



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



"I enjoy how everyone in the choir joins together to sing and perform."

Choir Impress!

On Friday we enjoyed a wonderful evening at Leconfield's beautiful St Catherine's Church as our young people performed for members of the local community. It was a packed audience and our children put on a simply fabulous show!

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The future of St Catherine's Church, like many village parishes had been uncertain for some time but a decision was taken to change the status of the church to that of a Festival Church from the beginning of May 2024.

Whilst this change meant that St. Catherine's would no longer hold regular Sunday services it has allowed them the opportunity to continue to celebrate church festivals, such as Easter and Christmas, and for baptisms, weddings and funerals to take place within the local community.

'Friends of St Catherine's Church' as a volunteer organisation, continue to help maintain the building, plan social events throughout the year and raise funds. As part of that programme, Longcroft's excellent performing arts team have received an annual invite to showcase our impressive pupils and students, supporting this valuable cause within our local community and yet again delivering a sell out show.



Scarlett said, "I enjoy how we get to take part in these opportunities. I love how everyone in the choir joins together to sing and perform."

Leo added, "It was fun – I really enjoyed it. I really liked having the opportunity to perform on a different stage in the church – it was a really nice aesthetic."

We could not be more proud of our children and dedicated team. It really was a joyous occasion and the first of many events that we have been asked to perform at over the coming months. We'll be keeping you updated!



THE EAST YORKSHIRE SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2025



ABOUT US

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Great academic outcomes
- **100%** students access their selected universities and undergraduate courses
- Every student known as an individual
- Small class sizes
- Superb enrichment
- Wide range of subjects available
- State of the art facilities
- Over 40 acres of stunning estate

CONSIDERING YOUR SIXTH FORM COLLEGE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026?

Use this QR code to
BOOK A PLACE at our
next Open Evening
and find out more:



 01482 862171

 WWW.LONGCROFTSCHOOL.CO.UK

BE AMBITIOUS



Headteacher's Welcome

This week could have not have been a more wonderful example of the sheer joy and pride that comes with my privileged role as the headteacher at Longcroft School and Sixth Form. After a busy week of the usual learning, various events, trips and visits both in school and beyond as well as a host of sporting fixtures, I joined a packed audience on Friday evening to witness our choral group perform at St Catherine's Church in Leconfield.

You can read more about the event in our headline article but the performance of our children was simply stunning. Seeing them light up the event to rapturous applause was fabulous, and the quality and maturity on display was thoroughly impressive, with several pupils only weeks into their time at the school. What made the evening even more special was the fact that this was a charitable event, by invitation, to support the Friends of St Catherine's Church who are a voluntary organisation doing incredible work to keep a beautiful and historic building at the centre of the local community. Their work is not just about the building of course, but what happens within it and the role it has played in supporting and bringing local people together over centuries – work that has never been more important than today.

Volunteering is something we actively encourage at Longcroft and is one way that we can demonstrate our value of Great Heart. Not only does it provide much needed support for others in so many and varied ways, but there is a huge personal benefit too. Giving our time to a cause promotes a sense of contribution, community and mutual care where often we learn a huge amount, including about ourselves, and new friendships and relationships flourish.

On Wednesday this week I was fortunate to attend the HEY Smile 'Time to Volunteer Awards – 2025' having received an invitation for a representative group of our Sixth Form volunteers to join over 400 amazing individuals from across the region. This was held at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel in Hull and was an emotional and inspiring event as

we watched the winners from a range of categories be announced and heard their incredible stories of selfless contribution. With their growing reputation, Longcroft School Choir had also been invited to close the ceremony, producing a performance that blew everyone away. In the last few days I have received several communications from organisations represented on the day, praising our children and offering their involvement with the school. It is hard to put into words how profound the experience was and what a wonderful reminder it served of the great reservoir of kindness that exists in our community and locality. Often unheard and unseen, so many people dedicate themselves in service of others, helping those who need just a little extra support or are experiencing a difficult time. It was great to see our children front and centre in that company. You can hear more about the event in next week's Newsletter.

A quick note that as we move further towards the half term break, we will be launching our half termly attendance challenge with a Halloween theme! Do continue to support your children to be in school so that they can benefit from all that their education has to offer, both within the curriculum and beyond. These are hugely exciting times for us all.

Enjoy our Newsletter and the great celebration of our young people it provides.

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

16,122

THOUGHT

74,846

VISION

90,244

GRAND

TOTAL:

174,339





LOWER SCHOOL




Mr Worthington writes:

On Friday evening, the beautiful setting of St Catherine's Church in Leconfield was filled with music, joy, and a sense of community as Longcroft School's talented pupils took to the stage for a truly memorable musical performance.

What made the evening particularly special was the incredible contribution from our choir, containing many of our Lower School pupils. With a number of Year 7 pupils too, who have only been with us for five weeks, it was heartening to see such enthusiasm, confidence, and musicality on display so early in the academic year. Their voices blended beautifully, and their commitment to rehearsals and performance was nothing short of inspiring.

We were also treated to some outstanding solo vocal performances by two Lower School pupils. A special mention must go to Phoebe, whose vocal clarity and stage presence captivated the audience. And Leo's stirring rendition of Memory from the musical *Cats* was a standout moment, delivered with emotion and maturity well beyond his years.

If you haven't already seen, our social media accounts online have some wonderful videos of the performances. A must watch.

