



LONGCROFT

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

NEWS LETTER



Clare inspires us to walk and talk!

“Coming to Longcroft means a lot to me. I think it’s so important for young people to talk about their feelings.”

—Clare Greaves

A massive thank you to Clare Greaves who visited Longcroft on Tuesday to lead a lunchtime walk around school grounds to mark Children’s Mental Health Week 2025. Thank you also to all the pupils and Sixth Form students who joined in to show their support.

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Clare, who does lots of voluntary work in the local community, and organises Mental Health Mates walks in Beverley and the Hull area, is a firm believer in the power of walking and talking to transform mood; especially when enjoyed with fresh air and in lovely surroundings. She has been leading an annual walk at Longcroft since 2019.

"Thank you so much for always inviting me. Coming to Longcroft means a lot to me. I think it's so important for young people to talk about their feelings. I waited until I was thirty-five to have the courage to have that conversation, and find real friends."

According to the charity Mind, 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem of some kind each year in England. Clare's community walks in beautiful settings provide a space for people of all ages to walk and talk without fear of judgement.

Our Longcroft walk was certainly enjoyed by pupils and students. As Callum commented:

"The lunchtime walk was really relaxing. It left me feeling calm and refreshed."

Freddie agreed:

"I have been on all the Longcroft walks since 2019, when I was in Year 7. I'd really recommend walking and talking."

If you would like more information about Mental Health Mates Beverley and their next planned walks you can contact them on the MHM Beverley Facebook group or email mhmbeverley@gmail.com

"Thoughts come clearly while one walks."

—Thomas Mann, German novelist and short story writer





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.

We have enjoyed guest speakers of substantial standing, visiting professionals and organisations, and a raft of external events including regional sports successes and curriculum enrichment trips. Highlights have included our Year 10 Historians travelling to the Thackray Museum, the Pro Vice Chancellor of Hull University presenting to Year 9 on Artificial Intelligence, Cambridge University talking to Year 11 and the Sixth Form about applications to their prestigious colleges, Year 7 having a well-being drop down day led by an array of our NHS partners, specialist literacy training for our post 16 mentors and, of course, a packed audience joining us for the incredible Show Stoppers production which was such a wonderful success and exceptional celebration of our children on Thursday evening.

The impact all of this has on our children and their education is profound. Such experiences create special memories, lasting relationships and alongside high-quality learning experiences in our classrooms every day, develop the social and cultural capital that can empower and enable them to succeed in the future.

As you will no doubt now be aware, this is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme for 2025 is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' which focuses on the importance of taking ownership of our well being. This excerpt is from Place2Be's website (the organisation behind children's mental health week), explaining this year's theme. Being self-aware means getting to know and understand what we are good at, what we find difficult, our likes and dislikes, what makes us feel JOY and what may cause us SADNESS. It is also about understanding what makes us unique and our fears, hopes and dreams. As we build a sense of self, we grow in our ability to connect with others, as well as develop our skills and talents. It is with this basis we can form strong and healthy relationships, from early childhood right through to adulthood and are equipped to cope with

the challenges that life brings our way. This echoes the international research around well-being that has formed the basis for key professional development in school this year and as we have facilitated activities planned this week with our pupils, there has been lots to reflect on ourselves.

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 annual event with local charity 'Mental Health Mates' is always a special opportunity for pupils to take some time out and enjoy our wonderful site and at lunchtime our social area has also hosted events such as street dance, with pupils taking the opportunity to have some fun, get active and explore mindfulness, whilst highlighting the many benefits of doing so. These opportunities not only make the very most of our stunning estate but celebrate the benefits that physical exercise, nature and conversation all have on our health and well-being. In addition, this week has seen some incredibly moving creative writing from a special workshop with writer Maureen Lennon. Our commitment at Longcroft remains to educate children holistically. Whilst ensuring they are successful academically, our focus is also on preparing 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 we 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.

