



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER

A celebration of our pupils'
and Sixth Form students'
achievements during 2024/25!

Our London party in
Regent's Park.

As the Summer Term draws to an end, we reflect with pride on another fabulous year of academic endeavour, sporting success, performing arts opportunities, charitable endeavours and a wonderful enrichment programme that has seen us welcome inspirational guests and our pupils and Sixth Form students visit London, Italy and New York.

With best wishes for the Summer.



Term Dates 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025 for Pupils and Students

Wednesday 3 September - Friday 24 October - Years 7 & 12 only

Thursday 4 September - Friday 24 October - Years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13 only

Monday 3 November - Friday 19 December

Spring Term 2026

Tuesday 6 January – Friday 13 February

Monday 23 February - Friday 27 March

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 April - Friday 22 May

Please note that Monday 4 May is a Bank Holiday.

Monday 1 June - Friday 17 July

Staff Training Days

Monday 1 September 2025

Tuesday 2 September 2025

Wednesday 24 September 2025

Monday 5 January 2026

Monday 20 July 2026



Headteacher's Welcome

This final Newsletter of the academic year is a wonderful celebration, not only of the many and varied opportunities our young people have enjoyed, but also of our Longcroft mission and values. There are so many examples of Great Heart, Thought and Vision that are demonstrated through our community and captured brilliantly through this visual and joyful compendium.

So much happens at Longcroft, that this publication is only able to shine a light on a fraction of what our amazing children continue to do and achieve. It is important that I acknowledge the many staff who go above and beyond to make experiences available within and beyond the curriculum. Often this requires sacrifices in their own lives and for their own families, and I would like to publicly acknowledge their much-valued contribution in this regard.

It has been quite the year for our school, with many awards and recognitions and visits from various public figures including from local and national government. We have welcomed the acknowledgement of our community and our children, and are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

I have again set our children a number of challenges this year, and they have consistently risen to them. One notable example was the target for our pupils and students to break our record of over 1 million ClassCharts rewards. This is not a feat to be underestimated, and yet here we are in the final week of term having accomplished it again! I am incredibly proud of the commitment our young people show to the small things, the individual decisions each and every day that live our values in to existence. These acts of Heart, Thought and Vision create a culture which promotes and celebrates learning and achievement, but most importantly is underpinned by genuine kindness, care and compassion. With this climate we can be truly ambitious for our children to grow and develop as great thinkers, learners and people – able to make a positive contribution to our community, society and the world beyond.

As we look ahead to September, there is so much more to come. Next year will see further international trips, including to New York, Italy and Spain as well as a wide range of domestic opportunities, visits and local experiences. In addition to our focus on the curriculum, learning and academic progress, we remain committed to providing breadth of extracurricular clubs and events as well as expanded leadership opportunities. We will continue to support our local community and primary schools with access to our facilities, and proudly celebrate our incredible pupils and students, and all that they achieve.

Thank you for your continued support. It is hugely valued and never underestimated.

Have a great summer.

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:



Acts of Great

HEART

133,925

THOUGHT

453,547

VISION

435,209

GRAND

TOTAL:

1,022,681





LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

In recent weeks Mr Henderson and Mr Chapman, respective Heads of Upper School and our Sixth Form, have taken the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 students and to wish them well for the transition into the next stage of their education.

As the summer term draws to a close, we take great pride in celebrating a pivotal milestone for our Year 9 pupils as they prepare to move from Lower School into the exciting challenges and opportunities of Upper School life in Year 10.

This transition marks more than just a change in uniform or timetable, it signifies real growth. Over the past three years, our pupils have laid strong academic and personal foundations. They've explored new subjects, forged friendships, developed resilience, and embraced the values that underpin our school community. Now, they are ready to build upon that groundwork as they step into the next stage of their educational journey.

Moving into Upper School brings with it a greater sense of independence and responsibility. Pupils begin to specialise in the subjects that inspire them, and they start to look ahead to life beyond school, whether that's our Sixth Form, college, apprenticeships, or careers. This is a time when aspirations take shape, confidence deepens, and individual strengths come to the fore.

Throughout the past term, our Year 9 pupils have engaged in a number of transition activities designed to prepare them for this next chapter. From introductory GCSE lessons to personal development, the focus has been on equipping pupils with the tools they need to thrive in Key Stage 4. The enthusiasm and maturity they've shown during this process have been inspiring.

As a school, we remain committed to nurturing every child's growth; not just academically, but socially and emotionally too. We understand that change can feel daunting, but we are proud of how ready our Year 9 pupils are to embrace what's next. Their progress so far is a testament to their hard work, the support of their families, and the dedication of our teaching staff.

We wish all of our Year 9 pupils the very best as they enter Upper School in September. The path ahead is full of promise, and we can't wait to see how they continue to grow, achieve, and shine.

Mr Worthington
Head of Lower School



We began the new academic year buoyed by exceptional examination results and looking forward to a year filled with opportunity.

There were exceptional performances across the range of subjects with many pupils achieving a succession of top grades. There were also notable individual stories, such as those who have overcome significant challenges to achieve their wonderful results.

Mr Perry said: "We are so proud of all our pupils who have seen their hard work and determination pay off. We know many will head into our Sixth Form College, which celebrated great success last week, while others will be exploring a range of wider options across the region. We wish them all every success. We must not underestimate how challenging the secondary educational experience has been for these young people, nor the significant shadow cast by the Covid pandemic. They have shown tremendous courage, character and fortitude."



Mr Chapman, Head of Sixth Form, said: "We were delighted to see so many of our students achieve great outcomes this summer across a wide range of A levels and Level 3 courses. A significant number of our subjects are now performing amongst the highest colleges in the country in terms of the progress students make from their GCSEs. This is a testament to the support, care and guidance that have been provided by our staff, within our student community and our parents and carers."



BDC Royals Take On The World!

During the summer holidays the Royals dance team, who are the current British Champions, represented Beverley's Base Dance Company at the prestigious UDO World Championships in Blackpool.

Competing against teams from across the world the Royals, who included Ella, Hailey, Ava and Poppy from Longcroft, achieved remarkable success securing an impressive 2nd place in the Under 16 Novice category.





Rachael's Ambition Fulfilled!

