



GREAT HEART, THOUGHT AND VISION

# LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

## NEWS LETTER



**“Longcroft pupils were complimented by host staff and members of the public alike.”**

### An Unforgettable Experience!

**Sixty-five Year 9 pupils experienced an unforgettable visit to the National Holocaust Museum in Laxton, Nottinghamshire – Longcroft’s first trip to the venue which this year celebrates its 30th Anniversary.**

Mr Charlesworth, who organised the opportunity, explained: “While this was Longcroft’s first visit, feedback from pupils and staff suggests it was a resounding success - I’m sure the trip, which undoubtedly enriches the curriculum, will become a regular feature of our calendar.”

Mr Charlesworth added: “After a comfortable journey the programme began ahead of schedule as we were welcomed by the fantastic museum staff and the in-house educators, who escorted us to our base for the day - the purpose-built memorial hall, fully-equipped for learning with a stage, comfortable theatre-style seating for delegates, and three screens for visual resources.

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Staff and pupil feedback reflected that our educator, Sam, was spot-on with the balance of Assembly-style delivery and interactive tasks plus Q&A sessions. Our pupils engaged immediately, demonstrating their prior learning and applying newly-acquired contextual knowledge to a wonderfully high level, with Dexter in particular a consistently stand-out performer."



While we commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and other significant annual events, our Year 8 Religious Education curriculum led by Mr Fox and Year 9's studies in History increase the depth and breadth of pupils' understanding. Mr Pearson, Head of History, was also present. He said: "Our curriculum is carefully planned to provide pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens. We encourage pupils to embed empathy and to be accepting and appreciative of differing viewpoints that have existed and in some cases still exist about different historical events. The visit was thought-provoking - inspirational."

Mr Charlesworth explained: "The sessions with Sam were interspersed with time in the main exhibition, and later in 'The Journey' with its immersive timeline of rooms telling the story of the Kindertransport. However, the highlight of the day was surely the very great honour of hearing the story of an actual Holocaust Survivor via a live 'Zoom' call. It was pin-drop silence as we listened to Eva Clarke BEM share her family's story and then offer us the chance to pose questions. I think we were initially stunned into reticence but, thanks to George who confidently took to his feet and asked Eva a pertinent question, we conversed directly with likely the youngest survivor there was, given the amazing circumstances of Eva's birth.

At lunchtime a member of the public had asked me in the cafe queue, "Are you in charge of these children?". 'Oh dear', I thought... but the gentleman's next comment was, "They are wonderfully polite" and indeed they were. Once again Longcroft pupils were complimented by host staff and members of the public alike, and we left for home, once some of our number had taken a moment to add a stone to the remembrance installation, tired but having taken a lot from an important and thought-provoking day."

Thank you to Mr Charlesworth for his organisation, and to Mr Fox, Mrs Newsam and Mr Pearson who accompanied him - our pupils undoubtedly experienced an unforgettable day.





# LONGCROFT

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

# NEWS

# LETTER





## Headteacher's Welcome

**As we enter the advent period, the Christian tradition speaks of hope and joy; themes that are unfailingly reflected in all that our amazing young people bring to our Longcroft community each and every day.**

One aspect of our school that always leaves me feeling joyful, hopeful and often simply in awe is the creative and performing arts. This week will provide further opportunities to showcase the incredible work of our pupils in these areas both within the taught curriculum and through the enrichment beyond. I relish visiting lessons in our art and performance spaces and am never disappointed when I do. They are vivid and engaging spaces full of colour, sound, creativity and collaboration. Pupils and students are often excited to share their work, participate and have a go, whatever their level of experience.

As we prepare to officially open our reading room, made possible through the work of our amazing Friends of Longcroft School, we have created new gallery spaces which will run through the heart of the school to display the beautiful work that our children produce. This has been incorporated through the reading room project and into the surrounding corridors and we can't wait for you all to see the outcome next time you visit the school.

Developing a technical knowledge and understanding of art, music and drama is an important aspect of our curriculum and leads to excellent performances and pieces of work. Our Performing Arts groups will also be celebrated this week at our **Longcroft Christmas Concert**, which this year will be hosted at **St Mary's Church in Beverley** on **Wednesday 3rd December at 7pm**. We can't wait for this event to be held in the centre of our historic town in the stunning surroundings of St Mary's and encourage you all to come along. A reminder that this is not a ticketed event and we welcome you to spread the word and bring friends and family for some festive fun! Arrival from 6:40pm with the concert lasting no longer than an hour but with plenty of opportunities for us to all sing some carols alongside the performances from our choirs and ensembles.