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



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 61,280

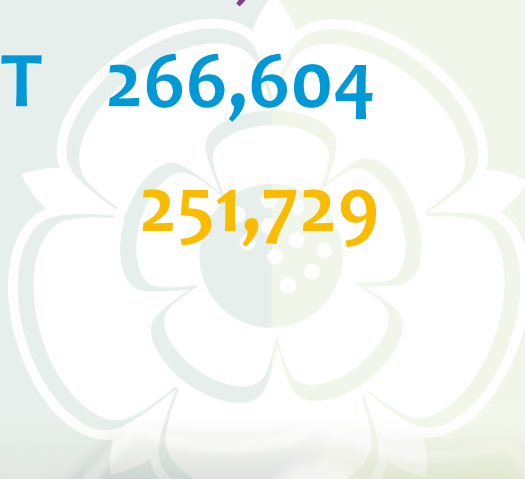
THOUGHT 266,604

VISION 251,729

GRAND

TOTAL:

579,613





LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

Firstly, huge congratulations to Year 9 pupil Charlie who had an amazing result on his recent kart race in Dubai. It was the first time Charlie had raced there, and he finished second in the final! Charlie explained: "The competition was the Dubai 0-Plate. The team had an entry and I got asked to go. It was hot, and the track was big." He added: "It was completely different to what I'm used to in the UK - I was proud of my result."



Congratulations once again to our fantastic Year 7 and 8 **netball teams** who enjoyed a competitive trip out to The Market Weighton School last week. Mrs Holt said: "Both games were incredibly close with Year 8 winning by two goals and Year 7 losing by one. Both teams are really starting to get together, with some especially strong defence from the dream team, Holly and Florence! We're looking forward to Hornsea next week."



We were pleased to welcome in the East Riding Mental Health Support Team on Friday to host our first **Year 7 Mental Health Morning**, promoting well-being in our young people are providing plenty of activities for pupils to get involved in.

Promoting good mental health at school is not just about dealing with problems but creating a culture of care, where everyone's emotional wellbeing is valued.

In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the importance of mental health, especially for young people. When we talk about mental health and wellbeing, we're referring to how we feel, think, and behave; these are aspects of life that directly impact how well we cope with stress, relate to others, and make choices.

We recognise that good mental health helps pupils to focus better, engage in school activities, and build stronger relationships with friends and teachers. There are many ways to promote positive mental health within a school setting, and we were very grateful for the visit from the East Riding Mental Health Support Team, accompanied by colleagues from a range of organisations including The Game Shack. Mental health education, regular check-ins, and open conversations are important in breaking down stigma.

Pupils certainly enjoyed the morning and the range of activities. Seth said: "The games were the best part. I also did a word search." Nico and George agreed that they most enjoyed visiting different classrooms and trying a range of activities, including guessing the contents of boxes using just their sense of touch.





As part of the visit, we also enjoyed Hull Kingston Rovers bringing members of their Foundation team, who emphasised the importance of activity and exercise as part of good routines for wellbeing. Physical exercise, in particular, releases endorphins, which can improve mood and reduce feelings of stress.

Pupils themselves can also help by looking out for their own mental wellbeing and supporting friends who might be going through tough times. Practising simple strategies like taking breaks, staying active, and finding hobbies that reduce stress can make a big difference. Remember, seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Whether it's talking to a trusted teacher, one of our Care and Achievement team, a counsellor, or a friend, support is always available.

We recommend exploring local mental health resources and online platforms dedicated to supporting young people. Organisations like YoungMinds and Childline offer valuable advice, tools, and a listening ear for both pupils and their families. Good mental health is not just about managing stress, but also about creating a foundation for a happy and fulfilling life ahead. As pupils begin to deal with greater independence, we stay alert to changes in behaviour. Our Care and Achievement team are always available for contact, and their information is at the end of every weekly newsletter.