The publication of her debut novel, 'A Little Bird Told Me', saw former Longcroft student Rachael Gray realise an ambition held since her father read to her as a child. Rachael has subsequently seen 'A Turn-up for the Books' and 'A Storm in a Teacup' published to complete her Elderwick Mysteries trilogy.

The Riot Act a hit with Year 7

We were delighted to welcome drama group The Riot Act back to Longcroft after last year's successful visit.

'What Went Down...' is a powerful, engaging drama which demonstrates safe behaviour around roads. The performance highlighting the importance of recognising and understanding how peer influence effects our choices and behaviour and how to deal with it.

Miss Sinclair said: "I was incredibly proud of our pupils; in the workshop they were eager to share their thoughts on the play, and particularly their opinions on the main characters. Well done Year 7!"

Morecambe Brings Geographers Sunshine!

Our Year 13 Geographers visited Castle Head Field Studies Centre in the beautiful Grange-over-Sands to conduct geographical fieldwork and collect data for their independent investigation.





The Golden Buzzer!

At Longcroft we are always looking for new ways to celebrate the hard work, positive behaviour, and kindness displayed by our pupils and Sixth Form students. We were thrilled to introduce a new reward initiative: **the 'Golden Buzzer' Award!**

Each week, every member of staff has the opportunity to choose one pupil who has stood out to them for a special reason. Whether it's for exceptional work, outstanding effort, or a simple act of kindness, these pupils are recognized with a 'Golden Buzzer'. This award is a way for us to celebrate those who go above and beyond in their daily school life, and it allows us to recognize the wide variety of achievements across our school community.



Alex's Valkyrie in Grand Final Victory!

Two former Longcroft students faced each other in the Betfred Women's Super League Grand Final. The match, which was televised live on Sky Sports, saw Alex Stimpson's York Valkyrie make history by becoming the first team to retain the trophy as they denied St Helens, who included former England international Rachael Woosey, the treble at the Totally Wicked Stadium.

The Bookbuzz Books Arrive!

The Bookbuzz books arrived and were distributed to all our eager Year 7 pupils. Reading brings profound and wide-ranging benefits that can have a lifelong positive impact on children's lives. We are always grateful to the wonderful Friends of Longcroft School for their support with this project; this year Mrs Sue Sugdon and Mrs Becky Chapman came into school to help distribute the books. Receiving a free book is a marvellous way for our pupils to begin their reading journey at Longcroft!





WiME Event

Miss Sinclair organised an opportunity for our pupils to visit the fantastic Women into Manufacturing and Engineering event organised by Green Port Hull at the city's Guildhall.

Women into Manufacturing and Engineering (WiME) is an initiative to encourage women to choose a career in these industries. With great pay, a high number of vacancies and attractive prospects, careers in manufacturing and engineering present a wide variety of interesting and exciting roles, which play an important part in our economy.

Miss Sinclair said: "Today's trip to the Guildhall for the WiME event was excellent. The pupils were fantastic in representing Longcroft and they asked some interesting questions. I really enjoyed having the opportunity to discuss their plans for the future with them."

Careers Evening

Miss Sinclair organised our latest Careers Evening and it was fantastic to see so many Upper School pupils and their parents taking the opportunity to find out more about an array of careers and Post-16 options.



Students Support World Mental Health Day

Sixth Form students wore yellow and supported 2024's World Mental Health Day. Students' yellow attire ranged from whole outfits to socks, and we raised over £50 for this excellent cause.

Malcolm Duffy Visits Longcroft!

Prize winning children's author Malcolm Duffy visited Longcroft's Library to inspire some of our most enthusiastic readers. A huge thank you to East Riding Libraries for making this exciting event possible.





Longcroft Remembers

Longcroft has always enjoyed a close link with the armed forces – not least through our association with Leconfield and the 25 Training Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) which forms part of the Defence School of Transport. Many current and former pupils come from forces families and several have served our country with distinction.

We were proud that Longcroft pupils Emily and Anna and former pupil Natalie were invited to perform The Last Post before Beverley Town's home fixture. Emily said: "I performed last year at school and we're doing it again on Monday. I'm looking forward to performing before Beverley Town's game."

Year 12 student Mary was involved in the weekend's Remembrance services in Beverley. Mary's an Explorer Scout and was selected to lay a wreath in the Memorial Gardens on Remembrance Sunday. Mary explained: "I have been a Scout since I was 6 years old. I joined the Explorers when I was 14. Before then I was a Beaver, a Cub and then a Scout. Our unit is called the Westwood Explorer Scout Unit and it is based in Cherry Burton."

Dr Bike Supports Safer Cycling

Road Safety Officers from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council handed out 42 helmets, 70 locks and 80 lights! Miss Sinclair explained: "R-evolution were also here with their Dr Bike Session. 40 bikes were checked and repaired by Dr Bike. We are proud of Longcroft pupils for being proactive and taking part in the event. Due to the number of pupils who expressed an interest (79 bikes), unfortunately not all bikes were able to be seen. We will be looking at organising another event as soon as possible."





Emma Honoured!

We were delighted that Year 13 student Emma was selected to fulfil the role of Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The Lord-Lieutenant's Award recognises cadets, cadet adult volunteers, reservists and military civilian support staff for their extraordinary efforts and supplements honours bestowed by His Majesty The King in the New Year and Birthday Honours Lists.

Cadets awarded become one of the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets of their county supporting the Lord-Lieutenant at many ceremonial duties throughout the year. Duties can range from Royal Visits to services such as Remembrance Day. To receive this, cadets must be of the highest standard with excellent bearing, good interpersonal skills and the ability to interact with others. Recipients should hold the rank of at least Able Cadet or Cadet Sergeant and should have been a cadet for at least two years. This award is the highest honour a cadet can achieve and offers opportunities unique only to the cadets recognised as Lord-Lieutenant Cadets.

Emma said, "When I was chosen I felt proud and pleased that my superiors recognised my commitment to the Army Cadet Force."

Forest School

Longcroft's first Forest School began with a bang in an overgrown corner of the school grounds.

A Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Our latest update features later in this Newsletter.



Katy's Latest Book Is Published

Katy Beskow, food writer par excellence, popped into Longcroft to donate a copy of her new book *Vegan Pantry* to the school Library. It's her twelfth to be published. The former Longcroft student hoped the timing, just before the Christmas book sale rush and Vejanuary in the New Year, would make it yet another runaway success.