Beyond the application of technical knowledge and celebration of our extracurricular offer however there is so much that our arts curriculum brings to the lives of our children and their experience of school. The rich and carefully considered content we teach provides a depth of cultural exposure to different forms of music, performance and art, including their origins and history, and the evolution that has brought about the fusion that is explored through more contemporary forms and examples. Through our arts offer young people grow in confidence and demonstrate tremendous respect and encouragement for each other, as they also develop their social and cultural capital.

We know that for many families across the country and within our own community, this Christmas period will be particularly challenging again this year. In a wonderful demonstration of Great Heart, our Sixth Form Ambassadors in conjunction with the Student Council will be leading our now annual charity campaign for the Age UK Shoe Box Appeal. This project aims to bring joy to older people in Hull and East Yorkshire who may be vulnerable or lonely. The appeal asks for donations in small shoebox-sized hampers that can include: A Christmas card; toiletries; tins of food; biscuits; a small gift, such as a mug, gloves, shawl, or slippers; tea, coffee, or hot chocolate; or any sweet treats. Last year the charity was able to distribute 950+ hampers to older people across Hull and East Yorkshire and this year we want to ensure they get to well over 1000! Please see the advert later in this Newsletter which explains how you can help, and please do support if you are able.

I wish you all a hopeful and joyful advent.

Enjoy this week's Newsletter.

**Mr D Perry | Headteacher**



## Reward Totals

So far this term our pupils have been awarded the following rewards for acting with Great Heart, Thought and Vision:



Acts of Great

**HEART**

**44,316**

**THOUGHT**

**161,611**

**VISION**

**185,256**

**GRAND**

**TOTAL:**

**391,183**





## LOWER SCHOOL



*Mr Worthington writes:*

## Road Safety Assembly

**Last week, Longcroft pupils took part in an engaging and thought-provoking assembly led by Christian Jordan, Road Safety Officer from East Riding of Yorkshire Council, as part of Road Safety Week. The session highlighted the importance of making our roads safer for everyone and encouraged pupils to think about how their own choices can save lives.**

Christian began by sharing some sobering facts; figures that underline why road safety matters and why campaigns like Road Safety Week are so vital.

As the weather turns colder and winter approaches, pupils need to take extra care when cycling. Wet roads, fallen leaves, and icy patches can make surfaces slippery, increasing the risk of accidents. It's more important than ever to check that brakes are working properly, tyres are fully inflated, and lights are fitted for darker mornings and evenings. And, of course, wearing a helmet remains essential for protecting against head injuries in case of a fall.

**A key part of the presentation focused on safer cycling. Pupils were reminded of simple but life-saving tips:**

- » Always wear a helmet to protect your head in case of a fall.
- » Check that tyres are pumped up and brakes are working.
- » Wear bright clothing and use lights when cycling in the dark.

Our pupils were fully engaged throughout the Road Safety Week assembly, asking questions and sharing ideas about how to stay safe on the roads. A highlight was when Babucarr joined Christian at the front to help demonstrate the importance of wearing a helmet. Christian showed just how robust modern cycle helmet designs are, explaining how they absorb impact and protect the head in the event of a fall. This hands-on demonstration really brought the message home: a helmet can make all the difference.

The assembly ended with a clear message: road safety is everyone's responsibility.



## Lifestyle Finalists

Earlier in the term, we wrote about a group of inspiring young people - Olivia, Sebastian, and Oscar. They have gone above and beyond to make a difference in their community. Through hard work and creativity, they've helped clean up Beverley Westwood and raised an impressive amount of money for Dove House Hospice via a sponsored bike ride along the scenic Hudson Way from Beverley to Market Weighton.

Their efforts didn't stop at litter picking. The group tackled dirty signage, launched a "Clean Up for the Cows" campaign, and even designed a logo to promote future environmental initiatives on Westwood. Thanks to their dedication, the area is cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable for everyone, including its famous grazing cattle.

The Pasture Masters extended heartfelt thanks to these remarkable young people for their commitment to preserving one of Beverley's most cherished spaces.

