



# LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

## NEWS LETTER

**"Our pupils were really proud to get involved in this project with Lovell."**



### Projects Promote Respect, Tolerance and Peace

**A poignant time, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day offer opportunities to come together as a community as we pause to reflect on immeasurable past sacrifices, and the hope that they have enabled for the present and for the future.**

We are proud of Longcroft's close link with the armed forces – not least through our association with Leconfield and now the 25 Training Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) which forms part of the Defence School of Transport. Many current and former pupils come from forces families and several have gone on to serve our country with distinction.

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Year 12 student Emily's beautiful rendition of The Last Post preceded our two minutes of silence on Tuesday's Armistice Day.

A proud member of Beverley's Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade, Emily understands that every note represents so much to so many people and is the 'ultimate tribute' to those who have fallen in conflicts. She also performed at Beverley Town FC's recent home match against Bottesford Town although this was the first time she has performed alone. Mr Chapman recognised the associated challenges and was full of praise, describing Emily's rendition as "stunning" – he added, "I am extremely proud of her!"

## ARTISTS CREATE REMEMBRANCE DISPLAY

As we were proud to report last week, pupils and Sixth Form students have worked with Mrs Holmes to team up with local housebuilder Lovell to create a special Remembrance Day display at The Paddocks development on Church Road, which was once the site of Longcroft Lower School.

As part of the developer's ongoing commitment to supporting local communities, pupils and Sixth Form students designed and crafted a series of handmade poppies, from paintings and poems to striking mosaics, which have now been placed in the marketing suite to commemorate Remembrance Day.

Mrs Holmes explained: "Our pupils were really proud to get involved in this project with Lovell. It was a chance to be creative while learning more about the importance of Remembrance Day and contributing to something visible within the local community."



The project carries an especially meaningful connection to the military community. Mr Baker explained: "Pupils such as Lt. Col. David Groce OBE, Acting Sergeant Michael Lockett MC and many others began their years at Longcroft on the site of Lovell's development. It is significant in our school's history, as are they – pupils who went on to serve our country with great distinction. The display is wonderful and fitting."

The display stands as a heartfelt tribute to those who have served and sacrificed, while also giving pupils the opportunity to take part in a creative and thoughtful community project.

Jasmine Hindley, Regional Sales Director, at Lovell, said: "It's been wonderful to work with the students and teachers at Longcroft School on such a special project."



The poppies they've created look fantastic and bring a real sense of community and reflection to The Paddocks. We're really grateful for their time and creativity in helping us mark Remembrance Day in such a thoughtful way."

The display will remain in place at The Paddocks throughout November, allowing visitors and local residents to view and reflect on the pupils and Sixth Form students' wonderful work.

## FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS PROJECT

We are delighted to be participating in the East Riding's 'Festival of Friends' Service Children Project, a tried-and-tested school improvement project which will enhance our school's support for the children of Armed Forces Families. Fully funded through a budget allocated by Council Members to support the Armed Forces community, the project is a model of collaborative, peer-supported activity for supporting Service children and young people across the area. In partnership with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the University of Hull's Access Department, the project aims to develop and share good practice, upskill school staff, and give a voice to Service children across the region.

The exciting project will culminate in the actual Festival itself - a memorable celebration and awards ceremony, which will be held in June 2026. The ceremony, which will be attended by Council and military welfare staff, VIPs and, most importantly, Service children and young people themselves, will showcase participating schools' improvement work during the year and give those Service children attending a great experience. We can't wait to celebrate our fabulous young people and their achievements!

Mr Rogers said: "Mrs Thwaites will co-ordinate the project and we are looking forward to working collaboratively to develop our provision for children of Armed Forces Families."

Mr Perry explained: "I learned a huge amount from a selection of our service children who very proudly represented Longcroft as we handed over the brilliant work created through our Remembrance Day - Poppy Project. We visited the Church Road, Lovell Homes site where the Lower School used to be located and learnt all about the development. In stark contrast we also shared the experiences of accommodation our military families are provided with in various parts of the country and beyond, as well as wider insights in to life as a military family. We will this year be part of the Festival of Friends programme which aims to support service children in schools and raises awareness of the particular challenges they may need to navigate."

He added: "For many of our young people of course, the reality of war is something quite abstract and hard to imagine - only seen through images, stories handed down through the generations or experienced through the lens of the media. Current world affairs bring issues of war and conflict in to ever sharper relief, and reinforce the importance of our role in education to maintain a living and robust knowledge and understanding of relevant history, and to promote respect, tolerance and peace. Through coming together as a community for Remembrance Day, but more substantially through our carefully considered curriculum and by living our values into being each and every day, we humbly seek to achieve just that."



