



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



"It's a fantastic opportunity to spend time in a community with like-minded young writers, where we can share ideas and grow as writers and people."

Beth Wins Prized Place on First

Story Summer Writing Residential!

We're delighted that Year 9 pupil Beth, one of our First Story cohort 2026, has been awarded a place on a week-long residential course at Arvon's Lumb Bank in rural West Yorkshire. Beth will be one of just fifteen young people specially selected from different parts of England to attend the course of creative writing workshops and one-to-one tutorials and enjoy a unique experience. It's a huge achievement for Beth, very much deserved, as Benn Carr of First Story stated:

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"It's in recognition of her outstanding application and commitment to the Young Writers Programme. There was a very strong field of applicants so we would like to pass on our congratulations!"

Beth is overjoyed by her success:

"It's a fantastic opportunity to spend time in a community with like-minded young writers, where we can share ideas and grow as writers and people."

The residential takes place in a fabulous setting, an 18th century mill owner's house that once belonged to former poet laureate and acclaimed writer Ted Hughes. It's located in woodland overlooking the Pennine Valley with wonderful walks and an inspiring landscape, not to mention an amazing library,

Over the five days participants will work with professional writers Maria Ferguson and Testament. Maria is an award-winning writer and performer. Her debut one-woman show, **Fat Girls Don't Dance**, won the Saboteur Award for Best Spoken Word Show; her second poetry collection SWELL was published by Penguin in 2025. Testament is best known as a Hip-Hop MC, writer, theatre maker and world record beating human beatboxer, and the celebrated Hip-Hop album **Homecut: No Freedom Without Sacrifice**. The duo will be joined by guest writer Sharena Lee Satti, poet, mentor, and founder of **Sisterverse Festival**. Beth is looking forward to meeting them:

"It will be exciting to show my work to the tutors and other participants and receive their feedback to help me improve my creative writing. I'm eager to learn new techniques and styles of writing to help me become a better writer."

The Young Writers Residential is an exceptional opportunity for aspiring young writers to develop their writing skills and confidence in a nurturing and creatively stimulating environment, where they feel safe and can experiment with words and language in exciting and innovative ways. Attendees also get to be part of a community, and make new friends, cooking together and sharing meals, enjoying the breathtaking gardens, and going on healthy scenic walks, playing games, and musical instruments, as well as doing lots of creative writing.





Beth is our fourth pupil to be selected to attend the Arvon residential since we began our relationship with First Story and have been privileged to have a writer in residence in school. Year 12 student Orlaith, who is our First Story ambassador 2026, attended the residential in 2024 and thoroughly enjoyed it. Orlaith, pictured alongside Beth, has generously shared her experiences with Beth.

Both Beth and Orlaith, along with forty other Longcroft pupils, will be attending the Young Writers Festival at the University of Cambridge next week. Orlaith is particularly excited as she'll be one of a handful of students who will be interviewing the headline act, award-winning writer A.M. Dassu.

Work by both girls and twenty-five other talented pupils will soon be published in our new First Story anthology **An Offering of Suns** which will be available in July. Having just read the proofs I can assure you it's going to be an exceptional read. Watch this space!

Once again, huge congratulations to Beth on her success. When I spoke to our writer in residence, Maureen Lennon, about recommending a pupil for the Arvon summer residential we both agreed on Beth. As Maureen said, **"Beth writes in context."** She writes from her own experience, from the heart, and is honest and open, and always willing to listen to work by other pupils and share her own. These are exactly the sort of qualities that First Story wishes to expound, and ones Longcroft truly values in its young. Below is one of Beth's poems which will appear in the new anthology.

Raspberries

My raspberry is a firework,
A party in my mouth,
It reminds me of summer,
And of Italy in the south.

As it pops between my teeth,
I can feel the sun's beams
On my face, smiling wide,
As we lick our ice creams.

It sits on my tongue,
As I relax on my chair,
In my grandparents' garden,
The smell of rhubarb crumble in the air.

I finish my fruit,
My fingers scarlet with stains.
The flesh may be gone now,
But the sweet memory remains.





LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

Lottie's National Success!

Congratulations to Year 8 pupil Lottie on her amazing 7th place finish in the Great British Schools' Biathlon Championships!

