Issue 285 November 2026

LONGCROFT

SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

GREAT HEART, THOUGHT AND VISION

NEWS LETTER



Cricketers Reach Finals!

"The achievement is even more significant given the team's remarkable recent history in the competition."

While England's international cricketers take on Australia in the warmth of a southern hemisphere summer, our Longcroft teams have been enjoying success playing the indoor version of the game.

The Under 15 team kept alive their dream of a third consecutive Humberside title with an outstanding performance in the qualifying round of this year's competition.

Contents

Headteacher's Welcome
Page 3

Lower School
Page 5

Upper School
Page 9

Sixth Form
Page 12

Safeguarding
Page 15

Memory Lane
Page 23

Library News
Page 24

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Mr Nicholls said, "Longcroft produced a series of impressive displays to secure their place in the finals, which will be held after Christmas. The day began with a dramatic encounter against Driffield School, where Longcroft held their nerve to claim victory by the narrowest of margins, winning by just one run in a thrilling finish."



"Buoyed by that success, the team carried their momentum into the remaining fixtures. Strong batting, disciplined bowling and sharp fielding performances saw Longcroft overcome both Beverley Grammar School and Hessle High School, completing a perfect record of three wins from three matches and sealing qualification for the finals."

He added, "The achievement is even more significant given the team's remarkable recent history in the competition. Having been crowned Humberside Champions for the past two years, this group now has the opportunity to make it three titles in a row. As many of the squad are in their final year of eligibility, they will be determined to finish their Indoor Cricket journey with another memorable success."

Mr Nicholls added, "The team have been a pleasure to work with throughout their time representing Longcroft, consistently demonstrating commitment, enthusiasm and a willingness to improve. They can be extremely proud of their efforts so far and now look forward to the challenge of competing for another Humberside crown in the New Year."

Not to be outdone, after a day of exciting and competitive cricket the Under 13 team secured qualification for the Hull and East Yorkshire Finals with an impressive three victories from four matches.

Mr Nicholls said, "The team produced some outstanding performances throughout the tournament, with plenty of memorable moments along the way. Highlights included powerful sixes, a hat-trick ball and a number of excellent batting and fielding displays. Every player contributed to a successful day, demonstrating skill, determination, and composure under pressure."

"The most dramatic match came in their final game of the day. Longcroft were involved in a thrilling contest that went right down to the wire, eventually losing on the very last ball. Despite the narrow defeat, the result could not take away from an excellent overall tournament performance."

Qualifying for the finals is a fantastic achievement. Mr Nicholls concluded, "It is particularly pleasing to see the interest in cricket continuing to flourish across the school, with increasing numbers of pupils representing Longcroft in competitive fixtures and tournaments."

Well done to all involved on two superb days of indoor cricket!

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



Headteacher's Welcome

As we enter the Advent period, the Christian tradition speaks of hope and joy; themes that are unfailingly reflected in all that our amazing young people bring to our Longcroft community each and every day.

One aspect of our school that always leaves me feeling joyful, hopeful and often simply in awe is our extracurricular offer, and the way in which our children never fail to step up, get involved and be brilliant.

This week, our sports clubs have been packed with pupils enjoying training and competing together, often embracing new experiences while having a great time. Our teams have also enjoyed success in a range of football, rugby and indoor cricket competitions. In particular, our Under-15 boys' cricket team are back-to-back Humberside Champions and are now on course to become unprecedented treble winners if they can retain the title this year. Having comfortably progressed through the qualifying rounds once again, they have secured their place in the finals. It would be an extraordinary achievement and you can read more about their journey, along with other sporting successes, elsewhere in this week's newsletter.

Following the success of our Poppy Project during the month of remembrance, we have now received more than 300 entries to our Christmas Card Competition. We have so many talented artists at Longcroft and the creativity on display has been exceptional. Many entrants have chosen to celebrate Beverley through their designs, which has been wonderful to see. I have been incredibly impressed by the standard of work and have no idea how we will choose our final winners, but I look forward to sharing the results with you soon.

The Performing Arts will also take centre stage this week at our annual Longcroft Christmas Concert, which will once again be hosted at St Mary's Church in Beverley. We are incredibly excited for what is always a very special evening in the heart of our historic town and within the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's. We warmly encourage you to join us and remind you that this is not a ticketed event, so please do spread the word and bring along friends and family for some festive cheer. **Doors will open from 6.40pm on Thursday 3rd December (7pm start),** with the concert lasting no longer than an hour. There will also be plenty of opportunities to join together in singing traditional Christmas carols alongside performances from our choirs and ensembles.

Beyond our extensive extracurricular offer, there is so much that our curriculum brings to the lives of our young people and their experience of school. The rich and carefully considered content we teach provides valuable cultural exposure to different forms of music, art and performance, exploring their origins, history and evolution. Through both our curriculum and our wider sports, creative and performing arts provision, we see young people grow in confidence, develop their social and cultural capital, and demonstrate tremendous respect, kindness and encouragement towards one another.

Christmas Charity Campaign – Please support if you can.

We know that for many families, both nationally and within our own community, the Christmas period will present significant challenges once again this year. In a perfect demonstration of Great Heart, our Sixth Form Ambassadors have been leading our annual charity campaign in support of the Age UK Shoebox Appeal. This wonderful initiative aims to bring some festive joy to older people in our local community who may be vulnerable or experiencing loneliness.

The appeal asks for donations in small shoebox-sized hampers, which may include a Christmas card, toiletries, tins of food, biscuits, a small gift such as a mug, gloves, a shawl or slippers, tea, coffee or hot chocolate, and other festive treats. Last year, the charity distributed more than 950 hampers to older people across Hull and the East Riding. This year, we would love to help them exceed 1,000. Please see the advert later in this newsletter for details of how you can support the appeal. If you are able to contribute, your kindness will make a real difference.

