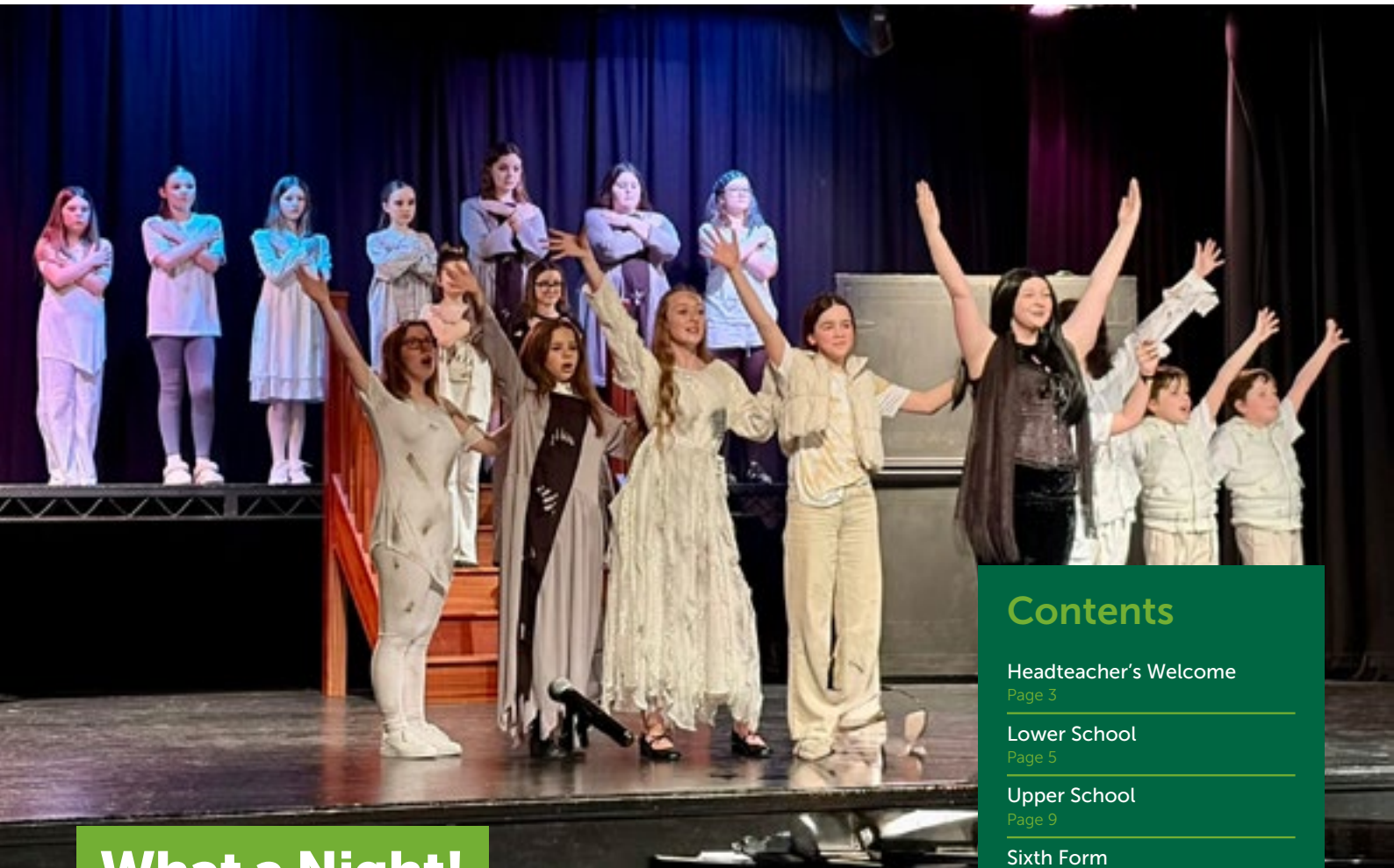




LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



What a Night!

Our incredible performing artists yet again impressed a capacity audience on Thursday evening – our showcase event shared the superb work that has been taking place in the drama and music curriculum this term as well as in our clubs and ensembles.

From outstanding solo performances to ensembles and scripted performances to musical theatre our pupils and Sixth Form students excelled.

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Year 8 pupil Phoebe is a member of the choir and also enjoys musical theatre. She said, "I enjoyed it. I was one of the four main ancestors in the Addams Family and also performed in the choir." She added, "I like singing - I have lessons and I'm Grade 4."

The audience were treated to Year 12 student Emily's A Level Music composition. Emily said, "I've been working on my composition since the beginning of Year 12, so around six months." Fellow Year 12 student Hailey said, "Emily's composition was amazing - you could tell how much work she'd put into it, and it definitely paid off."



While Emily has taken part in many performing arts events throughout her years at Longcroft, she reflected on the evening from the perspective of a Sixth Form student. "It was fun to help back stage - it's different and you get an insight into the amount of organisation that goes in and how hard the teachers work." Emily and her peers are certainly outstanding role models for our younger pupils.