I was proud to see them take to the stage on Tuesday night at the ceremony, shortlisted as finalists for the prestigious award. As finalists, they won a PGL Holiday along with some other wonderful prizes! Well done Bevtastic Four! Humberside Police's 'Lifestyle' is a fantastic project and I am delighted that every year many of our Lower School pupils take part and make a difference in our community. Next week I will feature the project, and our pupils' successes, in more detail.



## Year 9 Visit to the National Holocaust Centre and Museum

Last week, our Year 9 pupils had the profound opportunity to visit the National Holocaust Centre and Museum. This visit formed an important part of their History curriculum and wider personal development, offering a chance to reflect on one of the most significant and tragic periods in modern history.

The day began with an introduction to the museum's exhibits, which the devastating impact of the Holocaust on millions of lives. Pupils explored interactive displays and authentic artefacts, helping them to understand not only the historical facts but also the human stories behind them.

A particularly moving part of the visit was the testimony from a Holocaust survivor, who shared their personal experiences of persecution and survival. Hearing these words first-hand left a lasting impression on our pupils, reinforcing the importance of tolerance, empathy, and standing against prejudice in all its forms.

The museum's memorial gardens provided a quiet space for reflection, where pupils considered the lessons of history and how they apply to the world today. Many commented on how the visit deepened their understanding of the Holocaust and why remembrance remains vital.

We are proud of how thoughtfully Year 9 engaged with this challenging topic. Their questions and reflections showed maturity and compassion, qualities that will serve them well as responsible global citizens.

**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

Seth Grainger  
Edward O'Neill  
Alfred O'Neill  
Frantisek Fox  
Sam Artley Tolson  
Lottie Jones  
Mylo Osborne-Lawn  
Dorra Atkinson  
Rosie Shiels  
Hermione Elvidge

## Year 8

Caleb Harrison  
Madison Key  
Millie Frampton  
Freya Leaf  
Cobie Hancock  
Lottie Johnston  
Amy Charge  
Oscar Jowsey  
Evie Pardoe  
Ryan Carter-Rigg

## Year 9

Beth Dawson  
Olivia Chilcott  
Max van den Ban  
Oscar Purchon  
Elias Chapman  
Dexter Forsyth  
George Hogg  
Joshua Dakin  
Lily Smedley  
Sophie Day  
Ryan Took

## 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: Evie Page

Year 8: Mason Wyeth

Year 9: Anna Beynon



## UPPER SCHOOL



*Mr Henderson writes:*

**Last week a group of Year 10 pupils visited Bishop Burton College for the East Riding Apprenticeship Event. The popular event provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to speak to local providers of apprenticeships and educational institutions.**

An apprenticeship is a paid job where the employee learns and gains valuable experience. Alongside their on-the-job training, an apprentice spends the equivalent of six hours per week of their paid time completing classroom-based learning with a college, university or training provider which will lead to a nationally recognised qualification. Popular options, apprenticeships are available at:

- » **Advanced Level** - equivalent to A levels
- » **Higher Level** - equivalent to foundation degree level
- » **Degree Level** - equivalent to a bachelor's or master's degree.

The event showcased local providers of apprenticeships and the educational institutions that deliver the taught elements of apprenticeships. It allowed pupils to fully consider the range of options available to them.

Miss Sinclair explained, "Several of the pupils who attended are already considering the apprenticeship route, and the event was valuable in allowing them to understand the application process and what opportunities are available to them. For some pupils, the event was vital in ensuring they decide on their future direction fully informed about the routes available to them."

**Mr Henderson**  
Head of Upper School

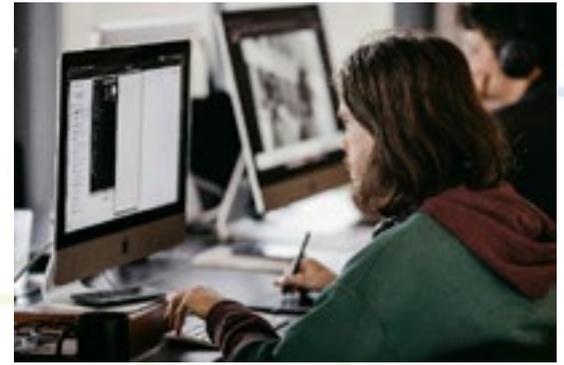




## **CAREER OF THE WEEK: Software Tester**

### **What does a software tester do?**

A software tester checks computer programmes, apps, and websites to make sure they work correctly. They look for bugs, glitches, or anything that could cause problems for users. Testers run different tests, write reports on issues, and work closely with developers to fix them. Their goal is to make software reliable, user-friendly, and safe. Testing can be manual, where you explore the software yourself, or automated, using special testing tools to check for issues automatically.