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

Ava Hutchinson-Chan
Pallavi Whyte-Burman
Lottie Johnston
London-Leigh Baker
Reuben Todd
Holly Artley Tolson
Freya Peck
Evie Cunningham
Imogen Logan
Florence Crabtree

Year 8

Rosie Fitton
Max Dixon
Elias Chapman
Olivia Radley
Jake Redmond
Oscar Purchon
Olivia Chilcott
Henry Coates
George Hogg
Amelia High

Year 9

Neve Meagher
Olivia Lax
Dorothy Makey
Alfie Robinson
Jasmine Stephenson
Lily Thornton
Patrick Marham
Evie Sugdon
Scarlett Wood
Lily Pyle

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: Seth Donnelly

Year 8: Evie Thwaites

Year 9: Lily Thornton



UPPER SCHOOL



Mr Henderson writes:

Year 10 have been working hard organising their work experience for later in the year. This affords the pupils the chance to find out what inspires them, to come up with career ideas and try them out, discover their strengths, values, motivations and interests, and to meet new people and build a network of contacts. So far, we have amazing opportunities such as a graphic design companies, primary schools, nursing, the Army, veterinary clinics, architects and many more. If you are able to offer any placements in your line of work, please contact Miss Sinclair via school@longcroft.eriding.net or (01482) 862171.

With half term rapidly approaching, our Year 11 pupils are getting ever closer to their real exams. Before this though, they have the final set of mocks in English, Maths and Science. We are now at a point, with question level analysis of exam papers, to be able, as a teacher and pupil team to be able to start pinpointing areas of learning that need to be revisited and revised. To optimise preparation for the half term break, Year 11 have been completing a subject revision booklet with their teachers which highlights the main targets they need to be working on. It also outlines the ways and resources to make their revision effective as well as targeted. This level of analysis is also used to plan for the Period 6 timetable of lessons each and pupils are informed of the topic for the sessions.

Half term revision sessions have been advertised to pupils and parents and many pupils have booked on. It will be great to see so many pupils come in and join together for revision. Please see ClassCharts for the link.

Academic reviews are now over; this has been a rewarding experience for all as we have worked together to evaluate each individual pupil's revision efforts and skills to map ways forward. These plans will then be shaped as the year completes and guide our pupils to success.

Finally, I was once again delighted to hear from Mr Cassidy that several Year 10 pupils had been awarded a Golden Buzzer last week. Congratulations to these pupils!

Sam Al Budri – Fantastic contributions, effort and enthusiasm in yesterday's hydrogen car session. **Miss Rushby**

Ellie Eaton – For a fantastic attitude in the hydrogen car racing – well done! **Mrs Scott**

Liam Hill – Excellent work in class and in his class book. **Mrs Woolner**

Mr Henderson
Head of Upper School



CAREER OF THE WEEK: Structural Engineer

What does a structural engineer do?

Structural engineers are highly skilled and imaginative professionals who design the strength and durability of structures, such as bridges and buildings. They play a crucial role in creating a wide range of structures, from homes and office blocks to hospitals and flood defences. Their expertise ensures that buildings are not only safe and robust, but also functional, and sometimes, even beautiful!

Structural engineers meticulously plan structures to withstand floods, strong winds, and, in certain parts of the world, earthquakes. They usually work within multi-disciplinary teams, working alongside other professionals like architects, quantity surveyors, and fellow engineers. Increasingly, structural engineers are designing more sustainable structures, such as buildings that utilise fewer materials and employ more environmentally friendly construction methods.

What can I expect to earn as a structural engineer?

According to the Institution of Structural Engineers, the average UK starting salary for a structural engineer is around £26,000 per year. You could earn up to £45,000 per year after five years of employment, over £45,000 per year as a Chartered Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers and over £65,000 per year as a Technical Director.

What subjects should I study to become a structural engineer?

Useful subjects to study to become a structural engineer include maths, English, physics, art, design and geography.

How can I start my career as a structural engineer?

There are several routes that you could follow to become a structural engineer. With each one you will ultimately be required to study for a degree.

You could start as a civil or construction engineering technician and study for a degree qualification while you're working. Some structural engineers choose to work and study through a degree apprenticeship. Others begin their careers by studying towards a relevant degree or postgraduate course such as civil engineering, civil and structural engineering, or architectural engineering.