## Headteacher's Welcome

**It has been wonderful to see our community coming together this week in so many and varied ways, from acts of remembrance, to raising awareness and getting involved in our charity events.**

On Monday we celebrated all that makes us unique, by taking part in 'odd socks day'. This was part of our anti-bullying week programme and there were some amazing efforts made by pupils, students and staff across the school. You may have seen our reels on social media which captured just some of the socks worn by the many hundreds of those who enjoyed taking part.

The serious messages of course behind the event were revisited through assemblies and a programme of activities across the week. These have sought to raise awareness of anti-bullying and reinforce our Longcroft values, behaving always with kindness and celebrating acts of Great Heart.

Tuesday provided an opportunity for sombre reflection as we paused to remember all those lost to war and conflict on Remembrance Day. Every classroom fell silent at the touching rendition of the last post, two minutes of silence were then observed before the reveille, performed powerfully by Emily in year 12. So many of our children have been involved in Remembrance events within the wider community including the annual parade through Beverley. This year Cameron in Year 11 represented his regiment as flag bearer and you can see some brilliant pictures in our Upper School article. We also had members of the Beverley GL&CG Brigade Band marching through Beverley as well as representatives from cadets, guiding, scouts and church groups participating in an array of services and marks of respect across the locality.

There has been lots of other exciting things happening this week including: the Northern Gas Network visiting school to work with our A-Level physicists; the development of our outdoor learning programme with Mrs Fisher and Mr Dixon; our SEND parents' evening with record attendance; our BookBuzz; and our local primary schools enjoying competitions and events on site, amongst so much more. It was also great to see the school again being celebrated by the DfE for our attendance as part of a new report that they have developed to address the issue nationally.

Our FOLS have been in school this week to continue their work on our new reading room. Things are really come along with a group of staff joining the FOLS to sand, clear and paint as we prepare for the final stages of the project and opening up the space to pupils. A huge thank you for their amazing efforts both in raising money and physically doing the work to transform the area and create a wonderful addition for our children.

We are now only a few weeks away from Year 11 and 13 mock examinations. Since the start of the year we have been delivering our GCSE and A-Level mindset and preparation programmes, and currently we have a raft of targeted support for our exam cohorts as well as open sessions available at lunchtime and after school through Period 6. In addition, we have invested in providing access to national systems that can be used flexibly at home such as GCSE Pod, SENECA, Language Nut and SPARX. There is an online platform which houses relevant information about all areas of our Year 11 Pledge and you will hear much more about the programme of support over the coming weeks and months. Please do encourage your child to get involved and to get revising!

There are some fabulous articles throughout this week's Newsletter so please enjoy reading all about our amazing pupils and students.

Have a great week.

**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**

**26,910**

**THOUGHT**

**133,396**

**VISION**

**161,493**

**GRAND**

**TOTAL:**

**321,799**





# LOWER SCHOOL



## *Mr Worthington writes:*

**Firstly, I was proud of the manner in which our Lower School pupils observed the two-minute silence at 11.00am on Armistice Day. Following my Assembly last week, I have spoken to many of our pupils about the significance of Remembrance and been impressed by the maturity of their reflections. Pupils are pictured impeccably observing the silence during their PE lesson.**

I am sure Year 7 pupils are very much looking forward to next Tuesday's trip to The Deep! Pupils will learn all about the world's oceans and the creatures that live in them as well as seeing amazing animals including sharks, rays, turtles and a colony of penguins.

Our party will leave Longcroft at 9.15am and return to Longcroft at 3.00pm. Pupils should bring a packed lunch as food will not be available for purchase.

Pupils will be completing the Seagrass and Oyster workshop in The Deep's fantastic SeaLabs, using microscopes, infinity mirrors and sensory glow tubes. They will also be completing The Deep Careers & Science Exploration Worksheet.

I am looking forward to hearing about this wonderful opportunity!

This week, I had the pleasure of visiting Kingswood Parks Primary School to speak with their Year 5 pupils about what life is like at secondary school and what they can look forward to in the coming years. It was a fantastic opportunity to answer their questions, share experiences, and help them imagine the exciting journey ahead.

Transitioning from primary to secondary school is one of the most important steps in a young person's education. It's a time filled with new opportunities such as meeting new friends, exploring a wider range of subjects, and discovering talents they never knew they had. Understandably, it can also feel a little daunting, which is why conversations like these are so valuable.



### During the session, we talked about:

- » What to expect on the first day: from finding classrooms to meeting teachers.
- » Clubs and activities: the chance to join sports teams, music groups, and more.
- » Independence and responsibility: learning to manage timetables and homework.