If you enjoy problem-solving, attention to detail, and making sure things work as they should, a career as a software tester could be perfect for you.

### **What can I expect to earn as a software tester?**

Salaries can vary depending on experience and location. Entry-level testers can expect around £22,000–£28,000 per year, while experienced testers can earn £35,000–£50,000 or more. Test automation specialists and senior testers may earn even higher, sometimes exceeding £60,000. Freelance or contract testers may also have flexible rates depending on the project.

### **What subjects should I study to become a software tester?**

To become a software tester, studying computing, software development, or IT is a great start. Maths, logic, and problem-solving skills are also really useful, as are good attention to detail and strong communication skills.

In addition to academic qualifications, many software testers also take professional courses in software testing or learn programming languages like Python, Java, or SQL, which can help with automated testing.

### **How can I start my career as a software tester?**

To become a software tester, you can follow several routes. Start with GCSEs in Computer Science, Maths, or IT, then choose A-levels, a BTEC, or a T-level in a relevant course, such as computing. Apprenticeships let you earn while you learn, and higher or degree apprenticeships combine work with study. Degrees in Computer Science or IT are useful for advanced roles. Online courses and ISTQB certification also boost skills.

Curiosity, attention to detail, and practical experience are key for a successful career in software testing.

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

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

National Careers Service, Test Lead <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/test-lead>

Prospects, Software Tester <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/software-tester>

The Chartered Institute for IT, Careers <https://www.bcs.org/it-careers/>



You can find us at



[www.skillshullandeastyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.skillshullandeastyorkshire.co.uk)



*Congratulations to our Upper 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

Brenton McKie  
 Neve Meagher  
 Aaron Davies  
 Devon Bryans  
 Lily Curtis  
 Daniel Kemp  
 James Charge  
 Muireann Kennedy  
 Lily Hardman

## Year 11

Ellie Eaton  
 Xavier Jenney  
 Aidan Clayton  
 Emily Moob  
 Cherry Curwood  
 Ben Smedley  
 Conner Leak  
 Poppy Cooper  
 Gracie Pawson  
 Charlotte Burnett

## 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: Niamh Raw  
 Year 11: Jack Allport



## Mr Chapman writes:



LONGCROFT  
THE EAST YORKSHIRE  
SIXTH FORM

As we approach the climax of the autumn term, it is a pleasure to reflect on the progress, determination, and growing confidence of our Sixth Form students. This point in the year is always one of transition: routines are now firmly in place, ambitions are taking shape, and students are beginning to see the results of the effort they have invested since September. Both Year 12 and Year 13 have demonstrated impressive commitment to their studies, and it is wonderful to witness the positive attitudes that continue to develop across the Sixth Form.

### Year 13: Navigating a Busy and Exciting Time

For our Year 13 students, this term is always one of the most demanding of their school careers. They are balancing mock exam preparation with the final stages of their UCAS applications, and the workload can be intense. Despite this, they have shown maturity, resilience, and a strong sense of purpose. Many students are in the process of finalising personal statements, articulating their aspirations and experiences with clarity and confidence. For those applying to university, this is an exciting milestone — a moment where plans for the future start to feel very real.

It has been inspiring to see how reflective students have been when writing about their academic interests, work experience, and future goals. Whether they are applying for highly competitive courses or exploring specialist pathways, the enthusiasm they bring to their subjects shines through. Over the coming months, students will begin receiving offers and invitations to interview, and we look forward to supporting them through each step of the journey.





Alongside UCAS, Year 13 are also turning their attention to their upcoming mock examinations. These exams play a crucial role in helping students build exam technique, identify gaps in understanding, and strengthen their revision strategies ahead of the summer. While mock season can be a source of pressure, it is also an opportunity — a chance to test themselves, reflect on feedback, and make meaningful progress. Staff have been impressed by the way students are managing their workload, seeking support when needed, and approaching revision with maturity and determination.

For students pursuing apprenticeships or employment, this is also a key period of preparation. Many are researching opportunities, drafting CVs, or beginning applications for highly competitive placements. It is a genuine pleasure to see the broad range of destinations our students are considering, from universities across the UK to industry-based training routes that open doors to exciting careers.

