Issue 284 November 2026

LONGCROFT

SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

GREAT HEART, THOUGHT AND VISION

NEWS LETTER



Table Tennis Stars Earn County Silver!

"Winning the East Riding title and following it up with a Humberside silver medal is an excellent achievement and one they should all be very proud of."

Following their success in winning the Under 13 East Riding Table Tennis Competition last half term, Seth, Jayden, George and Ben travelled to St Mary's School in Hull to represent Longcroft at the Humberside Schools' Team Table Tennis Championships.

Competing against some of the strongest young players from across Humberside, the boys produced a number of excellent individual performances throughout the day.

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Mr Nicholls explained, “The standard of play was extremely high, with many matches decided by fine margins and closely contested rallies. The Longcroft players showed great composure and determination, consistently competing at a high level against quality opposition.”

After a day of competitive table tennis, the team secured an impressive silver medal, a fantastic achievement at county level and a testament to the hard work and dedication they have shown in training and competition this season.

Mr Nicholls added, “Congratulations to Seth, Jayden, George and Ben on an outstanding performance and for representing Longcroft School so well. Winning the East Riding title and following it up with a Humberside silver medal is an excellent achievement and one they should all be very proud of.”

With the team competition now complete, some of our players can look forward to representing the school once again in the Humberside Schools’ Individual Table Tennis Championships in the new year. We wish them every success as they continue to build on their excellent performances this season.









LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



Headteacher's Welcome

It has been a pleasure to once again welcome a number of visitors to school this week, and I am always keen to show off Longcroft and our amazing young people whenever the opportunity presents itself.

On Monday, we celebrated all that makes us unique by taking part in Odd Socks Day. This was part of our Anti-Bullying Week programme, and there were some amazing efforts from pupils, students and staff across the school. You may have seen our social media reels, which captured just some of the socks worn by the many hundreds of people who enjoyed taking part. The important messages behind the event were, of course, revisited through assemblies and a programme of activities throughout the week. These sought to raise awareness of bullying and reinforce our Longcroft values: always behaving with kindness and celebrating acts of Great Heart.

As part of Road Safety Week 2026, we have been running a series of targeted sessions for each year group, led by Humberside Fire and Rescue. Sometimes challenging, but incredibly important, messages have been shared with our young people as part of this programme, particularly as the winter nights draw in. This is an area of special significance to Longcroft, having lost Riley, a precious member of our community, in a traffic incident while riding his bike one April evening in 2022. His sister, Amelia, remains a powerful advocate for road safety at Longcroft, and we are very proud of the work she has done alongside her family since that time. We recently hosted our annual Give Away Day, where a number of helmets, lights and other items of safety equipment were made available with support from the Local Authority. If any families are struggling to provide these critical pieces of equipment, please get in touch and we will do all we can to help. A reminder that wearing a bike helmet is compulsory at Longcroft, with no exceptions.

On Thursday, we hosted representatives from the DfE's regional English Hub to conduct an audit of our reading framework. This reflects the school's commitment to developing reading as a fundamental gateway to successfully accessing both the curriculum and the wider world. The report is still to come, but the initial feedback was excellent, and we are very proud of the work that the school continues to do in this area. Our ambition, as in all things, is to become further established as a beacon of excellent practice in the region and to support wider sector development. As we continue to learn and improve, we are committed to sharing our experience meaningfully with others.

As we move ever closer to our Christmas performing arts events, the sounds of rehearsals drifting from the theatre and performance spaces have been wonderful, albeit rather festive for the middle of November! We cannot wait to see our children perform once again. Please note that, in addition to our usual end-of-term celebrations, this year we will be hosting a **Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 3 December at 7.00pm,** which is open to all. Please save the date, tell your friends and family, get your carol-singing voices ready and join us for what promises to be a wonderful start to the festive season.

Now just two weeks away from the December mock examinations, things are ramping up for Years 11 and 13. Thank you for all your support at home as our young people prepare for these important assessments. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions, need support or wish to share any concerns. We are looking forward to excellent attendance at our Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening on Wednesday, which will be another key milestone. We will also be running a revision mini-conference on Monday morning to support final preparations for the mock examinations, which we are very much looking forward to.

There are some fabulous articles throughout this week's newsletter, including more brilliant sporting success and news of our new Author in Residence, which is very exciting. As ever, we hope you enjoy reading all about our wonderful pupils and students.

Have a great week.