The Year 5 pupils were full of thoughtful questions, and it was clear they are already excited about the opportunities secondary school will bring. Our goal is to make sure every child feels prepared and confident for this next chapter.

Pupils also asked about transport. The good news is that the LS1 bus service provides a reliable and convenient route to Longcroft School. Many of our current pupils use this service every day, designed to make the journey safe and straightforward. We work closely with the bus company to ensure pupils feel confident about using the service, and staff are always available to help with any questions about routes, passes, or timings.

For me, the transition process is about building confidence, fostering curiosity, and ensuring every child feels supported. We look forward to welcoming future Year 7 pupils and helping them thrive in their new environment.

At Longcroft, we pride ourselves on getting to know each pupil as an individual. Every child brings their own strengths, interests, and ambitions, and we work hard to ensure they feel valued and supported from day one. Whether it's through tutor time, extracurricular activities, or simply listening, we want every child to know they belong and can thrive.

We know that moving to secondary school can feel overwhelming, and many pupils share similar concerns; finding their way around, making new friends, or managing homework. These worries are completely normal, and we're here to support every child through them. At Longcroft, we have a dedicated Care and Achievement Team and systems in place to make the transition smooth and positive. From induction days to friendly tutors and peer mentors, we ensure pupils feel safe, settled, and ready to succeed. No question is too small, and we encourage pupils to talk to us about anything that's on their mind.

The visit also provided a key reminder about attendance; being in school every day is the single most important factor in achieving well. Good attendance ensures pupils don't miss out on learning, friendships, and opportunities that shape their future.

Finally, congratulations to Year 9 pupil Scarlett, who competed in a gymnastics competition in York on Sunday. After coming back from an injury, Scarlett won gold on the floor, vault and bars and silver on the beam. She won a trophy for having the highest score overall, and in the team event Scarlett's team won gold! An outstanding performance!

**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

Alfred O'Neill  
Edward O'Neill  
Rosie Shiels  
Emilia McNish  
Evelyn Pennock  
Sam Artley Tolson  
Peace Aladesanmi  
Mylo Osborne-Lawn  
Juno Hopkin  
Ebony Gill

### Year 8

Madison Key  
Amy Charge  
Rory Buck  
Freya Leaf  
Cobie Hancock  
Nathan Pineda  
Will Newsam  
Evie Pardoe  
Leon Zielinski  
Ryan Carter-Rigg

### Year 9

Tymofii Merkulov  
Leonid Vaskov  
Imogen Trolle  
Charlie Innes  
Ryan Russell  
Chloe Turner  
Angel Butler-Shorrocks  
Freya Phipps  
Beth Dawson  
Ryan Lucas  
Isaac Savage

## 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: Hollie Peterson

Year 8: Harry Stevens

Year 9: Leona James

# Longcroft Christmas



## SHOE BOX APPEAL

### THINGS YOU CAN DONATE:

TOILETRIES;

TINNED FOOD; SWEET TREATS

TEA, COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE

BISCUITS; CHOCOLATES

**LITTLE GIFTS** – SUCH AS A DIARY AND PEN, CHRISTMAS ITEMS,  
MUG, GLOVES, SHAWL, SLIPPERS OR ANYTHING SIMILAR

**BRING ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
DONATE TO YOUR FORM TUTOR AND IF  
YOU HAVE ANY SHOE BOXES OR SPARE  
WRAPPING PAPER THEY ARE  
WELCOME TOO!**





## UPPER SCHOOL



*Mr Henderson writes:*

### Cameron's Pride

**Congratulations to Year 11 pupil Cameron who proudly represented his regiment on Sunday as Standard Bearer during Beverley's Remembrance Sunday Parade.**

Cameron has been a cadet for two years and he explained, "I want to join the Army. My work experience placement showed me the reality of what a career in the Army will actually be like." On being his regiment's Standard Bearer Cameron said, "I was the one who was qualified to do it - it was an honour, and I felt proud."

The annual Parade, which makes its way through Beverley from Beverley Minster to The Memorial Gardens, is one of Beverley's most poignant annual occasions. Civic dignitaries and leaders of the Armed Forces take the salute at Market Cross in Saturday Market Place as the parade passes. The Parade brings together residents, service personnel, veterans and young people in honouring those who have fallen to ensure that we will remember them.

Mrs Ellis said, "It is wonderful that Cameron was given this honour. He is a valued member of the year group and I am very proud of him."

We are delighted and proud to celebrate Cameron's honour.