## Year 12: Positive Beginnings and Promising Progress

Our Year 12 students have now received their first progress updates of the year, offering a valuable snapshot of how well they have settled into Sixth Form study. Transitioning from Year 11 to Year 12 is a significant step, and the expectations around independence, organisation, and academic engagement increase substantially. We are pleased to say that the vast majority of students have adapted very well to these changes.

Effort grades across the cohort have been strong, reflecting students' positive attitudes and their developing understanding of what is required to succeed at this level. Many have embraced the opportunities available to them both in and beyond the classroom, from enrichment activities to wider reading and independent research. We encourage all Year 12 students to take pride in the progress they have made so far and to continue building the habits that will support their eventual success in Year 13.

As we move into the next phase of the year, students should continue to ask questions, engage actively in lessons, and make full use of study periods. Consistent effort now will lay the foundations for strong outcomes at the end of the course.

## Looking Ahead

Both year groups have made a positive start, and there is much to look forward to as we move towards the new term. We remain committed to supporting every student in achieving their goals, overcoming challenges, and making the most of every opportunity available to them.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we wish all our students the very best as they continue their journey through the Sixth Form.

**Mr Chapman**  
Head of Sixth Form





# SAFEGUARDING



*Mr Rogers writes:*

I am pleased to share an opportunity for parents and carers to attend a workshop with the East Riding Mental Health Support Team titled:

## Behaviour as a Form of Communication

This insightful session will explore how children's behaviour can reflect underlying needs, emotions, and communication styles. It's designed to support families in understanding and responding to behaviour in a constructive and empathetic way.

**Date:** 1st December

**Time:** 4:30pm – 6.30pm

**Location:** Beverley Children's Centre

**Join here:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1967554192555?aff=oddtcreator>

The workshop is free to attend and open to all families.

### Key Learning:

- » Introduction to communication.
- » Understanding emotions
- » What is behaviour?
- » What is communication?
- » How do we communicate?
- » Understanding communication.
- » Understanding emotions.
- » Behaviours of a concern.
- » Coping with these behaviours.