Mr Perry | Headteacher

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



LOWER SCHOOL

Mr Chapman writes:

As we move further into November, there is no escaping the fact that the nights are drawing in and winter is beginning to make its presence felt. Our mornings are increasingly dark as children make their way into school, while the journey home at the end of the day is often taking place in the fading light. With this in mind, I wanted to begin this week's article with a timely reminder about the importance of keeping ourselves and our children safe when travelling to and from school.

As parents, it is always worth taking a few moments to check that journeys are properly planned and that children know exactly where they are going at the end of the school day. If your child is not coming directly home, please ensure that arrangements have been made in advance and that you know where they will be, who they are with and what time they are expected home. These simple conversations and arrangements can make a real difference.

For those children who cycle to school helmets are, of course, essential, and I am pleased to see almost all of our pupils making a habit of bringing and wearing theirs. However, please do not forget the importance of having working lights on bicycles, particularly at this time of year. Being visible to other road users is absolutely crucial, especially during the darker mornings and evenings. A quick check that lights are working properly before setting off is a worthwhile routine to establish.

This message about road safety links particularly well with one of the highlights of our week in school. On Tuesday, all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to experience a road safety presentation. It was an extremely powerful and poignant session, providing an important reminder of the responsibilities we all have when using the roads. One message that stood out was the importance of wearing a seatbelt at all times, even when travelling as a passenger in a car. It is easy to become complacent about journeys that we make every day, but safety should never be taken for granted. I would encourage all families to continue these conversations at home and reinforce the messages our pupils have heard in school.

With just four school weeks remaining until Christmas, we are also entering that familiar part of the school year when maintaining motivation and focus becomes increasingly important. There is plenty for our young people to look forward to, but there is still a significant amount of learning to be done before the end of term. Establishing good routines at home can make an enormous difference, particularly when it comes to homework, revision and independent reading.

My advice to parents would be to encourage consistency rather than long, occasional bursts of activity. A manageable amount of reading each evening, a regular time set aside for homework and a little preparation for the following school day can all help children feel organised and confident. Equally, try to encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning. Asking them what they have been studying, what they have found interesting or what they might need a little more help with can be a really useful starting point. These conversations demonstrate that we value their education and take an interest in their progress.

Of course, with the evenings becoming darker and the weather less inviting, it can be tempting for children to spend increasing amounts of time on their phones, tablets or gaming consoles. Technology has its place, but it is important that we continue to encourage a healthy balance and find opportunities to spend time together as families.

There are plenty of enjoyable activities that do not require a great deal of preparation or expense. Here are a few suggestions that might help make the most of those darker evenings:

- **Family reading time:** Encourage everyone in the household to put their phones aside and spend twenty minutes reading. It could be a novel, a newspaper, a magazine or even sharing a book together. Developing a love of reading remains one of the most valuable things we can encourage in our young people.

- **Board games and puzzles:** Rediscover some traditional family favourites. Board games, card games, chess and jigsaws are excellent ways to spend time together, encourage problem-solving and enjoy a little friendly competition.

- **Cooking together:** Why not involve your children in preparing an evening meal or trying a new recipe? It is a useful practical skill, encourages independence and provides an opportunity to talk and work together.

- **Family walks:** Although the evenings are darker, there are still opportunities to get outside at weekends or during daylight hours. A walk in the countryside, a local park or simply around the neighbourhood can provide a welcome break from screens and an opportunity to get some fresh air.

- **Quiz nights:** Put together a family quiz, with questions about general knowledge, sport, music, geography or even school subjects. It is a great way to learn something new while having fun together.

- **Creative activities:** Drawing, painting, model-making, music and other creative hobbies can provide a welcome alternative to screen time. Encourage children to explore an interest or develop a skill that they might not ordinarily have time for.

- **Planning for Christmas:** With only a few weeks to go, there is plenty to look forward to. Whether it is putting together Christmas decorations, planning festive activities or simply making a list of things to do over the holidays, involving children in the preparations can help build excitement.

Ultimately, these activities are not about filling every available minute or creating another set of expectations for busy families. They are simply suggestions for making the most of time together, encouraging conversation and helping our young people develop interests beyond the classroom and their screens.

As Head of Lower School, I am always keen to emphasise that education extends well beyond the school gates. The habits our pupils develop at home, the conversations they have with their families and the opportunities they have to explore different interests all contribute to their development. A little encouragement, consistency and support can go a very long way.

As we approach the final weeks of term, there is plenty still to achieve and plenty to look forward to. I would encourage all our pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 to maintain their focus, continue to approach each day positively and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is incredibly important, and together we can ensure that our young people continue to make the most of their time in Lower School.