**Mr Henderson**  
Head of Upper School



## **CAREER OF THE WEEK: Journalist**

### **What does a journalist do?**

Journalists investigate, research, and report on stories that matter to the public. Their work can appear in newspapers, magazines, television, radio, or online platforms. Some cover breaking news, while others focus on specialist areas like politics, sport, fashion, business, or the environment. A journalist might spend one day interviewing people and another writing up articles, editing audio or video, or checking facts. Accuracy, curiosity, and the ability to tell a story clearly are essential.



### **What can I expect to earn as a journalist?**

Salaries can vary widely depending on the type of employer, location, and experience. A trainee journalist may start on around £18,000–£24,000 a year. With a few years of experience, this can rise to £25,000–£40,000. Senior journalists, editors, or those working for large national outlets may earn £45,000 or more. Freelance journalists set their own rates, but income can be less predictable.

### **What subjects should I study to become a journalist?**

At school or college, English Language and Literature are extremely helpful, as they strengthen your writing and communication skills. Subjects like History, Politics, Media Studies, or Sociology can also give you insight into how the world works and sharpen your critical thinking. Mathematics can be useful for handling data, while studying a modern foreign language may open doors to international reporting. After school, many journalists take a degree in Journalism, English, or Media, or complete a postgraduate journalism course accredited by the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ).

### **How can I start my career as a journalist?**

Getting experience is key. School or community newspapers, blogs, podcasts, or YouTube channels are great places to practise. Work experience or internships with local newspapers, radio stations, or online outlets can help you build a portfolio of published work. You might enter through a university course in journalism, an apprenticeship, or by working your way up from an entry-level role such as editorial assistant. Joining professional organisations, such as the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) or the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), can also provide support and opportunities.

Journalism is competitive but rewarding for those who are passionate about telling stories and keeping the public informed. If you're curious, determined, and ready to ask tough questions, this could be the career for you.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a journalist, visit our partner website [www.logonmoveon.co.uk](http://www.logonmoveon.co.uk)

Details of relevant degree courses can be found on the UCAS website - <https://www.ucas.com/>.

### **Other useful websites to find out more about a career as a journalist:**

National Careers Service – Journalist <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/newspaper-journalist>

Chartered Institute of Journalists – Routes into journalism <https://cioj.org/routes-into-journalism/>

National Council for the Training of Journalists <https://www.nctj.com/>

Find an accredited course <https://www.nctj.com/qualifications-courses/find-a-course/>

Prospects – Newspaper Journalist <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/newspaper-journalist>

Prospects – Magazine Journalist <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/magazine-journalist>

Prospects – Broadcast Journalist <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/broadcast-journalist>

Want to know what it's like to work as a journalist? Watch the video in our [How Did You Get That Job?](#) section to find out more.





*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

Lily Thornton  
Brenton McKie  
Lily Hardman  
Scarlett Wood  
Izzy Barwick  
Bella Stoney  
Lily Curtis  
Hailey Berango  
Poppy Moxon  
Jenson Blakey

## Year 11

Daisy Kelly  
Ellie Eaton  
Primrose Kilgannon  
Luke Hodges  
Emily Moon  
Cody Keenan  
Millie Wisher  
Aidan Clayton  
Ben Smedley  
Tom Wells

## Attendance Matters!

Each week we reflect on the importance of attendance at school by giving ClassCharts rewards for Great Vision to every pupil with 100% attendance the previous week. These pupils are then entered into a draw and the winner receives a £5 Amazon voucher.

### Last week's winners were:

Year 10: Billy Seaward  
Year 11: Ava Bryce



*Mr Chapman writes:*



LONGCROFT  
THE EAST YORKSHIRE  
SIXTH FORM

**Firstly, a huge congratulations to Year 12 student Emily on her stunning rendition of The Last Post on Armistice Day – a challenging piece to play, let alone to perform in such poignant circumstances. Emily did an amazing job and I am extremely proud of her!**

This week I asked our Journalist team Orlaith, Sophia and Ellis to talk to their fellow students who are engaged with York St John University's British Sign Language course.

## Sign Language Success!

At the Sixth Form, every week, students have the opportunity to take extracurricular sign language lessons. We have interviewed those who do, to provide an insight into the benefit of sign language.

### Why did you choose to learn sign language?

Most students chose sign language to gain a new skill, Ashie (Year 12) states "I wanted to help improve my skills, especially communication. I value the accessibility sign language provides, and therefore found this a valuable opportunity." Other than gaining a new skill to put on job and university applications, many of the students chose to study sign language for more personal reasons. Heidi (Year 13) told us "My sister has spoken sign language for quite a few years, and I would like to speak to her better." and Amber (Year 12) jumped at "the opportunity to have a teacher rather than being self-taught".