Reciprocal Reading Is Launched

The English team and Library staff launched a new reading initiative for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 called Reciprocal Reading. It's designed to encourage pupils to be more proactive in their approach to reading, actively improve their comprehension skills, consider their own thought processes, and be more confident about questioning and discussing what they're reading.

Girls' Commitment Rewarded!

ACC Mike Walker formally welcomed 46 young people into Humberside Police as they took to the stage to state their commitment to the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme by taking their official oath.

We are proud that Year 11 pupils Ameera-Grace, Amy, Anna, Gracie and Katie were among the group, each receiving their Certificate of Attestation having successfully completed their initial induction training.





Athletes are Champions!

Longcroft hosted the School Sports Partnership's Sportshall Athletics competition for boys and girls in Years 7 and 8. Our four teams took on athletes from Driffield, Holderness, Bridlington, Hornsea, Beverley High and Beverley Grammar.

Sportshall athletics is an indoor form of athletics for children between the ages of 4 and 15. It is the largest competition programme in schools in the UK.

When the final scores came in we were first in all four team categories!

Apprenticeship Event

23 Year 10 pupils attended the Hull & East Riding Apprenticeship Event at Bishop Burton College. This involved an introductory session on rates of pay, provider options and how learning is structure on an apprenticeship.

Miss Sinclair said: "The pupils were excellent at engaging with providers and asking questions. Many left with information on a provider they hoped to apply to next year."

Shoe Box Appeal Brings Christmas Cheer!

We were delighted to hand over our donations to the Age UK Hull and East Yorkshire Shoe Box Christmas Hamper Appeal. Last year 935 hampers were given out to older people across Hull and East Yorkshire - this year the charity's goal was to give out over 1000!

This was a challenging target, but one we were delighted to contribute towards. Mr Rogers said: "Each year I am impressed by the generosity of the Longcroft community and the enthusiasm our pupils and Sixth Form students show for the appeal. Contributions ranged from toiletries and food to gloves, scarves and small gifts. Some children brought in cards with lovely, heart-warming messages."



Mr Rogers added: "I am proud of our community's response to this year's appeal – it was a pleasure to hand over the boxes knowing how much their contents will be appreciated."



Christmas Concert

We enjoyed another wonderful Christmas Concert. The audience enjoyed solo performances, our choir and orchestra before a finale of Shakin Stevens' hit 'Merry Christmas Everyone' brought the curtain down on a fabulous evening of festive entertainment.

Sixth Word Story Results Announced!

We had some incredible entries in our Six Word Story competition.

Maureen Lennon, our First Story Writer in residence, and the English and library teams judged the competition - well done to everyone who entered. We have so many amazing young writers at Longcroft!

The joint first place winners are:

She made popcorn. I heard gunfire.

Henrik-Bror Berntsson - 9SGE

Roses; posies. Have I fallen down?

Alisa McKay - 7JDY

"Do I know you?" "Not anymore."

Mary Anderson - 12JHR

Christmas Cards

Three designs were judged as the winners of this year's Christmas Card competition. Congratulations to Luke, Florence and Anna.

Luci Wins Silver!

Year 10 pupil Luci, who competes at Beverley's Track Fitness and Boxing Club, won silver in the Winter Box Cup!

Oh, Christmas Tree!

We were proud to contribute to this year's Beverley Minster Christmas Tree Festival – one of 150 beautifully decorated trees displayed in Beverley Minster's stunning medieval building. Pupils working in Design Technology with Mr Dyson created decorations, and Mrs Block and Mrs Spruce-Wan visited the Minster to decorate the tree.





GCHQ Christmas Challenge

Our Lower School pupils took part in the GCHQ Christmas Challenge.

Mrs Low explained: "Each class worked under the supervision of a 'Chief Intelligence Officer' that monitored progress between the teams. It was their responsibility to swap agents across tasks where their mathematical skills would be best suited to complete the mission. As the agents were working against the clock, each time a team solved their puzzle, they were designate another puzzle to assist with. 30 agents, 7 tasks, 60 minutes...to save the world!"



David Ayre Talks About His First Novel

Newly published author David Ayre visited Longcroft Library to talk to Year 12 English Literature students about his debut novel *Pegasus Rising*. Students listened to an extract from the book and enjoyed lots of discussion and a lively Q & A.

Food, Glorious Food!

Pupils, Sixth Form students and staff celebrated the end of a wonderful term with Christmas Dinner – thank you to our amazing catering team from Mellors!



Former Student Honoured!

We were proud to begin 2025 by congratulating and celebrating significant recognition for former student Lt Col David Groce, who was awarded the OBE in the King's New Year's Honours.

Henrik Earns National Recognition!

Year 9 pupil Henrik won a Highly Commended Prize in First Story's Six Word Story Competition 2025. Henrik's fabulous story, '**She made popcorn. I heard gunfire**', was one of three stories put forward following Longcroft's in-house competition.

Clare Inspires Us To Walk And Talk!

"Coming to Longcroft means a lot to me. I think it's so important for young people to talk about their feelings."

—Clare Greaves

We were once again grateful to Clare Greaves who visited Longcroft to lead a lunchtime walk around our school grounds to mark Children's Mental Health Week 2025. Many pupils and Sixth Form students joined in to show their support.

Clare, who does lots of voluntary work in the local community, and organises Mental Health Mates walks in Beverley and the Hull area, is a firm believer in the power of walking and talking to transform mood; especially when enjoyed with fresh air and in lovely surroundings. She has been leading an annual walk at Longcroft since 2019.

We were also pleased to welcome in the Humber Teaching NHS to host our first Year 7 Mental Health Morning, promoting well-being in our young people and providing plenty of activities for pupils to get involved in.

Charlie Competes in Dubai!

Year 9 pupil Charlie had an amazing result in a kart race in Dubai. It was the first time Charlie had raced there, and he finished second in the final!



Sixth Formers Train to Mentor!

We were delighted to welcome into the Sixth Form Hannah Spencer from the Yorkshire Endeavour English Hub. Hannah met with 18 of our Year 12 students who had expressed an interest in developing their skills, knowledge and understanding of how to mentor younger pupils - with a focus on supporting children who struggle with their reading.

Recognition for Footballers!

We were celebrating after receiving the prestigious Equal Access School Award from the Football Association and Barclays, rewarding Longcroft's exceptional commitment to providing equal opportunities for girls in football.