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

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	Year 8	Year 9
Imogen Collingwood	Edward O'Neill	Holly Artley Tolson
Olivia Gunby	Eddie Addinall	Poppy Ellis
Zoey Harman	Andorra Atkinson	Alisa McKay
Aimee Hickerman	William Greensides	Rebecca Stewart
Seth Lindsay	Oscar Hunt	George Buckle
Lily-Mae Mix	Alfred O'Neill	London-Leigh Baker
Isadora Nunes De Souza Wisintainer	Ebony Gill	Freya Leaf
Riley Bullamore	Faith Nenova	Ryan Carter-Rigg
Isla Jenney	Jayden McKie	Lottie Johnston
Jemima Frankish	Jude Docherty	

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 points to exchange in our Arbor shop.

Last week's winners were:

Year 7: Lily Forster

Year 8: Lottie Jones

Year 9: George D'Andilly

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



UPPER SCHOOL

Mr Worthington writes:

Last Thursday, it was fantastic to see so many Year 11 pupils, parents and carers attend our latest Steps to Success evening, focused on effective revision and exam preparation. The event provided practical guidance, reassurance and evidence-informed strategies to help pupils make the most of the weeks ahead as they prepare for their mock examinations.



What has been particularly encouraging in recent weeks is the change we are already seeing across Year 11. There is a growing sense of purpose around the year group. Pupils are engaging positively with intervention sessions, making use of revision resources and, most importantly, beginning to understand that success comes from consistent effort over time rather than last-minute cramming. The message from our pupil interviews was overwhelmingly positive, with most pupils feeling supported, optimistic and confident that they can achieve their GCSE goals.

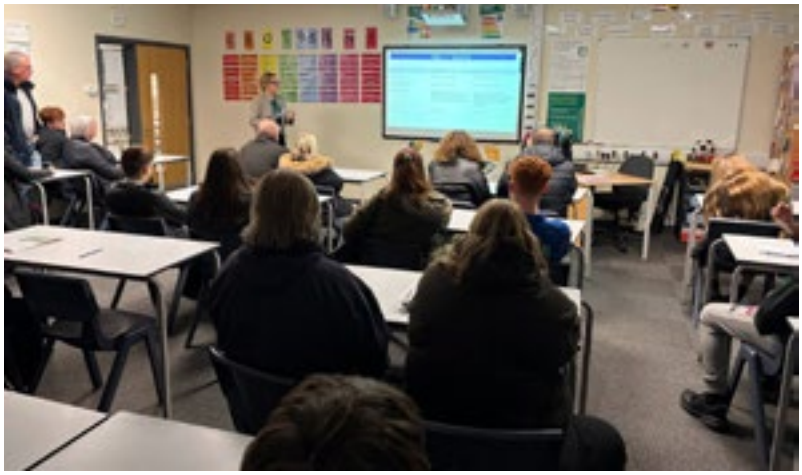
A key theme of the evening was that revision does not need to be complicated. Research consistently points towards a small number of highly effective approaches. Parents were encouraged to support pupils in establishing routines, creating manageable revision schedules and maintaining regular check-ins about their learning.

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Top Revision Tips

- **Revise little and often.** Six 30-minute sessions across a week are far more effective than one long revision marathon.
- **Test yourself regularly.** Active recall, flashcards, quizzes and blurting help pupils remember information for longer.
- **Use practice questions and past papers.** Applying knowledge in exam-style conditions is one of the most effective ways to improve performance.
- **Act on feedback.** Reviewing mistakes and identifying gaps is where real improvement happens.
- **Keep distractions away.** Revision is most effective when phones and social media are removed from the study space.

Following on from our successful Steps to Success event, we are now looking ahead to our **Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday 26th November (3:30pm-6:30pm).** This is a valuable opportunity for parents, carers and pupils to meet with subject teachers, discuss current progress and receive guidance ahead of the upcoming mock examinations and the final stages of GCSE study. We would strongly encourage all families to attend, as these conversations can provide important reassurance, practical support and clear next steps at a crucial stage of Year 11. Appointments are now live and available to book via **SchoolCloud**.





Mock Exams Are Almost Here

The countdown to mock examinations has now begun. These examinations are far more than a practice run. They provide pupils with the opportunity to experience examination conditions, identify strengths and areas for development, and build confidence ahead of the summer GCSE series. The mock examinations will run from Friday 4th to Thursday 17th December, with Year 11 Academic Review Meetings taking place afterwards to reflect on performance and plan next steps.

Our message to Year 11 is simple: keep going. The effort invested now will make a real difference. By focusing on proven revision strategies, maintaining positive routines and making full use of the support available, pupils are placing themselves in the strongest possible position for success. As we often remind them, there are no shortcuts, just consistent effort, effective practice and a willingness to keep improving.