Events like these remind us of the vibrant creative spirit that runs through Longcroft School. We are proud to be a place where artistic talent is not only celebrated but nurtured. Whether it's through music, drama, or visual art, our pupils are given the space and encouragement to explore their creativity and grow in confidence.

This is already evident in the incredible number of Lower School pupils attending rehearsals for our upcoming school production. Their energy, commitment, and passion for the performing arts are a joy to witness, and we can't wait to see what they bring to the stage next.



To all the pupils, staff, and families who made Friday night such a success, thank you! The future of the arts at Longcroft is bright, and it's being shaped by some truly remarkable young people.

If you're a prospective parent or carer who would like to see more of what makes Longcroft so special, we warmly invite you to our Alternative Tour on **Thursday 16th October at 4pm**. This is a fantastic opportunity for families who may have missed our Open Evening, or who simply wish to take a second look, to explore our school in a more informal setting.

You can book your place online at www.heartthoughtvision.co.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.

LOWER SCHOOL SPORT

The Year 7 rugby team got their first win after a tough game against Sirius West last week. The boys played Cottingham and the two teams were evenly matched at two tries each at half time thanks to tries from Jack Jowitt and Jack Gray.

A hatrick in the second half by the impressive Max Robinson plus one from Elliot Collingwood gave Longcroft a 6 tries to 2 victory. Mr Cassidy said, "It was a great effort by all involved, well done boys!"

Our Year 8 boys enjoyed a fantastic 9-2 victory in the English Schools Cup with four goals from Lucas Hall, two from Ryan Carter-Rigg and one each for Will Newsam and Albert Bird. It was great to see over forty boys from Years 7, 8 and 9 representing Longcroft against Wolfreton in the East Riding Cup on Tuesday evening – well done to everyone who played!

Mr Worthington
Head of Lower School



Longcroft School and Sixth Form



Open Evening

Alternative Visit / Tour

Thursday 16th October
4:00pm

- Every child known and valued
- A holistic and enriched education
- Exceptional outcomes
- Over 40 acres of extraordinary grounds
- State-of-the-art facilities
- Transport available from surrounding areas

Book your place and find out
more at:

www.HeartThoughtVision.co.uk

or simply scan this QR code.





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

Elysha-May Cooper
Sam Artley Tolson
Memet Akkus
Edward O'Neill
Jude Docherty
Marina Westphal
Ashton Spademan
Alfred O'Neill
Rosie Shiels
Henry Gawthorpe-Hubbard

Year 8

Holly Artley Tolson
Lottie Johnston
Florence Crabtree
Gracie Barber
Madison Key
Sebastian Tomlin
Evelyn Rumford
Theo Baldwin
Caleb Harrison
Amy Charge

Year 9

Megan Morley-Smith
Harry Hugill
Oscar Purchon
Sophie Clayton
Oliver Albrow
Erin Costello
Charlie Innes
Isabelle Johnson
Emilia Hopkin
George Hogg

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: Ollie Goodare

Year 8: Isla Garth

Year 9: Erin Costello



UPPER SCHOOL



Mr Henderson writes:

ARTISTS IMPRESS!

We are proud and delighted that the work of two Year 10 pupils, Charlotte and Luke, is currently on display at Hull's iconic Ferens Art Gallery as part of the Young Artist Open Exhibition 2025. The exhibition, which has run since 2003, celebrates the creative talent of the area's young people.

Mrs Holmes explained, "This is a huge honour, and both will have their work exhibited in the gallery until January 2026." She added, "Charlotte and Luke, who both study GCSE Art, are outstanding artists with tremendous potential."

Luke said, "I'm happy that my work is in the gallery. Mrs Holmes suggested I entered, and I chose the most impressive piece I'd done. It reflected Japanese art, which I'm interested in because I'm half-Japanese and lived in Tokyo for more than ten years. It's a piece I'm really proud of."

Luke added, "Art is my favourite subject and Mrs Holmes is my favourite teacher. She supports my suggestions and tells me how I could improve. She also gives me new ideas." Looking to the future Luke said, "I'd like to be an artist. I've been to some galleries in Tokyo. The Ferens Art Gallery is a beautiful gallery!"

Congratulations to Charlotte and Luke on their wonderful achievement! A selection of their artwork is featured here.

KEY DATES:

Sixth Form Open Evening - Tuesday 21st October.

Longcroft Careers Expo - Wednesday 22nd October.

Year 11 Steps to Success 3: The Option Subjects Evening - Thursday 6th November.

Mr Henderson | Head of Upper School





CAREER OF THE WEEK: Hairdresser

What does a hairdresser do?

Hairdressers don't just cut hair – they help people feel confident and express their style. A typical day might include washing, cutting, colouring, and styling hair, as well as giving advice on products or treatments. Some hairdressers specialise in areas such as colouring, barbering, or bridal styling. Many also build strong relationships with clients, which makes communication and customer service skills just as important as technical ability. Work can be fast-paced, creative, and social, with every day bringing something different.



What can I expect to earn as a hairdresser?

Earnings can vary depending on where you work, your experience, and whether you're employed in a salon or self-employed. As an apprentice, you may start on the minimum apprenticeship wage. Newly qualified hairdressers often earn around £14,000–£18,000 per year. With experience, this can rise to £20,000–£25,000, and highly skilled stylists, colour technicians, or salon managers can earn £30,000 or more. Self-employed hairdressers and those running their own salons may earn higher incomes, but they also take on business costs.

