

LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



"We were proud to do so well!"

In a competition that had everything from tense nail-biting moments to triumphant cheers, our girls' cricket team showcased not just their growing skills but also unshakable team spirit and nerves of steel. **Upper School**

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Mrs Henderson said: "The girls worked hard on their skills each game. Some great batting combinations and a few crucial boundaries kept us in the games. Consistent bowling and sharp catches by the fielders made the games very close knit. We lost the first two games by a few runs and the third game, a crucial competition decider, turned out to be a nail-biting competition - unfortunately we lost by one run."

Mrs Henderson added: "That brought us to the final game, pressure moments, the game intensified, back and forth, with the final ball bowled and the scoreboard reading level on points, qualification hopes hung in the balance."

And then came the twist: qualification would be decided by run difference. Mrs Henderson set the scene. "As the teams and supporters waited with bated breath, the calculations began. Cheers erupted when the final tally revealed our girls had edged ahead—just enough to secure their spot in the next round!" She added, "Well done to all the players, and particularly Olivia for her leadership skills in each game."

Nancy, who is in Year 7, said: "It's fun to play with your friends. We got to bat and bowl - I like to bat more because I enjoy seeing how far I can hit the ball. We were proud to do so well!"

The girls are following in the footsteps of several excellent cricketers, many of whom have played locally for Beverley Town. We look forward to reporting on their progress in the competition!

Headteacher's Welcome

It has been a busy start to the summer term and what a week to enjoy our beautiful school site bathed in wonderful sunshine. Our pupils have managed the unseasonably high temperatures admirably and we will continue to monitor the forecast and respond accordingly. Things are clearly set to change but as we are now moving into the warmer part of the year, from this point forward please do remember to routinely send your child to school with a full water bottle each day.

With two Bank holidays across these first three weeks, the days are certainly disappearing quickly and our exam cohorts are inevitably feeling the acute sense of anticipation for the days and weeks ahead. This week sees the beginning of the formal exam season with written papers to be undertaken in various venues now set up across the school. Year 11 and Year 13 parents will have received details of examination timetables and revision / support sessions but if there are any queries or you need any support please don't hesitate to get in touch. Our practical exams have been exceptional over recent weeks with PE, MFL, Performing Arts and Art all reporting outstanding levels of work. We are truly excited for what these year groups will go on to achieve.

All pupils will see some slight adjustments over the coming weeks to accommodate the exam season. Most notably, there will be no assemblies in the theatre until exams are completed after half term and our break time will move to 11:15am after period 2. We are incredibly proud of our young people and the maturity and composure they continue to demonstrate as they take this important step in their educational lives. We know that the pressure they are experiencing, whilst entirely normal, will impact them in many different ways. Our experienced pastoral team and everybody here in our Longcroft community is here to help.

It would be remiss of me not to point out that over the coming weeks there is no study leave and being in school during the exam season is not optional. We have many years of experience in managing the curriculum through these final weeks and a comprehensive plan is in place to

ensure pupils and students have the very best preparation for success in their examinations. Although exams have started, the process is long and staggered with lessons continuing as normal. There will be refinements to the curriculum being made so that time is pre-loaded around imminent exams for every subject across the school. We know this approach works and makes a huge difference.

Beyond exams, colleagues continue to provide a myriad of opportunities for our children to enrich their formal education. The newsletter this week again gives a flavour of what our young people have been up to. We have had some great success in summer sporting competitions, national literary competitions and the Duke of Edinburgh practice excursion has taken place today with more news to come on all of that next week.

I will also be introducing you to two of our new staff at Longcroft, Mr Innocent who has joined our maths department and Miss Judge who has joined our PE team. We are very excited to be welcoming these colleagues to our Longcroft community and they bring superb enthusiasm, experience and energy. Our young people will no doubt continue to make them feel welcome. There will be more new additions from September at this hugely exciting time for the school so more news on all of that in due course

Have a wonderful week.

Mr D Perry Headteacher



Reward Totals

So far this term our pupils have been awarded the following rewards for acting with Great Heart, Thought and Vision:

ClassCharts

Acts of Great

HEART 102,489

THOUGHT 371,349

VISION

371,349

351,310

GRAND TOTAL: 825,148









Firstly, congratulations to AFC **Tickton Comets U14 - East Riding Football Association** Girls Ŭ14 County Cup champions and East Riding Girls Football League U14 Cup winners.

