



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



"I can't wait to represent Longcroft and play with my friends against other schools!"

Our programme of extra-curricular opportunities is underway! This week pupils have enjoyed playing sport, rehearsing with our choir and performing in our theatre!

The year will see pupils and Sixth Form students enjoy exciting opportunities to work together, challenge themselves, meet new friends, compete against other schools and visit places of interest in our local area and abroad – making memories that will last a lifetime!

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Enrichment at Longcroft:

Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

At Longcroft School and Sixth Form, we are incredibly proud of our carefully curated Enrichment Entitlement, which ensures that every pupil and student has access to a wide range of experiences designed to develop social and cultural capital, promote personal growth, build character and challenge thinking.

Many elements of our offer are available to every child, including annual trips, visiting speakers, performances, careers education and our comprehensive personal development programme. Alongside these core experiences, pupils can also choose from a wealth of additional opportunities through clubs, programmes, leadership roles and performances. As we begin the new academic year, we encourage families to support us in helping children engage with as many opportunities as possible.

For Key Stage 3 pupils alone, the coming weeks promise an exciting start. Year 7 students will experience live theatre through a performance by Riot Act before visiting The Deep as part of their wider learning programme. Year 8 pupils will take part in our annual NHS Immersion Day and will also be introduced to CREATE, an exciting new project delivered in partnership with BAE Systems. Year 9 students have the opportunity to participate in the Player to Page programme before undertaking a poignant and meaningful visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum later in the term.

These experiences sit alongside a rich programme of clubs, curriculum enrichment and wider opportunities. Highlights for the year ahead include our First Story programme, with an Author in Residence soon to be announced; an enhanced chess offer featuring weekly external coaching and opportunities to compete at both regional and national level; extensive sporting and performing arts programmes; and our rapidly expanding Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which will launch shortly.



We are also delighted to be introducing our Speakers for Schools programme this term. Every year group will benefit from carefully selected presentations from specialist external speakers, each bringing unique experiences, expertise and perspectives designed to inspire, inform and broaden horizons.

Student leadership remains a cornerstone of life at Longcroft. There are numerous opportunities for pupils and students to make a difference within our school and wider community. Sports Leaders will be in high demand as we support a growing number of community events. Class and Year Representatives are currently being finalised and will continue to play an important role within our Student Council.



This year, with the support of our Friends of Longcroft School (FOLS), we are also developing an exciting new Student Leadership Suite. This dedicated space will support leadership meetings, training and student-led conferences. We look forward to sharing more details in the coming months.

While it is impossible to capture the full extent of our enrichment offer in a single article, we will continue to share opportunities throughout the year. Please look out for communications and encourage your child to try something new. If there are any barriers preventing access to an opportunity, please contact your child's Care and Achievement Coordinator, and we will do everything possible to help.

"I can't wait to represent Longcroft and play with my friends against other schools!"

Our enrichment programme is already well underway. This week pupils have enjoyed participating in sporting activities, rehearsing with our choir and performing in our theatre. Homework Club has proved popular from the outset and is available every day after school in A7. Meanwhile, our Year 11 pupils have embraced Period 6 intervention and support sessions, making an excellent start to their examination preparations.



The year ahead will provide countless opportunities for pupils and Sixth Form students to work together, challenge themselves, make new friends, compete against other schools, explore places of interest both locally and internationally, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

We are excited for what lies ahead and look forward to sharing another exceptional year of enrichment at Longcroft.



Headteacher's Welcome

It has been such an uplifting start to the academic year. Our pupils and students have returned with a clear sense of purpose and I have witnessed so many brilliant examples of them demonstrating our Longcroft Standard, and the values that underpin our school and community.

This week I have been revisiting our Longcroft identity through assemblies, challenging our community to reflect on what we want to achieve this year, and exploring the virtues that we seek to instil in our young people. At Longcroft our values form a critical foundation for all that we do and I have been incredibly impressed with the way our pupils and students have reflected their Heart, Thought and Vision since arriving back through our gates last week.

I often welcome visitors to Longcroft and once again this week their experience has left a fabulous impression. Pupils have shown their care and courtesy for others through holding doors in corridors and welcoming visitors politely with wide smiles. When touring the site with leaders from other visiting schools and organisations, they have commented on how amazingly well pupils support each other both in lessons and around the site in many different ways.