What subjects should I study to become a hairdresser?

There are no strict subject requirements, but certain areas of study can help. English and maths are useful for communication, booking appointments, handling money, and managing a business. Art or design can boost your creativity and eye for style. Science, particularly chemistry, is valuable for understanding hair colouring and treatments. Above all, practical skills, patience, and an interest in fashion and people are essential.

How can I start my career as a hairdresser?

Most people begin through a college course or an apprenticeship. At college, you could study a Level 2 or Level 3 Diploma in Hairdressing, which combines theory and practical training. Apprenticeships allow you to earn while you learn, gaining hands-on experience in a salon while working towards a qualification. Once qualified, you can choose to specialise, move into salon management, or even open your own business. Some hairdressers also work in fashion, theatre, film, or television. Continuous learning is key, as styles and techniques are always evolving.

If you enjoy being creative, sociable, and helping others look and feel their best, a career as a hairdresser could be the perfect fit.

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

Other useful websites to find out more about a career as a hairdresser:

National Careers Service – Hairdresser <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/hairdresser>

Indeed - How to become a hairdresser <https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-a-hairdresser>

Hair and Beauty Industry Authority – Careers <https://habia.org/careers/>

The Hair Council – Training <https://haircouncil.org.uk/about-us/training/>



You can find us at





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

Devon Bryans
 Aaron Davies
 Neve Meagher
 Harry Dixon
 Bradley Elvidge
 Izzy Barwick
 Zachary Denton
 Amelie Wharton
 Muireann Kennedy
 George Coughlin

Year 11

Emily Moon
 Ellie Eaton
 Primrose Kilgannon
 Xavier Jenney
 Ellie Fordham
 Maisie Foster
 Poppy Cooper
 Charlie Moses
 Aden Olivier
 Daisy Kelly

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: Ruby Rogers

Year 11: Cameron Pierce



LONGCROFT CAREERS EXPO 2025



When

October 22nd, 2025
4.15pm to 7.00pm

Who

Years 9-13

NB All pupils are welcome in Year 7 and 8 should they wish to attend and the event is not exclusive to Longcroft pupils/students

What to expect

A wide range of exhibitors from all sectors of education and employment, available to share routes into their profession and insights into day-to-day work experiences, as well as any training pathways and study opportunities.

- ✓ Employers
- ✓ Apprenticeships
- ✓ Colleges
- ✓ Universities



Booking

Book your place by scanning the QR code or clicking on this link:

BOOK NOW >>



We are committed to...

... enabling our young people to engage with more providers, professionals and potential future opportunities than ever before.



Pupil engagement..

... is important to us. We will provide structured introductory sessions for Year 9 and 10 during the afternoon so that they are well prepared to make the most of the main event.



The future is bright..

... for our amazing young people. This is a great opportunity to establish potential career / training pathways for all in our community and invest in their incredible potential.



Burton Road
Beverley
East Riding of Yorkshire
HU17 7EJ



longcroftschoo.co.uk



careers.leader@longcroft.eriding.net



GREAT HEART, THOUGHT AND VISION



Mr Chapman writes:



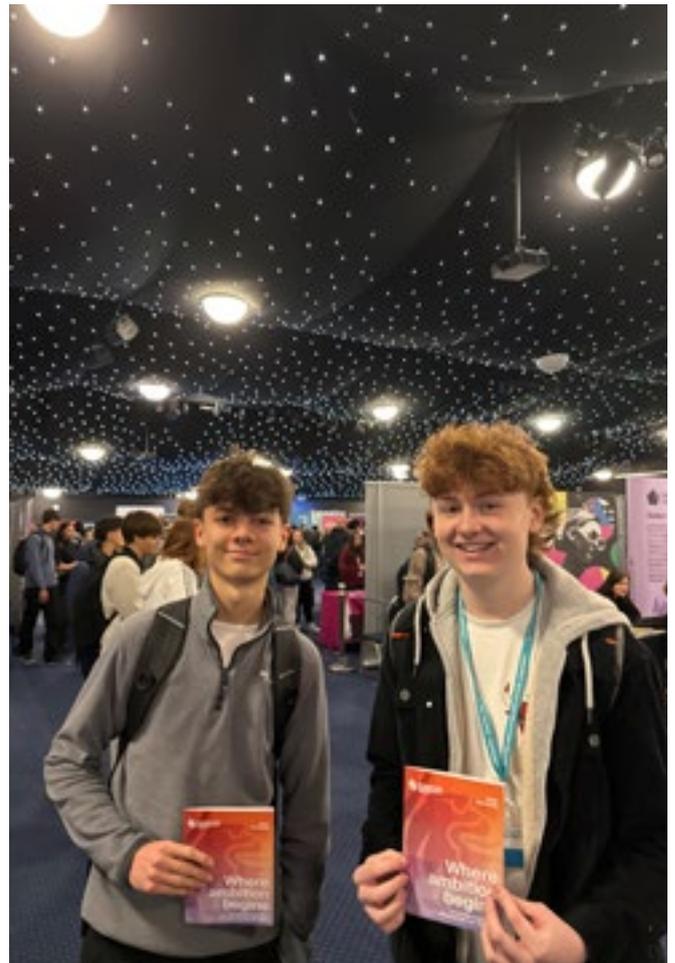
On Tuesday our Sixth Form students visited Leeds United's Elland Road stadium for the UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair.