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Year 11 Star of the Week

This weekly award rewards and celebrates Year 11 pupils' improvement, proactivity, commitment to their studies and contribution to our year group. This half-term the winner receives a free cinema ticket!

Our Star of the Week is **Holly Ruston** – congratulations!

Key dates:

- **26th November:** Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening



LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

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 10	Year 11
Oscar Purchon	Billy Kenny
Jake Redmond	Madilyn Duff
Tymofii Merkulov	Jasmine Stephenson
Oliver Albrow	Lucy Allan
Leonid Vaskov	Evie Sugden
Sophia-Nicole Newmarch	Lewis Henderson
Amelia High	Eddie Pickering
Elias Chapman	Isla Addinall
Elliot Bennett	Luke Chadwick
Amber Beard	Will Balmforth

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 points to exchange in our Arbor shop.

Last week's winners wer:

Year 10: Imogen Trolle

Year 11: Marcus Lawley



Mr Haworth writes:

LONGCROFT
THE EAST YORKSHIRE SIXTH FORM

Since half term, our Year 13 students have been taking part in individual UCAS guidance meetings with university admissions specialist Mr Charlton. These one-to-one sessions have provided invaluable personalised support as students prepare for the next stage of their education.

The feedback from students has been extremely positive, with many describing the meetings as reassuring, insightful and highly motivating. Thanks to Mr Charlton's expertise and guidance, the vast majority of students have now completed their personal statements and identified their preferred university and course choices, giving them a clear sense of direction as they move towards submitting their applications.

The impact of these meetings can be seen in a number of individual success stories. One such example is Sophia, who entered her meeting uncertain about her next steps after the Sixth Form. Following discussions about her interests, strengths and career aspirations, Sophia went on to apply for a BBC apprenticeship, a pathway she had not previously considered.

Mr Charlton has also been full of praise for our students. He spoke warmly about the confidence, maturity and articulacy demonstrated by the young people of EY6, remarking that they compare exceptionally well with students he has worked with elsewhere. He commented that he has thoroughly enjoyed his time meeting with Year 13 and has been impressed by the ambition and thoughtful approach shown by our students throughout the process.

We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 13 students have engaged with this opportunity and would like to thank families for their continued support. We look forward to seeing our students take the next exciting steps towards university, higher apprenticeships and a wide range of future careers.

THE EAST YORKSHIRE SIXTH FORM @ LONGCROFT

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ABOUT US

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- Superb enrichment
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- State of the art facilities
- Over 40 acres of stunning estate

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WWW.LONGCROFTSCHOOL.CO.UK

BE AMBITIOUS

DON'T MISS OUT! EYSF@LONGCROFT

Longcroft Christmas

SHOE BOX APPEAL

THINGS YOU CAN DONATE:

TOILETRIES;
TINNED FOOD; SWEET TREATS
TEA, COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE
BISCUITS; CHOCOLATES
LITTLE GIFTS – SUCH AS A DIARY AND PEN, CHRISTMAS ITEMS, MUG, GLOVES, SHAWL, SLIPPERS OR ANYTHING SIMILAR



BRING ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO YOUR FORM TUTOR AND IF YOU HAVE ANY SHOE BOXES OR SPARE WRAPPING PAPER THEY ARE WELCOME TOO!



Hull ageUK

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



SAFEGUARDING

Mr Rogers writes:

Odd Socks Day

We started this important week by inviting all pupils and staff to wear odd socks on Monday as part of Anti-Bullying Week.

Odd Socks Day is a bit of fun with a message that matters. Pupils should feel able to be themselves, whether that's in the way they dress, the things they enjoy or the people they spend time with. A pair of odd socks can be a small reminder that the things that make us different are worth celebrating. It can also be an easy way to start a conversation at home.

Thank you to everyone who got involved and did their bit to **#breakthesilence!**





LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Golden Buzzer Winners!



At Longcroft, recognising pupils' hard work, positive choices and kindness is an important part of our school culture. We want our young people to know that their effort matters and that the positive contribution they make to our community is noticed.

Each week, every member of staff can award a Golden Buzzer to a pupil who has stood out for a special reason. This might be for:

- producing exceptional work;
- demonstrating outstanding effort or resilience;
- making significant progress;
- showing kindness or supporting another person;
- displaying excellent conduct and leadership; or
- consistently demonstrating our school values.