### Should sign language be taught to everyone?

All students taking the sign language course believe that sign language should be included in the curriculum; as society progresses and embraces diversity it is important for students to move with it. Hailey (Year 12) thinks "It is essential and everyone should be able to use sign language in everyday life." The students also concluded that by learning a new skill the deaf are benefited, Heidi believes "It allows the deaf to communicate with more people" and has a positive effect. Many value the inclusivity of learning sign language and welcome its progression, Ella told us how "everyone would be on an even playing field". Amber reflected a similar sentiment, valuing that "it helps increase inclusivity."

### Do you want to learn more? If so, why?

Our students embraced the opportunity well, with many expressing their wish to progress their learning. Hailey recognises that language learning can be quite fun whilst expanding her knowledge, telling us "it's very interesting", whilst Heidi detailed her want to further develop the skill, telling us "I would like to be taught how to form sentences properly".

Best of luck to all our signers, well done to them!

**Mr Chapman**  
Head of Sixth Form



# SAFEGUARDING



*Mr Rogers writes:*

## Odd Socks Day!

**This week is Anti-Bullying Week, and we kicked the week off with a splash of silliness and a serious message: it's okay to stand out, be different, and celebrate what makes us unique.**

The theme of 'Power for Good' has come about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

**The Anti-Bullying Alliance sent out a powerful call to action:**

*Every year, bullying impacts the lives of countless young people and silence helps it grow.*

*That's why, this Anti-Bullying Week, we're empowering young people to use their Power for Good to safely speak up and raise awareness when they see bullying, face to face or online.*

*Lasting change needs all of us. From playgrounds to parliament, our homes to our phones — we all have a part to play.*

*Together, we can use our Power for Good to end bullying — for good.*

It was wonderful to see so many pupils, Sixth Form students and staff supporting Odd Socks Day on Monday, to mark the start of the week by showing their support.

**Mr Rogers**  
Deputy Headteacher





## A huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

Peace Aladesanmi

Rupert Atkinson

Effi Baldwin

Theo Baldwin

Finley Barrett

Orlaith Brown

Toby Buckle

Ben Clarke

Erin Costello

Imogen Crowley

Nancy Dale

Harry Davidson

Maisie Foster

Frankie Gray

Eibhlin Grimes

Phoebe Haw

Charlie Innes

Jacob Jenkinson

Daisy Kelly

Alisa McKay

Brenton McKie

Hosna Mohammadi

Emily Moon

Skylah Nary

Annabel Naylor

Sophia-Nicole Newmarch

William Newsam

Lily Nuttall

Alfred O'Neill

Edward O'Neill

Evelyn Pennock

Matilda Reed

Jensen Sanders

Benjamin Smedley

Daisy Stokes

Faith Thompson

Lily Thornton

Aaron Wagg

Jack Wallis

Thomas Wells

Aleks Williams

Evie Woad



## 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.



## Swimmers Excel!

**Four Longcroft pupils qualified for and competed in the prestigious North East Regional Swimming Championships in Ponds Forge, Sheffield, on 1st and 2nd November.**

Lottie, who is in Year 8, Year 9 pupils Henry and Max, and Oscar who is in Year 7 competed in a range of events and Lottie won a Bronze in the 50m breaststroke!

Max and Henry both represent Beverley Barracudas Swimming Club. Both boys competed in the 50m breaststroke while Max also competed in the 100m event. They were pleased with their performances, and agreed that while they like all aspects of the sport the social side of being a member of a club is something they particularly enjoy.

It is a challenge to qualify for the Championships in the first place and all swimmers competed brilliantly - congratulations to them all!



## Table Tennis Participation

## Event for Primary Schools

**Longcroft held an event where pupils could play table tennis and develop their skills through game play.**

Mrs Henderson explained, "We saw 40 pupils participate from four different schools. The pupils enjoyed the evening and showed good progress in their game play by the end of the event. There were some close competitive games which was great to see."

She added, "The Longcroft Leaders did a great job on the evening scoring all the games. Well done to all who participated!"



## Pupils Going Nuts for Languages!



Pupils study either French or Spanish throughout Key Stage 3, with many going on to study their foreign language at GCSE and beyond. Languagenut is designed to support and empower pupils in their study of French and Spanish.

