



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



Merry
Christmas!

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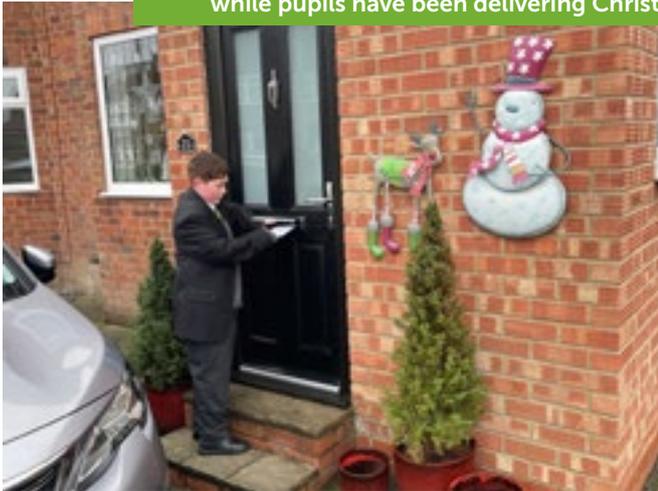
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Our pupils, Sixth Form students and staff enjoyed a fantastic Christmas lunch on Wednesday, while pupils have been delivering Christmas cards to members of our community!





Headteacher's Welcome

As we prepare for the festive period and issue our final Newsletter of 2025 it is a perfect moment to pause and reflect on all that this year has brought for our community. There has been so much to celebrate again for Longcroft over the last 12 months and I could not be prouder of what our children continue to achieve, setting us new standards and transforming our school.

Whilst the accolades that Longcroft has achieved are welcome and we rightly celebrate our successes with attendance, region leading examination outcomes and our work to support children through developing their reading for example. However, the true substance of our achievements is manifest in the way our children reflect the kind of community we strive to be – our Longcroft Standard, underpinned by our school values in all that we do.

Each and every day we bear witness to acts of Great Heart. We recognise the power of the 'little things'; the interactions, smiles, acts of support, care and kindness that can often impact in far greater ways than we could imagine. It is paramount to us that every young person in our school is known, feels welcome and valued; and that as a community we create an environment and a culture that lives Great Heart into being so that our school is an enjoyable and safe place to learn.

Acts of charity are one example of our children's demonstration of Great Heart and over the course of this term alone we have seen individual and collective action from across our school. There have been targeted campaigns including health and well-being (and our staff Movember), as well as collective efforts from our pupils for Children in Need as well as for our advent appeal to support those who are elderly and alone this Christmas with Age UK. We are incredibly proud of our children and families, who step up again and again to actively demonstrate their kindness, care and compassion.

These final few weeks have been incredibly busy with Christmas concerts, our Christmas card competition (with around 400 entries!) and the delivery of the winning designs across our local residents. We've had brilliant fun on Jolly Jumper Day and through our Big Christmas Lunch and ended with the most celebratory of final days of term with awards, spin the wheel, our Christmas concert, films and cinema visits as well as special time together with forms for the end of year traditional Longcroft quiz. It really has been a fantastic time.

We would like all of our community to now rest well this Christmas. After a busy term it is important to reset, recharge and return in the new year ready for learning and embracing all of the opportunities that the Spring Term will bring. From all of us here at Longcroft, we wish you a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year. Enjoy the Newsletter and we'll see you in January!

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	68,023
THOUGHT	191,609
VISION	229,187

**GRAND
TOTAL:
488,819**





LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Year 3 pupils from St Mary's C of E for an exciting and interactive Science session all about Rocks and Weathering. The day was packed with hands-on activities designed to bring science to life and spark curiosity in our young visitors.

The session began with an introduction to the concept of weathering and how rocks break down over time due to natural processes. From there, pupils explored the pH scale, learning how scientists measure acidity and alkalinity. Using Universal Indicator Paper, they tested everyday household items to discover where they sit on the scale.



We then discussed how rainwater is a weak acid, which led to a fascinating experiment: pupils dropped marble chips into acidic solutions and watched them fizz as the acid reacted with the carbonate in the marble, a perfect demonstration of chemical weathering in action!

The grand finale was a spectacular demonstration in the fume cupboard. Pupils observed the safe production of sulfur dioxide, where the ignited sulfur powder glowed a brilliant blue in a jar of pure oxygen. When water was added to the gas, they saw first-hand how acid rain forms, with the Universal Indicator solution turning bright red to show its acidity.



It was a day full of discovery, excitement, and plenty of "wow" moments. A huge thank you to St Mary's pupils and staff for visiting, we loved sharing our passion for science and hope the Year 3 children left inspired to keep exploring the wonders of the world around them!