After completing your studies, you will gain hands-on experience whilst working. You could also undertake further training and eventually, once you have gained enough experience, apply for membership of the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE).

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a structural engineer, visit our partner website www.logonmoveon.co.uk

Useful websites to find out more about a career as a structural engineer:

The Institution of Structural Engineers, what is a structural engineer? <https://www.istructe.org/become-a-structural-engineer/>

National Careers Service <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/structural-engineer>

Go Construct <https://www.goconstruct.org/construction-careers/what-jobs-are-right-for-me/structural-engineer/>





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

Poppy Cooper
Sam Al Budri
Ebony Boddy
Sadie Colclough
Molly Rawson
Maisie Foster
Lexie Burke
Emily Gillett
Cherry Curwood
Evie Woad

Year 11

Amelia Purchon
Luke Hancock
Sam Smedley
Anika Matta
Daniel Parkinson
Jasmine Lambert
Aneena Seby
Mollie Coates
Rachel Harris
Matthew Harris

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: Keira Lamb

Year 11: Florence Norrison



Mr Chapman writes:



LONGCROFT
THE EAST YORKSHIRE
SIXTH FORM

On Friday of last week, we were delighted to welcome into the Sixth Form Hannah Spencer from the **Yorkshire Endeavour English Hub**. Hannah met with 18 of our Year 12 students who had expressed an interest in developing their skills, knowledge and understanding of how to mentor younger pupils – with a focus on supporting children who struggle with their reading.

Hannah is an experienced Senior Leader and Specialist Leader in Education (SLE) with a proven track record of supporting schools across North Yorkshire. Her areas of expertise include leadership development, effective phonics practice, embedding a strong reading culture and language development in Early Years.

In a novel move, the Sixth Form training session took place in the main staff-room, which is a quiet part of the school and feels quite separate and corporate.

During the morning, students learned about morphology, trigraphs and lots of other complex language to explain an often complex activity – reading.





When I asked the students what they wanted to do next with their new training responses included:

"I would like to meet with a pupil for half an hour each week (with confidence or behavioural difficulties) or help a pupil 1-to-1 in a specific subject they struggle with." **Lydia**

"I'd now like to mentor a Year 7 pupil whenever is a suitable time for them." **Amelie**

"I would like to help a Year 7 pupil with their Maths." **Kripa**

"I would like to help a Year 7 pupil with reading in the library." **Lucy**



What a wonderful outcome from a half day of training!

Students received a certificate endorsed by Wonder Learning Partnership for their participation.

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form



CERTIFICATE

OF PARTICIPATION

This certificate is proudly presented to

In recognition for successfully participating in the Reading for Pleasure, Reading for Learning and Vocabulary Acquisition training, facilitated by the Yorkshire Endeavour English Hub.

31/01/2025

MR CHAPMAN
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM





SAFEGUARDING



Mr Rogers writes:

Attendance Streaks – Rewarding Commitment, Encouraging Success

At Longcroft, we know that attendance is one of the biggest factors in a pupil's success. Studies consistently show that pupils who attend school regularly perform better academically, develop stronger social skills, and have greater confidence in their learning. That's why we are launching Attendance Streaks, a new initiative designed to reward pupils for their commitment to attending school every day.

How It Works

Starting from **13th January**, pupils who achieve **15 consecutive days** of attendance will receive a reward to celebrate their dedication. But the real challenge – and the biggest rewards – come for those who reach **50 days in a row**. These pupils will not only receive recognition but also gain entry into a **grand prize draw**, giving them the chance to win an exciting reward.

Why Attendance Matters

There is a direct and undeniable link between attendance and achievement. Missing just a few days of school can create gaps in learning that are difficult to recover from, affecting progress in key subjects like English, Maths, and Science. Pupils who maintain high attendance are more likely to keep up with their lessons, develop consistent study habits, and perform well in assessments.

Beyond academics, regular attendance helps pupils **build resilience, confidence, and strong social connections** with their peers and teachers. It ensures they take full advantage of the many opportunities available to them, from extracurricular activities to important life skills that shape their future success.