The event supports students in choosing which university or apprenticeship is right for them, providing the opportunity to speak to a multitude of universities including Russell Group, red brick, specialist and modern universities. Students were also able to talk to a variety of the UK's best apprenticeship providers, HE colleges, specialist institutions, and student related organisations.

With seminars, brochures and the invaluable opportunity to engage with exhibitors, students enjoyed focused help and attention to guide them through their different higher education options.

The timing of the event meant Year 13 students received vital application support directly before they are required to submit their applications and make important choices while Year 12 students were inspired to start making decisions about their post-18 education and career choices.

Theo said, "It was useful; I learnt about a university that had a course I wanted to study that I didn't know about before. I can





specifically study Sports Journalism rather than journalism with all the other topics. It has broadened my choices. The University of Sunderland has also been rated best for support which is really important for me. I now know my five universities I will enter for my UCAS application."

Anna explained, "I am ready to take the next step; I have the information and support I need to progress in my journey after my A Levels. I have organised to meet with Royal Navy career officers to discuss my options - there is also a scholarship available with the Army I learnt about today."

Anika summarised for us all - "It was an incredibly informative event."

Thank you to Miss Sinclair, our Careers Lead, for making such a fantastic opportunity possible.

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form





SAFEGUARDING



Mr Rogers writes:

Attendance Case Study

We are really proud of our attendance record at Longcroft School and grateful of the excellent support we receive from our families. Following the acknowledgement from the Department for Education in their annual report that Longcroft is the most well attended school in the region, we have been approached by various other settings to share our experiences. One example has been a Case Study undertaken for a regional publication that you can read on the following pages. Thank you to all for your continued support in ensuring great attendance for our children - we know the profound difference it makes!

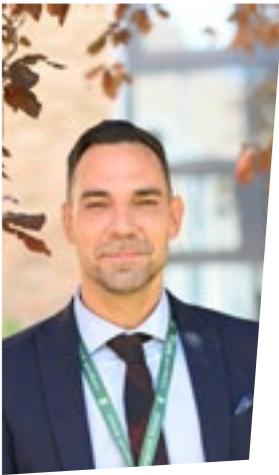
Mr Rogers
Deputy Headteacher

Case Study:



LONGCROFT
—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

Longcroft School – Leading the way in Attendance



Longcroft School proudly celebrates a remarkable milestone after the Department for Education (DfE) annual attendance report identified them as having the highest attendance of any secondary school in their local authority. In fact, there was only one other school with a similar profile across the entire country with a better rate of attendance. This achievement reflects a strategic, whole-school approach to fostering a culture where pupils and students feel valued, supported, and motivated to attend regularly.

With the latest Pearson report highlighting that teachers think attendance will be the number one barrier to learning

for secondary schools, the

Wonder Learning Partnership congratulates Longcroft School on this incredible achievement.

Positive School Culture

At the core of Longcroft's success is its ethos: **building a school where pupils genuinely want to be**. The school prioritises creating a welcoming, inclusive, and engaging environment where pupils' daily experience is positive. Deputy Headteacher Mr Rogers explains, "When pupils feel welcomed, supported and inspired, they are far more likely to attend regularly. At Longcroft we work hard to create an authentic sense of belonging for all in our community."

Monitoring and Responsive Intervention

Longcroft has implemented attendance tracking tools that allow pastoral leaders to monitor attendance in real time. This enables swift intervention and a deeper understanding of underlying issues. The school's approach goes beyond data—it focuses on meaningful action.





Wonder
Learning Partnership
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich



Personalised Support

Recognising the complexity behind poor attendance, Longcroft offers highly personalised support strategies with a focus on the individual needs of the pupils to remove barriers in a sensitive and proactive manner. These include:

- » One-on-one mentoring
- » Family engagement
- » Access to external services

Celebrating Attendance

Longcroft has created a culture of celebration and developed a dynamic rewards system to celebrate and encourage attendance:

- » Short-term goals (e.g., 100% attendance over the final two weeks of term)
- » "Attendance streaks" using relateable language and digital habits
- » Group incentives like early lunch passes and spontaneous prizes

These approaches have had a huge effect on both individual motivation and group engagement.

"The DfE [...] identified them as having the highest attendance of any secondary school in their local authority."





Sustained Commitment

The school emphasises that high attendance is not about gimmicks but about a shared belief in its importance. Colleagues, pupils, and families work together to keep attendance a priority throughout the year.

The improvement in attendance has also been mirrored with significantly improved academic outcomes with the school performing amongst the very highest in the region in 2025 across every headline measure.

Impact and Recognition

This achievement builds on Longcroft's broader school improvement journey. In November 2023, the school was awarded a 'Good' Ofsted grading, with inspectors noting the impact of its work with the Wonder Learning Partnership.

Longcroft School's attendance strategy demonstrates that with the right culture, systems, and support, outstanding attendance is not only achievable—it can become the norm. Their success serves as a model for other schools aiming to improve pupil attendance through nurturing and sustainable practices.



Great Heart

The human qualities that define an individual. For example, demonstrating kindness, offering support or actively caring for the wider community and the environment we live in; acting with integrity and demonstrating character in serving the common good.

Great Thought

Academic success or excellence. For example, the production of a superb piece of classwork, homework, outstanding assessment and examination outcomes, or an impressive piece of thinking in class.

Great Vision

Showing our readiness for the future by developing the skills and qualities that will lead to success in life beyond school. For example, critical thinking, acting with initiative, good team work, personal discipline, and understanding how to be safe and healthy as individuals, and through our relationships with others.