Pupils' Brilliant Graduation!

"I am incredibly proud of the hard work, resilience, and dedication of the pupils who took part."

—Miss Sinclair

We are proud to celebrate the wonderful achievement of a group of Year 9 pupils who undertook the challenge of The Brilliant Club's Scholars Programme. Eight of the pupils visited the prestigious University of Sheffield for their Graduation Ceremony – the culmination of weeks of regular tutorials and a challenging final assignment which is marked and moderated using university grades.

Professor King Inspires

We invited Professor Andrew King from the University of Hull to discuss all things involved the music industry with our Year 9 pupils. Professor King, ably assisted by PhD student Tamara Elmes, discussed how AI can benefit the music industry and performing arts as well as other careers in the creative sector. Pupils were wowed by a quick 20 second demonstration of how the technology works, it even wrote a song about our school!

Thackray Museum of Medicine

Mr Charlesworth organised a wonderful opportunity for Year 10 pupils studying History to enhance their understanding through a visit to Leeds' Thackray Museum of Medicine.



Will's Dream Comes True!

Less than three years ago Will Hutchinson was a member of Longcroft's successful rugby team – winners of the Humberside Schools' Cup. As a Year 11 pupil he also played for Hull FC's Under 16 Scholarship team alongside schoolmate Jack Charles. When he left Longcroft in 2022 and joined Hull FC's Sports College at the club's Centre of Excellence he had one aim. "It was just to get into the Academy. I just wanted to succeed in rugby." We were proud to celebrate Will's debut for Hull FC's first team and to wish him well for his future career!



Show Stoppers!

Our performing artists treated us to a wonderful evening of music and drama – ‘Show Stoppers’ thrilled an appreciative, enthusiastic audience, as pupils and Sixth Form students treated us to excerpts from shows such as Les Misérables and Billy Elliott.

Dr Ed Hurst leads fabulous Writing Workshop

It's always a joy to welcome Dr Ed Hurst to Longcroft. The feeling is mutual as Ed commented: **"I always enjoy working with your students. I also wanted to offer, as always, to come back should you ever want me to work with them again!"**

Year 8 pupils were treated to a special creative writing workshop with the University of Hull lecturer.





LONGCROFT

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

Issue 236 July 2025

MARCH



Year 8 Experience the Stock Market!

The Trading Game is a fast paced and lively activity. It allows pupils to work in small teams to get involved in the stock market. Year 8 pupils bought and sold shares using a 'Trading Pit' to do this. Miss Sinclair explained: "Year 8 took on the role of stockbrokers as we created a stock market in the theatre."

Pupils Go Nuts for Languages!

Ms Shepherd introduced a new award – the 'Language Nutter of the Week'. Each week we have published the top 10 pupils – those who have earned the most points that week. This week we are delighted to announce that our Languages Nut of the Year is Year 10 pupil Levi Petherbridge. Levi, who is in 10DPE

and studies Spanish, has earned an incredible 1,782,400 points! Year 7 pupil Holly Artley Tolson and Year 11's Anika Matta, who also study Spanish finished second and third. In fourth place, Ben Smedley, who is in Year 10, was our highest scoring pupil studying French.

Law Firm Partnership!

Charlotte Chilcott, who is a partner at Goschalks Solicitors in Hull, brought a team from her solicitors to talk to students in Year 12 about careers in and routes into becoming a lawyer or paralegal.

The students were very positive and grateful to Charlotte and her colleagues for giving up their time to demystify some of the myths surrounding work as a lawyer as well as how to become a practitioner.



Scientists Inspired!

"It was amazing to hear how the scientists are changing our world in so many ways!"

Pupils enjoyed the opportunity to see and hear five of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms, in the stunning setting of Sheffield City Hall at GCSEScienceLive!

Year 8 are the Champions!

Our Year 8 boys became East Riding Champions, winning their tournament at Wolfreton School. The tournament brought together the best teams from across the East Riding and the standard of football was high. Victories over Beverley Grammar, Driffield and Hessle and draws against Wolfreton and South Hunsley saw Longcroft finish top of the table.

Active Travel Ambassadors' Efforts Rewarded

Our Active Travel Ambassadors Amelia, Chris, Emma, Kiera and Kamilla have been working hard in their efforts to continue the promotion of active, sustainable and safe travel to and from school.

Amelia, Chris and Kamilla visited County Hall in Beverley where they presented their ideas to an expert panel at a Campaign Junction event. The pupils were delighted to earn £500 towards their project.



Year 11 Revision Conference

Year 11 pupils took part in a Revision Conference at the University of Hull. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to work together, supported by key staff, on aspects of exam preparation.

Pupils also experienced what university life is like, from using the modern facilities to eating in the canteen and exploring the campus shop. They were given a tour of the University Campus, and got to experience a taste of student life.



Lily Inspires!

Lily, a Year 9 pupil, presented to pupils in assembly about how she volunteers with St John's. Lily did an amazing job, speaking clearly and confidently about the important role she plays and encouraging others to get involved.

Lily articulately explained how she supports others in the organisation, talked about how to confidently carry out cardiopulmonary resuscitation if someone has a cardiac arrest, and described some of the events she has recently attended.

Year 11 Mathematicians Star in Challenge

The UK Maths Trust is the leading British charity that advances the education of young people in mathematics. For several years Longcroft's pupils and Sixth Form students have enjoyed taking challenges organised by the UKMT, with many excelling. 700k young people from schools across the country and abroad take part in the UKMT's challenges each year. Year 11 pupils once again earned some outstanding results!



Dancers Excel!

We are thrilled to celebrate another incredible achievement by former student Clare Moran's Base Dance Company dancers, who once again showcased their incredible talent at the UDO British Dance Festival!



Longcroft Hits the Slopes in Santa Caterina!

During the first week of the Easter holidays, 40 of our pupils embarked on an unforgettable adventure to the stunning slopes of Santa Caterina in Italy for our annual ski trip.

Mr Rogers said: "It was a week filled with challenge, laughter and impressive progress. For many pupils, this was their first time skiing – and what a transformation we saw! From tentative first steps on the snow to confident turns down the mountain, it was a privilege to witness the determination, resilience and rapid progress shown by everyone."





