Becky, who will now compete in April's London Marathon, said: "It was a really incredible event with a great atmosphere around the entire course. It felt like a full circle moment – I won the Bath Half back in 2020 when I was still at university and hadn't run a marathon. Fast forward four years and I'm training for my fifth marathon which will be in London. It finally feels like I'm back, and I'm really, really happy about it."

Mr Baker said, "Becky has always showed tremendous commitment and determination to succeed and I am delighted it looks like she has put the injuries that prevented her from competing in 2023 behind her. I'll be looking out for her on 21st April when she competes in London."





# Memory Lane

This week we return to 2002 and feature two Year 7 tutor groups.  
Miss Wilcocks and Mr Prescott are pictured with their tutor groups, 7O and 7N.







## LIBRARY NEWS



**Ms Carvill writes:**

## Dial Anne for Murder

**In 2022, crime and thriller made up 12% of print book purchases, more than a third of e-books, and nearly a fifth of audio books. The genre consistently ranks as the largest area of the book market.**

Why is crime fiction so popular? Is it because crime novels demand our problem-solving skills, that we all want to know what motivates a killer, or just that we enjoy a really dramatic story?

On Thursday, Beverley crime writer Anne Wedgwood, visited Longcroft Library to talk to 10EP1 about her passion for writing crime and how she accomplishes it.

Our pupils were fascinated to learn more about the 'who', 'what', 'when', and 'where' of plot construction and intrigued to know why such a pleasant person is interested in poison, weapons, and murderous characters. Never judge a book by its cover.

### Had Anne always wanted to be a writer?

*"No, but I've always loved reading. A few years ago, I started reading books on Kindle, and I thought I could do better than that. I wrote a short story which was read out at the East Riding Theatre in Beverley, and that gave me the confidence to have a go and eventually that story became my first novel, The Botanist. I wrote it four times. After the third version I did an online writing course which gave me strategies to become a better writer."*

### Your books are all crime novels set in Beverley. Is crime your favourite genre and is the setting special to you?

*"Yes, I've always been a fan of crime fiction. I love the works of Agatha Christie and Ruth Rendell particularly."*

*Setting the books in Beverley, where I've lived for 17 years, makes them real. I know the locations and I don't have to travel to check on details. Readers recognise the places. Why shouldn't DI Ronnie Twist be Beverley's Inspector Morse of Oxford?"*





## How do you begin a novel?

*"I start with a character, a weird person who has a reason to kill. I work backwards, concentrating on the story of the murder and how they got to that point."*

## Harry asked if Anne imagined what the characters looked like in her head.

*"Yes, I have to have an idea, and a name that is credible. I do a lot of work in advance and think about their history; what they wear, if they drink tea or coffee, how they speak. Dialogue is one of my strengths. I'm not really good at description. The characters and context dictate the dialogue and vocabulary. I think about the senses too. How do you connect to the person you are writing about. How will the reader connect?"*

## Joe wanted to know if Anne's characters were based on real people.

*"They have aspects of people I've known or know but nobody is a 100%. Some of them enjoy things I like doing, playing scrabble, listening to The Archers, and walking on the Westwood."*

## Evie asked Anne what stopped her writing a plot that she's seen in a film and how she managed to stay original.

*"Some researchers say that there are really only six basic story types anyway, and everything is adapted from them."*

*I begin with a central character, the murderer. I tell my story in the first person. In my latest book, The Narcissist, the narrator is a young girl, Billie, who finds a famous actress dead in her dressing room at the East Riding Theatre in Beverley. I made sure the theatre didn't mind that!*

*Unless you pinch from another source, you are going to have your own story."*



## Is planning hard?

*"I use a huge spread sheet. After I've written a chapter, I edit the next day. Editing is hard, you have to be disciplined. I also edit a number of times after I've finished."*

*It's important to hook your readers attention; give them reasons to read – something unfolds, something is revealed. You throw in a few red herrings too. You're drop feeding rather than spoon feeding. It's important to show, not tell."*

*Planning the end is very important. It's easy to lay false trails, but at what time should the reader find out? Once the reader knows who the murderer is you need to wrap things up quickly."*

## Is it difficult to get a book published?

*"People say writing a book is the easy bit, getting it off your laptop into print is much more difficult."*

*I wrote to 20 or 30 agents with my first book, but nobody was interested. Eventually, I went for Hybrid publishing, which is when you share the cost of publication with a publisher. It's different from online publishing on demand, as your books go into shops."*

*Now that I've written three books, I'm hoping to have another go at getting an agent."*



## Have you any tips for becoming a good writer?

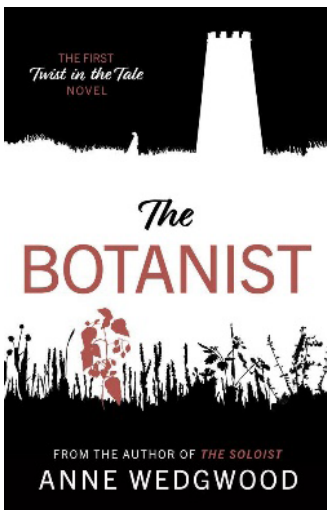
*"My top tip would be to read, read, read. I was an avid reader as a child. Today, young people have lots more options; you need to make time to read, carve out your day."*