Wonder
Learning Partnership
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A huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

Holly Artley Tolson 8JDY

Mason Bennett 7ARU

Erin Costello 9EFO

George Coughlin 10GTA

Florence Crabtree 8JDY

Madilyn Duff 10SGE

Lucas Edwards 11PDR

Dexter Forsyth 9LWO

Harry Hood 13ABA

Ava Hutchinson-Chan 8GRU

Sasha Huzzard 10PDV

Lottie Johnston 8JDY

Jack Jowitt 7FCO

Muireann Kennedy 10GTA

Primrose Kilgannon 11PDR

Noah Kirkley 9NFO

Ethan McLoughlin 11PDR

Emily Moon 11RLO

Jesse Musgrave 8EIN

Bailey Piggott 7ARU

Rosie Shiels 7FCO

Oliver Smedley 7JHL

Finley Staples 9EFO

Harry Stevens 8GRU

Luci Stewart 11ASC

Alexander Stork 11RLO

Luke Taylor 8EIN

Amalie Wade 9LWO



IN FOCUS

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This week we feature Year 10 pupils working in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition. Pupils made apple turnovers, their challenge being to demonstrate pastry shaping, knife safety and the prevention of enzymic browning.

Ms George said, "Pupils had to identify and select appropriate equipment for making their turnovers, then decide the order in which to work following the recipe independently and apply their practical skills. Finally, pupils evaluated the success of their adaptations to the recipe. I was delighted with their work and the outcomes were wonderful!"







Footballers Progress

in English Schools' Cup!

Our Under 13 footballers followed up their 9-1 first round win against Woldgate with a victory in the second round of the English Schools' Cup against Malet Lambert.

The girls won 2-1 with goals from Imogen and Isla deciding a tight contest.

Imogen, who plays in centre midfield, said: "It was amazing to win! We were extremely proud." She added, "It was a nice moment to score. It was a wonderful corner from Isla and I scored with my left foot."

Isla, who captains the team and played in midfield and on the left wing, added: "I scored the second goal. Lexi passed to me and I shot. It hit the post and went in. We're looking forward to the next round."

Both girls also play for Beverley Town. Isla said, "I'd like to be a footballer – I look up to the Lionesses. I like Georgia Stanway because she's number 8 and that's my number as well."

This season the team are coached by Year 12 student Anna Bruton, who also plays for Hull City. Imogen said, "Anna's a brilliant coach. She's recently been in our position and she gets us. She gives us tips and tricks, and she plays football herself so she knows what she's doing."

She added, "I look up to Anna and I'd like to play for Hull City as well – that would be a dream."

Congratulations to the girls on another fantastic performance!





Extra Curricular Activities

Tuesday

CHOIR

This is open to all pupils and Sixth Form students – no audition is required.

Room 64 from 3:15 until 4pm.

FOOTBALL

'Come and Play' sessions are open to all – separate sessions for boys and girls.

3G from 3.15 until 4.10pm.

NETBALL

A session for Lower School pupils in Years 7 – 9.

Netball courts from 3.15 until 4.10pm.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

All year groups and staff are welcome to join Ms Sinclair. Character sheets and dice are provided!

Library from 3.10-4.30pm.

Thursday

MUSICAL THEATRE

Open to all pupils and Sixth Form students – no audition is required.

Theatre from 3:15 until 4:30pm

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

3G from 3.15 until 4.10pm.

Monday

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

If you have a story to tell, please come along, or pop into the Learning Hub and see Mr Dixon.

Room 2 during lunchtime.

Wednesday

CHESS CLUB

Library at lunchtime.

ORCHESTRA

Open to all instrumentalists.

Room 64 from 3:15 until 4pm.

RUGBY

A session for Lower School pupils in Years 7 – 9.

Field from 3.15 until 4.10pm.

NETBALL

A session for Upper School pupils in Years 10 and 11,

Netball courts from 3.15 until 4.10pm.

HOCKEY

Sports Hall from 3.15 until 4.10pm.

TABLE TENNIS

Gym from 3.15 until 4.10pm.

Friday

BADMINTON

Sports Hall from 3.15 until 4.10pm.

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

If you have a story to tell, please come along, or pop into the Learning Hub and see Mr Dixon.

Room 2 during lunchtime.

BASKETBALL

All year groups welcome.

Sports Hall during lunchtime.



Mathematicians

are Bright Sparx!

With a mission to improve lives and the world through learning and building maths confidence through personalised learning, Sparx Maths supports pupils aged 11-16 with challenging, attainable homework. Each pupil has a clear, unambiguous target to answer 100% of their homework correctly each week and external research conducted by RAND Europe and the University of Cambridge found that using Sparx Maths for 1 hour a week significantly improves grades.

The team at Sparx Maths, made up of 90 experts, including outstanding teachers, academics, data-scientists, researchers and technologists, uses over 200 million data points to personalise every homework for every child. This ensures pupils always receive homework that is both achievable and challenging, meaning they experience success as well as being stretched by harder questions.

Mrs Low, our Head of Maths, explained: "Sparx Maths is both popular and effective – we are going to be celebrating pupils weekly in our Newsletter and presenting pupils with certificates to recognise their hard work but also their perseverance and resilience when faced with some extremely challenging questions!"

Congratulations to this week's Sparxy Maths Champion Jack Simson!