As we explored various areas of the school, pupils and students impressed with their commitment to their study and engagement in their learning. We saw Sixth Form students working hard independently in their supervised study periods, lower school pupils using the learning support and library areas to complete homework at break and lunch time, and upper school pupils already staying at the end of the day for Period 6 revision and intervention. Lots of pupils have been engaging with our extra-curricular offer which is great to see and we will continue to encourage all our children to try something new and to keep getting involved in the many opportunities available to them. You can read more about our enrichment entitlement in this week's Newsletter.

We have also been able to celebrate some stunning attendance this week with the whole school continuing to exceed our 97% target as a collective. Year 7 have already been rewarded for achieving days of 100% attendance with every single pupil in school for every session. This is such a positive sign for our children and we are very proud to be maintaining our now well-established status as the most well attended secondary school in the East Riding of Yorkshire for the third year running!

I am really proud of the way our community has presented itself so far this academic year. As ever, many of our children have lots to celebrate beyond Longcroft, some of which is also captured in this week's articles, including Leo who is worthy of a special mention. Leo performed throughout the summer in front of capacity audiences of 1,700 as Friedrich Von Trapp in Opera North's wonderful production of 'The Sound of Music' at Leeds' beautiful Grand Opera House. This professional production placed huge demands on Leo to balance school and rehearsals through the summer term and to continue the challenging schedule of performances right through into the school break. All of our colleagues who went to see Leo perform were simply blown away and as anyone who has been to see our Longcroft performances will know, he clearly has an exciting future ahead. Huge congratulations to Leo, we are tremendously proud of all you are and achieve.

I look forward to celebrating our children and the many 'Great Acts' to come as we progress through another exciting year for our school.

Mr D Perry
Headteacher



LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Chapman writes:

Firstly, congratulations to Year 9 pupil Leo who performed in front of capacity 1,700 audiences as Friedrich Von Trapp in Opera North's wonderful production of 'The Sound of Music' at Leeds' beautiful Grand Opera House.

Leo has shown great potential as a performing artist during his years at Longcroft. He said, "The highlight for me was getting to know everyone, and also performing the show itself." While the show ran for four weeks in July and August, rehearsals began in April.

Leo explained, "I was nervous before the first couple of shows and the dress rehearsal in front of my family and friends, but then I settled into it and realised it was what I was born to do." He added, "My family and friends liked it. Some hadn't been to a show before, and they really enjoyed it."

Leo said, "There were lots of emotional reactions from the audience from laughter to tears, but the show was well received." Reviews were certainly impressive, one describing the production as, "a joyous celebration and fun for the whole family - pure bottled joy."

Leo concluded, "It felt like my purpose. I was overjoyed – it felt amazing. Next I hope to be on stage again – that's what I enjoyed most."

Having travelled to Leeds to support Leo and enjoy the show myself, I can concur with reviews that the production was amazing! I look forward to working with Leo and watching his development as a performing artist throughout his years at Longcroft and in the future!

As we settle into the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has already been a positive and productive start for our Lower School pupils. **The first few weeks of term have been marked by enthusiasm, resilience, and maturity from pupils across Years 7, 8 and 9.**

Starting a new school year brings excitement, opportunities, and sometimes challenges. Whether pupils



are joining us for the first time or returning after the summer break, I have been extremely impressed with the positive attitude they have displayed. Classrooms have been purposeful, corridors have been welcoming, and pupils have approached their learning with energy and determination. The positive atmosphere around school has been noticed by staff and visitors alike, and it reflects the high standards that our children set for themselves every day. **Our pupils have made an outstanding start to the new academic year.**

A special mention must go to Year 7 who have made an exceptional start to life at Longcroft. Moving from primary school to secondary school is a significant milestone, requiring pupils to adapt to a larger environment, new routines, and a wider range of subjects and teachers. They have embraced these changes with confidence and maturity, quickly becoming valued members of our school community. It has been wonderful to see friendships developing, confidence growing, and pupils settling so well into school life. **Year 7 have settled quickly and confidently into life at Longcroft.**

Transition can be challenging for some, and I would like to thank both our staff and our Year 7 families for the support they have provided throughout this important period. Our pastoral teams have worked hard to ensure that children feel safe, supported, and happy in their new environment. It has been especially pleasing to see Year 7 confidently navigating the school site, attending clubs, participating in lessons, and throwing themselves into school life with enthusiasm. Their willingness to embrace new opportunities bodes well for the future. **Strong support from families and staff has helped make the transition to secondary school a success.**

Our Year 8 pupils have returned with a renewed sense of purpose and independence. Having successfully completed their first year at secondary school, many have shown increased confidence and responsibility, both in lessons and around the school site. Likewise, Year 9 have continued to set a positive example through their attitude, leadership, and commitment to their studies. As they begin to consider future pathways and options, I have been particularly impressed by the maturity they have demonstrated and the increasingly positive role they play within our school community. **Year 8 and Year 9 have continued to grow in confidence, independence, and leadership.**

