



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



"It was fantastic to lift the trophy - I'm proud to captain such an amazing team!"

Girls Win County Cup!

We are exceptionally proud of our amazing Under 13 girls' football team who won the Humberstone Schools' Cup on Tuesday evening, beating Howden School 3 – 0 in the final at St Mary's College in Hull.

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Ellissa scored two goals and Lexi the third in an outstanding team performance. Captain Isla was proud to lift the trophy on behalf of her team. She said, "It was fantastic to lift the trophy."

Goalkeeper Millie is in Year 7 and has been playing football since she was eight. She said, "It was a very good feeling to win." Charlotte, who is also in Year 7 and plays on the left wing, has been playing since she was seven. She added, "Everyone played well - it was a great team effort."

The team are coached by Year 12 student and Hull City Ladies player Anna Bruton. She said, "It's been a pleasure to coach such an enthusiastic group of girls. I'm very proud of them. They deserved to win - it's been a fantastic season!"

Mr Nicholls added, "The girls have had an exceptional season and thoroughly deserve their victory. They are full of enthusiasm and work very well together. Girls' football is extremely strong in Longcroft, and Anna sets an inspirational example for the younger players."

Isla concluded, "I'm proud to captain such an amazing team! I'm looking forward to next season already."

Congratulations to all the girls who played in the final and also to those who have contributed to what has been an exceptionally successful season!





Headteacher's Welcome

As we nearly reach the end of what is always an incredibly busy half term, and with examination halls filled with young people, it is wonderful to see so much is taking place across our school right until the final week.

A huge congratulations to our sports teams who have been finding success across many competitions in recent weeks. I must give a special mention to our U13 Girls Football Team who became Humberside Cup Champions on Tuesday. A confident performance and comprehensive victory caps an impressive season for the girls who we are incredibly proud of. They are coached by Anna Bruton who was separately recognised this week by Hull City Ladies as the Development Coaches' Player of the Year. A fabulous week for all involved.

I have been struggling for superlatives to capture the resilience, commitment and ambition so many of our Year 11 and 13 pupils and students have demonstrated over recent weeks and months. It has been with great pride that we have watched them step into their assessments so far with confidence and courage. Half term will provide an opportunity to rest, as well as to continue the necessary preparation for the final weeks of the examination series before we can all celebrate together.

Over the last two weeks, we have hosted our Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening with only Year 8 and then 7 now left to take place shortly. Attendance at these events so far this year has been exceptional and parent/carer engagement is pivotal to the success of our children and our community. It has been wonderful to see the dialogue between individual subject teachers and families, rightly setting out areas where improvements can collectively be made, but largely celebrating the brilliant effort and progress that we see in our young people across our school, day in and day out. I am incredibly proud of our children and our school but it has been a particular privilege to have numbers of families seeking me out to share their positive experiences and thank staff for their care and support. Thank you to all those who have taken the time to do that, either in person or by writing to us after the event.

As we continually communicate, standards in school will always be a priority for us and they will remain a focus of our daily work. Behaviour, attendance, punctuality, uniform, are all significant in representing our culture, our identity and our ambition. As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank you for your continued support in all of these regards.

Our final week of term will see an attendance 'Fire Streak' with rewards and prizes for all those achieving 100%. I'm looking forward to seeing those successful 'spinning the wheel' of rewards at lunchtime next Friday as well as many taking part in our 'Prize Wheel' as part of the celebratory programme. We know the value of every moment our young people spend with us and will continue to promote the highest possible levels of attendance, seeking to support families at every stage with any barriers that they may experience. We have now moved even further ahead of national comparisons and for similar schools nationally attendance at Longcroft is now a sustained and clear strength. Supporting your child to be in school remains statistically the most powerful lever available to promote their success both in school and for the future beyond.

We have another great newsletter for you this week, packed with examples of amazing achievements.

Have a great week.

Mr D Perry
Headteacher



LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

Mental Health Awareness Week

During Mental Health Awareness Week, our Lower School assemblies focused on helping pupils better understand mental health and, most importantly, empowering them to take positive action to support themselves and others.