The top 10 pupils in our Weekly Leaderboard are:

Seth Adams – 2,587XP

Ollie Goodare – 2,494XP

Matilda Reed – 2,415XP

Oscar Dale – 2,109XP

Imogen Knowles – 1,702XP

Chloe-Rose Bishop – 1,600XP

Zac Lucas – 1,587XP

Annie Elliott – 1,490XP

Isabelle Cunningham – 1,472XP

Iona Nelson – 1,440XP

Sparx Maths



Primary Schools'

Cross-Country Competition

Longcroft hosted six primary schools at our Cross-Country Competition.

Mrs Henderson explained, "We had over 150 runners from Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 - it was a great representation from each school and in both age categories. The weather was beautiful which made it more enjoyable for all participating."

She added, "The top 10 runners in each race qualified to attend the East Riding final at Hornsea in a few weeks, and most schools had at least one qualifier. Well done to all involved - for some it was their very first cross-country race which can be daunting. Good luck to all who have qualified."

These events would not be possible without the many volunteers who give up their time, many of whom having enjoyed participating in the event when they were in primary school. Mrs Henderson said, "Thank you to the large number of Longcroft pupils who assisted with the event as a marshall, a recorder or a 'hare' - they all did an amazing job throughout the evening."





Memory Lane

This week we return to 2008 and feature a visit from Hull FC and Great Britain rugby league legend Lee Jackson.

Lee, who also played for Sheffield Eagles, Leeds and York as well as South Sydney Rabbitohs and Newcastle Knights in Australia with whom he won the Grand Final in 1997, visited Longcroft to discuss his autobiography 'Just Jacko'. He also led a coaching session.

During his first spell with Hull FC, Lee won the 1991 Premiership against Widnes at Old Trafford and recorded what was at that time

the fastest ever try in both codes of rugby when he scored after just 9 seconds against Sheffield Eagles in the semi-final of the 1992 Yorkshire Cup. He helped Great Britain beat Australia at Wembley and returned to the national stadium in 1999 to lift the Challenge Cup with Leeds Rhinos.



Mr Baker said, "Lee used to come into Longcroft quite often before he left Hull FC for Sheffield Eagles and as well as being a great player he had an infectious enthusiasm. It was fantastic to welcome him back and everyone enjoyed hearing about his outstanding career."



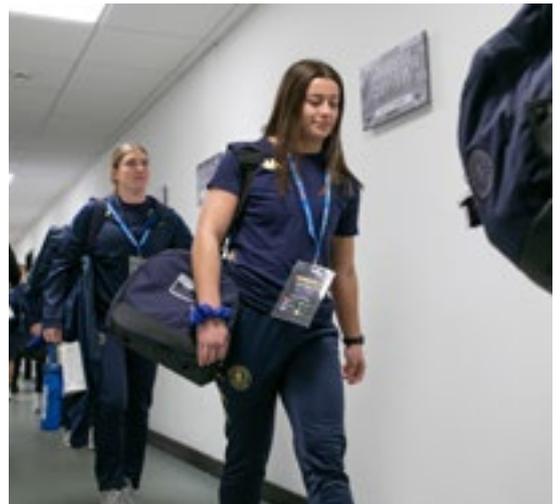


Super League Clean

Sweep for Carys!

Carys Marsh's Wigan Warriors Women finished a fairytale season by lifting the Women's Super League trophy, completing a historic quadruple.

Carys, who left Longcroft in 2016 having studied A Levels alongside an Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence at Bishop Burton College, reflected on a season that saw the Warriors lift all four trophies that were on offer to them – the Challenge Cup, Nines title, League Leaders' Shield and now the Grand Final.



"It feels really good. I don't know what to say! It was a tough game, but it was just awesome, and the crowd was amazing, over 5,000 people here, it was crazy. So good."

The final, between rivals Wigan and St Helens at the Wigan's Brick Community Stadium, enthralled a crowd of 5,108 – a record attendance for a Women's Super League Grand Final. The match was also televised live on Sky Sports. Carys, who lifted the Challenge Cup at Wembley in June, has earned a place in rugby league history as a member of the first women's team to secure all four trophies available in a single season. The opposition included a second former Longcroft student Rachael Woosey, who also studied and played at Bishop Burton alongside Carys. Carys said, "We've worked for it for a long time, and we came quite close last year, and I can't believe the success we've had this year."

The 28-year-old, who works as a Senior Quantity Surveyor, is one of Wigan's longest-serving players, having arrived from rivals St Helens ahead of the 2019 campaign. The Wales international has enjoyed playing her part in Warriors Women's progression. She said, "It's amazing, and these players are outstanding, they are so young and are from Wigan, that's the best thing!"

Mr Baker said, "It was fantastic that two former Longcroft students featured in such a high profile game, and they can both be proud of the contribution they made to an exciting final. I am delighted for Carys – she's worked extremely hard and while rugby's given her a lot she's made sacrifices and certainly earned her success."



LIBRARY NEWS



Ms Carvill writes:

Lola Jaye Visits Longcroft

A huge thank you to acclaimed author, psychotherapist, and speaker Lola Jaye, who visited Longcroft last week to talk about Black History in fiction, her career as a writer, and working as a psychotherapist. The event was part of our Black History Month celebrations and a wonderful opportunity for a cohort of our Year 8 pupils to learn more about representations of race, an area they are studying in their English lessons.