Easter Revision a Success

School was buzzing over the holiday with nearly all subjects having Easter revision and coursework sessions. Mr Henderson was able to greet the pupils and they were all eager and up early to push themselves in this last sprint to the exams. Staff were really impressed with the focus and dedication to their futures.

Pupils enjoy amazing day at the First Story Young Writers Festival 2025

A huge thank you to First Story for once again hosting the Young Writers Festival at the University of Cambridge. Our cohort of forty pupils had a fantastic day and adored the headline act, spoken word artist Steve Camden.



Congratulations Jack!

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

Swimmers Excel!

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

National Recognition for Ava!

We congratulated Year 7 pupil Ava who received a Highly Commended Award in the First Story 100-word story national competition. Ava was thrilled to have her writing recognised and delighted to see her story published online on the First Story website.





Mathematicians Strike Gold in Challenge!

Over 100 pupils in Years 7 and 8 took on the UK Maths Trust Junior Challenge and we are proud of their outstanding results!

Sixth Form Students Benefit from Exciting Partnership!

Gosschalks' team of lawyers and partners are described as "a beacon of expertise" by The Legal 500. We are delighted that our Sixth Form students are able to benefit from an innovative partnership with the Hull-based company that enjoys an "enviable client base", as described by Chambers & Partners, which includes ASDA, Morrisons, William Hill, Cineworld, Virgin Active, Arnold White Estates, Ei Group, JD Wetherspoon, Kingspan and Wilko, to name a few.

The long-established commercially focused law firm, aims to help people and businesses thrive – to put them in a better, stronger, more prosperous position than they were yesterday.

Mr Chapman, Head of Sixth Form, explained: "Julia Madden, who is a partner at Gosschalks, has been working with me over several weeks, following her visit to the Sixth Form earlier in the year, to build a programme to help and support students in the Sixth Form who are interesting in understanding more about careers in the legal field."



National Numeracy Day!

As part of National Numeracy Day 2025, Year 8 pupils learnt about credit scores in their maths lesson. Pupils discussed how day to day costs such as mobile phone contracts can have both a positive, and in some cases negative effect on them and their future ability to get credit. Using four different characters, Hugh Payment, Frank Account, Dee Fault and Linda Decision, they investigated what criteria is used to 'score' and what 'band' is then awarded to that person.

Historians Experience Elizabethan England

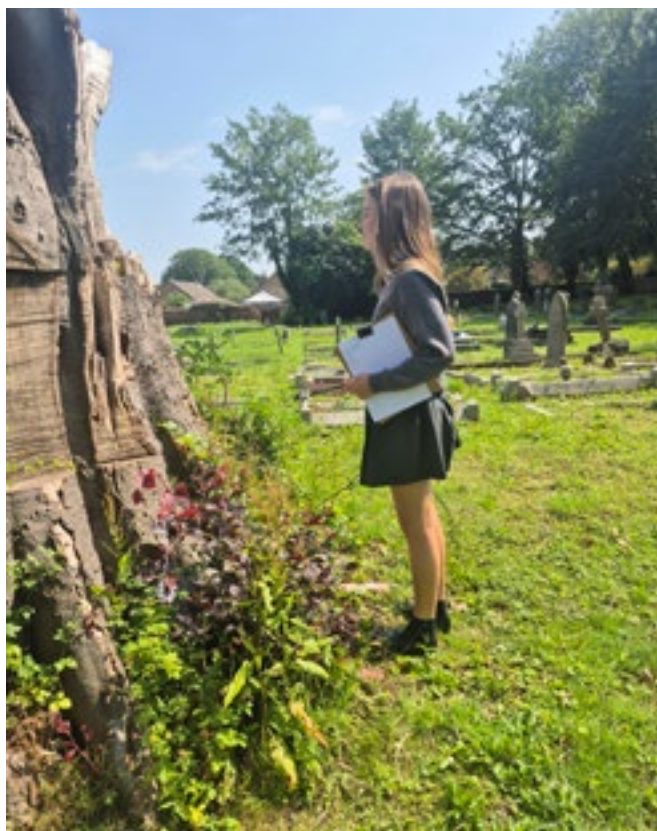
Year 10 pupils studying GCSE History visited Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire in support of their understanding of Renaissance-influenced architecture in Elizabethan society. Pupils already had an appreciation of the role of fashion, the desire to impress the powerful in society, and perhaps the opportunity for the rising gentry class to achieve greater comfort in their living standards as well as to show off that increased prosperity.

Carys Wins at Wembley!

We were proud to celebrate Carys Marsh's achievement in becoming only the second former Longcroft student to win at London's iconic Wembley Stadium.

Carys played hooker in Wigan's resounding 42-6 victory over cup holders and local rivals St Helens – a team which included another former Longcroft student, Rachael Woosey.





Longcroft pupils back to nature!

Mr Perry and Miss Fox had the pleasure of taking a selection of Year 7 pupils to participate in a local nature survey. They joined primary school children and staff from Molescroft and St Mary's along with volunteers from the Molescroft Wildlife Network and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to explore a local site of historical and social interest and record the wide range of flora and fauna on display.

Congratulations Oscar!

We congratulated Year 8 pupil Oscar on achieving a prestigious bronze certificate in the UKMT Junior Kangaroo Challenge. Having qualified following his outstanding performance in the Junior Maths Challenge, Oscar took on 60-minute follow-on round which saw him work through 25 multiple choice questions.



Rugby Players Celebrate Season to be Proud of!

Our Year 7 rugby players' first season together may have ended in defeat against Holderness Academy in the East Riding Schools' Cup Final, but the boys can reflect with pride on a fantastic year.

We Love New York!

The opportunity to spend a week in New York City is an incredibly rewarding experience. From the skyscrapers to the museums, New York City's sights are awe-inspiring, poignant and unforgettable.

A group of Year 12 students crossed the Atlantic Ocean for the trip of a lifetime. They visited the Empire State Building, Brooklyn Bridge, Liberty Island, Times Square the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art and saw 'The Great Gatsby' on Broadway!

Living Eggs Project

Our Lower School children were excited that we once again incubated and hatched some chickens, in partnership with an ethical programme led by Living Eggs. The project was a tremendous success last year and we enjoyed sharing progress of the chicks. Each Year 7 Science class was invited to visit our new additions to the Longcroft family.





Thrills Without Spills in Dalby Forest!

A group of twelve Lower School pupils enjoyed a day's cycling in North Yorkshire's beautiful Dalby Forest!