I wish you all a hopeful and joyful Advent.

Enjoy this week's newsletter.

Mr Perry | Headteacher

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!

IF YOU WANT TO FILL YOUR OWN SHOEBOX TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAMPAIGN THEN PLEASE DO BRING THEM IN.

Hull ageUK

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



Mr Chapman writes:

The Countdown to Christmas Begins!

As we reach the end of November, there is a growing sense that Christmas is just around the corner. The days are getting shorter, the evenings are drawing in and, before we know it, the festive season will be upon us. It is always an exciting time of year in school, and I am looking forward to seeing the enthusiasm and energy that our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils bring to the weeks ahead.

However, before we get too carried away with thoughts of Christmas, there is still plenty of work to do, lots to look forward to and some important opportunities for our young people to make the most of the time they have in Lower School.

Year 7 – Continuing to Find Their Feet

It is hard to believe that our Year 7 pupils have now been with us for several months. What initially felt like a very significant step from primary to secondary education is increasingly becoming part of everyday life. New routines, different teachers, a much wider curriculum and the expectations of secondary school can all take some getting used to, but I have been hugely encouraged by the way in which this year group has embraced the challenge.



It is particularly pleasing to see pupils becoming more confident and independent. Whether that is organising their equipment, remembering homework deadlines, moving confidently between lessons or getting involved in the many opportunities available outside the classroom, these are all important milestones in their development.

I was delighted to hear about the number of Year 7 pupils enjoying Tuesday evening's football club each week. Mr Nicholls is impressed by the numbers, and although boys from other year groups attend and anyone is welcome to do so Year 7 are really making the most of the many opportunities offered at Longcroft.

I would encourage parents to continue having conversations at home about school; what children have enjoyed during the day and perhaps what they have found challenging. Sometimes the smallest conversations can make a real difference in helping young people reflect on their experiences and develop confidence.

Year 8 – Building on Strong Foundations

For Year 8 this is an important opportunity to build upon the foundations established last year. Having successfully navigated their first year of secondary education, pupils should now be looking to develop greater independence, take more responsibility for their learning and challenge themselves to achieve even more.

One of the things I continually encourage our Year 8 pupils to remember is that progress comes from consistency. It is not necessarily about making huge leaps forward every day, but about developing good habits, listening carefully, completing work to the best of their ability and being prepared to learn from mistakes.

There are so many opportunities available to pupils at Longcroft, and I would love to see every Year 8 pupil making the most of them. Whether their interests lie in sport, music, drama, the arts or other extracurricular activities, becoming involved in school life is an important part of developing confidence, friendships and a sense of belonging.

Year 9 – Looking Towards the Future

Year 9 is a particularly important year for our older Lower School pupils. As they move towards the next stage of their education, there are some increasingly significant decisions and responsibilities on the horizon, not least the process of considering their GCSE options.

This should be an exciting time. Pupils are beginning to discover where their particular strengths and interests lie, and it is important that they approach the coming months with curiosity, enthusiasm and an open mind.

I would encourage Year 9 pupils to continue asking questions, exploring different subjects and speaking to their teachers about the opportunities ahead. There is no need to have everything worked out just yet, but developing a positive attitude towards learning and taking responsibility for their progress will put them in a very strong position.

The Countdown to Christmas – Thinking of Others

As we begin the countdown to Christmas, I would also like us to remember that this time of year is not simply about presents, celebrations and looking forward to the holidays. It is also an opportunity to think about others and consider how we might make a positive difference to somebody else's life.

We are supporting a Christmas Shoebox Appeal, which will give our pupils the opportunity to contribute small, thoughtful items that can be placed into shoeboxes and donated to charity. The idea is a simple one, but it provides a lovely opportunity for our young people to think beyond their own circumstances and consider those who may be less fortunate.

I would love to see our Lower School pupils get behind this initiative. Even the smallest contribution can help make a difference, and it is a wonderful way of demonstrating the kindness, generosity and community spirit that we want to encourage throughout our school.

Further information about the appeal and the items that can be donated will be shared with families shortly.

Making the Most of the Weeks Ahead

As we enter the final few weeks before Christmas, I want to encourage all our pupils to maintain the positive attitudes and high standards that we expect throughout the year. It can sometimes be tempting to let concentration drift as the excitement of the festive season builds, but these final weeks are just as important as any other part of the academic year.

Good learning habits are developed through consistency. Arriving at lessons prepared, completing homework carefully, listening to teachers and supporting classmates are all simple things that contribute to a successful school experience.

I would also remind pupils of the importance of reading. Whether it is a novel, a newspaper article, a biography or something connected to a particular interest, reading regularly helps develop vocabulary, comprehension and confidence across every subject. If families can find a little time each evening to encourage reading, it really can make a significant difference.

Finally, as the evenings become darker, please do remind children about the importance of travelling home safely. Whether walking, cycling or using public transport, pupils should be mindful of their surroundings and take extra care during the winter months.

Looking Forward

There is plenty to look forward to over the coming weeks, and I am sure that the school will soon begin to feel increasingly festive. I am particularly keen that we continue to celebrate the achievements of our Lower School pupils, both inside and outside the classroom.

I am incredibly proud of the way in which our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils contribute to the life of Longcroft. Their enthusiasm, willingness to get involved and the positive relationships they develop with one another are what make Lower School such a special part of our community.

As always, thank you to parents and families for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is so important, and working together gives our young people the very best opportunity to succeed.