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

Ben Clarke
Hollie Sutcliffe-Storr
Eysha-May Cooper
Memet Akkus
Freddie Peacock
Sofia Caulfield
Leo Pardoe
Ella Barry
Ellie Dawson

Year 8

Millie Frampton
George D'Andilly
Nico Harrison
Caleb Harrison
Freya Leaf
Cobie Hancock
Rory Buck
Rhys Thompson
Noah Hardman
Lottie Johnston

Year 9

Beth Dawson
Owen Harper
Ann Mariya Binoy
George Hogg
Imogen Trolle
Oscar Purchon
Harry Hugill
Mia Spruce-Wan
Angel Butler-Shorrocks
Jake Redmond

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: Florence Clarke

Year 8: Will Battye

Year 9: Ann Mariya Binoy



UPPER SCHOOL



Mr Henderson writes:

Year 10 pupils had the second of the drop-down days for their option choices this week. This week the focus was on Art, Computer Science, Drama, Food and Nutrition, Physical Education and Product Design. Pupils spent Tuesday in their subject all day to allow time to complete extended pieces of work and learning, with great success.

Pupils are pictured in Food and Nutrition, where Ms George was extremely impressed with the range of savoury and sweet dishes and pupils' presentation skills, and Computer Science – here the focus was computational thinking techniques and problem solving.

Year 11 pupils will enjoy two such days in February.

Congratulations to our Year 11 pupils on the approach they demonstrated to their mock examinations. These are now being marked and results will be published in January. We are looking forward to working with pupils to identify areas of strength and their areas for development which will be addressed in class and through our focused revision programme.

Looking ahead to January, Year 11 parents can look forward to our **Year 11 Parents' Revision and Study Skills Evening** on Thursday 29th January. The evening will focus on English, Maths and Science.

Mr Henderson | Head of Upper School





CAREER OF THE WEEK: Art Therapist

What does an art therapist do?

An art therapist (also called an art psychotherapist) is a mental health professional who uses artmaking as a way to help people explore their thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

Here's what they typically do:

1. Help people express themselves through art
 - Clients might paint, draw, sculpt, collage, or use other creative tools.
 - It's not about being "good" at art — the focus is on the process, not the final product.
2. Support emotional and mental health
 - Art therapists help people process emotions, deal with trauma, manage anxiety or depression, improve self-esteem, or cope with illness.
 - They might work with individuals who find it hard to put feelings into words.
3. Work in a variety of settings
 - NHS hospitals, mental health services, schools, prisons, hospices, or private clinics.
 - Sometimes they run group sessions, other times one-to-one therapy.
4. Use both art and conversation
 - Sessions usually involve making art and talking about what it might represent or how it feels.
 - They combine creativity with psychological understanding to help clients make sense of their experiences.



What can I expect to earn as an art therapist?

Art therapists working in the NHS will typically start at band 6 of the Agenda for Change pay rates, currently £38,682 (<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>). Pay rates in the private sector can be higher than this.

What subjects should I study to become an art therapist?

Useful subjects to study include, art/design, drama, music, psychology, sociology, health and social care, or biology.

How can I start my career as an art therapist?

To become an art therapist, you will need to complete an approved Masters degree in art therapy or art psychotherapy and then register with the Health and Care Professions Council (<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/>). To be accepted onto a course, you will typically need an art or art-related degree, but qualified individuals such as teachers, social workers, or psychologists, who can demonstrate an interest in visual art, may also be considered. There are eleven approved Masters courses in the UK, details of each one are available on the UCAS website (<https://www.ucas.com/>).

The University of Teesside also offers a degree apprenticeship in art therapy ([https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/art & design/msc arts therapist \(degree apprenticeship\).cfm](https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/art_%26_design/msc_arts_therapist_(degree_apprenticeship).cfm)).

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

Other useful websites to find out more about a career as an art therapist:

British Association of Art Therapists, How to Become an Art Therapist <https://baat.org/art-therapy/how-to-become-an-art-therapist/>

Health Careers, Art Therapist/Art Psychotherapist <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/art-therapist-art-psychotherapist>

National Careers Service, Art Therapist <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/art-therapist>

Prospects, Art Therapist <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/art-therapist>





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

Lewis Henderson
 Holly Gray
 Alfie Robinson
 Luke Chadwick
 Isla Addinall
 Bradley Elvidge
 Devon Bryans
 Neve Meagher
 Amelie Dawson
 Billy Seaward

Year 11

Alfie El-Sharif
 Phoebe Haw
 Belle Palmer
 Libby West
 Emelia D'Andilly
 Tommy Watts
 Harry Rogers
 Xavier Jenney
 Cody Keenan
 Daisy Kelly
 Millie Wisher

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: Amelie Wharton

Year 11: Emily Moon



Mr Chapman writes:



LONGCROFT
THE EAST YORKSHIRE
SIXTH FORM

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge well done to all of our Sixth Form students for their commitment, resilience and hard work since returning in September. This term has been packed with academic challenge, new responsibilities and exciting opportunities, and our students have risen to them impressively.