The Hundred!

Pupils and staff enjoyed the opportunity to be pictured alongside the spectacular 'The Hundred' trophy. Mr Perry said: "It was great to welcome the official 'The Hundred' trophy to Longcroft. The marquee UK cricket tournament in its 100 ball format kicks off at Lords on August 5th. A huge thank you to Yorkshire Cricket for giving our pupils this amazing opportunity."



Year 11 Celebrate in Style!

We were delighted to celebrate a wonderful group of young people – our Longcroft Class of 2025! Year 11 and staff who have supported them throughout their years at Longcroft celebrated together in style at Cottingham's Lazaat Hotel.





Induction Day

We were delighted to welcome Year 6 pupils from primary schools, varying from our traditional local setting to many more from out of catchment for their exciting Induction Day. The day was designed to give our future Year 7 pupils a real taste of life at secondary school, and what a fantastic day it turned out to be!



Year 10 Experience the World of Work!

Our Year 10 pupils enjoyed a week of work experience, developing and demonstrating a wide range of valuable skills and qualities. Several pupils even received job offers off the back of their placements!

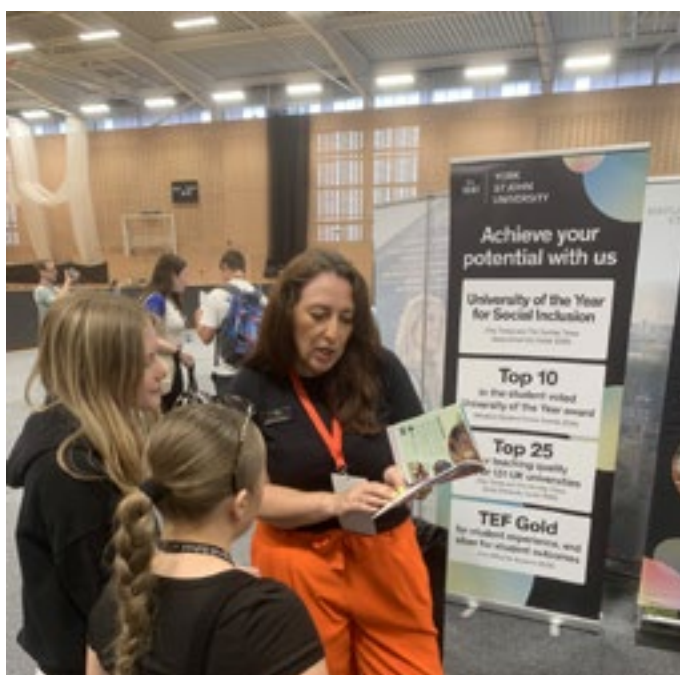


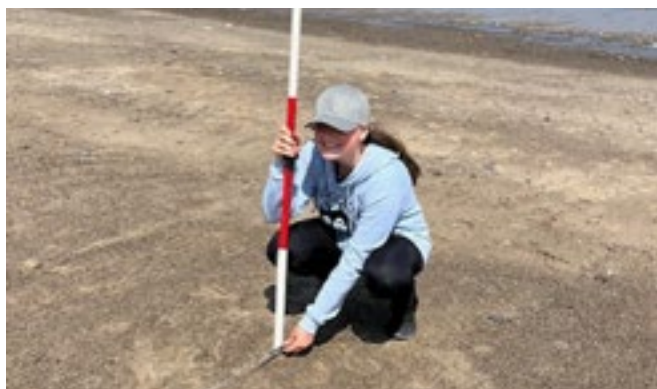
Year 12 Look to the Future!

Year 12 visited the University of Hull to look around their annual UCAS fair.

While Year 13 Reflect and Celebrate!

We enjoyed a fabulous Year 13 Prom. We held it at the function room in the Rose and Crown, which is situated in Beverley just outside the North Bar. It was a super evening with fun, food and dancing and was attended by most of Year 13 and several of their teachers.





Biologists Enjoy Fieldwork!

Mrs Scott and Mr Davies took our Year 12 Biologists to Cranedale Residential Centre for a three-day field trip.

Evening of Sporting Celebration!

We were delighted to host the School Sport Partnership's 22nd Annual Awards in our Theatre. Always a glamorous occasion, the event sees pupils from primary and secondary schools across the East Riding rewarded for their efforts in various aspects of physical education and sport. Longcroft's award winners this year were Jemima, Evie, Lily, Lottie, Amy and Annabel.

Pupils Take on DofE Challenge!

An intrepid group of pupils in Year 10 took on the challenge of an expedition for their DofE Bronze Award. The expedition is one of four components.

Miss Sinclair, our DofE Supervisor and Assessor, said: "The pupils began their expedition at Fridaythorpe, camped in Bishop Wilton and finished at Wilberfoss. They walked over 20 miles across the two days."





Forest School Collaboration!

Longcroft pupils from our Forest School programme welcomed Karyn Mumby from the Molescroft Wildlife Network. Together, they positioned hedgehog boxes donated by the network across our school estate. Thank you to Karyn and the amazing volunteers who constructed these brilliant hedgehog retreats!

Performing Arts Evening

Our performing artists treated us to a wonderful range of performances in our Theatre.

Stanley Wins a Highly Commended Award in National Competition!

A huge well done to Year 7 pupil Stanley for receiving a Highly Commended award in First Story's first ever Tiny Poems Competition. Stanley's fabulous poem has been published online on the First Story website, and he'll receive a selection of poetry books and a certificate from First Story.



FIRST STORY
TINY POEMS
COMPETITION

Play

I create a dream
Like shining crystals
Or magic beings
To be a child is all
I want to be.

HIGHLY COMMENDED
2024/25

Bands Battle it Out!

George, Joe, Beth, Lydia, Joel, Maisie and Isobel represented Longcroft in the annual East Riding Schools' Music Service Battle of the Bands which is held at Bridlington's Spa.

The pupils and Sixth Form students competed against 12 other bands, each representing an East Riding Secondary School.

School Games Day

We once again enjoyed a fantastic School Games Day as pupils demonstrated their ability across a range of activities and showed great commitment and teamwork in the process!



London Calling!

Our final residential visit of the year saw 40 Longcroft pupils and Sixth Form students from Years 10 to 13 enjoy the annual London Theatre trip.