Lola has been writing since she was 5 years old, describing herself as **"a bit of a lonely child. I wasn't published then though"** she laughs. **"It took a few more years!"**

Lola's passion for Black History, is something that is evident in **The Attic Child**, which was published in 2022. The novel was inspired by a photograph Lola saw in an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery of a young black boy. He had been taken from his homeland in Africa by an English explorer and brought to England, like a human of trophy. Sadly, this was not uncommon among wealthy Victorian and Edwardian explorers. This shameful part of British history is addressed in the novel,

"What an inspiring author Lola Jaye is; genuinely a great role model and advocate for a career in writing. She enthuses her love for writing and storytelling. Our Year 8 class have been very lucky to have participated in this visit!"

—Mrs Clarke - Librarian





alongside themes of trauma, love and loss, and identity. Caleb asked how she planned the novel:

*"Sometimes the novel plans itself. With **The Attic Child**, when I saw that photograph of the young boy I was so moved. I went home and researched him and then I just didn't stop. I wrote and wrote. Most books are much harder to write. Sometimes, I just think of a beginning, a middle, and an end and work with that."*

Lola's latest book, **The Manual for Good Wives**, features Adeline Copperfield, who writes a column advising Victorian ladies how to be better wives. She appears to be the epitome of Victorian propriety and English womanhood. In fact, she is a black woman, born in Africa and about to go on trial for daring to adopt another persona.

It's an unforgettable historical read with a superb dual narrative. Theo asked if Lola had an idea for her next book.

"Yes, I was approached by Channel 4 to take part in a programme about the Titanic not long ago, and I was told that some of the passengers on the ship were people of colour; so I'd like to write about that."

Aaron asked Lola why she had started to write originally:

"I wanted to see people like me in books."

As well as being a successful writer, Lola also works as a part-time psychotherapist. Finley asked why she'd made that decision.

"I was fostered as a child. There's a lot of trauma out there. I guess I want to help others."

Theo asked if Lola gained inspiration for her writing from her own life, or if it came from her part-time work as a psychotherapist.

"That's a really good question. My part time job is totally separate from my work as a writer. Working as a therapist is something I enjoy but I do it under a different name, and I'm bound by a code of conduct and confidentiality, so I would never write about people I am treating or reveal anything about them."

Finley asked if being a therapist made her a better writer.

*"I'd like to think so. There's always some sort of traumatic event in my books. I wrote **The Attic Child** during lockdown. In it two children in different centuries are imprisoned in the same attic. It's quite dark in parts and deals with some difficult issues but it has a happy ending. Going through lockdown, and being unable to have the same freedom as*



■ *normal made it easier to imagine how the children felt, being trapped.”*

Ella asked if Lola had a particular place she like to write, and Evelyn asked when the best time was to write:

■ *“On a beautiful beach, looking out towards the sea in Jamaica. No, that’s a fantasy. Actually, I like to keep holidays and work separate. I like writing at home; getting comfortable, in the morning, as soon as I get up; even in my pyjamas. Straightaway, on my pink Apple Mac.”*

“How old were you when you wrote your first book?” asked Olivia.

■ *“Oh, around 30 I think. Are you trying to work out how old I am? I know at your age, 30 sounds ancient!”*

Evelyn was curious to know if Lola had ever considered giving up writing. Had it ever felt hard to get everything down?

■ *“Every day, sometimes. It can be really difficult being a writer. I’m so lucky to have my books published and have an agent, but some people just publish on the internet. I know a lot of other writers, and we support each other through the hard times, and then sometimes it’s so worthwhile. A few years ago, I was contacted by a nurse in a hospital who was reading one of my books, *By The Time You Read This*, to a dying cancer patient. It was about a girl who’d lost her dad when she was 5, and when she was 12 she received this manual her dad had written to help her get through the stages of life. There was a message for every birthday from 12 to 30. The nurse said the patient she read it to was really moved, and it helped him accept his own death. That made me feel so humbled.”*



"What has been your most profitable book?" Albert asked.

*"My first book, *By the Time you Read This*, did well because it was translated into German, Serbian, & Korean. It went down well in those countries. You get more money if your book is translated and it's sold abroad. *The Attic Child* has gone down well in the USA. If you get a film adaptation of your book then you can earn a real lot of money."*

Callum asked how many books Lola had sold.

"I don't want to know, but I'm still getting royalties from my first book, and every time one of my books is borrowed from a public library you get money too. It all mounts up, and cheques often arrive when you least expect them That's always a huge bonus."

"How did you choose a publisher?" Lacey asked.

*"It's hard getting a publisher. They choose you. Two were interested in *By The Time You Read This*; so I went for the one offering the most money! The first book I tried to get published everyone rejected; so my agent told me to write another. My self-esteem plummeted, but the next book got an offer in a day."*

Finley wanted to know if Lola had ever met anyone really famous.

"I met Naomi Campbell once. A famous super model. I danced with her. Oh, I met Will Smith too. That was a few years ago when he was much younger. I wanted him to play a character in a book I'd written, if they ever made a film of it. I gave him a hug. He was really nice. I think he thought I was some sort of crazy fan girl!"

"What books did you read when you were young?" Lacey asked.

*"Roald Dahl was a favourite author, and I liked some books by Virginia Andrews and other American authors. Now I read about a book a week and I can't remember the titles always, but Maya Angelou is my favourite writer. Her book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* really resonated with me. I've read it a few times, and it really helped me once when I was having difficulty writing and in a bit of a slump."*

Leo asked if Lola listened to music when she wrote.