Golden Buzzers are not reserved solely for the highest academic achievement. They recognise the different ways in which pupils contribute positively to school life and show **Great Heart, Great Thought and Great Vision.**

Every winner is invited to our popular **Hot Chocolate Friday**, held during tutor time. This provides an opportunity for pupils to celebrate their success with others in a relaxed and positive setting. It remains one of the highlights of our weekly rewards programme and is always a pleasure for staff to share with pupils.

A huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

Eddie Addinall
Lawrence Afolabi-Dada
Andorra Atkinson
Rafe Atkinson
Rupert Atkinson
Martha Beaumont
Jack Bellamy
Elliot Bennett
Thea Bridgeman
George Buckle
Elias Chapman
Imogen Collingwood
Monty Dawson
Poppy Ellis
Caleb Faulkner
Isla Garth
Ollie Goodare
Holly Gray
Millie Grewer
Effy Harrison
Nico Harrison
Charlie Hickerman
George Hogg
Harley Howlett
Tia Kingston
Shana Krishnakumar
Oscar Lawson
Olivia Lax
Alysicia Leach
Faith Nenova
Ella Nettleton
Edward O'Neill
Maia-Joy Ripley
Ronnie Risebury
Kingsley Roberts
Amelia-Grace Russell
Isabella Sewell
Stanley Shaw
Austin Shepherd
Megan Smith
Lola Steele
Jasmine Stephenson
Bella Stoney
Hollie Sutcliffe-Storr
Rex Winfield
Scarlett Wood

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Rotary Club

It was great to welcome youth lead for the Beverley Rotary Club Yvonne over the last week to share with our children the many opportunities the charity provides. These include a wide range of competitions and experiences targeted at developing skills and confidence in young people.



Rotary is one of the world's largest and most successful global membership and humanitarian service organisations, with 1.2 million members in over 200 countries. Beverley Rotary Club received its Charter in 1928 and is proud to have been serving our local community for almost 100 years.

We'll be sharing further details of competitions soon, but we are delighted that Longcroft will be hosting the regional finals for the highly regarded Young Chef competition in the new year so it would be amazing to have representation from our own school winning through to that stage before potentially progressing to London and beyond. Get the recipes ready!





LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Road Safety Week



Thank you to Mark from Humberside Fire & Rescue Service who delivered presentations for our pupils and Sixth Form students to raise awareness during Road Safety Week.

Whether we walk, ride or drive, we all share our roads when we are on the move. Whoever we are, and however we travel, by using our roads safely we help to protect ourselves and each other.

Road Safety Week is a national campaign run by Brake, to raise awareness of the devastating impact of road death and injury, and call for key measures to make roads safer. The week is an opportunity to start conversations at a national and local level about how we can make our roads safer.

Mark considered several important aspects of road safety, including the importance of cycle safety, the role and importance of seat belts and the law surrounding ebikes and escooters. Year 13 students also specifically learnt about the impact of distractions as both a driver and passenger.

He demonstrated how people who walk and cycle are especially vulnerable on roads, accounting for more than a quarter of road deaths and injuries, and considered how we can make those journeys safer so we can all enjoy the benefits of active travel.

Mark also explored the Highway Code's hierarchy of road users, which states that those with the potential to do the most harm must take the greatest responsibility for protecting more vulnerable road users.

Thank you to Mark for his insight into how we can be safe when we're on the move. Every journey and every time.





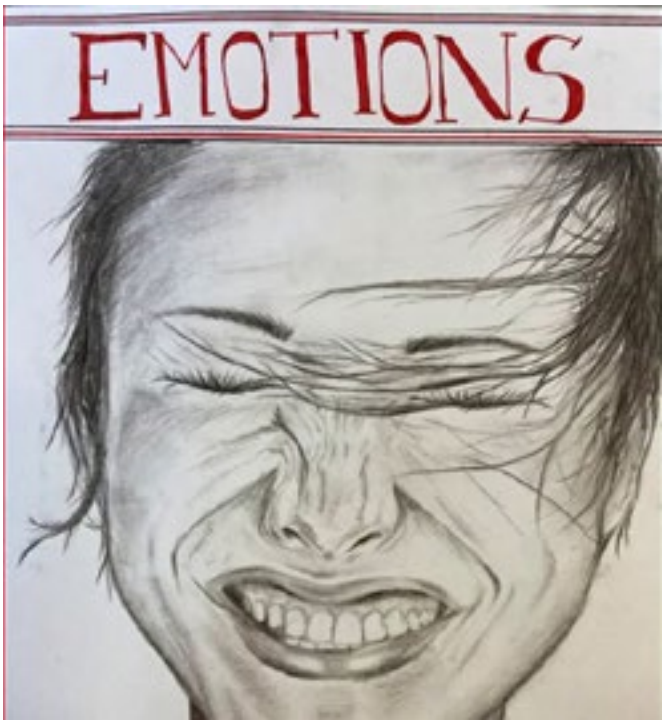
LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

IN FOCUS

ART

This week we are delighted to share and celebrate amazing artwork by our Year 11 pupils based on emotions!