I would like to begin by congratulating our Year 13 students, who have been absolutely outstanding this term. The transition into their final year of school is never easy, and the expectations placed upon them are significant. Despite this, they have approached their studies with maturity, determination and a real sense of purpose. This has been particularly evident over the past two weeks, during which Year 13 completed a full set of mock examinations. Mock exams are a demanding and often stressful experience, but they are an essential part of preparing students for the final A-level examinations in the summer. I have been incredibly proud of the attitude shown by Year 13 throughout this period — their preparation, focus and conduct have been exemplary, and they should be commended for the effort they continue to put into their studies.

Turning to Year 12, I am delighted with how well they have settled into Sixth Form life. The move from GCSEs into A-level study is a significant step up, not only academically but also in terms of independence, organisation and personal responsibility. Our Year 12 students have adapted superbly to these new challenges. They have embraced the freedoms that come with being part of the Sixth Form while also demonstrating that they understand the responsibilities that accompany them. Their engagement in lessons, positive attitudes and willingness to seek support when needed have been extremely encouraging, and they have made a very strong start to their A-level journeys.



Alongside academic progress, enrichment remains a vital part of Sixth Form life, and this term has included some memorable experiences. One particular highlight was our Sixth Form enrichment trip to the Designer Outlet in York, where students enjoyed a day of Christmas shopping. This was a brilliant opportunity for students to spend time together outside of the classroom, strengthen friendships and enjoy a well-earned break during a busy term. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was a great example of the balance we strive to maintain between hard work and community.

Another standout moment was our Sixth Form Christmas lunch, which truly captured the spirit of the season. The Sixth Form area was transformed with long banquet-style tables in true Hogwarts fashion, creating a wonderfully festive atmosphere. Students and staff came together to share Christmas lunch complete with party hats and Christmas crackers, and it was a pleasure to see everyone enjoying the occasion. Events like this are an important part of Sixth Form life, helping to foster a strong sense of belonging and community, and this one will certainly be remembered fondly.

As we look ahead to the New Year, there is plenty to be excited about. For Year 13, the mock exam results will provide valuable feedback and a clear focus for the months ahead as they begin the final stretch of their A-level courses. We will be working closely with students to help them reflect on their performance, identify areas for improvement and put plans in place to ensure they are fully prepared for the summer exams.

We will also soon begin planning the Year 13 prom, a much-anticipated event that marks the end of their Sixth Form journey. This is always a special occasion, celebrating not only academic achievement but also the friendships, experiences and personal growth that students have gained during their time with us.

In January, we will be holding a Sixth Form Parents' Evening, providing an important opportunity for parents and carers to meet with staff, discuss progress and ask questions about the months ahead. We very much value the strong partnership between home and school, and events like this play a key role in supporting our students to achieve their best.

For Year 12, the remainder of the academic year will continue to build towards their end-of-year examinations, which form an important part of the transition into Year 13. These exams, alongside work experience placements, represent a key milestone in their Sixth Form journey — a safe passage into the final year of study. Work experience, in particular, will allow students to gain valuable insight into the world beyond school, helping them to develop confidence, employability skills and a clearer understanding of their future aspirations.

Overall, this term has been a hugely positive one for our Sixth Form. I am extremely proud of everything our students have achieved so far and grateful to the staff who continue to support and guide them so effectively. I would also like to thank parents and carers for their ongoing encouragement and support.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year as we continue to build on this strong foundation and move confidently into the next stage of the Sixth Form journey.

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form





A huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

Ritaj Al Shaqran 7SJU
 Luke Anderson 8GRU
 Samuel Artley Tolson 7FCO
 Gracie Barber 8ESH
 Sophie Battye 10PDV
 Ann Mariya Binoy 9JNC
 Leo Caley 9EFO
 Amy Charge 8ESH
 Ben Clarke 7JHL
 Samuel Collin 10PDV
 Elysha-May Cooper 7JHL
 Imogen Crowley 8EIN
 Gabrielle Daniels-Robson 9LWO
 Beth Dawson 9EFO
 Jack Denyer 9EFO
 Fletcher Dolan 9NFO
 Charli Drage 10EMN
 Alfie El-Sharif 11NST
 Annie Elliott 7ARU

Lexi Gamble 8EIN
 Ollie Goodare 7SJU
 Caleb Harrison 8JPO
 Phoebe Haw 11RLO
 George Hogg 9LWO
 Luke Horsley 8JDY
 Ben Jagger 10RTO
 Jemima Jameson 12JHR
 Lottie Johnston 8JDY
 Primrose Kilgannon 11PDR
 Imogen Knowles 7ARU
 Alisa McKay 8JDY
 Hollie Monaghan 8EIN
 Megan Morley-Smith 9JNC
 Poppy Moxon 10GTA
 Belle Palmer 11NST
 Stanley Parks 8JPO
 Oscar Purchon 9LWO
 Olivia Radley 9LWO