The County Cup squad included Year 9 pupils Martha and Sarah, and Frankie who is in Year 8. Martha and Sarah were also members of the League Cup squad.

It's great to see one of our local clubs doing so well, and that our pupils are enjoying the many benefits participating in sport can offer.



Parent-School Partnership

During this Summer Term, we will welcome parents and pupils into school for our live Parent Consultation Evenings. Bookings will be made online via SchoolCloud, and parents will be notified when bookings are live. Dates for your diary include:

- >> Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening, Wednesday May 14th
- >> Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening, Wednesday June 11th
- >> Year 6 Meet the Tutor Evening, Thursday June 26th

We look forward to sharing progress with parents and carers. Parent consultation evenings are a valuable opportunity for parents, carers, and pupils to work together with teachers to support academic and personal development. To get the most out of these meetings, a little preparation can go a long way.

Before the evening, take time to review recent reports, homework, or test results. We encourage parents to talk to their child about how they feel they're doing in each subject—what they enjoy, what they find challenging, and any goals they may have. This will help guide your questions and give a fuller picture of their progress.

We recommend that, after the evening, parents talk through the consultations with their child; celebrating successes and setting simple, achievable goals together. Communication, encouragement, and a shared focus on progress can make a big difference.

Exams

Next week, our Year 11 pupils turn their focus to the start of the exam season. In some cases, our Lower School children will have older siblings ready to embark on an important part of their school career; possibly looking at their big brother or sister, knowing that one day their time will also come to complete the GCSE process, then moving onto A Levels.

I'm sure you will all join me in wishing our Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students the best of luck during this time, where they face an opportunity to show off their skills and can be rewarded for their hard work during their time at Longcroft School.

At Longcroft School, we know the curriculum and education as a whole is not just about exams. However, we will always retain and nurture our commitment to academic success and excellence. We are committed to delivering a world-class learning experience for our young people; evoking a spirit of curiosity and wonder about the wider world and about the subject that we teach the children. When a child's time is completed at Longcroft School, we are committed to ensuring that they have all the skills required to navigate life's next steps. This is why, as well as acts of great thought, we also celebrate acts of great vision and great heart.

We will always celebrate those qualities of a good person who is kind, considerate and respectful of their community and environment. We actively encourage our children to demonstrate readiness for the future by developing the skills and qualities that will lead to success in life beyond school.

Since the school opened in 1951, we have cared for and nurtured many different children, all in individual ways. As a school, we are utterly devoted to developing young people with rounded and enhanced futures.

Mr Worthington | Head of Lower School







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



Year 7

Ava Kirkup

Frin Bousfield

Archie Peacock

Alissia Williams

Alina Shpak

Babucarr Ceesay

Reuben Todd

Lilli-Grace Dyson

Eliza Jameson

Mia-Grace Phillips

Year 8

Oscar Purchon

Olivia Chilcott

Olivia Radley

Jake Redmond

Amalie Wade

Harry Hugill

Oliver Albrow

Henry Coates

Ava Spink

Kinley Aldred

Year 9

Alfie Robinson

Thomas Goodwin

Charlotte Sutcliffe

Lydia Chapman

Neve Meagher

Lewis Henderson

Evie Sugdon

Holly Ruston

Olivia Lax

Luke Hiles

Attendance Matters!

Each week we reflect on the importance of attendance at school by giving ClassCharts rewards for Great Vision to every pupil with 100% attendance the previous week. These pupils are then entered into a draw and the winner receives a £5 Amazon voucher.

Last week's winners were:

Year 7: Stanley Parks

Year 8: Kinley Aldred

Year 9: Ruben Gabell





Year 11 - Formal Examinations Begin

We are so proud of the way our Year 11 pupils have taken to this important time. They have been focused and resilient, taking every opportunity to finesse the knowledge and skills required for success as they prepare to take to the exam halls over the next 5 weeks.

Many pupils have completed practical examinations already, with GCSE moderation for PE, Music recording, Drama performances, Art final exams and Languages orals all taking place since we returned after Easter. This week however sees the start of the formal exam season with venues across the school set up to receive pupils for their written papers.