Mrs Holmes said, "I'm very proud of the pupils' work!"







LONGCROFT
SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER









LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Pupils Going Nuts for Languages!

Languagenut

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.

The platform provides a comprehensive suite of resources for exam preparation and language mastery. With thousands of expertly designed activities, Languagenut ensures pupils develop core language skills, offering 8,000 comprehensive exam-style questions, an extensive vocabulary bank of more than 2,500 words in French and Spanish, verb conjugation exercises across a wide range of 60 verbs and tenses, a phonics section where pupils can practise their pronunciation across a range of engaging activities, a sentence building section with chunks and whole sentence activities, and much more!

We are delighted with the enthusiasm shown by pupils for Languagenut and last year saw the introduction of a new award as we celebrated the Language Nutter of the Week.

Congratulations to this week's top scoring Nutter – Finley High!

The top ten are:

Finley High - 123,000 points

Penny Blakeston - 94,900 points

Kaitlyn Waiter - 85,100 points

Hazel Appleby - 71,300 points

Max Frankish - 60,800 points

Philippa Raine - 60,300 points

Harry Lumb - 58,700 ponts

Ava-Marie Elliott - 57,300 points

Florence Mace - 56,500 points

Olivia Gunby - 56,400 points



LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



After School Clubs

TUESDAY

Choir (all year groups)

Dungeons & Dragons (all year groups)

Boys' Football (all year groups)

Netball (all year groups)

THURSDAY

Girls' Football (Years 7-9)

Musical Theatre (all year groups)

Table Tennis (all year groups)

WEDNESDAY

Girls' Football (Years 7-9)

Orchestra (all year groups)

Rugby (Years 7-9)

FRIDAY

Badminton (all year groups)



Sportshall Athletics Primary Competition

Longcroft hosted four primary schools for a Sportshall Athletics event on Tuesday evening, with over 60 pupils enjoying an evening of athletics.

Mrs Henderson said, "Sportshall Athletics is such an exciting event for all the pupils - it is a combination of track and field events. The pupils all did really well in the events and thoroughly enjoyed the evening."

Congratulations to Swinemoor Primary School who won the competition on the evening and will now go through to the SSP Final in Bridlington in February.

Mrs Henderson added, "Well done and thank you to all the Longcroft leaders who gave up their time to officiate the event."

POCKLINGTON ARTS CENTRE

A Christmas Sparkle

Written by Elizabeth Godber
Directed by Millie Gaston



11 – 24 DEC '26

POCKLINGTON ARTS CENTRE

Sing, laugh & sparkle together!

£14 Child / £18 Adult / £59 Family

£1.50 per ticket online booking fee

Join us at Pocklington Arts Centre this Christmas for a magical live theatre experience you'll remember long after the festive season.

In Fairyland everyone knows who they are and what they have to do: from the Enchanted Woodland fairies and the Tooth fairies, to the Christmas tree fairies and even the famous Sugar Plum Fairy! Everyone that is, except for Sparkle...all she has ever wanted to do is win Fairy's Got Talent!

This December, join Sparkle, alongside best friend Fitz, as they meet Sugar Plum Fairy... and try to make Sparkle's dreams come true!

BOOK TODAY

pocklington arts centre.co.uk

FAMILY THEATRE

Memory Lane

This week we take a trip back to 2017 and feature a group of Year 12 students who enjoyed a seminar with inspirational Team GB Olympian Abigail Irozuru.

Abigail, who is also a University College London Law graduate, now works at the intersection of sport, business, AI innovation and high performance. She serves on the British Olympic Association and UK Athletics Athletes' Commissions and is the founder of the Entrepreneurship & Sports Industry Club at Alliance Manchester Business School, where she is completing her MBA. Abigail covered key aspects such as peak performance, resilience and purpose drawing on her Olympic career and experience of overcoming adversity.



The Friends' Corner

FOLS
FRIENDS OF LONGCROFT SCHOOL

The FOLS had their AGM on Friday and the previous committee was elected again for another year.

fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Charity Reg No. 515674



But with the formalities out of the way, we got to celebrate our successes - for example, we have bought the pupils sports equipment to use at break time and we've funded every Year 7 pupil getting a reading book of their choice through the Bookbuzz project.