**Mr Rogers**  
Deputy Headteacher

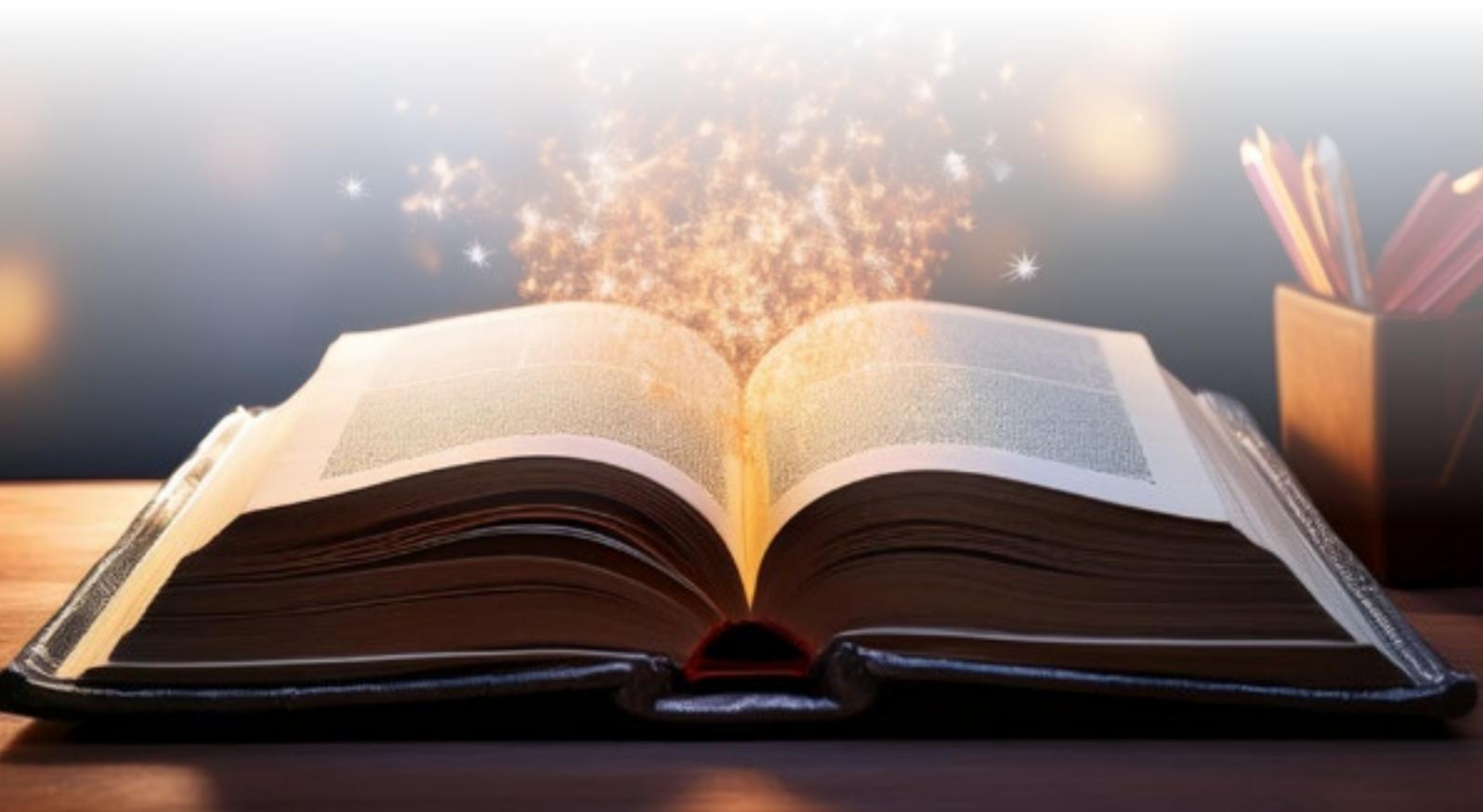


## A huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

Holly Barber 11ASC  
Finley Barrett 9NFO  
George Bassett 8ESH  
Milly Bird 10SGE  
Ebonie Boddy 11ASC  
Finley Dalton 7ARU  
Madilyn Duff 10SGE

Rosie Fitton 9LWO  
Ellie Fordham 11PDR  
Dexter Forsyth 9LWO  
Amelia High 9NFO  
Shanice Munaku 9NFO  
Edward O'Neill 7FCO  
Libby Raper 13ABA

Ammarah Rehman 11NST  
Alfie Robinson 10SGE  
Joe Ruston 8JDY  
Evie Sugdon 10SGE  
Amelia Thompson 11NST  
Scarlett Wells 11NST  
Charlie Woolfitt 10EMN





## Cricketers Progress!

Congratulations to our Under 15 boys' cricket team who took part in an indoor tournament at Hull's Nuffield Health – the boys qualified for the regional round which will take place in the new year.

Mr Cassidy said, "There was some great batting, bowling and fielding – the team was mostly made up of Year 9 boys who will be eligible to play again next year. The boys can be proud of their 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.

Sports Hall 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.



## 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!

**Holly Artley Tolson** – 380,000

**Imogen Trolle** – 313,400

**Esme Johnson** – 237,200

**Alfie O'Neill** – 128,300

**Ben Smedley** – 120,800

**Peace Aladesanmi** – 93,800

**Gracie Pawson** – 75,800

**Lottie Johnston** – 108,600

**Edward O'Neill** – 105,300

**Hermione Elvidge** – 99,100





## 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 this week's Sparxy Maths Champion Effi Baldwin!**

**The top 10 pupils in our Weekly Leaderboard are:**

**Effi Baldwin** – 1,328XP

**Archie Peacock** – 1,190XP

**Isaac Daniel** – 1,328XP

**Holly Ruston** – 1,190XP

**Bertie Lee** – 1,296XP

**Jasmine Stephenson** – 1,190XP

**Jude Doherty** – 1,237XP

**Brenton McKie** – 1,190XP

**Florence Crabtree** – 1,190XP

**Oscar Dale** – 1,149XP



# Memory Lane

This week we return to 2016 and feature our Year 8 netball and Year 9 cricket teams.





# LIBRARY NEWS



**Ms Carvill writes:**

## Dr Ed Hurst Leads Creative Writing Workshop

Staff, students, and pupils are always delighted to welcome Dr Ed Hurst to the Library, and grateful for his commitment to Longcroft. His creative writing workshops are consistently popular, and great fun too.



Ed, as he prefers to be called, is the Programme Director for Creative Writing at the University of Hull and is passionate about encouraging young people to write and keen to make them aware of the many career opportunities a degree in creative writing or English can lead to.



Last week Year 12 and Year 13 English Literature students were treated to a special workshop loosely based around F. Scott Fitzgerald's fabulous novel *The Great Gatsby*, which is studied at A Level.