For now, let's enjoy the final days of November, embrace the excitement of the approaching festive season and make sure we finish the term positively. Christmas is getting closer, but there is still plenty of learning, laughter and achievement to come!

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
Maria Stoyanova	Chloe-Rose Bishop	Leon Zielinski
Penny Blakeston	Zac Lucas	Freya Peck
Katie Tatton	Frantisek Fox	Rory Buck
Theia Cammish	Edward O'Neill	Nathan Pineda
Ariah Riley	Mia Wong	Isla Garth
Martha Phipps	Millie Anderson	James Thomson
Oisin Trolle	Hermione Elvidge	Scarlett Pashley
Peter Cuthbert	Jude Docherty	Jasmine I'Anson
Tilly Patterson	Bradley Took	Charlotte Wray
Poppy Pryderi	Fiona Turner	Noah Hughes
		William Stewart

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.

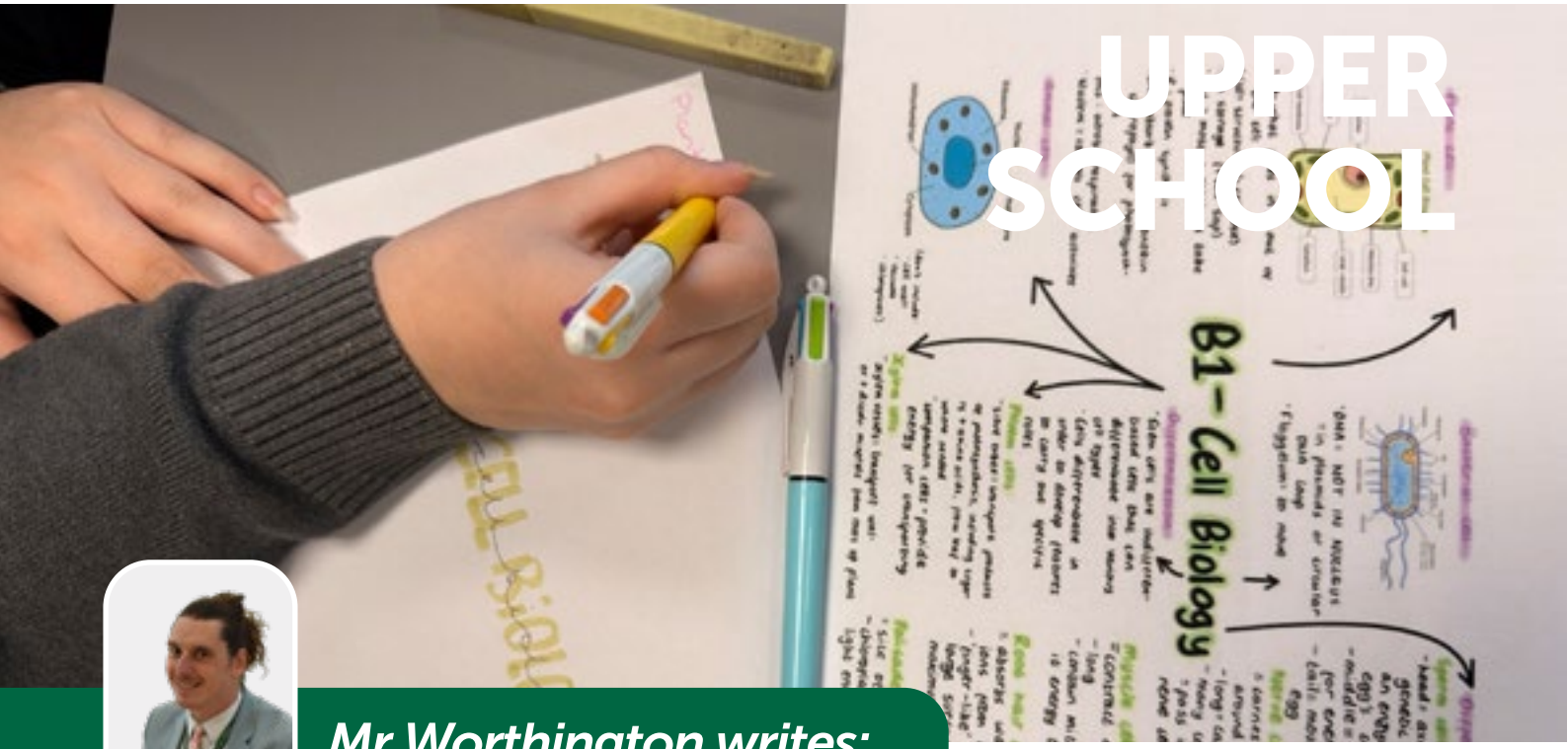
Last week's winners were:

Year 7: Martha Phipps

Year 8: Maisy Smalley

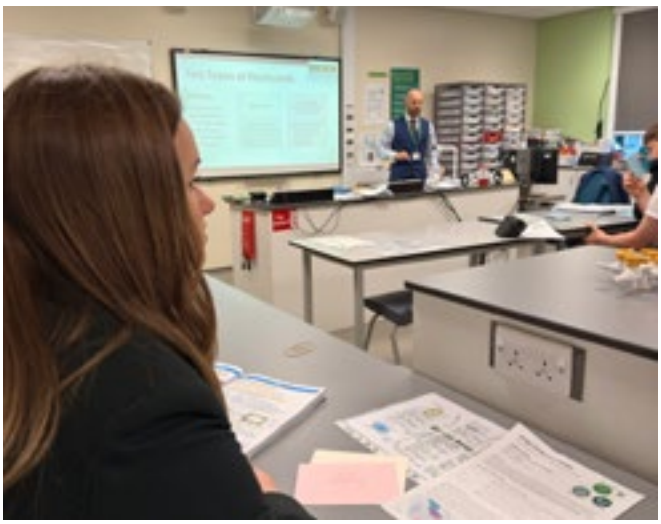
Year 9: Lucas Melville

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



Mr Worthington writes:

On Monday, our Year 11 pupils took part in a dedicated Revision Mini Conference, bringing together a series of sessions designed to help pupils develop effective, evidence-informed revision strategies ahead of the important months to come.