Pupils learned that mental health, just like physical health, is something we all have and something that can change from day to day. Assemblies explored what mental health looks like in real life – how we feel, how we think, and how we cope with everyday challenges. Normal experiences such as feeling nervous before a test, low after an argument, or proud after an achievement were highlighted as part of being human.

This year's national theme, "Action", was central to our discussions. Pupils were encouraged to think beyond awareness and consider how small, practical actions can make a real difference. Assemblies emphasised:

- » **Action for yourself** – simple steps such as getting enough sleep, staying active, taking breaks from screens, talking to someone they trust, and doing things they enjoy
- » **Action for someone else** – checking in with others, listening without judgement, including those who feel left out, and telling an adult if they are worried
- » **Action for all of us** – creating a kind, respectful school culture where bullying is challenged and asking for help is seen as a strength, not a weakness

A key message pupils took away was that caring for mental health does not have to be complicated. One small positive action is enough, and knowing that someone cares can have a powerful impact.

Mental Health Awareness Week is not a one-off event at our school. Supporting good mental health is embedded throughout PSHE lessons during tutor time, where pupils regularly explore topics such as emotional wellbeing, managing stress, healthy relationships, resilience, and where to seek support when things feel difficult.



In addition, mental health and wellbeing are woven through our wider curriculum. Pupils develop the skills to cope with challenge, reflect on their learning, work collaboratively, and build positive relationships across subjects. Staff consistently reinforce messages around balance, self-care, and mutual respect, helping pupils see that mental wellbeing is part of everyday school life, not something separate or only discussed when problems arise.

Alongside our assemblies and curriculum work, pupils can also access dedicated support through our mental health and wellbeing section in the school library. This carefully curated space offers age-appropriate books and resources focused on wellbeing, resilience, emotions, and coping strategies, giving pupils a quiet, supportive place to explore these topics independently or seek reassurance when they need it. The section is thoughtfully tended to by Ms Carvill, who plays an important role in signposting pupils to suitable resources and helping to ensure the library remains a welcoming, calm environment that supports positive mental health for all.

By building understanding, encouraging open conversations, and promoting small, meaningful actions, we aim to equip our pupils with the confidence and tools they need to look after their own mental health and support the wellbeing of others this week, and every week.

Year 9 Key End of Year Science Assessment

During the week commencing 1st June, the first week after half term, Year 9 pupils will sit an important end of year exam which will be key in deciding Triple Science groups for September.

The topics below will be in the assessment, and links to BBC Bitesize and past papers are on Arbor.

Biology: Cells

Chemistry: Atomic Structure and Bonding

Physics: Electricity

Pupils are expected to provide evidence of revision. This could be:

- » BBC Bitesize Quizzes
- » Exam Questions (all on Arbor)

The website 'Physics and Maths Tutor' has fantastic summary notes to save pupils time!

If pupils need anything printing, they should see Mrs Scott in B7.

Mr Worthington
Head of Lower School





Congratulations to our Lower School pupils on the number of ClassCharts rewards they are receiving each week. The pupils who earned the most rewards last week are listed below.



Year 7

Seth Grainger
Isabelle Goodwin
Edward Stork
Freya French
Henry Gawthorpe-Hubbard
Abi Jameson
Daisy Cowell
Bertie Lee
Imogen Shaw
Archie Bell

Year 8

Phoebe Fisher
Poppy Ellis
Alisa McKay
Evie Cunningham
William Stewart
William Newsam
George D'Andilly
Jacob Rodgers
London-Leigh Baker
Lottie Johnston

Year 9

George Hogg
Sam Cowell
Elliott Pierce
Jake Redmond
Tymofii Merkulov
Sophia Newmarch
Sabah Madina
Imogen Trolle
Angel Butler-Shorrocks
Oscar Lawson

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: Henry Gawthorpe-Hubbard

Year 8: Ella Curson



UPPER SCHOOL

Good Luck Year 11!

It was wonderful to see Year 11 enjoying their 'Good Luck Breakfast' on Friday morning ahead of the formal stage of GCSE exams. Pupils opened cards from teachers and representatives from across the team of staff at Longcroft were there to wish them all well. We cannot be more proud of each and every one of our children and the time they have spent with us!