Thank you to our wonderful pupils, Sixth Form students and staff for another fabulous evening.





Headteacher's Welcome

In the week of the spring equinox, the sun has been shining and our stunning estate has been a sight to behold as it slowly wakes from the winter slumber. Even as daylight has fallen at the end of busy days, packed full of activities across the school, we have been presented with some wonderful sunsets to enjoy.

British Science Week has provided a range of experiences for our children last week and you can read about some of the exciting things our children have been doing on social media in next week's Newsletter. There has been lots going on as ever, including various events to support our careers and personal development programmes, our SEND parents' engagement event on Tuesday, some great results for our sports teams, lots of Year 11 interventions and final preparations for our musical next week after a stunning performing arts showcase last Thursday.

We have also welcomed visitors to school this week including a HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector of schools) to complete a commissioned review of our safeguarding provision. Our first priority in school is to keep children safe and bringing an independent expert in to review our work is an important process for us. A very experienced professional, the lead reviewer will provide their report to us next week but initial feedback has been incredibly positive and made us all hugely proud of our children and all involved in their care. As part of our outreach work, we also welcomed a senior leader from a large secondary school in York to shadow the process and they kindly described how impressively our children and school presented which has been lovely to hear.

With the exam season looming, we know that the recent consultation on temporary adjustments to our Sixth Form have brought additional uncertainty for many of our children at a challenging time. I have spoken to many of those affected this week and as part of our consultation process we will be hosting a pupil forum on Tuesday lunchtime next week. This will supplement individual check in meetings with all affected pupils before the Easter break so that we can ensure that everyone feels heard and is supported to have a plan B for September should that be required. I have also spoken to many parents who are concerned about the consultation and would remind all families to consider a response to the consultation which has been circulated and is available on the website. I will also be hosting a parent forum for those affected on Tuesday 24th March at 5:15pm at which governors will also be represented. Thank you to all those that have shared their reflections so far and for the incredible support the school continues to receive.

More widely in school, as we approach the break, our 'attendance challenge' continues to be a focus and what a great reaction we've enjoyed so far. One more week to go for all those who are currently on track for their Easter rewards so keep it going! As a community we are all aware how important attendance is to a successful education, so it is great to be in such a strong position currently compared to schools locally and nationally. We are proud that when talking to our children, this sustained achievement reflects how safe our children feel in school and how much they enjoy being with us. Thank you in anticipation for your continued support in ensuring children are in school, learning and enjoying the array of experiences on offer.

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	117,445
THOUGHT	284,591
VISION	325,142

**GRAND
TOTAL:
727,178**





LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

Olivia Looks to the Future!



Congratulations to Year 9 pupil Olivia who, on 3rd and 13th March, took part in two virtual work experience opportunities with Futures For All.

The first session was titled 'Into Film Remote Insight Day'. This was followed on the second day by a Virtual Work Experience with ATG Entertainment.

Miss Sinclair explained: "Futures For All is a charity dedicated to improving social mobility, offering young people free access to inspiring talks and work experience. This is one of the ways at Longcroft we ensure pupils and Sixth Form students can access work experience opportunities which are tailored to their interests and current aspirations." She added: "I share these opportunities with pupils via Arbor, they then complete an application on Futures For All and, if accepted, get to take part in fantastic sessions!"

Olivia, who is in 9LWO, said: "These meetings were brilliant; we were allowed to be as creative as we wanted to be. In the first workshop, about being a screen actor, we had to make our own horror film! I particularly enjoyed the second work experience; it was an insight to being a performer on a big theatre stage. We studied musicals like Hamilton, Cabaret, Wicked and Legally Blonde. I got the opportunity to ask any questions I wanted and got all the answers I needed to know about a future career in theatre. Thank you to Into Film and ATG Entertainment for these amazing opportunities!"



Year 9 Pupils Explore Healthcare Careers

Anne, Claire and Pearl from Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust spent a morning with Year 9 pupils interested in careers in healthcare.

Miss Sinclair explained: "Pupils learned about the NHS values - compassion, honesty, respect and teamwork. Pupils then completed a boardroom challenge which combined their problem-solving skills and teamwork. It was a wonderful morning and we cannot wait to visit Castle Hill Hospital next week!"



Feedback from Anne, Widening Participation Manager at Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, was very positive. "The pupils were extremely well behaved, engaged and great to work with. A credit to everyone, especially themselves."

Miss Sinclair added: "Anne also rated us '5 stars' for communication prior to the session, support during the session, the venue used for the session, and pupils' preparedness for the session which was fantastic!"

Sporting Success!



It's fantastic to see so many of our Lower School children actively taking part in sport. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and willingness to represent the school across a wide range of activities highlight the strength of our sporting culture. Regular participation not only develops physical skills and confidence, but also builds teamwork, resilience, and a sense of pride in being part of something bigger. Watching so many young people engage, improve, and enjoy their sport is a real credit to them and to the supportive environment our fantastic PE staff help create.