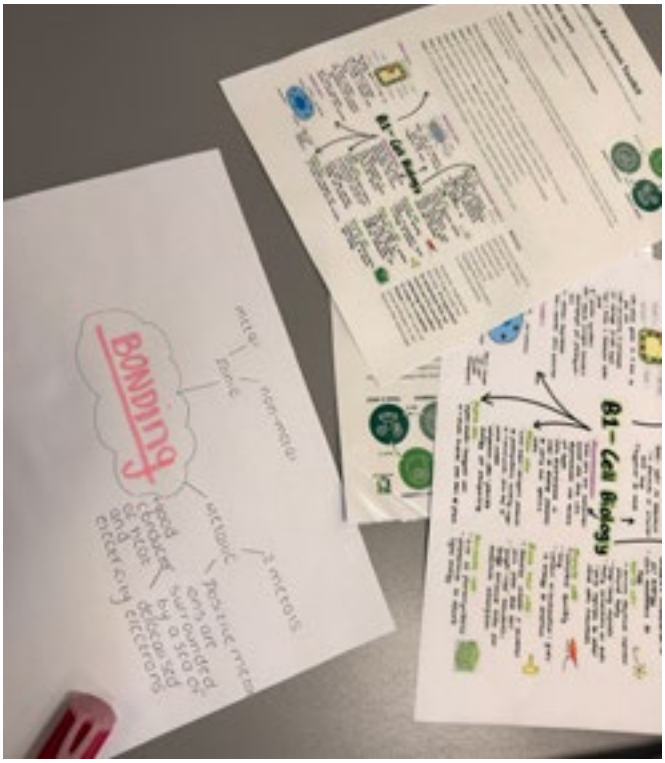
The event focused on a simple but powerful message: effective revision is not about spending more time with books open, but about using the right techniques. Throughout the morning, pupils worked through workshops exploring flashcards, mind maps and examination practice, learning how each approach can be used to strengthen memory, improve understanding and build confidence when approaching assessments.

A key theme running through every session was the idea that successful revision has three stages. First, pupils need to secure their knowledge and understanding of content. Second, pupils need to apply that knowledge through examination-style questions and practice tasks. Finally, pupils need to act on feedback, identifying strengths, addressing misconceptions and refining future performance. By combining all three elements, pupils can make revision more focused, purposeful and effective.

Pupils were encouraged to use active revision techniques that require them to think hard and retrieve information from memory. They explored how flashcards can be used for self-testing rather than copying notes, how mind maps can help organise and connect ideas, and how regular use of examination materials can develop familiarity with question styles and improve examination technique.

Among the practical advice shared with pupils were several key messages:

- Test yourself regularly rather than simply rereading notes.
- Use flashcards to strengthen memory through active recall.
- Create concise mind maps that focus on key ideas and links between topics.
- Practise examination questions frequently.
- Learn from feedback and mark schemes.
- Revisit topics over time rather than relying on last-minute cramming.



What impressed us most was the way our Year 11 pupils responded throughout the day. Pupils engaged positively with every session, approached activities thoughtfully and demonstrated a genuine determination to improve. The maturity, focus and enthusiasm shown by pupils reflected the positive attitude that has been increasingly evident across the year group and gives us great confidence as they continue their examination preparation.

The conference was followed by a highly successful Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday. It was fantastic to see so many parents and children attending, discussing progress with staff and working together to plan the next steps for success. The positive conversations, high levels of engagement and shared commitment to helping pupils achieve their potential made the evening a real success.

Taken together, these events have provided an excellent platform for the months ahead. We are incredibly proud of how our Year 11 pupils embraced the opportunities available to them this week and are excited to see the impact that these revision strategies, combined with continued hard work and support from home, will have as pupils move towards their examinations.

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 **Dominic Crawford** – congratulations!

Key dates:

- **4th December:** Year 10 Progress Update issued
- **7th – 17th December:** Year 11 Mock Examinations

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

Emma Selleck
Amelia High
Harry Hugill
Isaac Savage
Mason Holder
Spencer Uzzell
Charlie Innes
Angel Butler-Shorrocks
Ashley Griffin
Jake Redmond
Pennie Sonley-Kilkenny

Year 11

Amy Simpson
Sarah Shrimpton
Lilly Thornton
Isabelle Chant
Sophie Battye
Amy Thornton
Hailey Berango
Reagan De Kock
Mia Robinson
Niamh Raw

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 10: Scarlett Watkins

Year 11: Jaydon Botha

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE NEWS LETTER



Mr Haworth writes:

LONGCROFT
THE EAST YORKSHIRE SIXTH FORM

Firstly, I am delighted to share a photo of cards that Charlotte has made and will be selling to fundraise for the Peru trip a group of 11 pupils and Year 13 students will enjoy next summer.



I was tremendously proud to hear that Anna has been chosen as this year's Humberside Police Cadet of the Year! Anna is an incredibly busy student – a member of St Mary's Beverley CLCGB she also plays for Hull City Ladies alongside studying for her A Levels in Biology, Geography and PE.