## Congratulations to this week's top scoring Nutters!

- Imogen Trolle – 302,800
- Esme Johnson – 214,200
- Holly Artley Tolson – 198,000
- Rosie Shiels – 66,000
- Emilia McNish – 61,000
- Evelyn Pennock – 60,300
- Edward O'Neill – 58,400
- Alfie O'Neill – 57,400
- Sam Artley Tolson – 52,300
- Hermione Elvidge – 45,000





## Mathematicians

## are Bright Sparx!

# Sparx Maths

**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 the following pupils on their achievements and improvement!

#### Leaderboard:

**Mason Bennett** – 2,510XP

**Ammarah Rehman** – 1,420XP

**Leona James** – 2,298XP

**Oscar Dale** – 1,314XP

**Isabelle Cunningham** – 2,123XP

**Layla Evans** – 1,255XP

**Elizabeth Dale** – 1,971XP

**Seth Grainger** – 1,200XP

**Holly Watson** – 1,740XP

**Sam Cowell** – 1,710XP



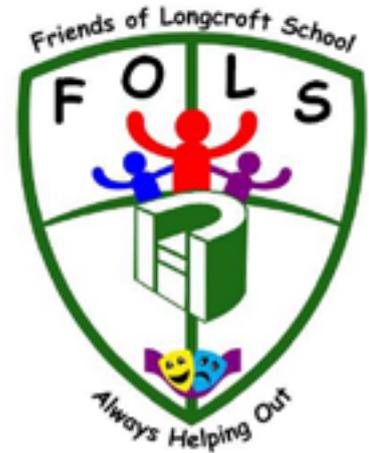
# Memory Lane

This week we return to 2019 and feature pupils enjoying a trip to the Eden Project.





# The Friends' Corner



**Now that November has started, some of you may be starting your Christmas shopping (or at least thinking about Christmas shopping!).**

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

**Charity Reg No. 515674**

If you are, please can you consider doing your on-line shopping via the Easy Fundraising App. It won't cost you anything but for every purchase you make, via the App, the Friends of Longcroft School receive a donation and it all adds up!

There is an added bonus that if you download the App in November, the FOLS receive a £2 donation.

All you need to do is download the Easy Fundraising App and select the FOLS as your charity.

You then search for your store (and there are thousands of stores) and the Easy Fundraising App will take you to the online store you want. You shop as normal and Easy Fundraising sorts out the rest. So, no extra cost to you and only a few seconds difference as you shop via the Easy Fundraising App. But the FOLS get a donation.

Stores like Boots, Amazon and Shein are all included on the App!

**The FOLS will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 26th November at 4pm in the newly furnished and decorated Reading Room.**

Although an AGM doesn't sound that exciting, as we are a registered charity it's a legal requirement but we get the legal part out of the way very quickly.

Everyone is invited to meet the FOLS, see what we've done and discuss our future plans. We plan to hand the Reading Room back to the school and celebrate the conclusion of the project.

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## LIBRARY NEWS



*Ms Carvill writes:*

## Marking Non-Fiction November

This month we celebrate National Non-Fiction November, an initiative designed to appeal to all those readers who crave information and facts. According to the National Literacy Trust children and young people who read non-fiction benefit significantly. They are more likely to read for educational purposes, to support their wellbeing, and to foster social connections. The National Trust survey also revealed non-fiction readers tend to be more environmentally aware; more willing to discuss the environment, and act to protect it.

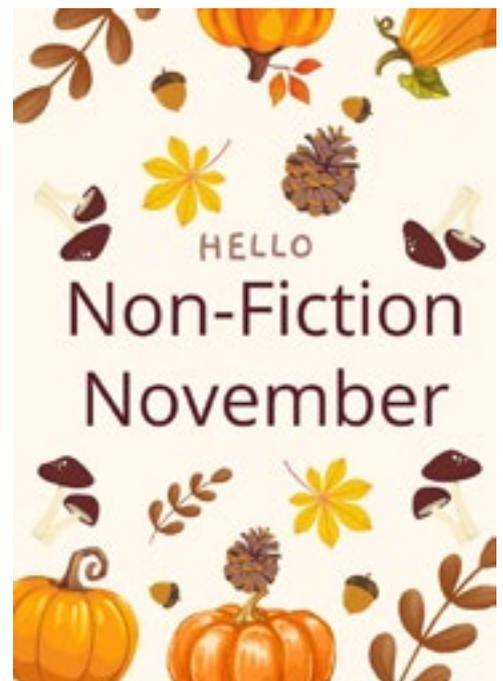
Reading non-fiction can also help pupils develop their language skills, deepen their understanding of the world, and promote a lifelong love of learning

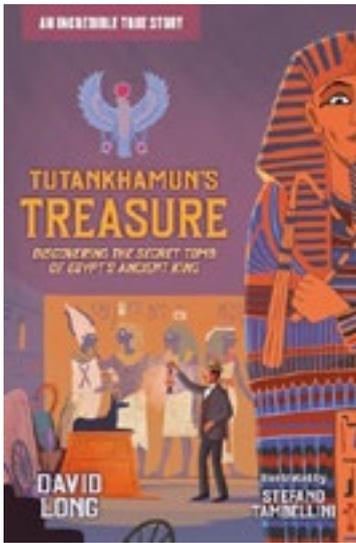
The theme for NNFN 2025 is **Past Puzzles and Timeless Treasures**. It's an invitation to explore history, archaeology, legends historical mysteries, and all the wonderful books, documents, objects and artefacts housed in libraries and galleries across the world.