Pupils Prepare for DofE Expedition!

Last week's Duke of Edinburgh session focused on developing essential expedition skills, with pupils taking part in practical training on pitching tents and outdoor cooking. Miss Sinclair explained: "Working collaboratively, pupils learned how to select suitable ground, assemble tents efficiently, and ensure they are secure and weather-ready. The cooking component gave pupils the opportunity to safely use portable stoves and plan simple meals. The session built confidence, teamwork, and independence, with pupils showing excellent resilience and enthusiasm as they prepared for their upcoming expedition."

Pupils are now ready for their practice expedition on Thursday 21st May, before they take on the actual expedition on 8th and 9th June. Mrs Scott, who led the session, said: "The pupils were very excited and are now well prepared!"



Girls in Cricket Success!

Congratulations to our Under 15 girls' cricket team who qualified for the Hull and East Riding Softball Cricket Finals after a successful qualifying round at Cottingham Cricket Club. In the finals the team earned a fantastic third place. Miss Judge said, "The girls won against Newland High School then in the semi final both teams finished with 55 runs for 2 wickets. It went to a super over – a very tight, intense game!"





Charlie Wins Again!

Last weekend Year 10 pupil Charlie won Round 2 of the RMC UKC Championship at Kimbolton. He has now won seven out of the last seven races this season with UKC. As he is leading the championship he also won a ticket to the National Trophy race at Le Mans in France! Congratulations Charlie – we look forward to featuring what is sure to be an exciting trip to an iconic motor racing venue!



Information for candidates Using social media and examinations/assessments

While we like to share our experiences online, when it comes to exams and other assessments, we have to be careful.

- Sharing ideas online can be helpful when you're studying or revising
- However, sharing certain information (see information on the right) can break the rules and could affect your results
- If you're not sure what you can and can't discuss online, check with your teacher
- If you receive exam content on social media, you must tell your teacher
- Don't be caught out by scammers selling fake exam papers



Things to do on social media:

- Have fun
- Be responsible
- Report any exam or assessment content you see to your teacher

Things not to do on social media:

- Buy/ask for/share exam or assessment content
- Pass on rumours of what's in exams or assessments
- Share your work
- Work with others so that your assessment is not your own independent work

If you do any of the above activities, you may:

- Receive a written warning
- Lose marks
- Be disqualified from a part of or all of your qualifications
- Be banned from taking exams and assessments for a number of years

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the JCQ rules:
[jqc.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents](https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents)

CAREER OF THE WEEK: Ecologist

What does an ecologist do?

An ecologist studies how living things (like animals, plants, and fungi) interact with each other and their environment. Their work often involves protecting wildlife and natural habitats, especially when humans are building things like houses, roads, or wind farms. The work of an ecologist might include:

Surveying Wildlife and Habitats: Ecologists often go out into the countryside, forests, wetlands, or urban areas to record what species are living there, check if there are protected species like bats, badgers, newts, or rare plants, and assess the quality of a habitat.

Helping with Planning and Development: Before a construction project happens (like building homes or roads), developers must check if it will harm wildlife. Ecologists will write ecological reports for planning applications, suggest how to avoid or reduce damage to nature, and sometimes help design green spaces or create wildlife corridors.

Conservation and Restoration: Ecologists may work on projects that protect endangered species, restore habitats (like turning farmland back into wetlands), and improve biodiversity in parks, nature reserves, or farmland.

Desk Work and Reporting: Back in the office, ecologists will analyse survey data, write Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) or Ecological Impact Assessments (EclAs), and use mapping software (GIS) to show where species and habitats are.

Ecologists work for a range of organisations, including environmental consultancies, government bodies (like Natural England or the Environment Agency), wildlife charities (e.g. The Wildlife Trust or RSPB), universities, or research institutions.

What can I expect to earn as an ecologist?