It was another strong evening for one of our Year 9 pupils recently as Holly stepped into the ring in Hebden Bridge, putting on a composed and controlled performance from the opening bell. Facing a very game and determined opponent, Holly demonstrated maturity, discipline, and excellent ring craft throughout the bout.

From the first round, she set the pace with sharp movement and well-timed shots, dictating the rhythm and keeping control of the exchanges. Her ability to stay composed under pressure and stick to the game plan made the difference, gradually wearing down her opponent while maintaining technical precision.

As the final bell sounded, there was no doubt about the result. Holly's dominance across all rounds was recognised by the judges, who awarded her a unanimous decision victory.

A fantastic result and another step forward in her development. Well done Holly, who represents Beverley's Track Fitness and Boxing Club, on a brilliant performance.



Year 7 footballer **Alfred** made a memorable debut as he stepped out for SG Pathway Academy in a fixture against the Sheffield United Academy. Despite it being his first match at this level, he rose to the challenge with confidence and maturity beyond his years.

Alfred quickly settled into the game, showing great work rate, composure on the ball, and a strong understanding of his role within the team. His positive attitude was clear to see, and he thoroughly enjoyed the experience from start to finish.

On speaking to Alfred, he's enjoying working with local coach and ex-Coventry City, Nuneaton Borough and Kettering Town left-back Scott Goodwin, who has been bringing him on as part of his pathway academy.

Capping off an excellent debut, Alfred found the back of the net, scoring a well taken goal that highlighted both his technical ability and determination. It was a brilliant moment for him and a sign of the potential he continues to show.

A fantastic first outing for Alfred, plenty to be proud of and lots more to look forward to.

Congratulations to our **Year 7 netball** players on a performance they can be proud of in their end of season tournament.

Miss Judge said: "The girls worked well together as a team and have really improved throughout the year. I'm looking forward to seeing how they progress during their years at Longcroft!"

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
Lucy Harling
Rupert Atkinson
Isabelle Cunningham
Imogen Knowles
Molly-Belle Bloom
Daisy Cowell
Annie Elliott
Rafe Atkinson
Oliver Bennett

Year 8

Cobie Hancock
Naomi Jack
Rhys Thompson
Madison Key
Lydia Dorsey
Rory Buck
Delilah Williams
Albert Bird
Amy Charge
Leo Rena

Year 9

Ruby Williams
Frankie Gray
Owen Harper
Sam Cowell
Oscar Purchon
Rosie Fitton
Harry Hugill
Alexander Waterson
Sabah Madina
Tymofii Merkulov

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: Millie Anderson

Year 8: Layla Blakey

Year 9: Isabella Saxby-Stevens



UPPER SCHOOL



On Friday our Year 11 pupils took part in a Revision Day at the University of Hull. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to work together, supported by key staff, on aspects of exam preparation.

Pupils also experienced what university life is like, from using the modern facilities to eating in the canteen and exploring the campus shop. They were given a tour of the University Campus, and got to experience a taste of student life.

Pupils attended a session on the use of flashcards. They learnt about how memory works and how best to maximise their retrieval practice. A second session, led by Ms Steele, focused on the use of mind maps. Pupils learned about some educational research behind linking content to pictures and how that can optimise memory and were guided through some mind map practice.

Pupils had the opportunity to then put these sessions into practice independently on their tables, supported by specialists in Maths, English and Science.

Ms Steele, our English Curriculum Leader, explained: "The aim of the day was to empower the Year 11 pupils to take ownership of their revision, and to motivate them to engage with the resources available to them which was fantastic to watch. They were enthusiastic and demonstrated great maturity." She added: "Speaking with pupils both during and after the event, I am certain they found it beneficial. I'm looking forward to our sessions over Easter."





LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER





Mr Haworth explained: "I was delighted with the way pupils approached the day, which is a key aspect of our supporting the build-up to their examinations. The environment is inspiring, and pupils very much enjoyed tours of the impressive campus and facilities."

Mrs Ellis, who took the fantastic photos, said: "The pupils were amazing – I had a lovely day!"

Thank you to the University of Hull for hosting our pupils again this year, to the staff who prepared focused, valuable sessions and to our wonderful pupils who engaged positively in all aspects of the day.

Following pupils' outstanding attendance at revision sessions during February's half-term holiday we are very much looking forward to welcoming Year 11 into school over Easter. Sessions are below:

	AM	Room	Staff	PM	Room	Staff
Monday 30th March	GCSE Design Technology	30	JDY	GCSE Design Technology	30	JDY
	GCSE Food NEA Final Catch up	A7	SGE	GCSE Food NEA Final Catch up	A7	SGE
Tuesday 31st March	GCSE Design Technology	30	JDY	GCSE Design Technology	30	JDY
Wednesday 1st April	GCSE Spanish Foundation Tier	A2	ESH	GCSE Spanish Higher Tier	A2	ESH
Thursday 2nd April	GCSE Computing	22	EIN	GCSE Computing	22	EIN
Tuesday 7th April	GCSE Geography	A6	LHA			
Wednesday 8th April	GCSE Music/Drama	64	JHR	English Language (both papers)	5/ Theatre	NST
Thursday 9th April	GCSE Maths – Higher Tier	18	RLO	GCSE Maths -Foundation Tier	18	RLO
Friday 10th April	GCSE Computing	22	EIN			

Congratulations to our **Year 10 netball** players on their performance in the recent end of season tournament. Miss Judge said, "The girls worked hard together and I was proud of their effort."