Anna is in her third year as a Police Cadet. She said "We meet weekly and police events such as Hull Fair. I recently gained a Level 2 qualification in Violence Prevention." She explained, "I've always been involved in the community and when the application came out it sounded interesting."

Anna added, "I'd recommend the Police Cadets. You learn loads of life-skills that you can transfer into any job. I was very proud to win the award!"

Congratulations Anna!

Year 13 Prepare for December Mock Examinations

As the festive season begins to appear on the horizon, there is one important date firmly marked in the calendars of our Year 13 students: the start of the December mock examination period. For some students, examinations begin on **Friday 4th December,** with the assessment window continuing through to the final week of term. The detailed timetable has already been shared with students and families, but with the first exams now just around the corner, it is a good opportunity to reflect on the importance of the weeks ahead.



Year 13 students have been working exceptionally hard in preparation for these assessments. The mock examinations provide crucial information for both students and teachers, helping to assess knowledge retrieval, identify areas requiring further attention, and evaluate the effectiveness of exam technique under formal examination conditions. The outcomes will play an important role in shaping the support and guidance students receive as they move towards their final examinations next summer.

Parents and students have already been reminded of the importance of adhering to the rigorous examination expectations expected at EY6. Students must arrive punctually, fully equipped and ready to work in a professional examination environment. Mobile phones and unauthorised materials are strictly prohibited, and all candidates are expected to follow invigilator instructions at all times. These procedures not only ensure fairness but also help prepare students for the formal arrangements they will encounter during their public examinations.

Students should remember that morning examinations begin at **9.15am** and afternoon examinations at **1.15pm**, with students expected to arrive on site ahead of each session. Candidates should also be outside the examination room ten minutes before the examination begins.

The examination schedule concludes with an important opportunity for students to celebrate their efforts. **Thursday 17th December has been deliberately left free of Year 13 examinations to allow students to participate in an enrichment visit to Sheffield.** The trip provides a well-deserved opportunity to mark the completion of the mock examination period and enjoy the start of the festive season with friends and staff before the Christmas break.

As students enter the final stage of their preparation, it remains essential that they continue to complete their weekly revision homework and make full use of the guidance contained within the Longcroft Revision Toolkit. Our recommended approach follows three simple but highly effective stages:

1. **Content** – Learn and secure key subject knowledge.

2. **Skills** – Apply that knowledge through examination-style questions.

3. **Feedback** – Mark responses, identify gaps and revisit areas requiring further improvement.

This cycle ensures that revision is active, purposeful and focused on improving performance rather than simply re-reading notes.

We would like to wish all Year 13 students the very best for their forthcoming mock examinations. Their commitment and resilience throughout the term have been impressive, and these assessments provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate both their knowledge and the progress they have made. Following what promises to be a demanding but productive fortnight, we look forward to celebrating their efforts during our Sheffield enrichment visit and wishing them a well-earned Christmas break.

THE EAST YORKSHIRE SIXTH FORM @ LONGCROFT

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW

Award Winning Education



ABOUT US

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Great academic outcomes
- 100% students access their selected universities and undergraduate courses
- Every student known as an individual
- Small class sizes
- Superb enrichment
- Wide range of subjects available
- State of the art facilities
- Over 40 acres of stunning estate

READY TO APPLY FOR SEPTEMBER 2027?

Use this QR code to make your application now and we'll be in touch with next steps:

01482 862171

WWW.LONGCROFTSCHOOL.CO.UK

BE AMBITIOUS

DON'T MISS OUT! EYSF@LONGCROFT

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



SAFEGUARDING

Mr Rogers writes:

GTA VI and online safety: What parents and carers need to know

Few video games have generated as much excitement as Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA VI). Set in the fictional state of Leonida, the game follows two characters involved in crime. Its colourful setting, fast cars and popularity online are likely to catch the attention of younger audiences. The game is aimed at adults and contains mature themes, including graphic violence, sexual content, and depictions of drug and alcohol use.

This week's **#WakeUpWednesday** guide looks at what children might encounter through the game and the wider conversation around it. It also offers practical advice on setting boundaries, managing spending and talking to your child about what they see online.

Children can see gameplay without owning the game

For many families, the first conversation about GTA VI will come after a child sees a clip. Short videos can appear in a social media feed, be shared in a group chat or come up as a recommendation after watching another gaming video. Livestreams can also expose children to mature gameplay and to what the streamer or other viewers say during the broadcast. A video may look like a harmless car chase from its thumbnail, while the clip itself contains content a child was unprepared to see.

This means a household rule about which games children can play is only one part of the picture. It is worth asking where your child sees gaming content and which accounts they follow. A simple question such as, 'Have you seen any of the GTA clips people are sharing?' can give you a clearer idea of what they have already come across. If they have seen something that upset or confused them, give them time to explain it in their own words. Thanking them for telling you makes it easier for them to come to you again.

Check where the conversation is happening

Children may talk about games in livestream chats, group messages or on platforms such as Discord. Public chats can bring them into contact with people they do not know. They might receive a friend request or be invited into a private chat by someone they have only met through a gaming community. Familiar usernames and shared interests can make these interactions feel more personal than they are. Ask your child who can message them and whether they know how to block or report someone. You could look at their settings together and agree who can send friend requests, add them to groups or contact them privately. Remind them to keep personal information, such as their school, address and phone number, out of chats with people they do not know. If someone asks them to keep a conversation secret or makes them uncomfortable, encourage them to tell a trusted adult. Make it clear they can still ask for help if they have already replied or shared something.