After travelling down to the capital, we had our evening meal together followed by an exciting West End performance of *The Devil Wears Prada*. A lively performance which the pupils called "close to the film version but with great music".



Tuesday brought an early start with a visit to Baker Street and the house of famous fictional sleuth Sherlock Holmes, followed by a walk in the adjacent Regent's Park. Madame Tussauds followed, which was a last-minute change of our itinerary but proved a hit with pupils and teachers alike.

Pupils then welcomed some free time shopping and lunching in Covent Garden surrounded by street performers. The moment of the trip, as mentioned by all - "I've never seen anything like it!" - was the spectacular performance of *Stranger Things* at the Phoenix Theatre. It was a masterpiece of theatre and stagecraft and pupils were talking of it long after the play had finished!

The journey home - with a little more shopping - brought an end to another exciting trip accompanied by Mrs Harris, Mrs Lear, Mr Thomson and Mr Deer. Pupils were a credit to the school prompting our coach driver Sam to comment, "This has been the best group I've had in eight years at the company." A fitting end to a sensational trip, enjoyed by all.

The final week of term saw over 400 pupils enjoy a Reward Trip to Flamingo Land.

A wonderful year culminated in a celebration to mark the publishing of our fifth Anthology. First Story believes everyone has a unique voice, a story to tell and a right to be heard. The charity supports young people to practise creative writing for pleasure, self-expression and agency; their flagship programme sees inspirational professional writers work to develop creativity, confidence and ability. Readers can find out more about the Anthology, 'It's Only My Mind', in Ms Carvill's article.





Longcroft Strikes Gold Again!

2024/25 has once again seen our PE Department organise an extensive range of sporting fixtures and opportunities for all year groups across a wide variety of sports, and our teams have continued to represent Longcroft with pride.

In addition to those who have played, our fantastic Longcroft Leaders have played a variety of key roles, organising, coaching and officiating at a range of events involving pupils from local primary schools and their peers.



We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Mark Gold Award for the 2024/5 academic year.

We continue on our journey to become the first secondary school to receive a platinum quality mark from the School Sports Partnership. A prestigious honour awarded to schools who have achieved four consecutive Gold Awards, Longcroft has just one more year to go!

The award recognises schools' commitment to active and healthy lifestyles and the opportunities they make available to pupils to engage in competitive and non-competitive sport.

We are extremely proud of our pupils and Sixth Form students for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who make many of our competitions possible.

Well done to everyone involved - we look forward to applying once again in 2026!





Forest School Update

Through the last weeks of June and the first of July, England's green and pleasant land is arguably at its greenest and most pleasant. The Forest School corner of the school grounds is a feast of flourishing flora and fauna. It's payback time for the hard-working participants who are reaping the rich rewards of their efforts.



One of the bird boxes, attached to the fence months ago by fingers so numb with cold that they could hardly hold the screwdriver, has its first tenant. A sparrow has laid a couple of small, speckled brown eggs in a nest constructed of scavenged twigs and moss. Soon there will be downy little fledglings, chirping nervously, tentatively setting off to explore the world for the first time. We all have our fingers crossed that it happens on a Thursday morning, Periods One to Three. It will be quite the show.

There are exciting developments in and around the pond which the pupils cleaned out early in the spring. The first tiny green frogs have been spotted. These pint-sized amphibians presented a new problem to be solved. The pupils wanted to be able to get close enough to the pond to monitor the new arrivals, but without the risk of losing their footing and receiving a cold, grimy dousing. As hot as it's been, nobody wants to cool down like that. The solution was a recycling project with a little bit of woodwork thrown in for good measure. With the help of the Forest School staff, the pupils have built a fence using reclaimed pallets. A reminder to us all that it's important to reuse what we can. The fence has been stained to protect it from the weather, and resources set to be thrown away will instead, have a long and useful life.

Inspired by the appearance of all this new life, another upcycling project has begun. One of the old tyres, unearthed from the undergrowth by the first Forest School group, has been propped up against the fence. The opening will be filled with a selection of different materials. Bunches of twigs, straw, dry grass and hollow stems are squeezed into the opening of the tyre. This variety of material should attract a diverse collection of insects, such as bumblebees, ladybirds, woodlice and more – an exciting, thriving community in miniature.

The school's Site Team have tackled the ongoing nettle problem, clearing wide paths through the green stinging mass, so that the different areas can be accessed more easily. Their efforts are greatly appreciated. The pupils have come up with an ingenious method of keeping the creeping, green peril at bay, by laying out and weighing down plastic sheeting. Deploying their scientific knowledge to practical use, robbing the nettles of light, preventing photosynthesis and so, putting a halt to any re-growth.



Forest School 2 is nearing its end. The pupils of the second group have made their mark and can be deservedly proud of their efforts. They will pass the baton to the next group when we return in September, who will have their own ideas and projects they want to pursue. The area is constantly changing, steered in part by the Forest School pupils, but in truth, it is nature itself, the changing seasons - winter frosts and summer sun that offer up surprise after surprise. We're all just along for the ride.





LIBRARY NEWS



Ms Carvill writes:

Longcroft Celebrates Publication of New Anthology

Last Wednesday pupils from Longcroft School and Sixth Form College celebrated the publication of their new anthology *It's Only My Mind* with a fabulous launch party held in the school theatre. The event was attended by Beverley deputy mayoress Cheryl Giles and her consort Adrian Ramsdale, as well as pupils, family, friends, and staff.

It was wonderful to hear the dulcet tones of Sixth Former Mary Anderson who performed songs from musical theatre as the guests congregated. Especial thanks also to Ms George, our Food Technology teacher, Mrs Flockton, and Year 9 and 10 Food Technology pupils who created the most mouth-watering buffet of tantalising tastes to aid the celebrations. Everyone was incredibly impressed!

Over the last school year our cohort of pupils have enjoyed weekly creative writing workshops with professional First Story writer-in-residence Maureen Lennon. Maureen has been a joy to work with, and truly inspirational. It has been a real privilege to watch work take shape and creative writing skills develop. As Maureen wrote in her Introduction to the anthology:

"The idea is to write it so that people hear it and it slides through the brain and goes straight to the heart."
—Maya Angelou



"This was a younger group than I had worked with for a few years, and although I spent plenty of time fretting about that too, it has actually turned out to be such a treat. These sessions, and the brilliant exuberance of our young writers, have reminded me how joyful writing can be."