At Longcroft, we believe that education extends far beyond examination results. While academic achievement

remains a key priority, we also place great importance on developing character, resilience, kindness, and responsibility. Every day we see examples of pupils supporting one another, showing respect to staff and peers, persevering through challenges, and demonstrating the values that underpin our school community. These qualities are just as important as academic success and help prepare young people for the future. **Developing character and personal values is just as important as academic achievement.**

Attendance and punctuality continue to be key priorities for the Lower School. Excellent attendance gives pupils the best possible opportunity to achieve their potential and benefit from everything school has to offer. Every lesson matters, and every day of learning contributes to long-term success. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring your children attend regularly and arrive punctually each morning. Establishing these positive habits early helps develop the discipline and personal responsibility that will support pupils throughout their education and future careers. **Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential for success.**

Alongside attendance, we continue to maintain high expectations regarding uniform, behaviour, and readiness to learn. Pupils take great pride in representing Longcroft, and this is reflected in the standards they demonstrate each day. A smart appearance, positive attitude, and respect for others help create an environment where everyone can flourish. We appreciate the ongoing support from parents and carers in reinforcing these expectations at home and ensuring pupils arrive at school fully equipped and ready to learn. High standards of uniform, behaviour, and readiness to learn help create a positive school environment.

A reminder to parents and carers that Arbor remains our primary platform for communication between home and school. Through Arbor, parents can view lesson rewards, behaviour consequences, attendance information, and homework set by teachers. We encourage families to check Arbor regularly to keep up to date with their child's progress and school experience. The platform provides an excellent way to celebrate successes while also identifying any areas where additional support may be needed. Should you have any difficulties accessing your account or logging in, please contact the school reception, who will be happy to help. **Parents are encouraged to use Arbor regularly to keep informed about their child's progress, rewards, consequences, and homework.**



Homework plays an important role in reinforcing classroom learning and developing independent study habits. As pupils progress through the Lower School, it becomes increasingly important that they learn how to manage their time effectively, meet deadlines, and take responsibility for their own learning. Parents can support this by encouraging regular study routines and checking Arbor to ensure that assignments are being completed. Developing strong study habits now will provide an excellent foundation for future success. **Developing positive homework and study habits is key to long-term achievement.**

One of the most exciting aspects of school life is the opportunity to participate in activities beyond the classroom. We are fortunate to offer a wide range of extracurricular opportunities that allow children to discover new interests, develop new skills, and build confidence. Our sports programme provides opportunities for pupils of all abilities to represent the school, develop teamwork skills, and enjoy being active through a variety of training sessions, fixtures, and competitions. Alongside this, our Performing Arts department offers a range of opportunities in music, drama, and performance, enabling pupils to express themselves creatively and showcase their talents. **Longcroft offers a wide range of extracurricular opportunities including through sport and the performing arts, and much more beyond.**

Participation in extracurricular activities is a fantastic way for pupils to make new friends, strengthen their connection

to the school community, and develop valuable life skills such as leadership, communication, and resilience. Pupils who involve themselves in school activities often discover talents and interests that they may never have realised they possessed. I would encourage every child to consider getting involved in at least one activity during the year. Whether your passion lies in sport, music, drama, or another area entirely, there is something available for everyone. If pupils would like to find out more about the clubs and activities on offer, they should speak to their teacher, who will be happy to provide further information. **Every child is encouraged to get involved in at least one extracurricular activity.**

Wellbeing remains at the heart of everything we do. Young people face many challenges both in and out of school, and it is important that they know support is always available when needed. We are fortunate to have a dedicated pastoral team who work closely with children, families, and external agencies where appropriate. We encourage pupils to speak to a trusted adult if they are experiencing difficulties and to remember that asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Ensuring children feel safe, valued, and supported is fundamental to their success and happiness. **Wellbeing and pastoral support remain a central priority.**

We also continue to celebrate the many achievements of our pupils through our rewards system. Whether success comes in the classroom, through excellent attendance,





participation in extracurricular activities, acts of kindness, or contributions to the wider school community, it is important that children receive recognition for their efforts. Celebrating success helps to build confidence and encourages pupils to continue striving for excellence. I am constantly impressed by the achievements of our children and look forward to recognising many more throughout the year. **Pupils' achievements and positive contributions are recognised and celebrated.**