In England, ecologists typically earn between £20,000 and £55,000 per year, depending on experience and role. Graduate ecologists start around £20k–£25k, while mid-level professionals earn £30k–£40k, and senior or principal ecologists can make £40k–£55k+. Salaries are generally higher in the private sector and in London or the South East, while public sector or charity roles may pay less. Freelance ecologists can earn £200–£400 per day, especially with specialist skills or licences. Experience, qualifications, and project responsibility all influence pay progression.

What subjects should I study to become an ecologist?

Useful subjects to study include biology, chemistry, geography, and maths.

How can I start my career as an ecologist?

Typically, ecologists have studied a relevant degree in ecology or an environmental management related subject. Some employers may also look for individuals to hold a relevant postgraduate qualification, such as a Masters. To search for relevant courses, visit the UCAS website - <https://www.ucas.com/>.

Other potential ways to start your career as an ecologist include, completing an apprenticeship, a vocational college course, or by working and studying at the same time. The websites listed at the bottom, provide some great additional links and information on how to start your career as an ecologist.

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

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

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, I Want to be an Ecologist

<https://cieem.net/i-want-to-be/>

Green Careers Hub, Ecologist <https://www.greencareershub.com/find-your-green-role/job-profiles/ecologist/>

Lantra, Ecologist <https://www.lantra.co.uk/careers/JobProfile/JobProfileDetails/50>

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

Prospects, Ecologist <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/ecologist>





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

Lily Hardman
Neve Meagher
Ruby Rogers
Luke Chadwick
Madilyn Duff
Muireann Kennedy
Alyscia Leach
Aaron Davies
Bradley Elvidge
Daniel Kemp





Mr Chapman writes:



We are fortunate to have wonderful students in our Sixth Form – I am proud of them all and it is a pleasure to work with them every day.

This week I am taking the opportunity to celebrate three of our students who are celebrating particularly special achievements.

Firstly, congratulations to Year 12 students Anna and Emily who not only completed the challenging Humberside Police Night Walk but won, earning themselves the opportunity to enjoy a day go karting at Silverstone!



This was Anna and Emily’s third night walk, which sees participants cover 14 miles, and they were members of a team of five which included former students Amy and Katie. The event is organised each year by the Community Safety Unit at Humberside Police, who work with local organisations like Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and Yorkshire 4X4 Response.



Emily is studying A Levels in Geography, Music and Sociology and aspires to go into teaching. She said, “It gets easier because you know what to expect, but it’s still tough.” She explained, “We do it because we want to put ourselves through a challenge and to raise awareness of situations that go on. There’s a different theme each year – this year it was about arson and anti-social behaviour. You also learn a lot about yourself.”





Anna said, "We felt we deserved to win, but it was still unexpected and it felt amazing!"

Anna, who coaches our cup winning Under 13 girls' football team while studying A Levels in Biology, Geography and PE, also plays football for Hull City Ladies. At the weekend's Presentation Evening she was honoured to receive the Development Coaches' Player of the Year award following a fantastic season which saw her captain the club's Development team!

Anna, who has been playing football since she was four when she played in a boys' league, explained: "I was playing a year up for Elloughton and all the girls left so my coach suggested I trial for Hull City. I did, and I got in. I used to play for their Under 11 team but this is the first season for the Development team – it was restarted."

Anna, who plays centre back, captained the team against AFC Bournemouth in the FA Women's National League Reserve Cup Final at St George's Park - the English Football Association's national football centre, serving as the elite training and development base for all 28 England national teams. While Hull City lost 4 – 3 on the day, Anna said: "The highlights this season have been playing at St George's Park and beating Derby." She added: "I was proud to win the award."

Looking ahead to next season, Anna said: "I hope to break into the first team – at least to get more opportunity to train with them."



Orlaith, who studies A Levels in English Literature, Government and Politics and History, attended the First Story Young Writers' Festival at the University of Cambridge. A gifted writer who aspires to read English Literature at university, Orlaith was chosen to be on a panel interviewing the headline author A. M. Dassu.



A. M. Dassu is an internationally acclaimed author of *Boy, Everywhere* and *Fight Back*, which have collectively been listed for forty-six awards, including the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the Carnegie Medal, The Little Rebels Award for Radical Fiction and the inaugural Week Junior Award.