Rachel Bamber, First Story Regional Partnerships Manager, explained about First Story at the launch:

"First Story is England's leading creative writing charity for young people, empowering students with the confidence and skills to tell their own stories and understand the value of writing. It is always a joy to work with Longcroft, and the First Story team are always delighted by the take up with our competitions and the fact so many students visit Cambridge University every year to enjoy the Young Writers Festival. Clearly, Longcroft is hugely committed to creative writing."



During the course of the programme pupils write poetry and prose, participate in competitions which are open to the whole school, attend the amazing Young Writers Festival at Cambridge University, and learn about the publishing process. The Library and Art Department also run an annual art competition to create a winning design for the anthology cover. Well done to Evie Cunningham for a fabulous illustration, which inspired Lee Harrison's final design this year, and Mrs Holmes and Mr Dyson for their support with the competition.

The programme culminates with the launch party to celebrate the publication of the new anthology, copies of which are held in the British Library. A huge thank you to all those who attended. It was wonderful to hear so many pupils read their work from the anthology, recite with such confidence, and take pride in their writing.

Ms Carvill, Librarian and lead teacher on the programme said:

"Working with a professional writer is such an enriching experience for our young and really helps develop their understanding of the power of writing, and their self-confidence. We are hugely grateful to Beverley Town Council and FOLS, the Friends of Longcroft, for their financial support with the programme. Pupils have benefited in so many ways from the experience. Moreover, to be a published writer at the age of just 12 years old is a huge achievement."

Free copies of the anthology are given to all participating pupils, can be purchased from the Library or on ParentPay, and are available for loan at Beverley Library and Longcroft School Library.

There is some superb poetry and prose in the anthology. As Maureen wrote:

"I hope some of it leaves you on the edge of your seat and some of it makes you want to sit there for a long time. Above all. I hope you have fun: after all, it's only our minds."

Happy reading!

"A writer, I think, is someone who pays attention to the world."

—Susan Sontag



Attendance Matters!

We were absolutely thrilled to share the fantastic news that we officially achieved the highest attendance rate of any secondary school in the East Riding!



This is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the dedication, resilience, and commitment of our pupils, families, and staff. Your efforts have placed us in the top **20% of schools nationally for attendance**, a position we can all be incredibly proud of.



Improving attendance has been a school priority for a number of years, and we are proud of how far we've come. This achievement reflects the hard work and shared commitment of our entire school community.

But we're not stopping here.

While this milestone is worth celebrating, we believe we can go even further. Every day in school matters, and we are determined to continue improving attendance to ensure every pupil has the best possible chance to succeed.

At Longcroft, we believe that every day in school is an opportunity for learning, growth, and connection. To celebrate and encourage our pupils' commitment to attending school regularly, we offer a range of attendance rewards throughout the year.

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.

Pupils can also earn treats including pizza and sweets, and this year we enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny as pupils received an Easter Egg!





The Friends' Corner



fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Charity Reg No. 515674

Thank you to our fantastic Friends of Longcroft School who do so much to raise funds that create opportunities for the benefit of our children.



Just one example was their earning a fantastic £1000 through the Tesco Stronger Starts programme.

Mr Perry said: "FOLS do an amazing job, attending school events and proactively seeking and securing opportunities to raise funds. Their tireless fundraising efforts support and enrich so many aspects of our children's experience of school. My colleagues and I are extremely grateful for the work they do."



Care and Achievement Co-ordinators

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

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

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



Year 7

Miss Fox

07342 342858

vicky.fox@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 8

Mrs Thwaites

07444 847881

gemma.thwaites@longcroft.eriding.net



Years 9 and 10

Mrs Newsam

07827 587483

zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net

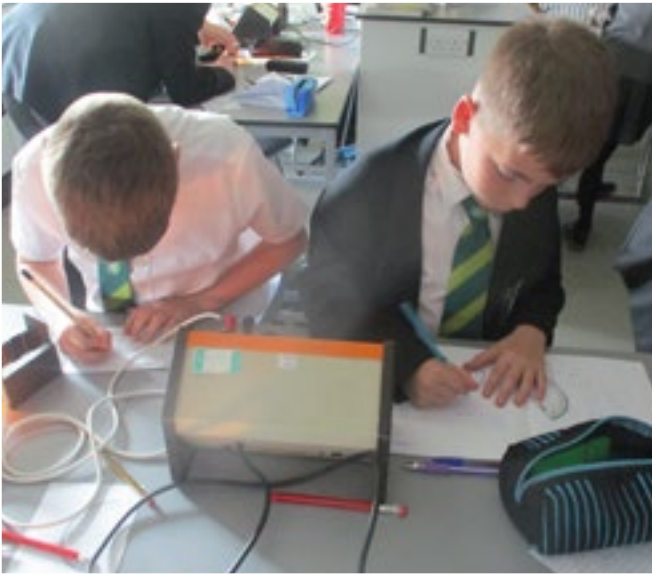


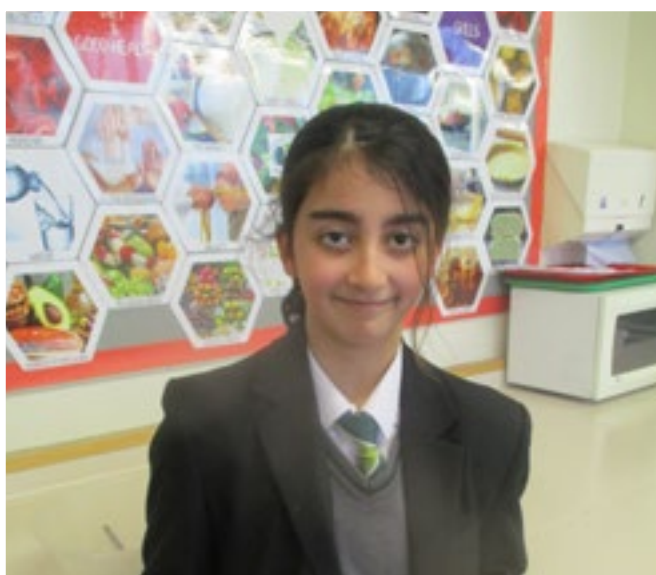
Year 11

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LONGCROFT

—SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE—

NEWS

LETTER