Encouraging Positive Habits

The **Attendance Streaks** initiative is designed to help pupils see the benefits of daily attendance in a fun and rewarding way. By turning attendance into a challenge, we hope to encourage positive habits that will support pupils throughout their education and beyond.

Parents, we encourage you to support your child in aiming for these attendance milestones. Every school day matters, and we are here to help ensure pupils feel motivated, engaged, and supported in their journey.

Let's celebrate those who show up every day, ready to learn and succeed. Who will be the first to hit the 50-day streak? Stay tuned to find out!

Mr Rogers

Deputy Headteacher





Once again, a huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

Sam Al-Budri 10DPE

London-Leigh Baker 7JDY

Albert Bird 7JPO

Emma Chow 11EFO

Florence Crabtree 7JDY

Ellie Eaton 10ARU

Sophie Flanagan 11ASC

Samuel Garrett 11ASC

Lucas Hall 7ESH

Liam Hill 10AHO

Ellissa Hulpan 7ESH

Noah Kirkley 8NFO

Henry Leng 11RLO

Alex Matta 9RTO

Ben Muralee 8LWO

Tyler Parsons 13JCA

Amelia Purchon 11PDR

Jake Redmond 8ACR

Milana Shalai 7GRU

Angeles Westphal 11EFO

Pallavi Whyte-Burman 7GRU



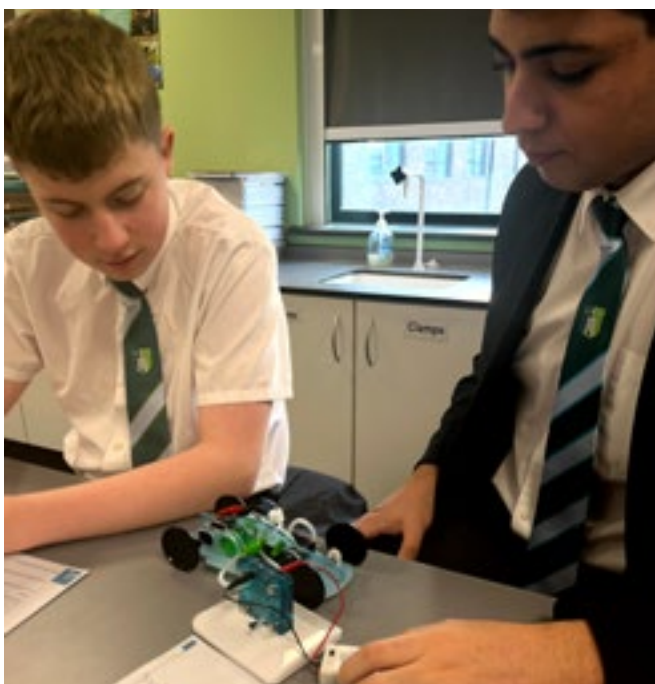
IN FOCUS SCIENCE

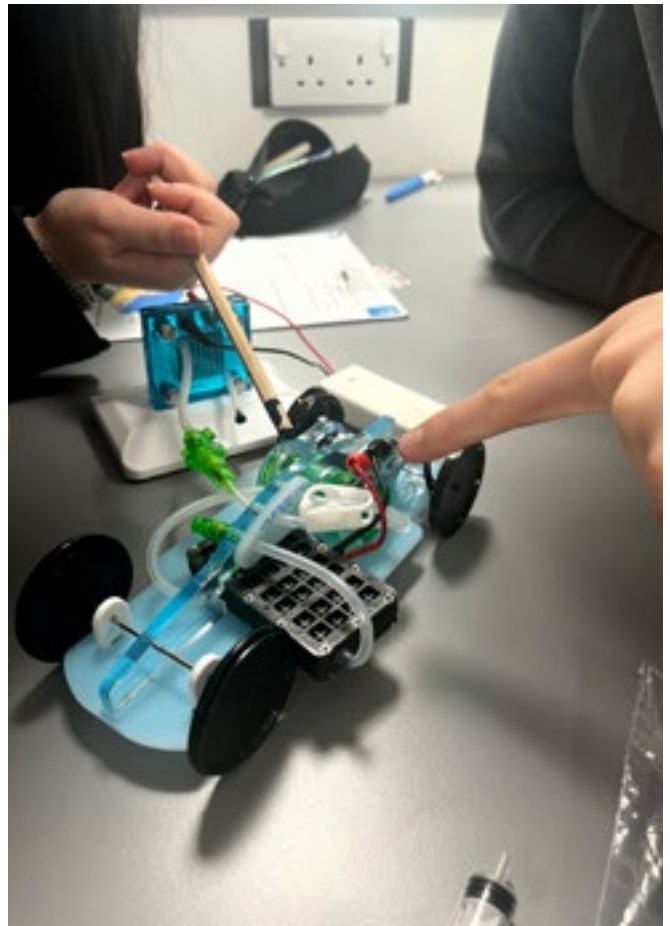
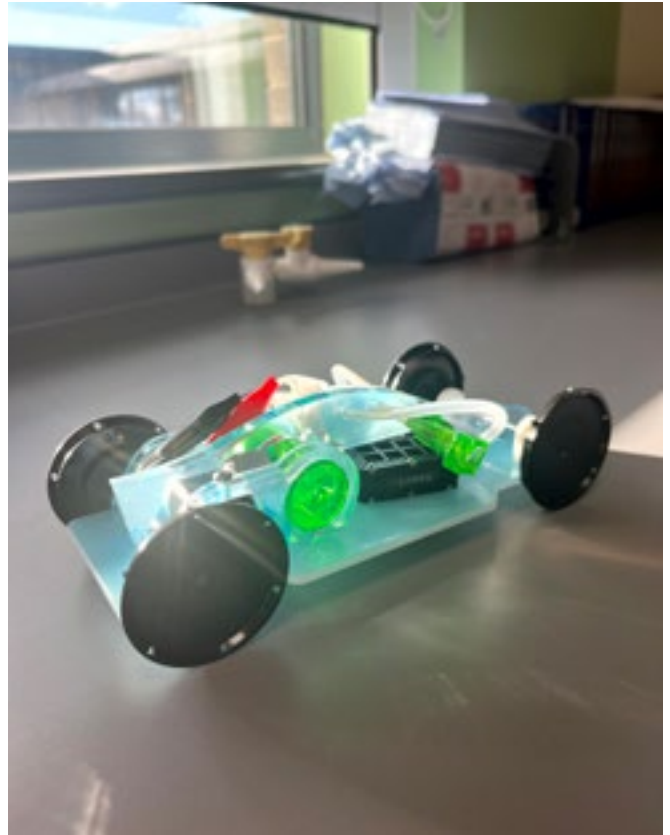
This week we feature Year 10 pupils working in Science.

Mrs Scott explained: "Year 10, joined by some of our Sixth Form students studying sciences, took part in an event looking at Hydrogen Fuelled Cars. Northern Gas Network came in to speak to the pupils about renewable energy and the goal to be net zero carbon."

"Pupils then had the opportunity to create hydrogen through electrolysis and use fuel cells to power small hydrogen cars. We had a race track and everyone had the opportunity to race their creations."

Mrs Scott added: "This was a fantastic, hands on, opportunity to get pupils thinking about a future in engineering and sustainability. We explored career options in the green sector, whilst underpinning learning in Chemistry of how fuel cells work."







Memory Lane

This week we return to 1959/60 and feature two tutor groups.

Our first picture shows 2C4 with their form tutor Mrs Carter. The second picture is of 1A2, pictured with their form tutor Miss Murdock.





Boccia

On Tuesday 28th January, Longcroft hosted a Boccia event.

Mrs Henderson explained: "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 six teams participate from three different schools – St Mary's, Swinemoor and Cherry Burton. It was a lovely evening with all participants enjoying the event and showing progress in their Boccia game skills."