Hermione Read 10GTA
 Jake Redmond 9ACR
 Ammarah Rehman 11NST
 Lily Reid 7JHL
 James Shiels 10GTA
 Alina Shpak 8GRU
 Amy Simpson 10PDV
 Calla Stallard 7DPE
 Nathan Steele 10PDV
 Daisy Stokes 10PDV
 Lily Thornton 10PDV
 William Thwaites 8EIN
 Alissia Williams 8GRU
 Erin Williams 9JNC
 Evie Woad 11ASC
 Scarlett Wood 10PDV
 Yevdokym Yershov 10GTA



IN FOCUS

ART

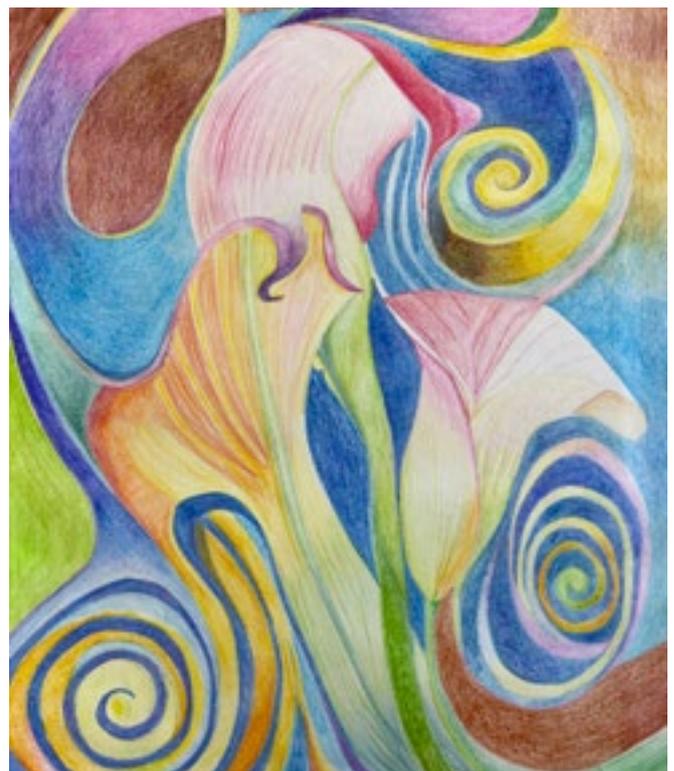
This week we feature Year 10 pupils' work inspired by Ricardo Chavez-Mendez.

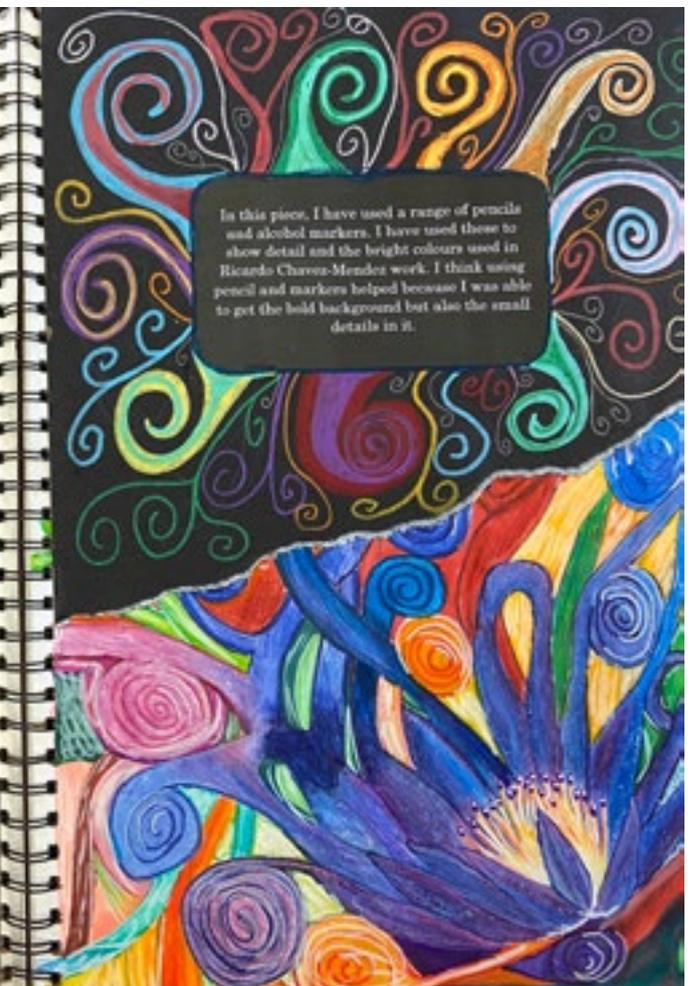
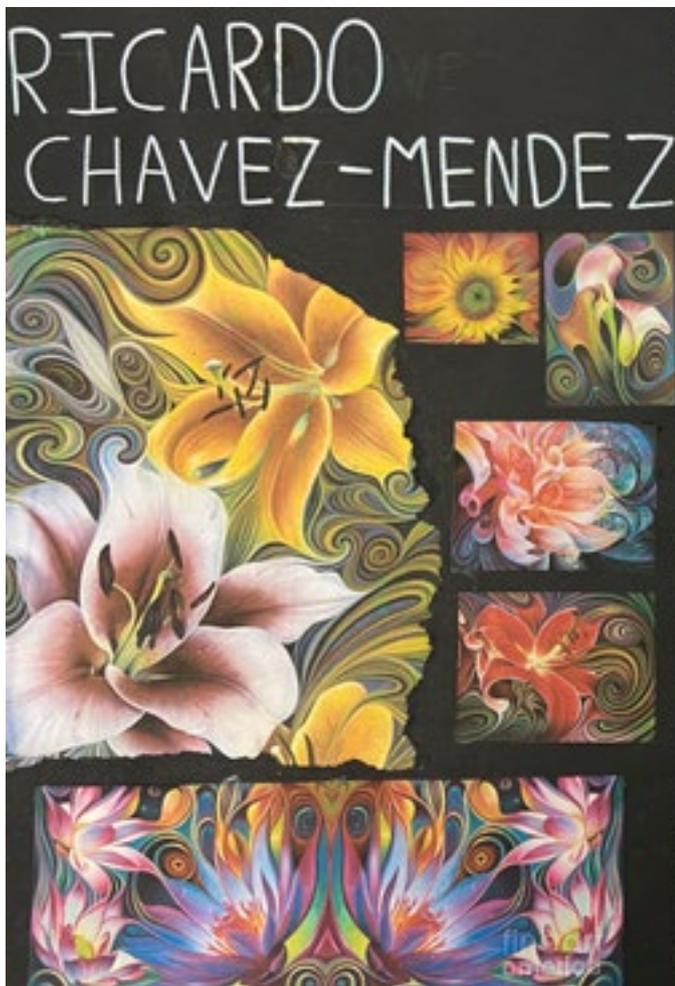
Born in Mexico, self-taught artist Chavez-Mendez moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico at the age of 28. The use of the airbrush for detail in his earlier work has earned him the nickname 'Dali of the Desert' – an apt comparison which he relishes.