It is always a pleasure to celebrate the work of our pupils who study **GCSE Art**. The beautiful work pictured here is by Year 10 pupil **Sophia Brown**. Her work is in response to the theme of 'Reflection'. Well done Sophia!







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

Amy Thornton
Scarlett Wood
Annabel Shepherd
Nathan Steele
Muireann Kennedy
Brenton McKie
Thomas Goodwin
Evie Sugdon
Max Pollard
James Shiels



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 winner was:

Year 10: Tym Krotik

CAREER OF THE WEEK: Content Creator

What does a content creator do?

A content creator is someone who produces material for online platforms, such as videos, blogs, podcasts, or social media posts. Their goal is to engage, entertain, or inform an audience. This could mean making TikTok videos, creating YouTube tutorials, writing blog posts, or posting Instagram photos and reels. Content creators often work independently or for companies, brands, or media agencies, tailoring their work to the interests of their audience. Creativity, storytelling, and digital skills are essential in this role, as well as understanding trends and online communities.



What can I expect to earn as a content creator?

Income for content creators varies widely depending on experience, platform, and audience size. Beginners may earn very little, sometimes just a few pounds a month. As you grow your audience, you could earn £20,000–£30,000 a year through ads, sponsorships, and freelance work. Top creators with large followings can earn six figures or more, but this level is rare and requires a lot of time, effort, and consistency. Many content creators supplement their income with freelance work, merchandising, or collaborations.

What subjects should I study to become a content creator?

While there's no single qualification needed to become a content creator, certain subjects can help. Media studies, digital media, film, journalism, and English are useful for developing writing, editing, and communication skills. Graphic design, photography, and IT are helpful for learning technical skills, while marketing or business studies can help you understand audience growth and monetisation. Most importantly, practical experience with editing software, cameras, and social media platforms is invaluable.

How can I start my career as a content creator?

To start as a content creator, begin by creating content that interests you. Pick a platform, such as YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, or a blog, and post regularly. Focus on quality, consistency, and understanding your audience. Practise skills like video editing, photography, or copywriting. Networking is key—engage with other creators, join online communities, and look for freelance or internship opportunities. Over time, you can build a portfolio and grow your following, which may lead to sponsorships, collaborations, or paid work. Remember, patience and persistence are essential; success rarely happens overnight.

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

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

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

Prospects – How to become a UGC creator <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/marketing-advertising-and-pr/how-to-become-a-ugc-creator>

IPSE – How to become a freelance content creator <https://www.ipse.co.uk/advice/how-to-become-a-freelance-content-creator>

Indeed – 8 simple tips on content creation <https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-be-successful-content-creator>



You can find us at



www.skillshullandeastyorkshire.co.uk



Mr Chapman writes:



LONGCROFT
THE EAST YORKSHIRE
SIXTH FORM

Updates from the Sixth Form in the Last Week

I would like to begin by acknowledging just how proud I am of our current Year 12 and Year 13 students. At a time of genuine difficulty and uncertainty, they have demonstrated a level of maturity, composure and thoughtfulness that reflects incredibly well on them as individuals and on our Sixth Form as a whole. They have remained calm, sensible and respectful, and have come together to try to understand both the situation currently facing the school and the potential implications for themselves and for future generations of students.

When I spoke to the Sixth Form last week, shortly after sharing the news that the governing body would be entering into a consultation regarding the future of the Sixth Form, it was entirely understandable that the initial reaction from students was one of concern. This is their place of study, their community, and a significant part of their daily lives. However, as we worked through the detail together, it became clearer that the likely impact on our current students is minimal. I was reassured by how thoughtfully they engaged with that message, and by the end of our time together, many students felt more settled and reassured about their own educational journeys.

What stood out most strongly to me, however, was how quickly their focus shifted beyond themselves. Rather than dwelling solely on their own circumstances, many students began to ask questions about what this might mean for those who follow them. They showed a genuine concern for future students, for the identity of Longcroft, and for the role that a Sixth Form plays within a school community. They wanted to better understand the challenges facing the school and to consider how they might contribute positively, whether through engaging with the consultation process or simply by representing the Sixth Form with pride and integrity.





After what was, understandably, a period of uncertainty, I have been particularly pleased with how quickly students have refocused on their studies. That sense of perspective has been crucial. For Year 13 in particular, with examinations now just seven to eight weeks away, it is entirely right that their primary focus remains on their own preparation and performance. As a Sixth Form team, our core aim this week has been to support students in maintaining that focus, and I am extremely grateful to parents for reinforcing this message at home. By concentrating on what we can control, and doing so to the very best of our ability, we place students in the strongest possible position for success.