Lottie, who represented Longcroft before Easter in the East Riding Schools' Swimming Gala, explained: "I enjoyed it - I qualified at an event at Hymers and got to compete in Bath. It was really exciting to compete against all the other swimmers and runners." Lottie, who represents Beverley AC and Kingston upon Hull Swimming Club, has been competing in biathlons for two years and looks to have a bright future in the event!



Rugby Team in Cup Victory!

Congratulations to three of our Year 8 pupils who play for Beverley RUFC, as well as for our school team. Archie, Cobie and Stanley were part of Beverley's successful Under 13's Yorkshire Bowl final in Leeds against host team Leodiensian's!

It's fantastic to see pupils enjoying their sport with one of Beverley's many local clubs!



Year 7 pupils have been diving into an exciting topic in History titled *Power and Conflict*, which has encouraged them to explore how power was gained, used and challenged in medieval England as well as in the 20th Century and the British Empire.

Through this topic, pupils have examined key historical themes such as authority, control, rebellion and the impact of conflict on everyday life. A particular focus has been placed on the Norman Conquest and its lasting consequences, helping pupils to understand how rulers asserted power over land and people.



One of the highlights of the unit has been the creative and hands-on learning taking place in the classroom. Pupils have designed and built detailed models of medieval castles, carefully considering their defensive features and strategic positions. In doing so, they have learned why castles were such powerful symbols of Norman control and how their design helped to maintain order and deter rebellion.

Alongside this, pupils have produced their own copies of the Domesday Book, exploring how William the Conqueror used information as a tool of power. By recording land ownership, wealth and resources, pupils were able to see how this extraordinary survey helped the Normans control England and raise taxes effectively. The activity also supported pupils in developing their understanding of why the Domesday Book remains such a valuable historical source today.



Throughout the unit, pupils have been encouraged to think like historians; asking questions, analysing evidence and making connections between cause and consequence. They have developed their written explanations, expanded their historical vocabulary and learned to express their ideas with increasing confidence.

The enthusiasm shown by Year 7 has been fantastic, and the quality of the models and artefacts produced has been impressive. These projects have demonstrated not only pupils' historical understanding, but also their creativity, problem-solving skills and pride in their work.



We look forward to building on these foundations as pupils continue their journey through History and deepen their understanding of the past and its influence on the world today.

Having celebrated Year 7 pupil Eibhlin's outstanding artwork in my last article, I am delighted to feature some impressive work from Year 8 pupils this week!

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

Leo Thompson
Rafe Atkinson
Isabelle Cunningham
Lucy Harling
Amy Shiels
Freddie Peacock
Eloise McIntosh
Miley Wright
Ben Clarke
Niamh Jackson

Year 8

Evie Pardoe
Nico Harrison
Caleb Harrison
Nathan Pineda
Alisa McKay
Oscar Jowsey
Rhys Thompson
Amy Charge
Elliott Marham
Jack Wisher
William Newsam

Year 9

Alexander Waterson
Rosie Fitton
Jack Denyer
Elias Chapman
Mahmoud Al Shaqran
Macie Bullamore
Anna Beynon
Mia Spruce-Wan
Frankie Gray
Jacob Bradley





UPPER SCHOOL



Easter Revision a Success

School was buzzing over the last two weeks with many subjects having Easter revision and coursework sessions. Pupils were all eager to push themselves in this last sprint to the exams. Staff were really impressed with the focus and dedication to their futures.

As we get ever closer to the Year 11 exams and Year 10 mocks, it is important to recognise that this can be a challenging time, not only for our pupils but for the whole family. Therefore, as our families navigate revision and the commencement of exams we wanted to share some hints and tips that parents in previous years have found useful:

- » It is really easy for conversations regarding revision to focus on how much time pupils have spent revising. Try to ensure that conversations also encourage breaks and help pupils to find the balance between work and relaxation.
- » Pupils' anxiety can often be worse at night and this means that it is useful to encourage good bedtime routines.