His works are included in private collections nationally and internationally, including former First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush and former First Lady of Mexico, Marta Sahagin de Fox. His art has showcased internationally in China, Korea, Turkey, Japan, Australia and Denmark.

Chavez-Mendez says, "Art presents itself with a certain kind of energy proceeding from our innermost being where logic nor intellect can be art. At the present time there are many people who believe themselves to be artists, just because they are able to paint on a piece of fabric. Art demands discipline and dedication. Art is the most beautiful way to express the talents that man has inherited. Consequently, Art should only have one purpose in mind: to create."

Mrs Holmes said, "I'm delighted with the standard of pupils' work."





In this piece, I have used a range of pencils and alcohol markers. I have used these to show detail and the bright colours used in Ricardo Chavez-Mendez work. I think using pencil and markers helped because I was able to get the bold background but also the small details in it.



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.

Each week we have published the names of the ten pupils who have earned the most points. This week, Ms Shepherd will be rewarding those pupils who have earned the most points during 2025. Ms Shepherd said, "Languagenut is proving extremely popular and is making a difference to pupils' ability and confidence in their French and Spanish. Pupils of all ages are enjoying success, and it is amazing that Levi, who is in Year 11 and studies GCSE Spanish, and Year 8 pupil Holly who also studies Spanish have both earned over 1 million points!"

Congratulations to this year's top scoring Nutters!

- Levi Petherbridge** – 1,659,200 points
- Holly Artley Tolson** – 1,382,200 points
- Max Van Den Ban** – 523,400 points
- Lottie Johnston** – 501,800 points
- Imogen Trolle** – 489,000 points
- Esmee Johnson** – 488,000 points
- Oscar Purchon** – 450,700 points
- Ben Smedley** – 443,700 points
- Henry Konieczko-Hansom** – 436,900 points
- Ben Carlyle-Smith** – 436,300 points





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!"

While we have been publishing our weekly leader-board, this week to mark the end of the calendar year Mrs Low and our Maths team are celebrating the pupils with the most points in 2025!

Congratulations to our Sparxy Maths Champion Oscar Dale!

The top 10 pupils in our Weekly Leaderboard are:

Oscar Dale – 16,548XP

Isabelle Cunningham – 15,731XP

Evie Cunningham – 15,239XP

Stanley Shaw – 13,944XP

Replace with: Mason Bennett –

13,646XP

Hollie Sutcliffe-Storr – 13,491XP

Eloise McIntosh – 13,291XP

Lydia Dorsey – 13,203XP

Imogen Logan – 12,935XP

Amy Shiels – 12,890XP



Hello from the Hub!

The SEND Department Update

Initial focus for the SEND team through this first term of the year was on smoothing the daunting transition made by our new Year 7 pupils. We probably all forget sometimes what a huge change it is, the leap from primary to secondary education, mainly because the vast majority, despite their tender years seem to manage it with ease. Seeing them purposefully negotiate the labyrinth of corridors, weaving fearlessly around giant Year 11s, learning independence and self-reliance in just a few short weeks, is a lesson for us all. This was clearly evident during our newest cohort's trip to The Deep, on which several members of the team accompanied them. An interesting and enjoyable experience was had by all.