We also started on plans for future projects.

We plan to enter a team into the Beverley 10k, which will be sponsored. If you fancy joining us on this challenge, please email the FOLS at **Fols@longcroft.eriding.net** and keep Sunday 9th May 2027 free!

We are starting a project to refurbish a meeting room, which will be used by the pupils so they can experience the world of employment. As part of this project we are wanting a new sink/cupboard unit. If you have connections to a company who can donate a sink unit or are having a new kitchen put in and are willing to donate your old unit, please email the FOLS.

None of these projects could take place without the small team of FOLS volunteers and the support of the Longcroft community.

One way you can support us is by doing your on-line shopping through the easy fundraising app. Just download the app, choose The Friends of Longcroft School as your charity and then select the store you want to shop at - and that's it. You shop as normal and we get a donation. It doesn't cost you a penny but helps us raise pounds. For example, the donation from Easy Fundraising this quarter was £69!!!!

With Black Friday and Christmas shopping on the horizon, please consider doing your on-line shopping via the Easy Fundraising App.

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



LIBRARY NEWS

Ms Carvill writes:

Welcome Cassandra!

It was a pleasure to welcome our First Story Writer-in-Residence Cassandra Parkin to our Library on Monday. Cassandra led the first session of our Young Writers Programme and pupils were certainly eager to get started.





Pupils will work with Cassandra, a professional author, to explore how to turn their ideas into writing. They will also share and perform their work, which will ultimately feature in our next anthology – published in the summer of 2027!

There will also be competitions and other exciting opportunities throughout the year for pupils and Sixth Form students to get involved in and enjoy!

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Marking International Men's Day 2026

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one" (from A Dance with Dragons).
—George R.R. Martin

International Men's Day, celebrated on November 19th, is dedicated to recognising the contribution men make to their families, communities, and to society. It's also about reflecting on the challenges boys and men face in life; including in education. In the report Global State of Men and Boys Report 2026, published this week by the International Council for Men and Boys (ICMB), it states:

> *"Boys and young men experience severe educational disadvantage across many countries, particularly in reading and literacy, school engagement, progression and tertiary participation..."*

The report continues:

> *"More than 100 countries now have lower male than female enrolment or completion rates in secondary and tertiary education, while boys are more likely than girls to lack minimum reading proficiency in almost every region of the world."*

At Longcroft, staff work hard across school to challenge barriers to learning and ensure all pupils and students have their needs met. In the library we employ various strategies to try and encourage reluctant male readers including: stocking a range of additional formats (graphic novels, manga books, and comics), encouraging ownership and choice, suggesting a popular series (books linked to films or a TV series are often a good starting point), stocking books about hobbies, and suggesting inspiring literature written by positive role models.

Despite all this, some boys remain very reluctant to read. As one said this morning:

> *"I don't like reading Ms. I like playing video games. I read on my phone."*

In a recent article in the Guardian, Ioan Marc Jones wrote about the impact of technology on the reader:

> *"Screens have altered the way we read. They promote a shallower reading experience, encourage skimming and scanning. Reading on screen has undermined reading in general. And our dependence on screens has led to a form of text fatigue."*

Screen-based education has recently been in the news, with Shadow Education Secretary Laura Trott citing warnings from clinicians that too much screen time could be damaging to children's health.

As we reflect on International Men's Day, perhaps we also need to consider the wellbeing of boys and how can we all make a positive difference. Encouraging boys to read more, reflect on what they've read, and share their thoughts is a good start.

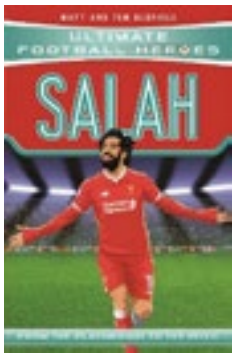
If you are a grandpa, dad, uncle, brother, or nephew, talk to other males about books, make recommendations, and be a positive role model by letting them see you reading. Below are a few recommendations for reluctant male readers; ones that many girls will enjoy too!



Dyslexia-friendly
Ghost Stadium by Tom Palmer

When three friends sneak into an abandoned football stadium for a night-time dare, they discover more than they'd bargained for. Perhaps all those rumours about hauntings are true.

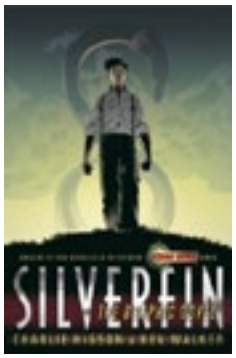
This dyslexia-friendly quick read blends football, ghosts, and secrecy. A real thriller.