Year 13 students have now received their latest progress updates, which include their final mock examination results alongside their current predicted grades. These predictions are based on the full range of assessment evidence gathered across the duration of their courses and therefore provide the clearest indication at this stage of where teachers believe students are likely to perform in their A-level examinations. I would encourage parents to take time to review these reports with their son or daughter, celebrating strengths while also identifying areas for further development.

It is important to emphasise that there remains time to influence these outcomes. The coming weeks represent a crucial window in which focused and effective revision can make a significant difference. I am incredibly grateful to my colleagues in the Sixth Form and across the wider school, many of whom have volunteered their time to run additional support sessions over the Easter break. These sessions will provide valuable opportunities for students to consolidate their knowledge, address areas of uncertainty, and build confidence ahead of the examination period.

To support students in making the most of this time, I would like to offer a few key reminders regarding effective revision and study habits. Firstly, consistency is key. Short, regular periods of focused study are far more effective than irregular, extended sessions. Establishing a structured revision timetable can help students to balance their subjects and ensure that all areas are covered systematically.

Secondly, active revision strategies should be prioritised. Techniques such as self-testing, using flashcards, completing past examination questions, and teaching concepts to others are far more impactful than passive activities such as simply rereading notes. Students should aim to regularly check their understanding and identify gaps in their knowledge.

Thirdly, wellbeing must not be overlooked. Adequate sleep, regular breaks, and maintaining a healthy routine all contribute to effective learning. Encouraging students to step away from their studies at appropriate times can, somewhat counterintuitively, enhance their overall productivity and retention.

Parents play a vital role in supporting students during this period. Providing a quiet, structured environment for study, showing interest in their progress, and helping them to maintain perspective can make a significant difference. Simple acts of encouragement and reassurance are often just as valuable as academic support.



Alongside their academic efforts, it has been wonderful to see students continuing to engage with wider opportunities. University offers are continuing to arrive, bringing with them a great deal of excitement and optimism for the future. It is always a pleasure to see students rewarded for their hard work and ambition, and we look forward to celebrating their successes in the weeks ahead.

I was also delighted last week to be able to send three of our Year 12 female students to a Future Women Leaders event in Hull. Opportunities such as this are invaluable in helping students to develop confidence, broaden their perspectives, and engage with inspiring role models. I have asked the students involved to provide a short account of their experience, which is featured elsewhere in this week's Newsletter.

As we move forward, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank parents for the support that you have shown the Sixth Form over the past week. It has been, without question, a challenging and at times uncertain period.

As the consultation process continues, I would strongly encourage all parents to engage with it fully and to ensure that your views are heard. Your contributions are an important part of this process and will help to inform the decisions that are made.

In the meantime, our focus within the Sixth Form remains clear. We will continue to prioritise the needs of our current students, supporting them in every way possible to achieve the very best outcomes. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form





SAFEGUARDING



Mr Rogers writes:

Rewarding Excellent Attendance!

Our school has received praise for our improving and impressive attendance on several occasions and it is always a pleasure to share our strategies with colleagues from schools locally and nationally who endeavour to reach the standards we continually set.



On the last day of the Spring Term we look forward to rewarding pupils with 100% attendance over the final fortnight of term with a gift of an Easter Egg. This event proved 'eggceptionally' popular last year and pupils enjoyed the opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny who made a guest appearance that we hope will be repeated this year!



A huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

Milly Alaszewski 8GRU

Max Barmby 7JHL

Layla Blakey 8EIN

Sophia Brown 10EMN

Ava Bryce 11ASC

Florence Clark 7SJU

Sam Cowell 9LWO

Melody Drage 9NFO

Lexi Fairbrother 10EMN

Ruben Gabell 10PDV

Thomas Goodwin 10PDV

Kai Gration 8GRU

Frankie Gray 9EFO

Owen Harper 9ACR

Caleb Harrison 8JPO

Lottie Johnston 8JDY

Primrose Kilgannon 11PDR

Layla Malloy 7DPE

Mia Robinson 10PDV

Annabel Shepherd 10PDV

Oliver Smedley 7JHL

Amelia Thompson 11NST

Olivia Walker 10EMN

Marina Westphal 7FCO

Ruby Williams 9LWO

Leon Zielinski 8ESH



Students Inspired at Conference

Three members of our Sixth Form enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Women in Leadership Conference held by KCOM. Year 12 students Anika, Anna and Orlaith attended the conference. Thank you to Orlaith for her insights here.

As inspired young women hoping to pursue a career using leadership skills, we attended the Women in Leadership Conference held by KCOM last Wednesday.