Agree the rules on spending

Gaming videos and conversations with friends can create pressure to buy a game, pay for extra content or spend money on an account. Children may also find it hard to judge what they are spending when a purchase is shown in virtual currency. Agree in advance whether they can spend money on games, how much they can spend and when they need to ask you first. If your child uses gift cards or pocket money, talk about whether the same rules apply. Review any payment details saved on the console, device or store account they use. Where the option is available, require a PIN, password or adult approval for purchases. Check that your child uses their own account on a shared device, as they may otherwise have access to payment details or settings attached to an adult's profile.

Take a few minutes to review parental controls

Start with the device your child uses most. Check which account they sign into and review the age restrictions, purchase permissions and communication settings. If they also watch clips on a phone or tablet, check the settings on the apps they use there. Each service has its own controls, so a setting on a console may have no effect on a social media app or messaging service. It helps to explain any changes as you make them. For example, if you limit private messages to people your child knows, talk through what they can do if someone sends an invitation through another app. You could also ask them to show you how they would block an account, report a video or turn off a chat. Practising together gives them a chance to ask questions before they need to use those tools.

Keep the conversation going

Children may be curious about GTA VI because friends are talking about it or clips keep appearing in their feeds. You can acknowledge that curiosity while being clear about your family's boundaries. If your child says that everyone else is allowed to play, ask what they have heard and what interests them about it. For some, the attraction will be the driving or exploring an open world. That can help you find a game with similar features and an age rating that suits them.

You do not need to cover everything in one conversation. You might start by asking, 'What would you do if a clip made you uncomfortable?' or 'Who would you tell if someone in a gaming chat asked you to move to a private message?' What matters is that your child knows they can talk to you, even if they clicked on something they wish they hadn't or are worried about how you might react.

Please take a look at this week's #WakeUpWednesday guide and use it to start a conversation at home. Checking one setting together or asking what has been appearing in your child's feed is a good place to start.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GRAND THEFT AUTO VI

Grand Theft Auto 6 (also stylised as GTA VI) has been one of the most highly anticipated games of this generation, following GTA V, one of the best-selling video games of all time. Set in the fictional state of Leonida, including Vice City, it follows criminal partners Jason and Lucia as they become embroiled in a wider conspiracy. Although GTA VI is intended for adult audiences, its enormous popularity means that younger people may still encounter gameplay footage online or express an interest in playing it.

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXTREMELY VIOLENT CONTENT

GTA VI is rated PEGI 18 for a reason. Players may encounter weapons like guns, knives and explosives, with violence portrayed in highly realistic ways. As in previous GTA games, players may also encounter violence involving vehicles and other characters. The game is categorically not for younger audiences, with blood, gore, and intense violence clearly identified in its official content

SENSITIVE SOCIETAL TOPICS

Like other games in the Grand Theft Auto franchise, GTA VI uses satire to explore aspects of society and contemporary culture. Its exaggerated characters and situations are fictional and may be intended to challenge or mock particular attitudes rather than endorse them. Younger viewers, however, may struggle to recognise this context and could misunderstand jokes, stereotypes, or social commentary without guidance from a trusted adult.

TALKING TO STRANGERS ONLINE

GTA Online, the multiplayer experience associated with GTA V, allows players to communicate with others online. GTA VI has been announced as a single-player experience at launch, so the same in-game chat risks should not yet be assumed. Children may still discuss the game through other online platforms potentially encountering strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Throughout GTA VI's storyline, drugs and alcohol form part of the game's criminal world. The official content rating identifies the use of both, while Rockstar's character descriptions reference drug runners and dealers. Earlier titles also showed substance use affecting how characters see and move around the world. Younger viewers may struggle to understand these portrayals in the context of a fictional crime story, particularly without guidance from a trusted adult.

NUDITY AND SEX

Relationships and sexual themes feature in GTA VI, while previous GTA titles have allowed players to visit strip clubs and solicit sex workers. It should also be recognised that GTA VI's graphics aim to be realistic, meaning depictions of nudity and sexual content may be explicit. Official ratings confirm nudity and strong sexual content, although details of specific scenes should not be assumed from earlier games.

OPTIONAL IN-GAME PURCHASES

As with its predecessor, GTA VI includes optional in-game purchases that use real-world money. While these purchases are not necessary to play the game, the appeal of additional content may encourage some players to spend more. Younger players may not fully appreciate the cost or how quickly small payments add up.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental controls can block age-restricted games, but they won't remove GTA VI's adult themes from elsewhere online. On PS5, go to Settings > Family and Parental Controls > Family Management, select the child and choose your restrictions. On Xbox Series X|S, use Settings > Account > Family settings, or the Xbox Family Settings app, to manage age restrictions and screen time.

LIMIT ACCESS TO BANK DETAILS

Limiting access to banking details helps prevent accidental or unauthorised purchases. Avoid storing payment details on a child's account and require approval before spending. On PS5, parents and carers can set a monthly spending limit through Family Management. On Xbox Series X|S, the Ask to Buy feature can request adult approval for purchases, helping children and young people understand their real-world cost.

COMMUNICATION RESTRICTIONS

On PS5 and Xbox Series X|S, parental controls can restrict voice chat, messages, friend requests, and communication with other players. Parents and carers can limit interactions to approved friends or prevent communication altogether, depending on the available settings. These restrictions are especially helpful for reducing children's exposure to strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes through console chats or other multiplayer games.