At Longcroft we are fortunate to have a large collection of books related to the 2025 theme, pupils will find a display in the main library. Books can be borrowed straight away. Below are just a few suggestions.

“If uncovering the truth is the greatest challenge of non-fiction writing, it is also the greatest reward.”

—Candice Millard  
American writer and journalist





**Tutankhamun's Treasure by David Long – Dyslexia-friendly  
Accelerated Colour Code - Yellow**

Tutankhamun's Treasure will delight pupils who enjoy real life stories and are fascinated by ancient history; especially Egyptology.

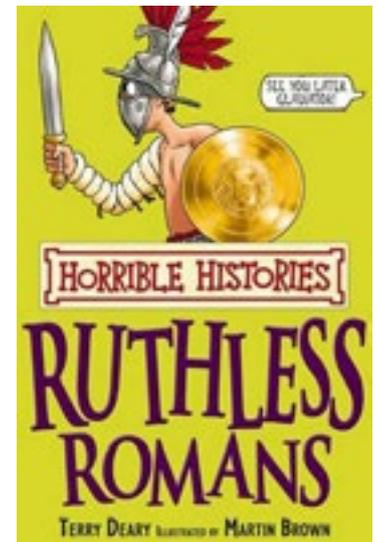
Written in an accessible style, in dyslexia friendly format, it contains maps, diagrams, and illustrations, and is a fact filled account of one of the most famous real life treasure hunts of all time; including the discovery of the tomb and the strange events that occurred subsequently.

An exciting read!

**The Ruthless Romans by Terry Deary  
Accelerated Reader Colour Code – Red**

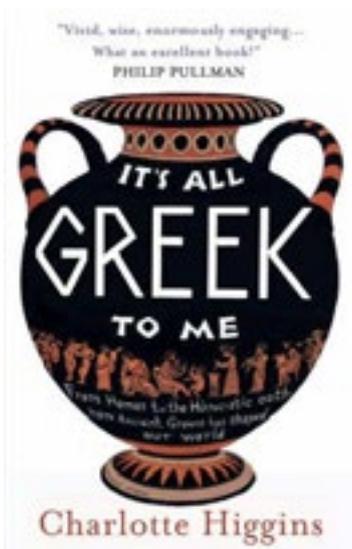
Packed with foul facts and Martin Brown's comical illustrations this is a great book for reluctant readers. Who were the terrible twins who founded Rome? Who made murder into a sport?

Gory gladiators, evil emperors, and killer kings all come to light in this fun read that has been entertaining Terry Deary fans for generations.



**Egyptology: Search for the Tomb Osiris by Emily Sands**

This elaborately designed book mimics the look of an ancient Egyptian artefact, featuring faux jewels on its cover, imitation papyrus paper, hieroglyphic inscriptions, and intricate illustrations. Presented as a scrapbook journal by a fictional Egyptologist in search of the lost tomb of Osiris, it is nevertheless filled with facts, pop-up elements, and maps, and designed to make learning interactive for the reader. An inventive union between fact and fiction. Great fun.



### It's All Greek to Me by Charlotte Higgins

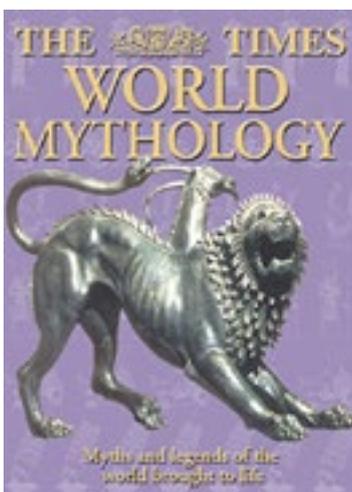
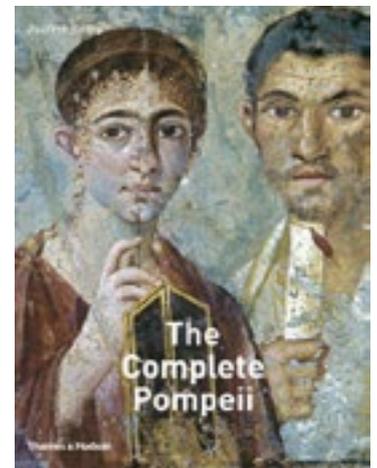
How do we think about right and wrong, goodness and truth? What does it mean to live in our universe? The ancient Greeks provided such a rich culture to explore from poetry to plays, politics, philosophy, and medicine.