*"Not usually. Normally, I like it quiet when I'm writing, but when I wrote *While You Were Dreaming* I listened to a lot of Oasis and other songs because the character is in a coma and music is a way of coming out of it."*

Lola clearly made a huge impression on pupils and staff during her visit. Mrs Foster described her as **"a breath of fresh air, speaking openly and honestly about her childhood, her writing, and influences."**

Theo said: **"She was really nice and answered all our questions. She was funny too."**

Albert was also full of praise for Lola Jaye.

"She was cool."

A huge thank you to Katherine Richardson and East Riding Libraries for supporting this event and bringing Lola to Longcroft. She has such a charismatic personality and engaged wonderfully with our pupils, who were keen to ask her lots of questions. Well done Year 8 for demonstrating such interest and confidence.



NATIONAL POETRY DAY – THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2025

It was a joy to celebrate National Poetry Day 2025 in the Library last Thursday. Thank you to staff and pupils who read out some of their favourite poems at lunchtime. Mrs Fisher's rendition of *Albert & The Lion*, by Marriott Edgar, was a particular highlight.

Thank you also to all those pupils who entered the Longcroft National Poetry Day Competition. This year the theme was Play, and we had some superb entries.

Below you can read a small selection of the poems. The winning entry was selected by teaching staff and is *Worlds Play* by James Myers, Joint Second Place goes to Ollie Goodare and Lewis Kemp for their poems about *Dungeons & Dragons*, and Joint Third place goes to Amy Shiels and Eloise McIntosh. Prizes of books, sweets, certificates, and ClassCharts will be awarded this week.

Keep writing!

Play is ...by Niamh Jackson

Play is running around in your garden
 Play is going higher on the swings
 Play is hide and seek and counting to ten
 Play is all my favourite things

Playing in groups or on my own
 In person or on my phone
 Play is dancing all day long
 And singing to my favourite song

Monopoly, cards, Jenga, and Guess Who
 Chess, Zingo and Dobble too
 Play is whatever you choose it to be
 Having fun is the key

My Favourite Game by Lewis Kemp – Joint Second Prize

Dungeons & Dragons or D & D
 Is a realm of fantasy,
 With vigilantes and players galore,
 There are cities and lands to explore.
 The Dungeon Master controls the game,
 For characters there's gold to claim,
 A roll of the dice and an action per turn,
 Mastering of spells and fame to earn.
 Play is fun, a place to create,
 A role play of love and hate,
 Battles against evil and good,
 The power of the invisible cloak and hood,
 Where Rebels win the fight,
 A victory of magic and might.



Playing Sports by Amy Shiels – Joint Third Prize

The whistle blows,
The game begins, With hopeful hearts
And happy grins.
The ball is passed,
The competition tight,
They give their all,
Fighting the fight.
They chase,
They dodge,
They block,
They slide,
Adrenaline pumping,
Like a ride,
Every second matters,
Whilst the crowd natters.

What is Play? by Eloise McIntosh – Joint Third Prize

Play is having fun in the sun
Play is winning a game of netball
In the sports hall
Play is having good sportsmanship and
Not giving each other lip

Play is having a laugh with your
Mates outside the school gates
Play is not always agreeing with each other
Especially your brother
Play is being kind
In a world where you can do anything, play kind.

Dungeons & Dragons by Ollie Goodare – Joint Second Prize

There once was a mighty dragon,
Tell me if you have heard this before,
He ate coal and terrorized souls,
Now let me tell you the lore.

The villain, the dragon,
Was eating an orc,
For breakfast, dinner, and tea,
Because they tasted like pork.

Enter three figures,
Spirit, Soar, and Scale.
Though no one knew it,
They are the heroes of this tale.

“Think you can beat me?” the dragon boomed.
“I’d like to see you try,
Because otherwise. mmm...
Some nice human pie.”

They slashed,
They jabbed,
They parried
And stabbed.

The dragon was decaying,
He could see the light,
But against the odds,
He held on tight.

“You have overwhelming power” the dragon exclaimed.
“How are you so strong? Tell me, I plea!”
They replied “Don’t ask us, it’s just a game,
But the game we are playing is called D & D.”



The Greatest Game of Chess by Caleb Harrison

Chess, a classic game
 A game with lots of fame
 A game with victory
 A game with loss
 And as you begin to play
 You are filled with dismay
 For your men are slaughtered
 And cornered
 You soon realise, you're on the run
 Before you know it, death has come
 When you realise you have met your fate
 When your friend says 'Checkmate!'
 You have finally met your match.

My Toy Car by Kiera Graham

My toy car is big and blue,
 My mum has just bought it all brand new.
 Its wheels are round,
 It makes a cool sound,
 And now it is nowhere to be found.
 We searched and searched,
 But yet, still it lurched.
 Under my bed, on my chair,
 I couldn't find it anywhere.
 I stare out the window, in hope
 And despair,
 But then I see something under
 There.
 My new blue car, all shiny
 And rare.

Worlds Play by James Myers – First Prize

There are times of joy, there are
 Times of fear.
 And all of play happens here,
 There are games of war
 And games of quiz.
 It's the game that we call Earth.
 But some games are bad,
 They hurt you.
 This is the game of Earth.
 It depends on how
 You want to play it,
 Some good, some worse.

“The poet doesn't invent. He listens”.

—Jean Cocteau





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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