She is a director at Inclusive Minds, which is an organisation for people who are passionate about inclusion, diversity, equality and accessibility in children's literature; a patron of *The Other Side of Hope*, a literary magazine edited by immigrants and refugees, which serves to celebrate the refugee and immigrant communities worldwide, and one of The National Literacy Trust's Connecting Stories campaign authors, aiming to help inspire a love of reading and writing in children and young people.



Orlaith said: "It was eye-opening to consider the experience of a professional author. I asked her how children's literature can affect the whole population. I really enjoyed the panel aspect – it gave me confidence in public speaking."

Thank you to Chris Seddon for the photograph of Orlaith with A. M. Dassu at the First Story Young Writers' Festival.

Finally, I was tremendously impressed by Year 12 student Lily's incredible artwork – several of her pieces are featured here. They are truly wonderful!

Congratulations to Anna, Emily and Orlaith on your fabulous achievements and well-deserved recognition, and to Lily on her exceptional artwork!

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form





SAFEGUARDING



Mr Rogers writes:

Celebrating Another National Attendance Award

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that our school has received another national attendance award.

Through our ongoing work with the Fischer Family Trust (FFT), our attendance has been recognised as being within the top 10% of schools they work with across the country. This is a fantastic achievement and one we are incredibly proud of.

This recognition is a testament to the strong value that both our pupils and their families place on high levels of attendance. It reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that every child maximises their learning opportunities and makes the most of their time in school.

We are particularly proud of the positive culture surrounding attendance within our school community. Consistently strong attendance does not happen by chance, it is built on high expectations, strong partnerships with families, and the dedication of our pupils.

Thank you to all our pupils, parents and staff for their continued support in making attendance a priority. This award truly belongs to the whole school community.





Caring for Your Child's Mental Health: A Parent's Guide for Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week is an important occasion that draws attention to the significance of mental well-being. For parents, it's an ideal time to reflect on how they can support their child's mental health. In this article, we'll explore the significance of Mental Health Week and provide a comprehensive guide for parents on how to foster their child's mental well-being.

UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH WEEK:

Mental Health Week is an annual event dedicated to raising awareness about mental health issues, reducing stigma, and promoting open conversations. It serves as a reminder that mental health is just as important as physical health. For parents, it's an opportunity to engage with their children and strengthen their emotional well-being.

The Importance of Supporting Your Child's Mental Health:

Children and adolescents face numerous challenges as they grow and develop. Academic pressures, peer relationships, and self-identity can all contribute to stress and emotional struggles. As parents, your role in supporting your child's mental health is crucial. Here are some ways you can help:

1. Open Communication:

Maintain an open and non-judgmental line of communication with your child. Encourage them to express their thoughts and feelings freely. Active listening is key to understanding their concerns.

2. Be Attentive:

Pay attention to changes in your child's behaviour, mood, or habits. Sudden shifts might be indicative of underlying issues. If you notice anything concerning, don't hesitate to seek professional help.

3. Create a Supportive Environment:

Foster a safe and nurturing home environment where your child feels loved and accepted. Encourage a healthy balance between academics, extracurricular activities, and relaxation.

4. Teach Coping Skills:

Help your child develop effective coping strategies. Teach them mindfulness techniques, deep breathing, or journaling to manage stress and anxiety.

5. Encourage Physical Well-being:

Physical health is closely connected to mental health. Promote a balanced diet, regular exercise, and sufficient sleep to ensure your child's overall well-being.

6. Break the Stigma:

Talk openly about mental health in your family. Encourage your child to view mental health issues without shame or stigma, just like any other health concern.

7. Seek Professional Help When Needed:

If your child is struggling with persistent mental health issues, don't hesitate to consult a mental health professional. They can provide expert guidance and support.

8. Lead by Example:

Demonstrate healthy coping mechanisms and emotional regulation in your own life. Children often learn from their parents' behaviours and attitudes.

Mental Health Week serves as a reminder of the importance of mental well-being for individuals of all ages, including children and adolescents. As parents, you play a pivotal role in nurturing your child's mental health. By maintaining open communication, being attentive, and creating a supportive environment, you can help your child build resilience and thrive emotionally. Remember that seeking professional help when necessary is a sign of responsible parenting, ensuring that your child receives the care they need to flourish mentally and emotionally.



A huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

William Battye 8ESH
Joshua Bradley 9EFO
Arnie Carr 9LWO
Florence Clark 7SJU
Henry Coates 9NFO
Finley Dalton 7ARU
Poppy Ellis 8JDY

Emily Gillett 11ASC
Seth Grainger 7DPE
Eibhlin Grimes 7SJU
George Hogg 9LWO
Juno Hopkin 7FCO
Luke Horsley 8JDY
Dorothy Makey 10PDV

Freddie Peacock 7JHL
Hollie Peterson 7JHL
Faith Thompson 8JPO
Pallavi Whyte-Burman 8GRU
Lucas Willoughby 7FCO





IN FOCUS

MATHS

UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge Success!

Mrs Powell, Maths Excellence Coordinator, is delighted to share the success of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils in this year's **UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge**.

The Junior Mathematical Challenge is a **60 minute, 25 question multiple choice competition**, sat in exam conditions. It is designed to encourage **mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency**, requiring pupils to think deeply and apply their problem solving skills. The questions are accessible to all while still providing appropriate challenge for pupils with greater experience in mathematics.

Invigilators commented particularly on how **well behaved, focused and mature the pupils were throughout the competition**, reflecting extremely positively on their attitude and conduct.

The results were outstanding:

- » **29 pupils achieved Bronze**
- » **14 pupils achieved Silver**
- » **10 pupils achieved Gold**

Special congratulations go to:

- » **Oscar Dale (Year 7)** – Best in Year
- » **Leon Zielinski (Year 8)** – Best in School

Oscar said, "I am pleased that I did so well for a Year 7 and I hope to get better at maths and that I can build on it and do even better next time."

Seb said, "I am very excited at the result I got (gold). I was not expecting to do so well! Maths is quite a fun subject, and I try to progress at it all the time."

An extra well done is extended to **Leon Zielinski, Madison Key** and **Pallavi Whyte-Burman**, who have all qualified for the next round, the Junior Kangaroo, which will take place in June.

As an **NRICH Problem Solving School**, working in partnership with **The University of Cambridge**, we place problem solving at the heart of our mathematics curriculum. These are the **best results we have ever achieved in the UKMT Junior Challenge**, and they clearly demonstrate that our problem solving focused approach is paying off.

We are incredibly proud of all pupils who took part and wish our **Year 8 mathematicians the very best as they progress to the UKMT Intermediate Challenge in Year 9**.



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 – Ava Curley!

Ava Curley – 109,200

Evie Sugdon – 76,000

Hailey Berango – 53,200

Holly Gray – 40,400

Bella Stoney – 38,300

Logan Watkins – 37,800

Amy Thornton – 37,100

Charlotte Sutcliffe – 35,900

Zachary Denton – 35,200

Annabel Shepherd – 35,100





Pupils Support Primary Gala

Thank you to Lottie, Katie, Oscar and Noah who were time keepers at the East Riding Primary Schools' Swimming Gala Final organised by the School Sport Partnership. Mrs Henderson said, "They were very efficient and an asset to the team on the day. Events like this couldn't run successfully without volunteers and they did a great job!"

THE SCHOOL
SPORT
 PARTNERSHIP



Memory Lane

This week we return to 1993 and feature two Year 7 tutor groups with their Form Tutors, Miss Hodgson and Miss Glover.





LIBRARY NEWS



Ms Carvill writes:



**The
Scholars
Programme**

Year 9 Pupils Graduate on The Scholars Programme

"I enjoyed doing the Scholars Programme. Overall, it was a really positive experience, and it challenged me. Going to the graduation ceremony was a really good day; I felt quite elated." —Jake



It's not often that a group of pupils get the opportunity to graduate from university when they are in Year 9, but that's exactly what happened to some of our pupils on Monday when they attended a graduation ceremony at the University of Leeds to mark their successful completion of the Scholars Programme 2026.