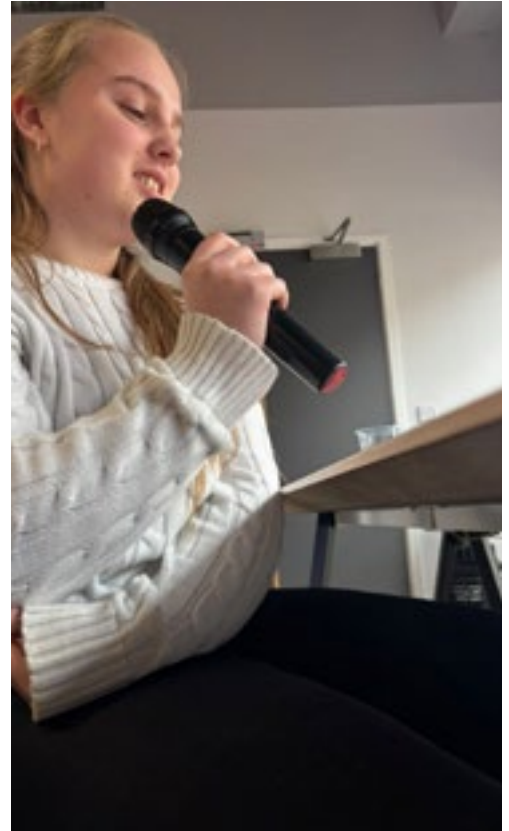
The opportunity to network with like-minded students from different backgrounds in the local area and to hear the professional journeys and advice from successful women motivated us as students with high aspirations to pursue a career in leadership whilst developing our confidence in communications within a team. The event offered insightful discussions with those who we aspire to, allowing us to satisfy any curiosities that we held about our future career pathway.

The day entailed a mixture of group activities where we collaborated with Ron Dearing College to build our problem solving and presentation skills, as we shared our combined solutions to tricky scenarios requiring leadership skills to the conference. All three of us had the opportunity to speak publicly and confidently, expressing our strengths and how they may be used to help others, thus deepening our leadership skills through hands-on applications.

Additionally, we listened to four speakers from the local area, who expressed their first-hand insights into the corporate world of leadership, offering invaluable advice that we took on board for future professional roles. Listening to these talks was not only practical but also relatable, reassuring us that setbacks are not ultimate, acting as mere hurdles and are learning curves to overcome in the long and complex pathway to success. The day ended with a Q&A panel with successful women

from Hull and Humber's top 30 under 30, offering attendees to ask any queries about their professional pathway. Taking up this opportunity, Anika asked 'If you could give your 16-year-old-self advice, what would it be?' The panel gave advice about the importance of dismissing perfectionism, as no one's journey is as clear cut as may be construed, reassuring listeners who may easily forget the impracticality and hindrance that perfectionism and its pressures can be, especially as it delays the decisiveness needed in leadership.

By the end of the day, we all valued the lessons learned in confidence in oneself, presentation, and communication with a team- allowing us to develop leadership skills that are beneficial for a collective as well as ourselves.





IN FOCUS SCIENCE

Inspiring Curiosity: How Year 7 and 8 Pupils are Exploring the Future of Science and Technology

As part of **British Science Week 2026**, our Year 7 and 8 pupils have been diving into a thought provoking lesson titled **'What Should We Trust Machines to Do for Us?'** - a perfect match for this year's theme of **Curiosity**. The lesson encourages pupils to explore not only how technology shapes their daily lives, but also how it might shape their futures. Thank you to Mrs Scott, our Science Curriculum Leader, for this insight.

From the very start, pupils are invited to pause and consider the role of technology in their routines. Whether it's using a smartphone alarm, streaming music or relying on navigation apps, pupils quickly recognise that science and technology are woven into nearly every moment of modern life.

A key highlight of the session is a hands on group activity, where pupils evaluate a set of scenario cards and decide how much they would trust a machine to complete certain tasks. This sparks lively debate across classrooms as pupils balance usefulness with risk and weigh up ethical



considerations. The process encourages them to think critically, question assumptions and communicate their reasoning which are skills at the heart of scientific enquiry.

Pupils also get the chance to explore future-focused questions: **Who owns machine learning? Who is responsible when technology goes wrong?** These discussions empower them to recognise that science is not just about technical knowledge but it's about understanding society, responsibility and the world they are helping to shape.



To further fuel their curiosity, pupils are introduced to emerging careers such as **data scientist, machine learning engineer, and AI engineer**. By connecting classroom learning with real career pathways, they discover that curiosity can lead to exciting opportunities in the rapidly growing world of technology and innovation.

Overall, the session proved to be an inspiring way for Year 7 to celebrate British Science Week. Encouraging them to explore, question and stay curious about the scientific world around them.'





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 publish the names of the ten pupils who have earned the most points. Ms Shepherd said, "Languagenut is proving extremely popular and is making a difference to pupils' ability and confidence in their French and Spanish."

Congratulations to this week's top scoring Nutter – Seth Donnelly!

Seth Donnelly – 88,800

Effi Baldwin – 27,500

Sofia Caulfield – 25,200

Holly Artley Tolson – 22,800

Charlotte Jagger – 16,100

Lily Curtis – 15,000

Pola Czerwony – 14,800

Ashton Spademan – 13,600

Ben Clarke – 13,100

Megan Morley-Smith – 12,800





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 Isabelle Cunningham!