Healthy competition also plays an important role in school life. Through a variety of events, sporting competitions, charity activities, and academic challenges, children have opportunities to work together, demonstrate teamwork, and contribute to their wider school community. These events are often among the highlights of the school year and help create a strong sense of belonging and school spirit. We look forward to seeing our pupils participate enthusiastically in the many events planned throughout the coming months. **Events and competitions help build teamwork, community, and school spirit.**

Safety is always our highest priority, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils and families about the importance of road safety when travelling to and from school. The roads surrounding the school can be particularly busy at the start and end of the day, and it is essential that everyone acts responsibly. Any pupil who cycles to school **must wear a helmet at all times** and ensure that their bicycle is roadworthy and safe to use. Cyclists should remain alert, follow the Highway Code, respect pedestrians and other road users, and take extra care throughout their journey. Arriving safely at school and returning home safely each day must always be the priority. **Cyclists must wear helmets and all pupils should take**



extra care when travelling to and from school.

We are also looking forward to welcoming prospective pupils and their families to our **Open Evening for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils on Wednesday 30th September**. This is always one of the highlights of the school calendar and provides an excellent opportunity to showcase everything that makes Longcroft such a special place to learn. It is also an opportunity for our current Year 7 pupils to demonstrate just how well they have settled into secondary school life. Having joined us only recently, they have already shown tremendous growth in confidence and independence. Open Evening allows them to share their experiences, talk positively about their transition from primary school, and show visitors how confidently they now navigate life at Longcroft. **Open Evening will showcase our school and the success of our current Year 7 pupils.**

Our pupils are often our best ambassadors, and I know many visitors will be impressed by the maturity, friendliness, and enthusiasm they display. Events such as Open Evening are a wonderful reminder of the supportive and inclusive community we are proud to have here at Longcroft. It is an opportunity for prospective families to see our values in action and experience the welcoming atmosphere that makes our school unique. **Our pupils are the best ambassadors for our Longcroft community.**

Please note that school will be closed to all pupils on Wednesday 30th September to allow staff and pupils involved in the event to prepare and support the evening's activities. Further information regarding arrangements will be communicated separately..

The partnership between home and school is one of the most important factors in ensuring pupils are successful.



We are extremely grateful for the support we receive from parents and carers and recognise the valuable role they play in encouraging high standards, reinforcing expectations, and supporting learning outside of school. By working together and maintaining open communication, we can provide the very best experience for our young people and help them achieve their full potential. **Strong partnerships between school and home are crucial to success.**

Looking ahead, there is much to be excited about. The coming months will bring educational visits, sporting fixtures, performances, competitions, reward events and a variety of enrichment opportunities. These experiences play an important role in helping pupils develop confidence, broaden their horizons, and create lasting memories. I encourage all pupils to make the most of every opportunity available to them and to continue approaching each day with positivity and ambition. **Pupils should embrace every opportunity available to them throughout the year.**

Finally, I would like to thank our pupils, staff, parents, and carers for their continued support and commitment. The start of the year has been incredibly positive, and I am proud of the way our Lower School pupils have represented themselves and our community. They are kind, hardworking, ambitious young people who continue to make us proud through their achievements, attitude, and determination. **The positive start to the year reflects the quality of our pupils and the support of our wider community.**

I look forward to celebrating their successes throughout the year, watching them continue to grow both academically and personally, and seeing them embrace the many opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we can ensure that every child enjoys a rewarding, successful, and memorable year at Longcroft. **I am confident that our pupils will continue to thrive and achieve great things this year.**

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish everyone a successful, enjoyable, and rewarding term ahead.



Arbor

REWARDS

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

Year 7

Penny Blakeston
Joshua Child
Ebonie Middleton
Mattheos Al-Ahmed
Jamie Anderson
Ollie Bowater
Hugo Dales
Alfie Donkin
Remi Elvidge
Millie Grewer

Year 8

Alice Scott
Frantisek Fox
Ebony Gill
Alfred O'Neill
Edward O'Neill
Rosie Shiels
Peace Aladesanmi
Samuel Artley-Tolson
Chloe Bishop
Caleb Carrison



UPPER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

Firstly, congratulations to Year 10 pupil Oscar who has been named in Beverley Town Cricket Club's team of the year.

Oscar, a member of our successful school team, played in Beverley Town's cup winning Under 15 team this summer but is also a regular in the 4th XI alongside fellow Year 10 pupil Toby. This summer he has earned 61 wickets, including 4 x 5 wicket hauls, as well as contributing 125 runs with the bat.