Year 7
Ultimate Football Heroes Series by Matt Oldfield

This bestselling series dives into the lives of some of the world's best football players. These inspiring reads chart how football crazy kids became legendary stars of the game, and the determination and resilience needed to make it to the top.

Great for reluctant and struggling readers.



Year 8
Silverfin: The Graphic Novel

As a new James Bond actor is named, what better time to read Charlie Higson's graphic novel Silverfin. It's James Bond's first day at Eton and already he has an enemy. A daring adventure that will take our young hero from the idyllic playing fields of Eton to the shores of Loch Silverfin, and a terrifying discovery. Tense and exciting.

Full text versions of Silverfin are also available alongside other books in the Young Bond spy fiction series (Blood Fever, Double or Die, Hurricane Gold, and By Royal Command).

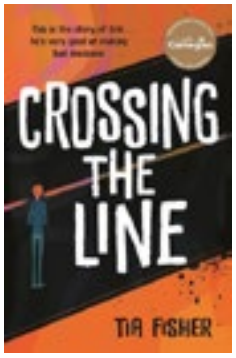


Year 9
Spy x Family by Tatsuya Endo

A master spy must create a fake family in order to complete a dangerous mission, unaware the woman he has agreed to marry is a skilled assassin, and his daughter is a telepath.

Action-packed manga at its best. High drama, family dynamics and lots of comedy. Recommended reading ages vary.

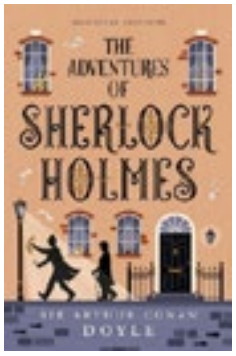
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NEWS LETTER



Year 10
Crossing the Line by Tia Fisher

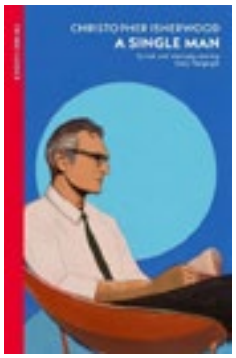
This hard hitting verse novel tells the tale of Erik. When his dad dies, Erik drifts into an underworld of drug dealing and violence. He sees himself as the man of the family, but at what cost?

This is a poignant story about what it means to grow into a good man, and not being afraid to seek safety when it's needed.



Year 11
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle

Arthur Conan Doyle's first collection of stories featuring the brilliant detective contains some real favourites. Sherlock Holmes might have some unusual habits, but his ability to unravel the most intricate mysteries, observe, and deduce make testifying to his brilliance. A true hero to the young and old.

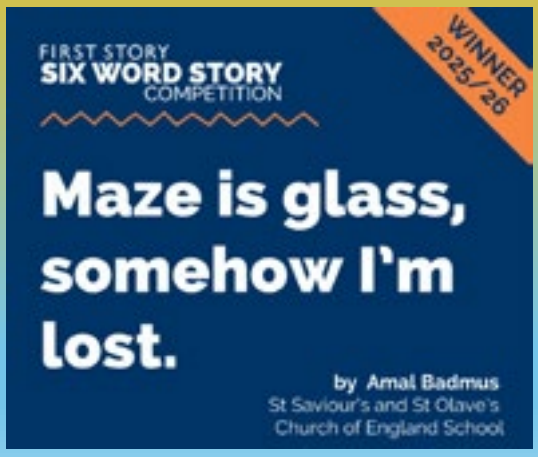


Sixth Form
A Single Man by Christopher Isherwood

Covering one day in the life of an English professor, living in California in the 1960s, Isherwood's slim novel was hailed as a masterpiece from its first publication. George is heartbroken after the death of his lover, Jim, but determined to keep going, drawing strength from the little pleasures in life, in a bid to triumph over loss and loneliness. Superb.

"Being a male is a matter of birth. Being a man is a matter of choice."
—Edwin Louis Cole

The Six Word Story Competition
is back!!!!!



Can you write an amazing story in just six words?

First Story's Six Word Story Competition 2026/27 is now open.

Three winning entries from Longcroft will be submitted to the national competition which will be judged by a panel from Penguin Random House UK.

Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and highly commended entries and include book bundles, postcards and notebooks, Golden Buzzers and sweets.

Submit your entries to the library staff or your teacher by Friday 27th November 2026.

For more information visit the library.

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NEWS LETTER

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

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Year 8

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Years 9 and 10

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