Mrs Henderson added: "**Well done to all who participated and thank you to the Longcroft Leaders who did an excellent job on the evening officiating the games and assisting the teams' play.**"



Ms Carvill writes:

LIBRARY NEWS

First Story's 100 Word Story Competition Is Now Open

First Story's 100 Word Story Competition, in association with Vintage, is now open. As usual we will be running this as an in-house competition too, with our top three entries going forward to the national competition.

This is a wonderful opportunity to write a captivating tale, experiment with language and be superbly creative. The deadline is Friday 28th February 2025. Please submit your entries to your English teacher or librarian. Visit the library for more information. Below you can read a former winner from 2021.

National Winner

'A Melody Lost' – Tegan Blake-Barnard (Longcroft School and Sixth Form)

An abandoned library rests, buried beneath time, watching another sun rise and another day pass. Heavy shelves echo the shades of a shattered grand piano which sulks, heartbroken, by decomposing windows. Reminiscing of a time when each note it sang echoed the whispering calls of vibrant characters snuggled amongst the shelves, when each note clambered over the other in a desperate attempt to harmonise with the whistling birds through the open window. With its back forever facing its audience, its beam-soaked keys embrace the morning sun, the mighty willow giants and the chorus it will never be able to join.

“Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader – not the fact that it is raining, but the feeling of being rained upon.”

—E. L. Doctorow, American novelist, editor and professor



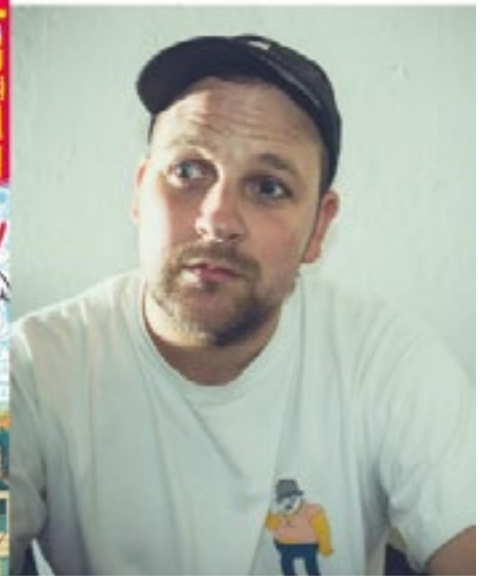
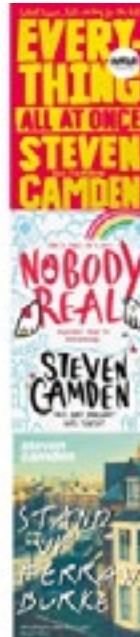
First Story Young Writers Festival 2nd April 2025 – Newnham College, University of Cambridge

The glorious venue for this year's First Story Young Writers Festival will be Newnham College, University of Cambridge. The event, hosted by poet and performer Ruth Awolola, will be headlined by Steven Camden aka Polarbear.

Steven is an internationally acclaimed spoken word artist, poet, collaborator, storyteller, and author. He won the 2019 CLiPPA Award for his debut collection *Everything All At Once* (Macmillan's Children's Books).

The day will be packed with workshops, readings, performances and much more. It's also a wonderful opportunity to visit one of Cambridge's most iconic colleges. Newnham was founded in 1871, the oldest college run by women, for women. Among its many celebrated former students are Emma Thompson, DBE (Academy Award-winning actor, writer), Jane Goodall, DBE (Primatologist, Anthropologist), Sylvia Plath (Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, diarist), Iris Murdoch, DBE (Booker Prize-winning writer, philosopher), and Mary Beard, DBE (classicist; television presenter).

Newnham also boasts a fabulous art collection and stunning gardens and grounds. Further details about the trip will follow shortly. It's always a momentous day, inspirational, and thoroughly enjoyed by our pupils and students!





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



Year 8

Mrs Thwaites

07444 847881

gemma.thwaites@longcroft.eriding.net



Years 9 and 10

Mrs Newsam

07827 587483

zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 11

Mrs Ellis

07900 394085

annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net