Oscar said, "Playing for the 4th team is good because there are lots of different ages and levels of experience so I have to work out ways of getting wickets."

An outstanding sportsman, Oscar is clear that cricket is his number one sport. He added, "Beverley is a very good club. They give youngsters lots of chances."



Congratulations to Oscar on this well-deserved recognition of his fantastic season!



The new academic year has begun with a clear sense of purpose and ambition for our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils as they embark upon a crucial stage of their educational journey. As Head of Upper School, I have been delighted to welcome our young people back and am looking forward to working closely with pupils, families and staff to ensure every child achieves their full potential.

For our Year 10 pupils, this year marks the beginning of their GCSE studies. Alongside developing subject knowledge and academic success, there will be a strong focus on building the habits, routines and attitudes needed to thrive both in school and beyond. Families can look forward to a number of key events, including the Welcome to GCSE (Steps to Success) Evening in October, the Longcroft Careers Expo, Parents' Consultation Evening and the important end-of-year mock examinations before pupils take part in Work Experience Week next summer. These opportunities will help pupils develop confidence, independence and a clearer understanding of the exciting pathways available to them in the future.



For Year 11 pupils, the focus shifts towards preparation for their GCSE examinations and the important decisions that follow them. Whilst academic success remains a key priority, we are equally committed to developing resilience, character and the study habits needed for success beyond school. The year includes several significant milestones such as the Steps to GCSE Success Evening, the Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening and the December mock examinations, all of which play a vital role in preparation for the formal examination season beginning in May 2027.

Across both year groups, pupils will benefit from a wide range of enrichment opportunities, careers guidance, curriculum visits and celebrations of success. We also encourage pupils to support our Open Evening, an excellent opportunity to demonstrate pride in our school whilst developing leadership and communication skills.

Most importantly, success at Key Stage 4 is built on strong partnerships between school and home. By working together to promote excellent attendance, positive learning routines, independent study and healthy lifestyles, we can ensure every young person is well equipped to make the most of the opportunities ahead.

For Year 11, the focus is now firmly on building the habits that will support success when GCSE examinations arrive in May. While revision and preparation will become increasingly important as the year progresses, the message remains simple: consistency is key. The pupils who achieve their goals are usually those who make positive choices day after day, rather than relying on occasional bursts of effort.

Three simple ways to stay consistent are:

- » **Be prepared every day** – arrive on time, with the right equipment and ready to learn.
- » **Keep up with the basics** – complete homework, respond to feedback and revisit learning regularly.
- » **Make the next right choice** – whether that is contributing in class, avoiding distractions or spending ten minutes revising instead of none.



Over the last week, I have visited a large number of lessons and have been extremely impressed by what I have seen. There is a real sense of purpose in many classrooms, with our pupils working hard, engaging positively with their learning and demonstrating the determination needed for a successful GCSE year. It is encouraging to see so many making the right choices now that will benefit them in the months ahead.

Year 10 have also made an excellent start to the year as they begin the next stage of their Key Stage 4 journey. It has been particularly pleasing to see how well children have settled into their option subjects, many of which are completely new experiences for them.

In Health and Social Care, pupils have been introduced to new concepts and are already showing great enthusiasm for the course. Meanwhile, those studying Computer Science have been getting to grips with Python programming and developing their coding skills. Across the year group, there is a genuine buzz around learning as children explore new subjects, develop specialist knowledge and discover where their interests and strengths lie.

The year has begun with a positive atmosphere, strong work ethic and plenty of early promise.

Key dates:

Year 10 Steps to Success 1: Welcome to GCSE Evening—Thursday 2nd October

Year 11 Steps to Success 3: The Option Subjects Evening—Thursday 6th November.



**Arbor**
REWARDS

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

Year 11

Devon Bryans

Aaron Davies

Bradley Elvidge

Hermione Read

Lola Roberts

Ruby Rogers

Charlotte Sutcliffe

Kamilla Canniffe

Harry Dixon

Daniel Kemp

Attendance Matters!

Each week we reflect on the importance of attendance at school by giving 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 11:** Rhys Cargill

*Mr Haworth writes:*

LONGCROFT
THE EAST YORKSHIRE
SIXTH FORM

Year 13 Induction: Building Habits for Success

Our Year 13 students made a positive start to their final year with an induction morning designed to help them prepare for the exciting challenges and opportunities ahead.

I welcomed students, introduced myself and shared some of my interests, including singing, football and travelling, before encouraging students to reflect on how they wanted to approach their final year. Drawing on Stephen Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, students explored the importance of developing positive habits from the very start of Year 13, particularly as they begin an important year of study and preparation for their next steps beyond Longcroft.