It is important to note that although exams will begin, this is a long period with many subjects not even starting to be assessed until after half term. Lessons will continue as normal and it has been many years since study leave existed. What will change over the coming weeks is that the timetable will, in places, be reorganised so that lesson time is prioritised to areas in advance of key exams. This takes the form of targeted revision and support sessions built into the school day and shared with pupils in advance. Plans will be revisited every day during form time as part of the Year 11 routine over the coming weeks.

At half term, colleagues will be offering further revision sessions and you will soon be contacted with details of how to book sessions. With record numbers of pupils engaging in the offer over Easter, we are expecting most of Year 11 will once again step up to receive this vital final support informed by what we have learned in the exam process prior to the break. A huge well done to all in Year 11. If you have any questions or need any support at home, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Year 10 – End of Year Examinations now on the horizon

End of Year (Mock) Examinations for Year 10 are quickly approaching and play a key role in supporting progress towards GCSE assessment in Year 11, as well as identifying any gaps in knowledge early. This allows pupils to begin to learn about and apply effective, evidence informed revision routines as well as address any concerns with the support of school and families.

Every lesson and every week matters - all the way up to their GCSE exams next May and June. Evidence linking attendance in Year 10 and 11 with pupil outcomes, well being and life chances (including future earnings) is staggering and cannot be underestimated.

Many pupils are already taking action to prepare for these assessments and much more information will be provided at our Steps to Success Evening on the 22nd May - so please ensure you have reserved your place using the link provided in ClassCharts or the QR code on the letter handed out at the Parents' Consultation Evening.

Revision guides have been selling well and can provide a valuable resource. These can be ordered using ParentPay and we purchase and sell them at a significant reduced price. In addition, the online platforms we have invested in such as GCSEPod remain a fantastic resource. GCSEPod, for those still unfamiliar, provides short videos on different topics with short assessments to complete as well as exam style questions and advice. It is a great revision resource with tangible outcomes demonstrated by their many impact reports from thousands of children and schools across the country. Videos

can be downloaded to save on data use and the short 5-minute video format is accessible. These tools can also be used anywhere. SENECA and SPARX are also fabulous resources, so please encourage your child(ren) over the summer to make use of them to address any weaker areas in subjects, including those highlighted through the exam process, so we hit the ground running in September. The more we do now the easier it will be later

Please look out for the REVISION TASKS set on classcharts through the homework function every week and work with your child(ren) to ensure they are completed. Year 10 are really gathering positive momentum so thank you for all of your support in maintaining that over the remainder of this academic year.

Mr Henderson Head of Upper School





CAREER OF THE WEEK: Orthoptist

What does an orthoptist do?

Orthoptists diagnose and treat defects in eye movement, problems with how the eyes work together and problems with how the eyes interact with the brain. They work with every age group including, babies, children, adults and the elderly. Their work with children generally involves vision screening and the correction of misaligned or lazy eyes. Orthoptists' work with adults is



usually around eye muscle or nerve weakness because of brain injury, stroke, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, or similar.

Orthoptists usually work in a hospital but can also work in schools or community healthcare. They work as part of a multi-disciplinary care team including doctors, nurses, health visitors and other allied healthcare professionals.

What can I expect to earn as an orthoptist?

As an orthoptist working for the NHS, you will be paid on the <u>Agenda for Change (AFC) pay system</u>, typically starting on band 5, with salaries currently ranging from £29,970 to £36,483. Upon completion of the preceptorship programme, you can apply for a specialist clinical role at Band 6, paying between £37,338 and £44,962. Experienced orthoptists who reach Band 7 can expect to be paid between £46,148 and £52,809. Salaries for head orthoptists can reach up to £101,677 (Band 8d). You will also receive a generous pension and 35 days holiday per year (including bank holidays).

What subjects should I study to become an orthoptist?

The entry requirements for an orthoptist undergraduate degree course are generally five GCSEs (grades 9-4), including English language, maths, and science, and two or three A levels, including one science, or equivalent.

How can I start my career as an orthoptist?

Orthoptist is a title that is protected by law. This means that to work as an orthoptist, you will need to have completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in orthoptics, which has been approved by the <u>Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)</u>. Currently, three universities offer undergraduate courses in orthoptics: <u>Glasgow Caledonian University</u>, the <u>University of Liverpool</u> and the <u>University of Sheffield</u>. <u>University College London</u> offers a 2-year postgraduate option.