The top 10 pupils this week are:

Isabelle Cunningham – 2,265XP

Imogen Logan – 1,200XP

Jed Kevin Catapang – 2,090XP

Miley Wright – 1,190XP

Shanice Munaku – 1,825XP

Gracie Pawson – 1,190XP

Bukunmi Afolabi-Dada – 1,760XP

Archie Peacock – 1,190XP

Molly-Belle Bloom – 1,510XP

Louie Welburn – 1,180XP

Charlee Taylor – 1,414XP



Memory Lane

This week we return to 1984 and feature two Lower School tutor groups, pictured with their Form Tutors Miss Barrett and Mr Gardham.





The Friends' Corner



fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Charity Reg No. 515674

A very big thank you to everyone who visited our refreshments stall during the Performing Arts Night.

It was our highest ever fundraiser and we sold out of nearly all our stock!!! But we are doing it all again at the Musical Theatre Production on Thursday 26th March.

On this evening we will have a fully licenced bar and will be holding a raffle. The refreshments stall will take cash (which we'd prefer) but we will have a sum up machine so can take card payments. Please come and visit us as even if you just buy a 50p bar of chocolate - it all counts and the pennies do start to add up. All the money raised will be reinvested into the school, so every pupil will benefit.

If you have any raffle prizes you'd like to donate to our cause, please leave them at the school's reception.



FRIENDS OF LONGCROFT SCHOOL (FOLS)

The Friends of Longcroft School (FOLS) would like to extend a warm welcome to the Year 7 pupils and families who are joining the Longcroft family in September. We would also like to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves and invite you to join us.

The Friends of Longcroft School are a group of parents and carers who work together to run events throughout the school year to raise money that is reinvested into the school, to fund equipment or experiences for the majority of pupils at Longcroft School which cannot be covered by the limited school budgets.

GET INVOLVED

The FOLS sell refreshments at school production evenings and parent consultation evenings, seek funding through external grants and hold a monthly cash draw where parents can win £75 a month

Contact Us 
fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Find out more about our events
FOLS Online 
Facebook - Friends of Longcroft School



LIBRARY NEWS



Ms Carvill writes:



April is the Month of the Military Child, when we get to applaud the important role that military children play in the Armed Forces; the sacrifices they make and the challenges they face. At Longcroft we have over forty pupils who are part of the armed forces community. It's not always easy for them as Harvey explained:

"Military kids say goodbye more often in their first few years than the average person does in a lifetime."
 —<https://themilitarywifeandmom.com/>



"We've moved around a lot of times. It's a bit scary moving from place to place."

Military children have to be resilient, as they endure frequent changes; including being relocated across the country, or even the world, and separation from a parent during deployment. The latter was experienced by Jacob from his first breath:

"My dad did tours in Afghanistan. He was away when I was born. When I was a bit older and he was going away I was worried, but then you get used to it."

Year 7 pupil Kaitlyn understands what it's like to live in different places:

"I've lived in Cyprus, Southampton, and now Leconfield. I don't like moving around. It's hard to make new friends, but you do see new places."

Military children have an official flower, the dandelion. The plant is known for its ability to put down strong roots almost anywhere, and its tufted seeds, rather like tiny parachutes, that can blow in the breeze to the furthest lands. Last year, one of our service pupils wrote a poem about them which she entered in the First Story Tiny Poems competition.



Dandelions by Faith Thompson

Dandelions, dandelions,

Military children blow.

Let the wind guide us,

Seeds posted anywhere.

Adventures await.

This year, to celebrate the Month of the Military Child, we welcomed our First Story writer in residence Maureen Lennon to conduct a creative writing workshop with a cohort of service children in the Library on Tuesday. Pupils wrote some stunning poems which will shortly be submitted to the poetry competition **Wings of Change**.

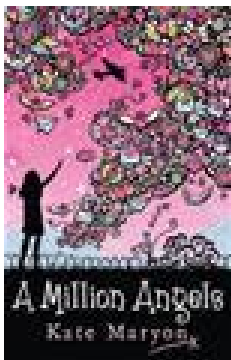
The competition, which is open to all our pupils and students, is run by **About Never Such Innocence**. The charity began as a First World War commemoration project, and expanded its focus in 2019 to include conflict in all forms and throughout history, up to and including the present day. You can find further details about the competition at the school library or at <https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/month-of-the-military-child>

Please submit any entries to library staff or our Care & Achievement Co-ordinator Mrs Thwaites. Thank you to Mrs Thwaites and Maureen Lennon for their support with this initiative.

Writing about our feelings, and of course reading fiction that features service families in its storyline is a wonderful way to understand and share experiences. Below are some reading recommendations. Please encourage your children to visit the display in the Library.

“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

—A.A. Milne



A Million Angels by Kate Maryon AR Book Colour Code - Green

A Million Angels tells the story of Mima, whose dad is going to war in Afghanistan. Father and daughter are incredibly close, they talk about everything, but his tour of duty will suspend that. How will Mima cope?