- » Offer reassurance – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them regardless of their exam outcomes.
- » Help with exam preparation practicalities – check your child's exam days and try to avoid planning any significant family activities around these dates.
- » Promote a sense of perspective – it is normal to want your child to do well, however, it is important to try and avoid adding to their exam pressure. If necessary remind them that we aren't defined by our exam results.
- » Most importantly, try to remain calm and stay positive.

If you have any concerns regarding your child please don't hesitate to get in touch with either pupils' Year Leaders Mr Thomson or Mr Cassidy or Care and Achievement Co-ordinators Mrs Ellis or Mrs Newsam.



Year 10 Steps to Success Evening

Please note a revised date of **Thursday 23rd April** for this event, the aim being to ensure Year 10 are suitably prepared for their end of year mocks.

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

Looking ahead, our Year 10 Parents' Consultation evening is on **Wednesday 29th April**.

We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at this invaluable opportunity to discuss pupils' progress.

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

Neve Meagher
Daniel Kemp
Muireann Kennedy
Alyscia Leach
Martha Beaumont

Lily Curtis
Isla Addinall
Harry Dixon
Lily Hardman
Will Balmforth



Mr Chapman writes:



Welcome back after the Easter break! As the days grow longer and the nights lighter, I encourage us all to pause and reflect on the steady cycle of the year. Even in these demanding moments—when the pressure of exams and coursework looms—it is important to recognise that the rhythms of the year continue regardless. For many of our students, this is an intense and, at times, challenging period. However, it is also a time of growth, resilience and quiet determination. Taking a moment to reflect, to reset, and to appreciate how far you have already come can be incredibly powerful in sustaining motivation for the final stretch ahead.

This week, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of my colleagues who dedicated their time over the Easter break to deliver revision sessions for our Year 13 students. These sessions represent a significant commitment, and I am extremely grateful for the professionalism and care shown by staff in supporting our students beyond the normal school day. I would also like to thank parents and families for supporting attendance at these sessions, and of course the students themselves, who made the decision to attend. While these sessions were entirely voluntary, it was very pleasing to see such strong levels of engagement. I am confident that the additional time spent revisiting key content and refining exam technique will prove invaluable in the weeks ahead.

Over the Easter holidays, I have been particularly encouraged by the many conversations I have had with students who have used their time in a highly productive way. It is clear that a growing number of our Year 13 students are taking real pride in their work and in the effort they are investing in their studies. That sense of ownership—of recognising that their success is built on consistent, focused effort—is incredibly important. The preparation that has taken place over the break has, in many cases, been both purposeful and disciplined, and this provides a strong platform as we move closer to the examination period. Maintaining that momentum will now be key.





As we enter what are effectively the final weeks before the A Level examinations begin, I would like to offer some guidance to parents and families on how best to support students during this time. One of the most significant upcoming milestones is the NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) coursework deadline, which falls in approximately one month's time, with submissions due in early May. For those students whose subjects include coursework, this element forms an important component of the overall A Level grade.

I would strongly encourage parents to engage in regular conversations with their child about their progress on NEA tasks. Supporting them in planning their time, breaking larger pieces of work into manageable sections, and maintaining a consistent work routine can make a substantial difference. It is worth emphasising that even relatively small improvements in coursework marks can have a meaningful impact on final grades. As such, the NEA should be approached with the same level of seriousness and attention to detail as the final examinations themselves. The partnership between home and school is particularly valuable at this stage, and your support is greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, there are also important opportunities to celebrate. Before long, we will be marking the end of the Year 13 journey with the Sixth Form Prom, which will take place in June at a function venue in Beverley. This is always a highlight of the year—a chance for students and staff to come together, reflect on their time in the Sixth Form, and celebrate their achievements in a well-earned and enjoyable way.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address our Year 12 students. This term represents an important shift in your Sixth Form experience. As you look ahead to your mock examinations later this term, you should begin to recognise the increasing demands of your A Level courses. By the time you sit these assessments, you will have completed over half of your programme of study, making this a key point at which to evaluate your progress.

The mock examinations provide an invaluable benchmark. They offer a clear indication of current performance, highlight areas for development, and help to build familiarity with the demands of formal assessment. It is essential that you approach this period with focus and organisation. **Ensuring that folders are up to date, notes are clear and comprehensive, and revision is undertaken regularly will place you in a strong position.**

Effective revision does not happen all at once; it is built through consistent, manageable effort over time.