MAKE THIS A CONVERSATION

Even if a child is not playing GTA VI, they may still watch gameplay clips, livestreams or trailers shared by friends and content creators. It's important to talk openly with children about why GTA VI has an adult age rating and discuss its violence, crime, strong language, sexual themes, satirical lens, and other mature content. Ask what interests them about the game and what they already know. Talk about the difference between fictional behaviour and real-world consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 12+ years as a journalist, editor and social media expert. He's travelled the world playing video games and working with publishers and developers to fine tune their audience messaging. When he's not gaming, he can be found watching horror and sci-fi movies, TV series, listening to music or deciding which world marathon to plod around.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.11.2026

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!

Penny Blakeston 7MHE
Elliott Collingwood 8FCO
Mason Holder 10NFO
Maria Stoyanova 7PDV
Sophia Dixon 10JNC
Eva Copeland-Craggs 7JWI
Jake Hara 11ASC
Lottie Skinner 10JNC
Molly-Belle Bloom 8ARU
Leo Rena 9RTE
Angel Butler-Shorrocks 10ACR
India Wilson 9ABA
Archie Peacock 9ABA
Ruby Reilly 9ABA
Aleks Williams 8JHL
Alex Matta 11EFX/HSM
Lewis Henderson 11ASC
Harvey Theakston 10LWO
Reggie Pierce 8SJU
Monty Dawson 7GTA
Elias Chapman 10EFO
Tia Kingston 9RTE
Millie Grewer 7MHE
Amelia-Grace Russell 9RTE
Olivia Lax 11RLO
Thea Bridgeman 9JDY
Scarlett Wood 11RLO
Imogen Collingwood 7JWI
Isla Garth, 9EIN
Holly Gray 11ASC
George Hogg 10LWO

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Footballers Enjoy Success!

Our Year 7 boys qualified for the East Riding 7-a-side finals, which will be played at Wolfreton School in the new year. Mr Nicholls said, "A great night of football saw the boys finish first with 11 points from their five matches and an impressive 7:1 goal difference." Opponents Longcroft saw off to win their group were Beverley Grammar, Driffield, Headlands, Holderness Academy and Hornsea.

The boys followed up their success with a fantastic victory in the Humberside Schools Cup against Hull Trinity House Academy with goals from Jake, who scored a hat-trick, two from Luke and one from MacKinley.

Our Year 7 and Year 8 girls enjoyed a busy week of football with a tournament at Market Weighton followed by matches against Holderness Academy.

Mr Worthington took the girls to their tournament where both teams were undefeated. He said, "I was proud of the girls, who played with great energy and enthusiasm."

Mrs Henderson took the teams to their matches at Holderness Academy. She said, "The football was very good – a close competition for both teams. Both goalkeepers played strongly and made a number of good saves." The Year 7 team won 1-0 and the Y8 team lost by the same score-line.

Year 7 then took on Hull Trinity House Academy on Monday evening and won 8-1! Miss Judge said, "It was an amazing win! Penny scored five goals, Vivienne two and Aimee completed the scoring. All the girls were fantastic!"

Congratulations to all our footballers on excellent performances and some outstanding results!









LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



Netballers take on Holderness

Our Year 7 netball players enjoyed matches against Holderness Academy, winning one and losing another of their matches.

Miss Judge said, "The girls played really well and they're improving all the time!"

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 - 128,000 points

Watson Mackevych - 109,800 points

Lottie Johnston - 100,200 points

Kiaara Karki - 86,000 points

Holly Artley Tolson - 85,800 points

Monty Dawson - 81,900 points

Lily Smedley - 80,200 points

Amelie Wade - 70,000 points

Prue Noyes - 69,800 points

Lily Curtis - 68,000 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)