A particular highlight of the morning was a team-building activity called *Web of Connection*. Armed with little more than a ball of string and plenty of enthusiasm, students worked together to identify shared interests, experiences and connections, creating a visual web that grew across the room. It was remarkable to see just how much students learned about one another and how many common interests they shared. The activity served as a great reminder of the supportive community that exists within our Sixth Form.





The morning concluded with students receiving their new timetables and carefully planning their independent study and revision sessions. As discussed throughout the induction, establishing these routines early will be crucial in helping students develop the productive habits needed for a successful and rewarding Year 13.

We have been delighted by the maturity, enthusiasm and positivity shown by the year group and look forward to supporting them throughout what promises to be a memorable final year. Good luck, Year 13!

Students Making a Difference

I am proud of two Year 13 students who are supporting excellent causes.

At the beginning of the summer holiday Sam, accompanied by his brothers Edward and Benjamin, his dad Mark and members of Beverley Town Cricket Club, completed the second half of the Cleveland Way Walk. In total they walked 66 miles raising £1000 for Embrace, a highly specialist, round-the-clock transport service for critically ill infants and children in Yorkshire and the Humber who require care in another hospital in the region or further afield.

Sam, who studies Chemistry, Maths and Physics, plays and scores for Beverley Town occasionally having started in primary school. One of his team mates has a link to the charity, for whom it's helped a lot.

The walk took two days - walkers camped on a rugby pitch in and covered 33 miles each day!

Sam said, "I found it very hard, so did my dad. Annoyingly, Ed found it pretty easy. He finished 30 mins before me. The toughest bit was from Ravenscar to Scarborough - it was just a path with no breaks and by this point we'd walked for many hours after a terrible night's sleep. The night was noisy and didn't really get dark - I was also poorly prepared and didn't bring any pillows so slept on my bag! I would maybe do it again, but not for a while! All for a good cause though."



Anna is supporting the Mariella Rose Foundation alongside former pupils Amy and Katie. They will be joining many others to completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks in memory of their friend and fellow police cadet who sadly passed away earlier this year.

The Mariella Rose Foundation provides support for other young people, who like Mariella, have dyslexia and barriers to learning.

I am extremely proud of Sam and Anna's commitment in giving up their time and taking on challenging physical endeavours to make a difference to others by supporting such worthy causes.





MR
MARIELLA ROSE
FOUNDATION

Be more Mariella

Kind people
brighter futures



Kind
Brave
Determined
A force
of nature

Mariella's Mountain Movers

YORKSHIRE THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

SEPTEMBER 26TH 2026

Mariella Rose died tragically earlier this year. She was just 17. Mariella was a Volunteer Police Cadet with Humberside Police- Beverley Unit. Mariella joined in 2023 and had enjoyed taking part in operations with serving officers, annual events including remembrance parades and having fun out with the marine unit.

In her name Four Cadets from her Beverley Cadet Unit are walking **24 miles across Mountains** to raise money for the **Mariella Rose Foundation**.

Mariella was passionate about supporting young people with Dyslexia and other barriers to learning. The Foundation provides financial support for diagnosis and other areas to remove the barriers faced.

Mariella was kind, thoughtful but also stood up and spoke out. She was a **force of nature** who wanted to make a difference.

Please support us,
every penny adds up!



24 MILES
THREE PEAKS



3 MOUNTAINS
ONE PURPOSE



**A BRIGHTER
FUTURE**
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH DYSLLEXIA

Scan the code below



www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mariella-rose-foundation

OPPORTUNITY | CONFIDENCE | BRIGHTER FUTURES

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters.

These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Hull & East Riding

Apprenticeship Expo 2026

**Wednesday 30th September 2026, 3.45pm – 6.00pm,
Equine Arena Bishop Burton College**

Pupils, Sixth Form students, parents and carers are invited to attend the Hull & East Riding Apprenticeship Expo 2026.

The Expo brings together a wide range of local employers, apprenticeship training providers and support organisations, creating a fantastic opportunity to explore apprenticeship and career pathways available across the region.

Visitors will be able to:

- » Meet local employers face-to-face
- » Discover apprenticeship opportunities across multiple sectors
- » Explore career options and progression routes
- » Speak to apprenticeship ambassadors and careers professionals
- » Access information, advice and guidance in one place

For many young people, conversations with employers at the Expo have helped turn an initial interest into a clear career ambition. The event provides a valuable opportunity to ask questions, make connections and gain insight directly from people working in industry.