Our Longcroft cohort were among 11 schools from across the country to be welcomed by the Scholars Programme co-ordinators and Leeds University staff. It was a day packed with activity; including fun quizzes, speeches, a lively Q & A session, and a fabulous tour of the university grounds; culminating with the graduation ceremony.

The Scholars Programme is designed to encourage pupils in secondary schools to apply to university. They work with a PhD tutor in small seminar sized groups, to get an understanding of the university experience.



The focus is on developing their research, analytical, and critical thinking skills and also getting a good understanding of university life, courses, and career choices. Other key skills they learn are time management, how to structure an academic essay, and write in an academic style, as well as endurance.

This year, our pupils were tutored by Emily Hansen, of York University, and analysed the impact the Reformation had on education in England between 1500 and 1650. It was not an easy topic, and as well as doing weekly homework, they also had to write a 2,000-word dissertation. In her keynote speech Emily Wick, one of our hosts, addressed what passing The Scholars Programme meant:

"You have all been on a journey; sharing pockets of wisdom. You now have the opportunity to consider what you might like to do in the future. Some of you might have a clear picture in your mind, others might not. Either way, you've been given the skills you need, and these are transferable skills you can use in so many ways. You've shown great resilience, and you should be proud of yourself."

Currently, there are over 50,000 undergraduate courses offered in the UK, with over 650 at Leeds alone. Over the last decade the choice of subjects to study at university has grown and diversified to accommodate its target market, as universities compete with one another and battle with financial uncertainties.

The Scholars Programme allows pupils to get a head start. It teaches them to consider what the best options are for them; which university fits their needs, or if a different learning route will be more advantageous. It's empowering and encourages aspiration. As Lizzy said:

"Doing the Scholars Programme was a really powerful experience. It improved my confidence."

It's also about dispelling misconceptions: the idea that university is only a choice for the privileged few, that you have to be super academic to get a place, that it's going to be intense work and no fun. For Shanice her visit to Leeds was an eye opener:

"Before I visited the university, I thought it would be more like school, but I realise now you can do so much while you are there. There are so many activities you can experience as well as all the learning, and there's also more freedom and choice than I thought."



Longcroft pupils were treated to a big tour of the site which included visiting lecture halls and teaching areas, student accommodation, the student union and impressive gym and pool, walking around the scenic grounds and appreciating some stunning art works. The university has an art trail open to the public which includes sculptures by such luminaries as Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, and Eduardo Paolozzi among others. Tymofii liked Leeds for its variety of courses and architecture:

"I was impressed by the large number of courses you can take at Leeds, and the architecture is really interesting. There are some great buildings,"

During the tour our student ambassador Jasmine answered lots of questions posed by our cohort, and went out of her way to show us some of her favourite places on site like **Beech Grove Plaza**, an art work amusingly nicknamed **The Wavy Bacon**, and the university pond which has lots of goldfish and water lilies. Ann Mariya enjoyed the tour too.

"I liked visiting the university and looking around. We saw so much; there were so many buildings to look at and a beautiful pond."

Having completed The Scholars Programme our cohort have now become alumni and have access to ongoing support, and in the future can become ambassadors of the programme to support and educate future generations.

It was heartening to watch them being presented with their certificates at the ceremony, and an especial well done to Lizzy and Jake who made a speech to a packed lecture hall. Longcroft is immensely proud of you all. Huge thanks to Emily Hansen who was an inspirational and very caring tutor, and to Mrs Clarke for all her support.

Having been privileged to work with our pupils on the programme we fully recognise the effort it took for them to succeed, and the additional hours they put in, many in our library. They have met challenges, shown stamina and persevered. Well done to you all. We are all very proud of you!





First Story Tiny Poem Competition 2026



As usual, we will have an inhouse competition to establish our shortlist with prizes of books, rewards, and sweets. The national competition is judged by a panel from Penguin Books. Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and highly commended entries and prizes include book bundles and First Story goodies.

The Rules

Poems entered should be a max of 5 lines

Poems can be written on any theme and do not have to rhyme.

Closing date is Friday 29th May 2026

Please submit your entry to the library staff or your English teacher.



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