All pre-registration orthoptic students on an eligible undergraduate or postgraduate course in England could receive non-repayable funding support of at least £6,000 per year to help fund your studies. For more details, see the NHS Learning Support Fund (https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf).

If you already have a 2:2 undergraduate degree or above in a relevant subject, you could apply to study a pre-registration Masters course in orthoptics. It is a full-time, two-year course, which offers an accelerated route to registration as an orthoptist.

If you are interested in applying to study orthoptics at university, you can visit the British and Irish Orthoptic Society website to arrange a work shadowing opportunity https://www.orthoptics.org.uk/become-an-orthoptist/work-shadowing/

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

Useful websites to find out more about a career as an orthoptist:

What is an Orthoptist? https://www.orthoptics.org.uk/patients-and-public/what-is-an-orthoptist/
Health Careers, Orthoptist https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/orthoptist/orthoptist/

National Careers Service, Orthoptist https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/orthoptist Prospects, Orthoptist https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/orthoptist

Find an approved orthoptics course https://www.hcpc-uk.org/education/approved-programmes/











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



Year 10

Aiden Olivier

Millie Wisher

Poppy Cooper

Ellie Mulvana

Ben Smedley

Evie Woad

Gracie Pawson

Mia Worgan

Charlotte Burnett

Ammarah Rehman

Year 11

Evelyn Drinkall

Ella Curley

Elise Forster

Alice Michaels

Toby Robertson

Jasmine Lambert

Amelia Purchon

Theo Waterson

Aneena Seby

Daniel Sutcliffe

Luke Hancock

Oliver Sysum

Attendance Matters!

Each week we reflect on the importance of attendance at school by giving ClassCharts rewards for Great Vision to every pupil with 100% attendance the previous week. These pupils are then entered into a draw and the winner receives a £5 Amazon voucher.

Last week's winner was:

Year 10: Evie Woad









This week I am featuring Mary Anderson, in Year 12, who has been awarded the County Commissioner's **Commendation Award!**

The award is the (County) Commissioner's Commendation Award, and Mary received it "for being a fantastic young leader who is a credit to the scouts". She didn't know she was receiving the award, so it was a complete surprise.

It was presented to her by Jacob Birch, the County Commissioner.

Mary said, "I've been in scouting since I was 6, so 11 years now and I've been in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. I am now still an Explorer, but also a young leader for the new 1st Beverley Squirrels group (4-6-year-olds). I started young leading in November."















When I asked her about her proud moments in Scouting she said, "I don't think I have a personal proudest moment, but I do have moments when I'm proud to be in Scouts as a whole, such as the annual Remembrance Day parade in November. However, this was a massive moment for me, and I couldn't believe that my work had been recognized like this."

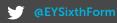
Finally Mary told me that, "Through scouting, I have learned how to respect myself and others, how to educate younger children in a fun and engaging way, and how to take care of myself and others, by means of backwards cooking (over a fire), putting up a tent or building a shelter, but mostly we have fun."

Well done Mary - this is a wonderful moment in your Scouting career!

Mr Chapman **Head of Sixth Form**













Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools about <u>health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK</u>. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to contact school on the first day. Let us know that your child won't be in and give the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, please contact their Care and Achievement Co-ordinator.

What to do about other conditions

High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

Feeling anxious or worried

It's normal for children to feel a little anxious sometimes. They may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping.

Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk about any worries they may have such as bullying, friendship problems, school work or sensory problems. You can also work with the school to find ways to help them.



If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, it might be good to talk to your GP or school nurse.

Find information and advice about how to help children with anxiety

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor <u>cough</u> or <u>common cold</u>. But if they have a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

Chickenpox

If your child has <u>chickenpox</u>, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a <u>cold sore</u>. Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have <u>conjunctivitis</u>, unless they are feeling very unwell. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have <u>symptoms of COVID-19</u> and they either:

- >> have a high temperature
- >> do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

Ear infection

If your child has an <u>ear infection</u> and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has <u>hand</u>, <u>foot and mouth disease</u> but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Impetigo

If your child has <u>impetigo</u>, they'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Measles

If your child has <u>measles</u>, they'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

Ringworm

If your child has <u>ringworm</u>, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has <u>scarlet fever</u>, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have <u>slapped cheek syndrome</u> because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. But let the school know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a <u>sore throat</u>. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of <u>tonsillitis</u>.