Parents of Year 12 students can play an important role by helping to establish and maintain good routines. Encouraging regular study habits, providing a suitable environment for work, and showing an interest in progress can all contribute positively. These early habits will form the foundation for success as students move into Year 13.

Following the mock examination period, Year 12 students will also undertake their work experience placements. This is an exciting and valuable opportunity to gain insight into the world beyond school, to develop key employability skills, and to begin exploring potential future pathways. As with all aspects of Sixth Form life, preparation and a positive attitude will be crucial in making the most of this experience.

In closing, this is a significant and busy period for all members of our Sixth Form community. There is much to be done, but also much to look forward to. By continuing to work together—students, staff and families alike—we can ensure that every student is supported to achieve their very best.

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form





SAFEGUARDING



Mr Rogers writes:

We were delighted to end the Spring Term on a high as over 500 pupils were rewarded after meeting the term's attendance challenge.

The Easter Bunny once again joined us to congratulate pupils and wish them well as they received Easter Eggs.

We are proud that Longcroft continues to celebrate the highest attendance of any East Riding school. Thank you for your support and the part you as parents and carers play in this achievement.



The East Riding Mental Health Support Team are pleased to invite you to a special **Parent Transition Workshop**. This session is designed to help you support your child as they navigate key school transitions, whether they are moving into a new year group, preparing for secondary school, or adjusting to changes in routine.

What the workshop will cover:

- » Understanding how transitions can affect children's wellbeing
- » How to support your child during transitions

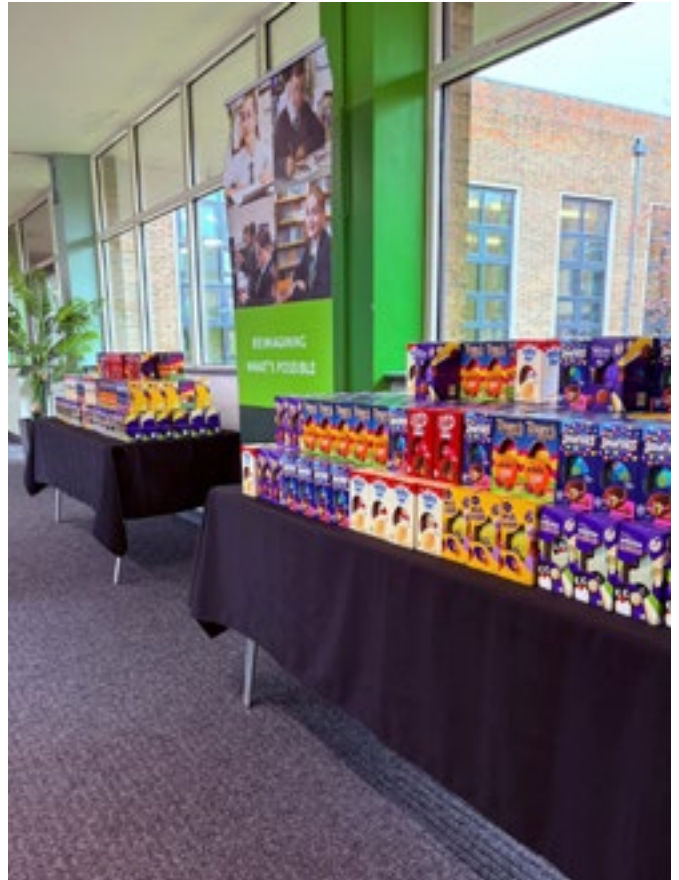
Date: 21/5/26

Time: 9:30am-11am

Location: Online- via Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1985734734044?aff=oddtcreator>)

This workshop is friendly, supportive and open to all parents and carers. If you would like to attend, please sign up via the link.

We hope you can join the team for what promises to be a helpful session.





A huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

Isla Addinall

Peace Aladesanmi

Mahmoud Al Shaqran

Rhys Attwood

Elliott Collingwood

Isabelle Cunningham

Poppy Gray

Ashley Griffin

Eibhlin Grimes

Riley Guy

Lucy Harling

Caleb Harrison

Spencer Johnson

Primrose Kilgannon

Ryan Russell

Isabella Sewell

Logan Watkins

Poppy Woolfitt

Leon Zielinski





Addams Family

Our fantastic performing artists treated us to an amazing production of the spectacular musical comedy **The Addams Family!**





IN FOCUS PSYCHOLOGY

Our Year 12 Psychology students have been thoroughly enjoying their studies this term, with lessons that are both academically challenging and creatively engaging. Recently, students have begun their exciting journey into Biopsychology, exploring how the brain works and how different areas of the brain are linked to specific behaviours.

As part of their learning on localisation of function, students got hands-on by creating model brains during lessons. Using balloons and a range of creative techniques, pupils identified and labelled different areas of the brain, helping them to visualise where key functions such as speech, movement and decision-making are controlled. This practical approach has supported pupils in developing a deeper understanding of complex neurological concepts, while also making learning memorable and fun.

Psychology at Longcroft's Sixth Form combines scientific thinking with real-world relevance, encouraging discussion, curiosity and independent thought. Lessons are lively, engaging and designed to help students apply their knowledge confidently, both in examinations and beyond the classroom.

It has been fantastic to see Year 12 pupils so enthusiastically involved in their learning, collaborating with one another and taking pride in their work. Their creativity, commitment and curiosity are excellent examples of the thriving learning culture within our Sixth Form.

We look forward to seeing their knowledge and confidence continue to grow as they progress further into the course.





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 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 – Holly Artley Tolson!

Holly Artley Tolson – 30,200

Edward O'Neill – 26,100

Alfie O'Neill – 24,900





Chess Tournament a Success!

Our Chess Tournament was held in the Reading Room, with fifteen pupils registering to participate. Pupils spent the afternoon enjoying their matches, and all participants conducted themselves impeccably throughout the event.

The tournament was organised by Mrs Alexakis. She said, "Year 7 pupil Mason achieved first place, winning all five of his games. Second place was awarded to Year 11 pupil Charlie, who secured four victories. Everyone played really well!"

Mason said, "I used to play chess and I've started playing again at Longcroft and with my friends. I like chess - it's fun and it makes you think." He added, "It felt good to win the competition."

All the pupils who took part in the tournament received a bar of Longcroft chocolate as a token of recognition for their participation.





Memory Lane

This week we return to 1994 and feature two Year 7 tutor groups. Form Tutors Mrs Lee and Mr Lewis are pictured with their tutor groups.





The Friends' Corner



Congratulations to the parents of Brenton McKie who won the FOLS cash draw in March. They win £15.

fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Charity Reg No. 515674

It only costs £12 to enter the draw for a year so please consider entering as all profits are reinvested into the school. All you have to do is buy an entry on ParentPay and the FOLS will do everything else.

The FOLS thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Musical Theatre evening at the end of term. Thank you to everyone who visited our stall and bought something as we raised a lot of money that we'll work with the school to enrich pupils' experience.

Unfortunately we have an unclaimed raffle prize. If you have ticket 999, please email the FOLS, show us the ticket and we'll get the prize to you. The FOLS email is Fols@longcroft.eriding.net.

The FOLS are holding a meeting to discuss our next projects at the Hayride pub at 6.30pm on Friday 17th April. We will be discussing our plans so if you are interested or would like to be involved, please feel free to pop in.

Please email us for more details.





FRIENDS OF LONGCROFT SCHOOL

Prize Draw

Join the FOLS Prize Draw!

FOR JUST £12 PER YEAR, YOU'LL BE HELPING TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN!



50% OF YOUR ENTRY FEE GOES DIRECTLY TO FUNDING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES THAT THE SCHOOL BUDGET CAN'T COVER. THE OTHER 50% GOES STRAIGHT INTO THE PRIZE FUND.

YOU CAN PURCHASE AS MANY ENTRIES AS YOU LIKE - THE MORE YOU BUY, THE GREATER CHANCE YOU HAVE OF WINNING! MEMBERSHIP LASTS FOR A FULL YEAR AND YOU CAN JOIN AT ANY TIME.



How to Enter:

Purchase your tickets online via your ParentPay account (click 'Pay for other items').