Informative and educative, this book puts Greek culture at the heart of life today. An instructive and important book.

### The Complete Pompeii by Joanne Berry

This volume is a must read for anyone, tourist, traveller, or student, wishing to learn more about probably the most important archaeological site in the world. Featuring lavish illustrations and text detailing all aspects of Pompeian life, it provides a fascinating insight into Roman culture and the dramatic story of Pompeii's destruction and burial in AD 79.

Fascinating.



### The Times World Mythology edited by William G Doty

Beautifully illustrated with maps and photographs, this book explores the principal mythologies of Greece, Rome, Egypt, China and India.

Customs, beliefs and rituals are explained in an authoritative but accessible way. Whatever your interest, the Norse gods at Ragnarok or the animal headed gods of Egypt, you will find excellent coverage in this definitive guide.



"I still believe nonfiction is the most important literature to come out of the second half of the 20th century."

—Tom Wolfe

American novelist and short story writer



## DAVID SZALAY WINS THE BOOKER PRIZE 2025 & CHILDREN'S BOOKER PRIZE TO LAUNCH IN 2026

At a ceremony in London, on Monday 10 November, **Flesh** by David Szalay was named the winner of the Booker Prize 2025. This is a huge achievement for Szalay, making him the first Hungarian-British author to win the award. He was presented with a trophy and will receive £50,000 in prize money.



The novel, covering decades, follows the life of its antihero Istvan, from a council estate in communist Hungary to contemporary London, where he works as a driver and security guard for the super-rich and elite.

This is Szalay's sixth novel, and one that the judges couldn't ignore. Roddy Doyle, the Chair of Judges commented:

*"The book we kept coming back to, the one that stood out from the other great novels, was Flesh – because of its singularity. We had never read anything quite like it. It is, in many ways, a dark book but it is a joy to read."*

The Children's Booker Prize will launch in 2026 and be awarded annually from 2027 with the UK Children's Laureate Frank Cottrell-Boyce acting as the inaugural Chair of Judges. The award will recognise the best new fiction for children between the ages of 8 and 12.

It sounds like the event will create a lot of debate. As Cottrell-Boyce said:

*"I am absolutely buzzing about the news that I'm going to be chairing the judging panel. It's going to be - as they say - absolute scenes in there. Let the yelling commence."*

We all look forward to reading the 2026 children's shortlist.



## First Story is Back – Calling All Young Writers!

“First Story is an inspiring initiative. Having attended a school with a lot of talented kids who didn’t always have the opportunity to express that talent,

I know what it would have meant to us to have real-life writers taking our stories seriously. And what an opportunity for writers, too, to meet some of the most creative and enthusiastic young people in this country! It’s a joyful project that deserves as much support as we can give it.”

—Zadie Smith - Writer



### Would your child like to take part in First Story, attend weekly creative workshops and work with a fun professional writer to create a book that will be in the British Library?

We will soon be welcoming Maureen Lennon, our writer-in-residence, back to Longcroft. Last year Maureen established a fabulous rapport with pupils and led some exceptional workshops which culminated in the publication of our latest anthology, ‘It’s Only My Mind’.

First Story is a wonderful opportunity for pupils and students to develop their writing skills and confidence. Pupils do not have to be brilliant writers already. They just need to be open to finding their own voice and willing to try different approaches.

They’ll also get the chance to take part in competitions and attend events, including the Young Writers Festival at Cambridge University.

Creative writing sessions will begin on Monday November 17th at 3.15 in the library, with drinks and snacks provided. If your child/children might be interested in benefitting from this wonderful opportunity, please call or email Ms Carvill in the library or ask them to speak to their English teacher as soon as possible.

“After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world.”

—Philip Pullman

**CAN YOU TELL A STORY IN  
JUST SIX WORDS?**

**ENTER**

**First Story's National Six  
Word Story Competition**

**Judged by a panel from**



Prizes include book bundles, postcards and notebooks.

For further details contact the Library or speak to your  
English Teacher.

**Closing date: Friday 5th  
December 2025**



## 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](mailto:vicky.fox@longcroft.eriding.net)



**Year 8**

**Mrs Thwaites**

**07444 847881**

[gemma.thwaites@longcroft.eriding.net](mailto:gemma.thwaites@longcroft.eriding.net)



**Years 9 and 10**

**Mrs Newsam**

**07827 587483**

[zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net](mailto:zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net)



**Year 11**

**Mrs Ellis**

**07900 394085**

[annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net](mailto:annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net)