The literacy spotlight shone brightly on Longcroft School this term, highlighting the school's achievements in its use of the Lexia program. Lexia is delivered to pupils from Years 7 to 10. It uses independent learning to boost confidence and improve pupils' reading and decoding skills. Schools which excel in the delivery of the program are rewarded by being named as a 'Lexia Star School', an accolade achieved by Longcroft this term. The certificate comes with material benefits, a useful National Book Token.



Lexia, overseen by Mr Haworth, has become a more important part of the school's literacy strategy over the last couple of years. This award has been earned by the commitment and hard work put in by Mrs Fleming and Mrs Walker, who deliver the program. Even in an increasingly digital world, literacy skills remain a vital requirement of a successful life. It can't be underestimated how valuable this program and the input of Mrs Fleming and Mrs Walker will prove to be for those pupils who complete the program, both during and after their time in education.

Mrs Brooks had an enjoyable if busy day at the MKM Stadium earlier this term, but she wasn't there to watch the football. She was attending a SENDCo forum with the Humber Education Trust. This consisted of a full day of training led by experts in the field, covering various aspects of what is becoming an ever more important and complex role. There were also valuable sessions set aside to speak with other SENDCos from the area, to exchange ideas and share experiences; to build the all-important relationships which will spread best practice across the sector.



Lady luck was smiling on Mrs Brooks when the raffle was called. She won a Sensory Light Table. This would be a handy and timely addition, given that one of her take-away thoughts from the forum was to set up a sensory room at Longcroft School. The small office beside The Hub has now been converted and is available for pupils who need to reduce their stress or regulate emotions in a calming environment.

Finally, from us all in The Hub, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! You've earned it.

Lexia
POWERUP
LITERACY

Star School
Award Winner

Longcroft School

Presented by
LexiaUK



More Sporting Success!

Year 7 enjoyed two friendly netball matches against Holderness Academy. Both teams won their games – the Blue team 7-6 and the Yellow team 3-0.

Miss Judge said, "The girls really enjoyed the games – it was a fab effort from all of them!"

We also hosted Holderness Academy in a **Year 7 football tournament**. Mr Nicholls explained, "It was fantastic to see so many Year 7 footballers representing Longcroft against Holderness Academy! The friendly fixtures offered an opportunity for boys who have been attending our weekly football club to enjoy representing their school in a competitive game against another school, and they certainly did. Thank you to our referees Harry, Zach, Ben and Marcus who did a great job!"



GIRLS PROGRESS IN NATIONAL CUP!

An incredible term of extra-curricular sport ended with a wonderful victory for our Under 13 girls' football team, coached by Year 12 student and Hull City Ladies player Anna Bruton. The team travelled to Doncaster to take on Ridgewood School in the 4th round of the English Schools' Cup and recovered after going two goals behind to earn a fantastic 4-2 victory!

Goal scorers were captain Isla, Amy and Lexi, who scored twice. Anna said, "I was really proud of the girls – they had to work hard together to come back from two goals down."

Isla said, "My goal was from near the halfway line and it put us in front. It felt fantastic to win and I'm proud to be the captain. The journey was fun as well!" She added, "We're looking forward to the next round, but I'm a bit nervous because it's such a high standard."

Congratulations to the girls on the victory. We're already looking forward to the next round in the new year!



Memory Lane

This week we return to March 2016 and feature a visit from Hull FC player Iafeta 'Feka' Paleaasina who led a coaching session alongside James Taylor. Paleaasina joined Wigan ahead of the 2006 Super League campaign after making 83 appearances in the NRL for the New Zealand Warriors.

The four-time New Zealand international played 145 times for Wigan, his final appearance coming at Old Trafford against rivals St Helens as Wigan were crowned Super League champions.

He went on to star for Salford before joining Hull FC, where he took on the role of Player Welfare Manager following his retirement as a player.

Mr Cassidy said, "It was a pleasure to welcome Feka to Longcroft. He's achieved everything as a player and done a great job off the field as well. Our boys really enjoyed the session."





EAST RIDING THEATRE PRESENTS

The Snow Queen

4th - 27th December 2025

£30.00 - £15.00



Written by Anna Wheatley
Directed by Richard Avery





LIBRARY NEWS

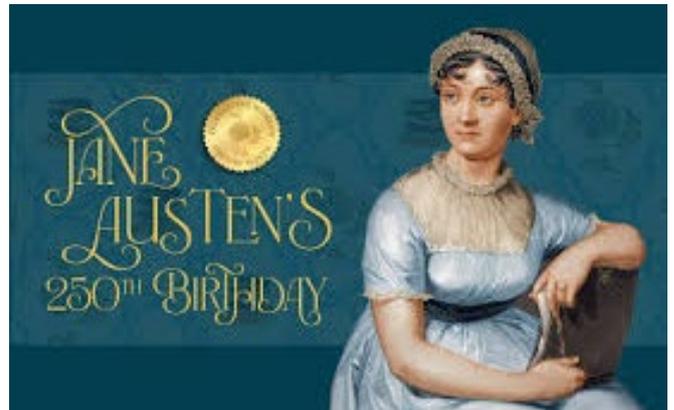


Ms Carvill writes:

“Jane Austen was an extraordinary woman; to actually be able to survive as a novelist in those days — unmarried — was just unheard of.”
 —Julie Walters actress

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Birth of Jane Austen

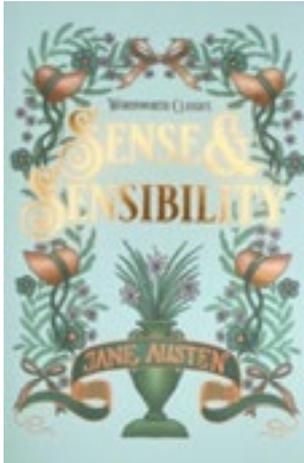
Few writers have been as enduringly popular as Jane Austen. Despite completing only six novels in her lifetime, all published anonymously, and dying at the young age of 41, her books have never been out of print. They've been translated into dozens of languages, dramatized for stage and TV, and filmed on numerous occasions.



She is recognised globally for her genius, and Jane Austen societies and fan clubs exist worldwide. As we mark the 250th anniversary of her birth, with numerous events celebrating her life, it's time to consider her legacy, ask what makes her work so distinctive, and revisit her novels.

Jane Austen was an exceptional writer and a pioneer; able to create realistic dialogue written in the colloquial speech of the time about everyday events. Her beautifully crafted novels are a blend of romance and comedy, with lots of satire parodying the class restraints, customs and conventions of England at the time. Morality and gender are key themes; particularly what it means to be a female in a world where patriarchy rules.

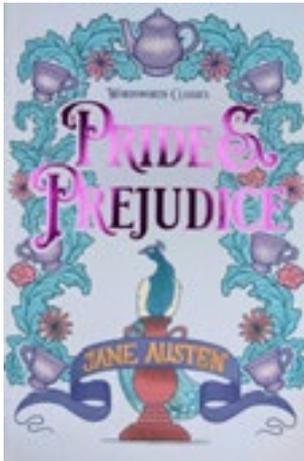
Despite being set in the 19th century, there is a timelessness in Austen's works. She reminds us that although fashions may change, human nature does not. Her characters are fully rounded; we view their internal and external lives which she presents in her unique authorial voice. We sense her through her singular narrative style, and imagine her sitting beside us. Copies of Austen's books are available in the library. Please encourage your children to read them. They are all exceptional and educate on so many levels.



Sense and Sensibility – 1811 AR Colour Code – Gold

“Run mad as often as you choose, but do not faint!”

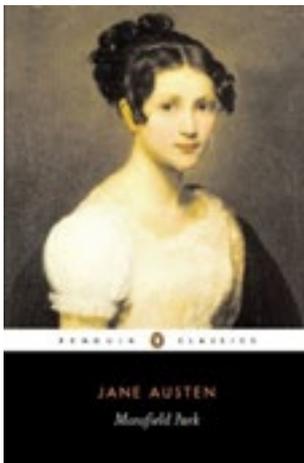
Two sisters, with opposing personalities, are forced out of their grand home following the death of their father and move into a cottage with their mother on a cousin's estate. Marianne, a romantic, must curb her passionate character if she is to survive the trials of love. Elinor is altogether more sensible. This comedy of manners, the first of Austen's to be published, explores love and heartbreak and is a cautionary tale. Superb.



Pride and Prejudice – 1813 AR Colour Code – Gold

“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.”

Probably the most famous of all Jane's novels, Pride and Prejudice is an iconic love story and witty romance. At a society ball Elizabeth Bennet's pride is wounded by the dashing Mr Darcy, and she vows to have nothing further to do with him, even if her oldest sister is madly in love with his best friend. However, when a scandal threatens her family it is Mr Darcy who acts to protect their reputation. Perhaps, he is not quite the man she thought he was. Captivating.



Mansfield Park 1814 AR Colour Code – Gold

“Selfishness must always be forgiven, you know, because there is no hope of a cure.”

This profound read features the young and penniless Fanny Price, who moves in with her rich cousins at Mansfield Park. When a new and rather reckless family arrive in the neighbourhood London glamour and flirtation abide. A superb examination of social position and moral integrity. Instructive and deep.

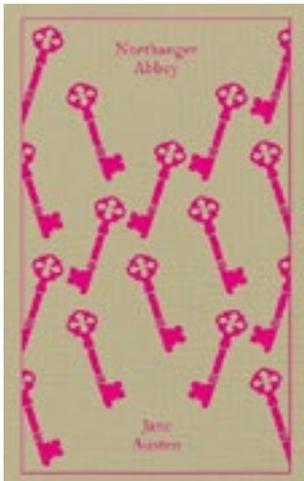


Emma 1815 AR Colour Code – Gold

“I may have lost my heart, but not my self-control.”