GOOD LUCK

and **thank you** for supporting the Friends of Longcroft School!

To find out more or to get involved with the FOLS:

Email: fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Follow us on Facebook: Friends of Longcroft School



LIBRARY NEWS



Ms Carvill writes:

The Month of The Military Child Poetry Competition 2026 Update

Well done to all those pupils who submitted poems for the Month of the Military Child Poetry Competition 2026. The theme was Winds of Change, and we had some wonderful responses.

A huge thank you to our First Story Writer in Residence Maureen Lennon who led a really inspiring creative workshop for our Lower School pupils who have family in the armed forces. It was heartening to hear them talk so openly and honestly about their experiences; especially in terms of moving home so frequently and having to adapt to so many new realities.

Maureen encouraged pupils to free write, exploring their own unique experiences to give agency to their work, and using sensory language to lift their words off the page. There were some really touching pieces produced. All entries have been sent to the competition and winners will be announced in May.

In the meantime, below you can read some special favourites selected by our wonderful Care and Achievement Co-ordinators, who work so hard to support all our children.

“There are two gifts we should give our children: one is roots, the other is wings.”





Boxes Pile by Imogen Knowles

Boxes pile on boxes
 Beds are de-assembled
 We drive from house to house,
 School to school.
 I sit in a classroom
 And it hits me.
 The sickness in my stomach
 The feeling of unnaturalness
 I step out of my Mum's car
 Ponytail in and blazer on.
 The school is massive.
 It's weird when people from primary
 Pretend not to know you.

Somewhere, Somewhere by Ella-Grace Curson

Somewhere, somewhere,
 Somewhere, that nobody knows,
 Scattering like a mouse
 Trying to find a house.
 Swept away like a tornado
 Standing alone
 In a place that is unknown
 Somewhere, somewhere
 That nobody knows.
 The jungle is coming for me
 You have to go away
 But what if it is the last hug
 I feel so alone
 I just want you home
 Somewhere that nobody knows.

Change by Evelyn Moxon

Change is a challenge
 Fiery red and dusty purple
 Moving houses, changing schools, growing up.
 Change is a spider, caging you into its intricate web.
 It's erratic.
 One day a storm; the next day soft sun.
 Change makes you a fugitive, on the run.
 But it can bring joy and warmth
 Like the smile of a new friend
 Knowing the adventure will never end.

Glow as You Grow by Louie Pay

Perhaps I could write hundreds of phrases,
 About all the cultural changes,
 Have you had to live abroad or been so bored
 That it put your feelings at war?

In the change, do you feel rage and
 Try to engage?
 In all the new things
 The house move brings.

When you are going, just read this poem
 Is your ambition to be a musician or
 Will you go with the flow;
 Not carry your head low and
 Make sure you glow as you grow.



"Make new friends, but keep the old:
 one is silver and the other's gold."

Gingerbread*

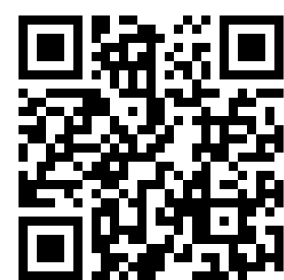
Are you a single parent? *

A Gingerbread group for single-parent families meets regularly in **Beverley town centre**.

- * **Run by single parents for single parents**
- * **A chance for a cuppa and chat with others who know what it's like being a single parent**
- * **Meet local single parents in a fun and informal environment**
- * **Groups are child-friendly and free**

For any questions or to find out more, email: eastriding@groups.gingerbread.org

Scan the QR code to join your local group →



"It's a safe place where you can say how you really feel. It is also very social, friendly and informative. I am so grateful for this group."

– Gingerbread group member

CHERRY BURTON TENNIS CLUB TENNIS CLUB OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL
1-4PM

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

REFRESHMENTS AND BAKE SALE

PRIZE DRAW

1x Free Membership 26/27
Season

1 Months Group Coaching with
PB Tennis

2 x Social Event Tickets For 2026

CHERRY BURTON TENNIS CLUB,
THE MEADOWS, CHERRY
BURTON, BEVERLEY HU17 7SD

ALL WELCOME

PLEASE BRING CASH

Dola AI



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