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have <u>threadworms</u>. Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with <u>diarrhoea or vomiting</u> should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Mr Rogers
Deputy Headteacher





Once again, a huge congratulations to our latest Golden Buzzer winners!

Charlotte Britt 11PDR

Ava Brockwell 11PDR

Olivia Chilcott 8LWO

Sophie Clayton 8NFO

Evie Cunningham 7JDY

Evelyn Drinkall 11PDR

Lexi Fairbrother 9EMN

Curtis Gordon 9GTA

Joshua Hall 8EFX

Grace Hook 12CEI

Leona James 8NFO

Elise Jenkinson 11SWL

Noah Kirkley 8NFO

Christopher McGlone 8NFO

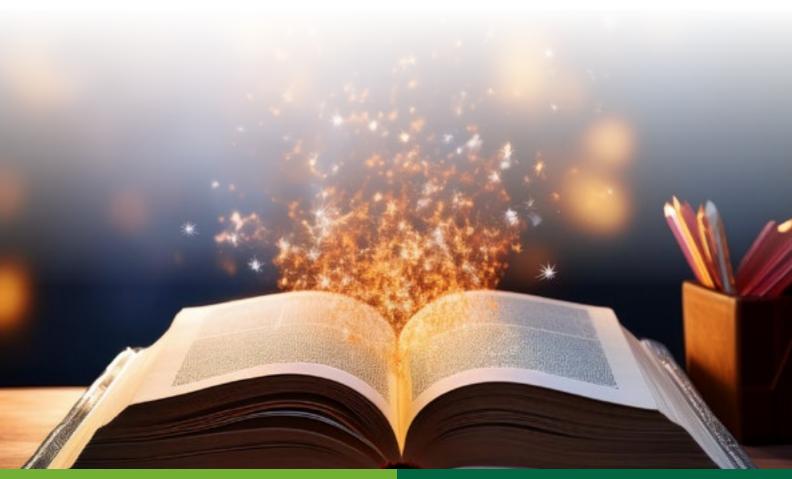
Aden Olivier 10AHO

Jake Redmond 8ACR

Aneena Seby 11EFO

Emma Spencer 7EDN

Millie Wisher 10ARU





Congratulations Jack!

Congratulations to former pupil Jack Bailey on his well-deserved recognition at the recent Best of Beverley Awards.

Beverley Town Council proudly hosted the Best of Beverley Awards Night on 11th April at East Riding Theatre, bringing the community together to honour the outstanding individuals, groups, and businesses who make Beverley such a special place to live and work.

The evening was a heartfelt celebration of community spirit, dedication, and achievement across a range of categories. The event was attended by shortlisted nominees, councillors, community leaders, and special guests, all gathered to shine a spotlight on those who go above and beyond for Beverley.

Mayor of Beverley Councillor David Boynton, who is also a former Longcroft pupil, said: "It was truly inspiring to recognise so many incredible people who contribute so much to our town. The Best of Beverley Awards remind us that community is at the heart of everything we do—and that Beverley's strength lies in the kindness, talent, and dedication of its people."



Winners were selected following a public nomination process earlier this year, which saw a wonderful response from the community. The judging panel, made up of Town Councillors, had the difficult task of choosing the recipients from an impressive pool of nominations.

Jack, who left Longcroft in 2020 won the award for 'Best Individual' – a wonderful achievement! The category recognises 'individuals who over time have done an incredible amount for their community, usually without fuss or fanfare.' We are also proud that Clare Greaves, who has done a great deal of work to support several Longcroft pupils and joins us for our annual walk during Children's Mental Health Week each year, was among those shortlisted.

Mrs Newsam said: "I often see Jack around Beverley, and he does the Park Run. It's always a pleasure to catch up with him and to hear how he's spending his time. I'm extremely proud of him."







Memory Lane

This week we return to 1965/66 and feature two Third Year tutor groups – pupils in 3BE are pictured with Mr Purves and 3AS with Mr Massheder.







Our Languages Nuts!



We are delighted with the enthusiasm shown by pupils for our latest award — the Language Nutter of the Week.

Ms Shepherd explained: "Language Nut is a website we use regularly in Spanish and French. Each week, pupils in Years 7-10 are set homework on Language Nut, which is available as an app on a mobile device or on a computer or laptop. Year 11 linguists use the website as part of their GCSE revision. Every week, we will announce a Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Language Nutter of the week – the pupils who have scored the most points on Language Nut that week."