*"Books take you into different worlds. Today there is so much choice. I love reading books set in different countries. They're fascinating. Historical novels like Anna Karenina are wonderful too, learning about the past."*

*"Books help us to understand each other and ourselves."*

**A huge thank you to Anne for visiting Longcroft. She was so informative and inspiring. Her books are available in the school Library or can be purchased from Waterstones, Amazon, or The Book Guild.**

**Below are some short reviews.**

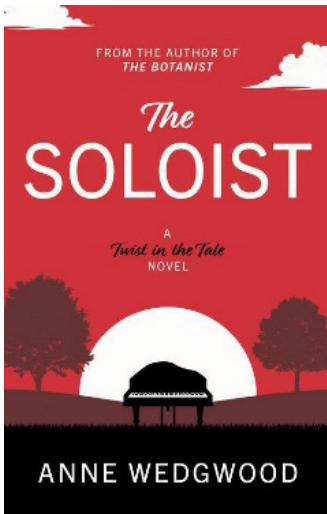


## The Botanist by Anne Wedgwood

In the first of a trilogy of Twist in the Tale novels we are introduced to retired doctor Lilian Templeton. She has a dead body in her garden, bordering the Westwood, and there is nothing she can do to stop the gas men digging it up.

Enter DI Ronnie Twist and her sergeant, Luke Carter. Neither are fooled by Lilian's seeming innocence and a game of cat and mouse ensues as Lilian seeks to hide her murderous past. Fun and thrilling!





### The Soloist by Anne Wedgwood

Who killed the pianist, Max Silento? Scarlet would do almost anything her employer, retired judge Ada, asked, but going to jail!

She didn't murder Max, so why are DI Ronnie Twist and her sergeant, Luke Carter, sniffing around?

Somebody in the family must be the killer. The seemingly perfect Rosewood family. Scarlet needs to find out before she is arrested herself.

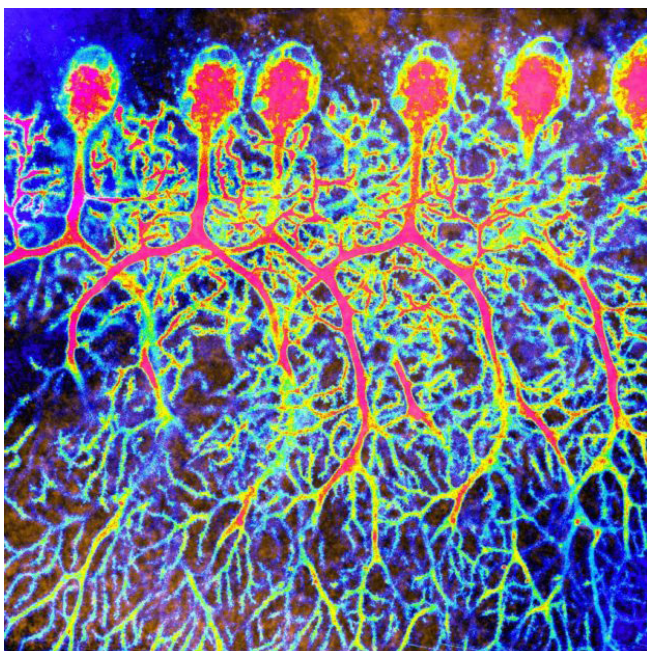
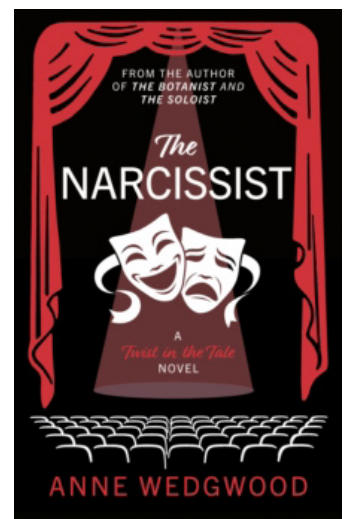
A fantastic plot and superb characterisation.

### The Narcissist by Anne Wedgwood

Famous actress Vanessa Forsyth is found dead in her dressing rooms, a bullet through her head. It looks like suicide, but DI Ronnie Twist and her sergeant know better.

Who murdered the glamorous beauty. As the investigation unfolds it seems quite a few people had reason to want Vanessa out of the way.

Set in the market town of Beverley, this is the third Twist in the Tale novel. A totally gripping read!



### Weaving Dreams

#### First Story Book Cover Design Competition 2024

This year our First Story cohort of writers have picked **Weaving Dreams** for the title of Longcroft's new anthology, due out in July 2024.

Pupils and students are invited to create a design based on the title. Work can be in any media but must be submitted on A4 by Monday 8th April 2024 to Ms Carvill in the Library or to your Art teacher Mrs Holmes.

Prizes will be awarded. We can't wait to see your designs!





## 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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