Emma believes herself to be a wonderful matchmaker, but she is spoilt, and unaware of the dangers meddling in other people’s relationships can create. Clever and rich she can also be insensitive; especially to those less fortunate than her.

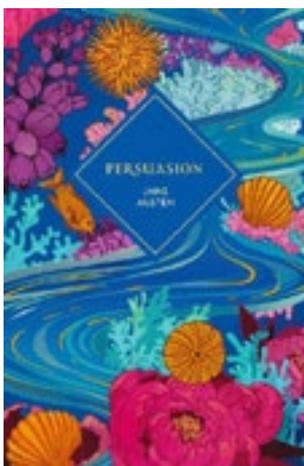
The novel, comic in tone, is also a rites of passage journey for one of Austen’s finest heroines, who gradually becomes more self-aware and informed. A superb depiction of the society of the time and classism.



Northanger Abbey 1817 AR Colour Code – Gold

“The person, be it gentleman or lady, who has not pleasure in a good novel, must be intolerably stupid.”

Catherine Morland is a tomboy of sorts, one of ten siblings, and the daughter of a country clergyman. She’s also an avid reader of Gothic fiction with a penchant for imagining she’s a heroine in the making. This delightful coming-of-age story pays tribute to a popular genre of the time; is witty and fun, and bursting with energy.



Persuasion 1817 AR Colour Code – Gold

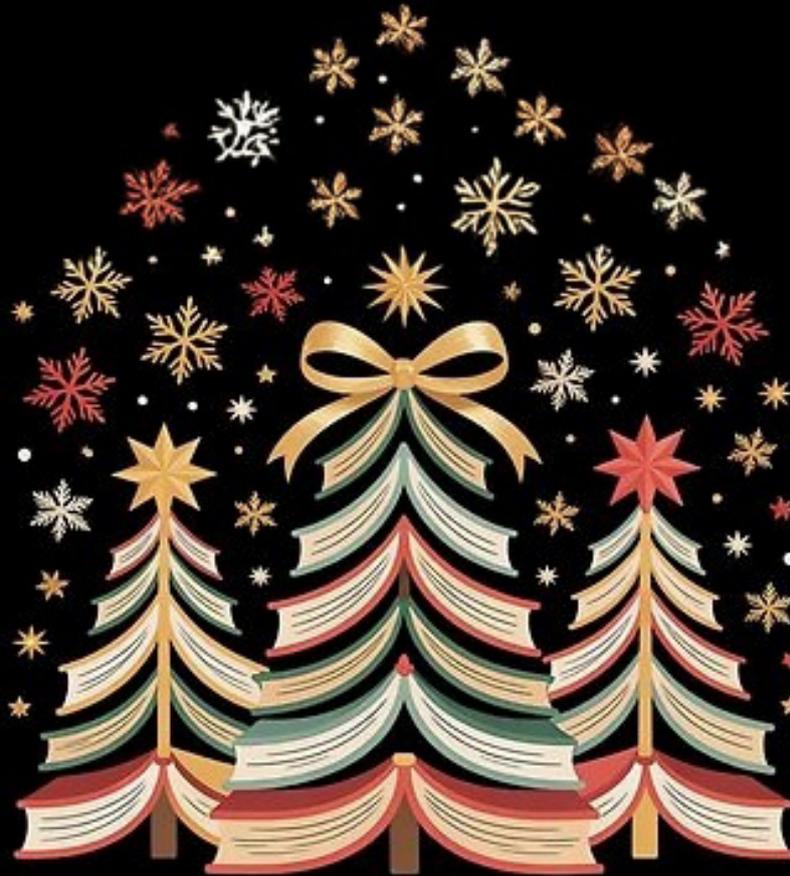
“There could have been no two hearts so open, no tastes so similar, no feelings so in unison...”

Considered by many to be her most moving novel, Persuasion tells the tale of Anne Elliot who at twenty-seven is somewhat past her sell by date, according to Georgian standards.

Some years before, she was persuaded to give up her suitor and break off her engagement, a decision she now regrets. When fate throws the pair together again a tender tale unfolds. A wonderful satire on vanity and pretension.

“Jane lies in Winchester—blessed be her shade! Praise the Lord for making her, and her for all she made! And while the stones of Winchester, or Milsom Street, remain,
Glory, love and honour unto England’s Jane.”

— Rudyard Kipling, author



*"Tis the Season
to be Reading"*

*To All Our Wonderful Readers
Ms Carvill and Mrs Clarke wish you all
a very happy Christmas and New Year!*



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

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Year 8

Mrs Thwaites

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Years 9 and 10

Mrs Newsam

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Year 11

Mrs Ellis

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Thank you for your support during 2025.

We would like to thank everyone involved with our community for their contribution to a year that we can reflect on with pride.

We wish you all a safe, happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to a wonderful 2026!

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.