*"Think of the amazing parties that Jay Gatsby gives in *The Great Gatsby*. Imagine designing or being at such a party. I want you to list all the reasons you might host a party or attend one."*

Students wrote down all manner of justifications for a party on their sheets of paper, both positive and negative. They were then invited to crumple up their notes and roll them into balls and throw them forward. This rather amusing stunt definitely broke the ice and got everyone in a relaxed mood. As Noah commented:

■ *"Ed is quirky, different. He really engages your attention."*



Ed then talked about how people gossip at parties and gave a series of prompts beginning with 'Oh my God, I can't believe it. Do you know.....' Students were invited to write lines of dialogue and then fold them over, in the manner of the game Consequences, passing them to their neighbour to continue the narrative. Once a number of lines had been written students revealed their storylines. As you can imagine, some of the mini stories were hysterically funny.

Alyssa was impressed by Ed's approach to education:

*"I thought he was very creative in the way he teaches. He didn't talk at us. He encouraged our thoughts."*



Students were then asked to consider the seven deadly sins and what sort of parties would be most appropriate for each sin. Sleepover parties were a popular choice for Sloth; Wrath became a divorce party, and Greed a party held at a casino. The latter was explored in some depth, with different groups of students writing descriptions of the venue, including its décor. Ed stressed the importance of sensory language to create a more multi-dimensional narrative. Students imagined what sounds, smells, and tastes would inhabit the casino, and described objects they held and touched. They created some very vivid writing and clearly enjoyed Ed's approach as Evie commented:

*"I thought it was a very enjoyable session, really interactive and fun."*

After the workshop Ed offered to critique any writing students wanted to submit to him at any time or to get in touch if they needed any career advice. Orlaith had a long chat and was presented with Ed's novel, *Arx: City of Broken Minds*, as was the Library. We look forward to reading it very soon.

**Ed clearly enjoyed his time with our students too:**

*"I had a great time, and I hope the students found it useful! You guys are my favourite school to work with."*

Ed is currently assisting with the promotion of **'From Player to Page'**, an exciting competition for secondary school children with an interest in video games. Finalists will have the opportunity to work alongside narrative designers to create their own narratives. For further details see the poster and visit: [www.fromplayertopage.co.uk/contactus](http://www.fromplayertopage.co.uk/contactus)



*"And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt."*  
*— Sylvia Plath, The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*

For more information:



[www.fromplayertopage.co.uk](http://www.fromplayertopage.co.uk)



[info@fromplayertopage.com](mailto:info@fromplayertopage.com)

FROM

**PLAYER<sup>TM</sup> PAGE**



UNIVERSITY  
of HULL

## UK COMPETITION INFORMATION 2025/26

**The 'From Player to Page' Creative Writing competition for 11-16 year olds is the literacy initiative that you literally cannot miss!**

Storytelling is as important as ever! This school year, a new initiative intended to boost interest in English and English-related pursuits by bringing together literacy goals with the exciting and burgeoning field of video games is taking place. With the support of University of Hull, students in secondary schools will have the opportunity to apply their writing skills to creative writing tasks that reward an interest in gaming.

### Competition Run-down

The competition takes place across 2 stages. In the first, students are encouraged to write freely on any game within the competition guidelines.

In the second stage, school coordinators receive a 3-page pack containing 3 game titles chosen for their relevance to writing styles and genres included and examined as part of KS4 studies.

Based on the chosen title, students complete a written answer that is submitted into the final draw.

### Experience for Finalists

Finalists will be selected from the final draw and invited to a workshop experience where they will work alongside narrative designers to draft and present their own narrative concept.

### Competition History

**FIRST**  
COMPETITION  
RUNS IN 2021



2022 COMPETITION  
**RECEIVES**  
3X THE ENTRIES  
OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR

**2023**  
AWARDS DAY  
ATTENDED  
BY 100+ GUESTS

US COMPANY  
PANIC INC PROVIDE  
PRIZES TO 2024  
ENTRANTS

**HULL**  
SCHOOLS  
CHOSEN  
FOR PILOT  
RUN OF THE  
COMPETITION

IN A **UK FIRST!**

## HOW TO ENTER

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Simply contact the organisers by email at:

[www.fromplayertopage.co.uk/contact-us](http://www.fromplayertopage.co.uk/contact-us)



## 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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**Year 11**

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