Congratulations to this week's winners!

Lower School: Alysicia Leach (9PDV) with 107,200 points

Upper School: Levi Petherbridge (10DPE) with 165,000 points











Swimmers Excel!

The Longcroft Swimming Team delivered a strong performance at the recent swimming gala held at Beverley Leisure Centre, securing an impressive second place overall among a competitive field of school teams.

Mr Nicholls said: "Throughout the day, our swimmers demonstrated exceptional skill, determination, and teamwork across a variety of events, with a number of our pupils claiming victories in their individual events. The dedication of our pupils was evident in every race. Their collective effort earned us a well-deserved second place trophy, a testament to the countless hours of training and preparation."

Max, who is in Year 8, competes for local club Beverley Barracudas. He said: "I like swimming - I train five times a week and really enjoy it. I've got lots of friends there and like the sport." Max, who competed in the 25m freestyle and relay, added: "It was great to represent the school."

Mr Nicholls added: "We extend our congratulations to all swimmers who competed on the day and look forward to attending the event next year."



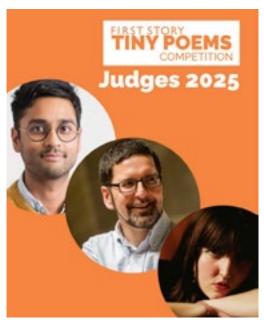




First Story Launches Tiny Poem Competition

First Story have just launched Tiny Poems, a new national competition for young writers. It's a great opportunity for our pupils and students to challenge themselves to write succinctly and get to the essence of an idea.

Poems can be written on any theme, and must be a maximum of five lines only. That might sound easy, but it actually requires a lot of thought. When words are limited, every word has to count and be compelling. A short poem, by necessity, usually describes a singular event, so it's important to select a topic or feeling that is expressive, or even poignant; something that is meaningful to you. Brevity and clarity are essential. It's not unchallenging, but writing a short poem can be both joyful and cathartic.



In-house prizes will include books, chocolates, certificates, and a Golden Buzzer. Three entries will be forwarded to the First Story national competition, and the winning entry will receive a book bundle and certificate. The First Story judges will all be from the poetry sector: Jay Bhadricha, First Story alumni and Head of Programmes at Forward Arts Foundation; John McAuliffe, Professor of Poetry at the University of Manchester, and multidisciplinary creative Tallulah Howarth from Manchester's Writing Squad.

For more information look out for posters on display at school or visit the Library. The deadline is Monday 2nd June 2025.

Below is a Haiku poem to inspire your imagination

"A Poppy Blooms" by Katsushika Hokusai

I write, erase, rewrite

Erase again, and then

A poppy blooms.



Time To Revise

As the exam season approaches it's essential that our pupils are prepared. Over the coming weeks they will be having additional revision sessions with their teachers as well as going through previous exam papers and being briefed on study skills and exam technique.

Revision guides and revision question cards are also a good way of revisiting learning, and consolidating knowledge. They can especially help in subjects that pupils are less confident in. It's easy to feel overwhelmed, but by getting started, and taking small steps pupils will be rewarded

The revision guides include exam practice questions with model answers and are designed to appeal to pupils with a range of learning styles; there are also a selection of exam practice workbooks. The question cards are great for learning quotes and key facts and allow parents and carers to support children and get involved too.

On ParentPay you will find a list of revision guides and question cards for sale at cost price. These can be purchased online, at some parents' evenings and events, or at the Library for cash. If your child is on free school meals these are available for loan or free. All resources can be collected from the Library. If you have any questions please call or email.

"Before anything else, preparation is the key to success." —Alexander Graham Bell



"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."

- Barack Obama, former U.S. President



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Care and Achievement Co-ordinators

Our Care and Achievement Co-ordinators work with specific year groups to ensure the welfare and progress of pupils and are the first point of contact for parents.

They support children to achieve academically by establishing a positive learning environment, visiting and working in lessons and supervising and supporting individuals and groups of pupils.

Our team, and their work mobile phone number which parents can use to contact them, are pictured below.



Year 7
Miss Fox
07342 342858
vicky.fox@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 8

Mrs Thwaites

07444 847881

gemma.thwaites@longcroft.eriding.net



Years 9 and 10 Mrs Newsam 07827 587483

zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net



annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net