Mum's about to have a baby and is tired out, and Granny is staying to help but her head is full of her own wartime memories. Mima is sending Dad millions of angels every night to keep him safe, But who is looking after her?

A beautifully written book by the author of Shine, Glitter, Invisible Girl, and Sea of Stars; great for teenage girls and exploring emotions.

Digging For Victory by Cathy Faulkner AR Colour Code – Red

Twelve-year-old Bonnie is fed up of tending the family vegetable plot to feed everyone. She wants to be a hero like her brother Ralph, a RAF pilot who is fighting battles in the skies.

When Mr Fisher, a kind figure, is billeted to the family farmhouse she begins to suspect that something is slightly amiss. What is more, Ralph has been reported missing in action. Bonnie begins to resent Mr Fisher's presence; the fact he's sleeping in Ralph's bedroom. But who is Mr Fisher really, and what does being a hero actually mean?

A great story of self-discovery.





When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle AR Colour Code- Red

This was one of the best children's books of 2022. Joseph's dad is fighting in the war, his Mum has abandoned him, and his nan can't cope. She's packed him off to live with a good friend, Mrs F, who lives in London.

In Mrs F's rundown city zoo Joseph meets Adonis, a huge silverback gorilla. He's ferociously strong and dangerous, but Joseph finds he has an affinity with the lonely beast, who like Joseph is without any family near. When the bombs begin to fall, it's Joseph's job to guard Adonis's cage. Will Joseph be ready to pull the trigger if it comes to it?

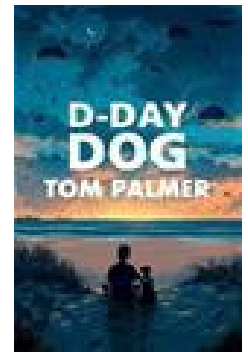
A read beyond compare; so much to learn from this book.


D-Day Dog by Tom Palmer (Dyslexia-friendly) AR Colour Code – Blue

This moving short dyslexia-friendly novel by Tom Palmer sees Jack embark on a school trip to the D-Day landing beaches. Jack can't wait to learn more about the war heroes he so admires, brave men like his dad who is a Reserve soldier and due to go to Afghanistan..

Jack's drawn to one story in particular. On 6th June 1944, Emile Corteil parachuted into France with his dog, Glen. Jack is determined to find out more.

A fabulous narrative that will prompt thought and understanding about the nature of war; how news of mobilisation can cause family conflict, and the importance of duty.





WINDS OF CHANGE

Poetry & Art Competition

1 APR - 1 MAY

Prizes: Poetry and Art: £25 Amazon Card and Goodie Bag


Open to young people 8-18 years old


All entrants receive a personalised certificate

Winners are invited to London for a special award ceremony
and a trip to the Tower of London



NEVERSUCHINNOCEANCE.COM/MONTH-OF-THE-MILITARY-CHILD







Longcroft's Book Cover Design Competition 2026

An Offering of Suns

Can you design a cover for Longcroft's new First Story anthology?
The title is **An Offering Of Suns**, but all we need is an image.



Words to inspire you: Suns, the universe, stars, fireworks, fruits, raspberries, grapefruits, volcanoes, pianos, guitars, stringed instruments, books, bookshelves, the Mona Lisa, magic, giants, Zeus, dinosaurs, fire.

The Rules: Please use A4 paper to create your original image.

Do not write the title of the book on your design.

You can use any media (pen, pencil, paint, crayon, charcoal, textiles, photography, collage etc.) to create your design.

Entries must be submitted by Monday 13th April before 12.00 am to Mrs Holmes or Ms Carvill in the Library.

The Prizes: Your design will feature as the cover of the anthology. Copies will be housed in the British Library. You will receive two free copies of the book, a selection of artist's materials, and sweets.



For More info
contact your CDW



INTERS

Register **HERE**

RESIDENTIAL

AWS Community Support Teams are this year working with the Youth Hostel Association to provide residential activity weeks for children & young people with a serving (Regular & Reserve) parent.



YHA EDALE

Peak District, Derbyshire.

Year 6-8
£30

⇒ Canoeing

⇒ Abseiling & Climbing

⇒ Hill

⇒ High Ropes

⇒ Sports

Walking

Please note the resi is aimed at Years 6-8, however Year 9+ can express an interest and if space comes available they will be welcome to come along.



Care and Achievement Co-ordinators

Our Care and Achievement Co-ordinators work with specific year groups to ensure the welfare and progress of pupils and are the first point of contact for parents.

They support children to achieve academically by establishing a positive learning environment, visiting and working in lessons and supervising and supporting individuals and groups of pupils.

Our team, and their work mobile phone number which parents can use to contact them, are pictured below.



Year 7

Miss Fox

07342 342858

vicky.fox@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 8

Mrs Thwaites

07444 847881

gemma.thwaites@longcroft.eriding.net



Years 9 and 10

Mrs Newsam

07827 587483

zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 11

Mrs Ellis

07900 394085

annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net