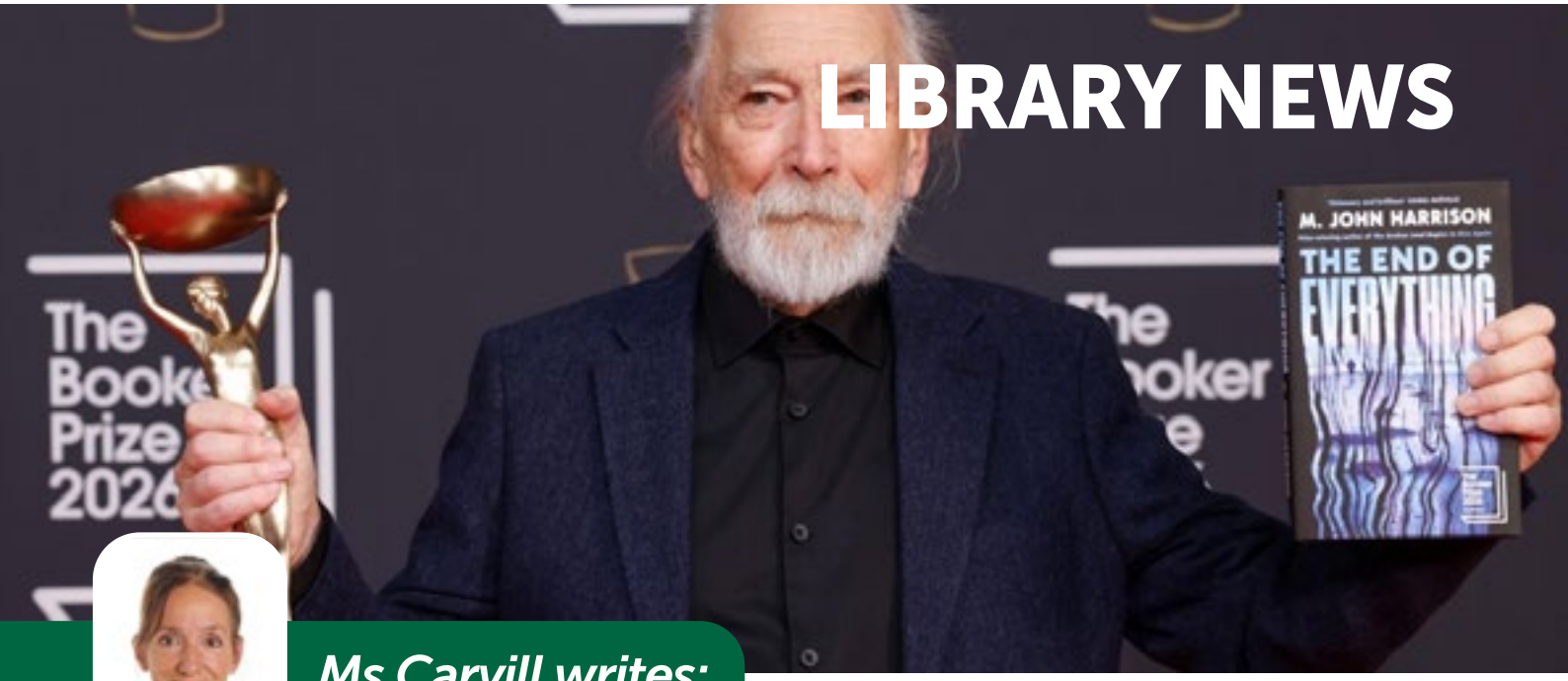
Memory Lane

This week we take a trip back to 2015 and feature Year 13 students at their Prom.





LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER



LIBRARY NEWS

Ms Carvill writes:

The Booker Prize News

The End of Everything, a satirical dystopian novel by John Harrison, has won the Booker Prize 2026. Its writer received £50,000 and a trophy. Harrison, aged 81, is the oldest author to win the Prize, with a career in writing that spans 60 years

> "A book not just about everything but about now. Shimmering and oblique, it holds the reader to the surface of something very grave and deep."
> —The Booker Prize judges

The novel follows two beachcombers as they eke out an existence together on a near-future Kent coast. It has received mixed reviews, with some calling it confusing, and others bold and brilliant. Watch this space.

A new Children's Booker prize, is to be awarded annually from February 2027, celebrating the best contemporary fiction for 8-12 year olds. Significanty, the judging process will involve a mixed panel of adults and children, allowing young readers a definite voice, and ensuring they recommend winning books to their peers. News of the shortlist will follow soon.

> "Perhaps the most important thing about the Children's Booker is the signal that it sends to children. The signal that says: you matter."
> —Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Chair of judges for the Children's Booker Prize 2027

Coping with Exam Anxiety

"Four short words sum up what has lifted most successful individuals above the crowd: a little bit more. They did all that was expected of them and a little bit more."
—A. Lou Vickery, author

Facing exams can be stressful; it's estimated that around 40% of pupils will experience exam anxiety. What will the outcomes be? Will I get the grades I need? Projecting, and imagining negative scenarios only accelerate the anxiety and can make revising and remembering information more difficult, but there are actions pupils can take to restore calm.



Stress and anxiety are reduced when pupils feel prepared and in control. Planning a revision timetable that allows for plenty of breaks to recharge, going to sleep earlier, eating well, going outdoors to get some fresh air and sunlight, making sure you have pens and pencils, calculators, and water bottles for the exam, and taking a little time to connect with friends are all important.

Parents and carers can also help pupils by talking about exam nerves; remembering and sharing their own experiences, suggesting practical ideas to help revise, testing them on quotes, and generally being positive and reassuring.

The library stocks a range of resources to support pupils doing their GCSE exams, including revision guides, exam practice workbooks, and question cards. These resources can be a great support to pupils, breaking information into bite-sized pieces, that help with retention and can improve performance. Together with good quality teaching, and attendance at teacher-led revision sessions, revision resources can be of real benefit. But remember that regular and spaced revision is best, cramming just prior to exams is not to be advised and can intensify anxiety. The key is to manage your time and plan, and remember that staff are only too willing to help; so please speak to them with any concerns.

Revision materials are available to purchase online on ParentPay or at the library at cost price, or if your child receives pupil premium funding are given free of charge. Below are some helpful links relating to support pupils with anxiety, but please call or email if you have any questions about the revision resources:

https://www.gov.uk/goverment/publications/coping

www.//mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/factors-that-impact-mental-health/academic-and-exam

https://www.studentminds.org.uk/advice-and-info/exam-stress/

> "Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results." —Willie Nelson, musician

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Player to Page Event – Book Early

Player to Page, a fabulous video games and literacy experience will be held at the University of Hull on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December 2026. This exciting event brings together talented professionals from different parts of the games industry to impart knowledge, discuss career pathways, and support the literacy skills of young people with an interest in the games industry, English writing, and the arts.



The two-day event will involve guided game play and analysis of three pre-selected video games: OVERBOARD, Stray, and Blue Prince. The first brilliantly reproduces the characters and intrigues of a murder mystery novel set on a luxurious liner travelling from Britain to New York in the 1930s. Stray tells the story of a stray cat who falls into a walled city swarming with robots and mutant bacteria, and must evade all manner of obstacles in order to return to the surface and safety. Like Blue Prince, it's visually stunning, a feast of colour and sound.

Pupils will have the opportunity to create their own storylines and pitches in writing sessions led by First Story, as well as attending guest talks by experienced members of the games industry, and a Q & A by an industry panel.

This is a fabulous opportunity for a cohort of Year 9 and 10 pupils interested in the game industry to learn and explore more and meet professionals. Places are limited, so please book early via ParentPay.

LONGCROFT SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
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

Miss Fox

07342 342858

vicky.fox@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 8

Miss Harsley

07810 416081

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