Attendance is free, but advance booking is recommended.

Book your free place: **Hull & East Riding Apprenticeship Expo 2026**





LONGCROFT

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

NEWS

LETTER

Your future starts here

Hull & East Riding Apprenticeship Expo 2026



Weds 30th Sept,
3:45pm- 6pm



Equine Arena,
Bishop Burton College



50+ employers
& providers

Parents/carers
welcome!

FREE entry



Every one of my students came away with ideas for their future and they all found it very beneficial." - School careers leader

Scan to book now!



- ➔ Meet Local Employers
- ➔ Explore Apprenticeships
- ➔ Ask Questions
- ➔ Make Connections



EAST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE

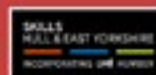


Hull
City Council



BISHOP BURTON
COLLEGE

> Log on | move on >





After School Clubs

TUESDAY

Choir (all year groups)

Dungeons & Dragons (all year groups)

Boys' Football (all year groups)

Netball (all year groups)

WEDNESDAY

Girls' Football (Years 7-9)

Orchestra (all year groups)
– starting 7th October

Rugby (Years 7-9)

THURSDAY

Girls' Football (Years 7-9)

Musical Theatre (all year groups)

Table Tennis (all year groups)

FRIDAY

Badminton (all year groups)



Memory Lane

This week we take a trip back to 2011 and feature two Year 13 tutor groups. Members of 13.3 and 13.4 are pictured with their tutors Mr King and Mrs Beckett.





Sam's Marathon Challenge!

Former Longcroft pupil Sam Davies has gained a place to run the London Marathon in April 2027. He is running on behalf of MS-UK and would appreciate any donations from anyone who would like to sponsor him.

MS-UK is a national charity supporting people affected by multiple sclerosis and helping them live happier, healthier lives. They provide a helpline offering information and emotional support, online activities, information booklets and their bi-monthly magazine, New Pathways. They also work to improve understanding of MS and ensure people can access the support they need.

Sam explained, "This will be a huge personal challenge for me, but one I'm incredibly proud to take on. Multiple sclerosis is close to my family, so having the opportunity to raise money and awareness for MS-UK is something I am proud of."

A successful rugby player throughout his years at Longcroft, Sam has continued to play. He added, "As many of you will know, I'm definitely not an avid runner, so completing 26.2 miles will be a massive challenge! Training is already underway, with plenty of miles to cover before April."

We wish Sam well as he takes on what will undoubtedly be a tough but worthwhile challenge!

His fund raising page is: https://www.justgiving.com/page/samuel-davies?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL





LONGCROFT

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

NEWS

LETTER



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').



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

Email: fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Follow us on Facebook: Friends of Longcroft School



WE HAVE FUNDED

- ✓ 6th form TV / display unit
- ✓ Free books for Year 7s
- ✓ Reading room development

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 £15 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:

The Buzz of Books

This week we're reviewing the thrilling new Bookbuzz books that our Year 7s will shortly choose to start their reading journey at Longcroft. There are 16 expert-curated titles, currently on display in the library, and pupils will soon get the chance to see a video of all the authors talking about their books before they make their choices. As ever, it's an eclectic list and caters for a range of tastes and reading levels, including dyslexia-friendly texts and graphic novels. It doesn't matter if your child is a reluctant or avid reader, they'll find a book they can enjoy.

Bookbuzz is all about encouraging and empowering our young to make time for reading, establish a regular reading habit, and reap the numerous benefits reading brings.

In a review, published this week in the journal Psychological Medicine by the University of Cambridge, it was found that "reading at any age improves brain and mental health, enhances cognitive performance and reduces the risk of mental decline".

Dr Christelle Langley also stated: "Given how beneficial reading for pleasure is at a young age, we should be doing everything we can to introduce children and young people to reading. The important thing is to find something they'd really enjoy reading about – it might be a TV programme or a game – and use this as a way in."

“

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."

—Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis





One study in the review involving more than 10,000 young people found that “children who begin reading for pleasure early in life have a better attention span, memory and problem-solving skills, and that those children tend to perform better at school, have fewer mental health problems, and lead healthier lifestyles – including more sleep and less screen time.”

There are so many ways we can encourage our pupils to read, and at Longcroft we’re determined to do just that. Running Bookbuzz with Booktrust, the UK’s largest children’s reading charity, allows us to purchase books at a discounted rate and gift each of our Year 7s a book of their choice. Huge thanks to FOLS, who support Bookbuzz by securing funding. This year we are incredibly grateful to the Christopher Eden Educational Foundation for their support. It’s greatly appreciated.

Below you can read a short synopsis of 8 of the Bookbuzz books; the remaining 8 will feature next week.



A Dog called Hero by Katy Birchall

This standout cosy crime story has a great plot, plenty of pace, and is packed with heart. Haley and her young police dog Hero, bond over their shared grief, but when a priceless diamond disappears from a celebrity party, something of their old spark returns. The chase is on to find the thief.

This is a great book for animal lovers and anyone who enjoys cracking a good crime case. It will keep you guessing. Enjoy!



Blitzers by Alistair Chisholm

There’s a sinister side to the new fighting toy gadget that is the latest ‘must have’ at school. Everyone wants a Blitzer, it’s a craze, and Danny is desperate to be like the other kids and have one too. But when Danny’s Blitzer fails to fight and he refuses to wipe the code he discovers a dangerous secret about the Blitzers true purpose, and quite a lot about online toxicity, friendship, and corruption too.

This fast-paced dyslexia-friendly novella is a gripping sci-fi mystery that will get you thinking. Excellent.



Always Angel by Kimberley Whittam

Angel is in temporary foster care, and all she wants is to be at home with her Mum. She has fears and worries, and they’re leading to outbursts at school; her chances are fast running out. Can she find a way to get in touch with her best self, and fulfil her potential? Can she curb her anxiety and learn to trust, and take a risk? This heart-warming real life drama may prompt a few tears but it’s thoroughly worth it. An empathy building book about identity, friendship, overcoming challenges, and the blessings of food. I read it from cover to cover!



Unbelievable Football: Five-Minute Amazing True Stories by Matt Oldfield and Ollie Mann.

Not everyone likes football and not everyone likes reading, but author Matt Oldfield has the knack of making you like both.

This collection of 18 unbelievable but true stories, each of which can be read in approximately 5 minutes, is packed with unlikely heroes, incredible comebacks, the weird and the wonderful and the plain bizarre. Thoroughly entertaining, fun, and factual. Great for reluctant readers. Lots to laugh at and enjoy.



People Like Stars by Patrice Lawrence

Multi-awarding winning author Patrice Lawrence is currently one of the best children's writers in the UK. This real-life drama is a compelling mystery about three children linked by a potentially explosive secret. So, what happens when anxious Ayrton, curious Stanley, and possibly homeless Sen finally meet?

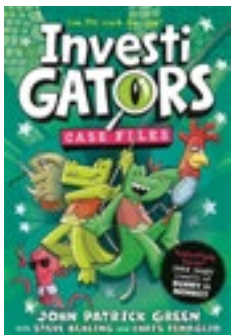
A tale of fractured families and the power of friendship. Written with compassion and empathy. A real page turner. Brilliant!



Odd Animals Out by Ben Hoare and Asia Orlando

Did you know that some animals really break the rules? This dip-in-and-out non-fiction book includes bright illustrations, fabulous photographs and bite-sized text. It's accessible and packed with fun facts that will surprise and wow readers. Imagine a vegetarian shark, a bone-munching bird, a solar-powered salamander, and monkeys that only come out at night. Yes, they really do exist.

Prepare to delight in the differences in nature with this engaging animal book, by bestselling author and science writer Ben Hoare. Enjoy!



Investigators – Case Files by John Patrick Green with Steve Behling and Chris Fenoglio

This special solve-along edition of the Investigators colour comic book series is designed to get you cracking the most challenging of cases. Mango and Brash are back with a brand new gadget, the G.R.I.D., but they need your help. Using the prompts in each chapter, you'll find clues, spot the suspects and have lots of laughs on the way.

A great graphic novel to develop problem-solving skills.



Birdie by J.P. Rose

Birdie, shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal 2026, tells the tale of Birdie Bagshaw, who goes to live with her great-aunt in a small village in Yorkshire after spending her life in a care home in Leeds.

The novel is set in the 1950s, when racism was prevalent in the UK; Birdie is considered an outsider and bullied by the local community. One day, hiding down a coal mine to avoid her taunters, she stumbles on the last remaining pit pony in the area, Mr Duke. The two form a close bond, but Mr Duke's future is in danger. Will Birdie be able to rescue him?

This touching tale about identity, racism, hope and courage will delight animal lovers, and fans of Michael Morpurgo. A gentle and moving book.

"Reading is the gateway for children that makes all other learning possible,"

—Barrack Obama



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

Miss Harsley

07444 847881

katie.harsley@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