



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



“It felt good to win. I’m looking forward to representing the East Riding.”

East Riding Champion

Megan is Number One

Congratulations to our cross country runners who took part in this week’s East Riding Schools’ Championships at Cottingham High School.

This annual event sees the best Cross Country athletes from across the region battle it out for the opportunity to progress through to Humberside and National competition. In challenging conditions, 18 East Riding secondary schools brought over 500 pupils to compete at this year’s Championships with standards exceptionally high. There were some amazing individual performances from our pupils but congratulations go to everyone

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who completed the tough course. The top 25 athletes now go on to represent East Riding Schools on the Humberside stage.

Year 7 pupil Megan won her race with an outstanding performance, seeing her crowned East Riding Champion. She said, "It felt good to win." She explained, "I compete for Kingston upon Hull AC - I started in Year 5. I run on the track as well. I do 800m and 1200m - next year I'll be doing 1550m as well." Megan added, "I'm looking forward to representing the East Riding."

As always at Longcroft, we have enjoyed some excellent results in this competition and alongside Megan, a number of our runners, listed below, qualified to represent the East Riding.



Year 7 Girls race

Megan M-S 1st place

Elizabeth D 18th Year 7

Boys race

Ben T 20th Year 10/11

Girls Intermediate race

Millie B 7th Ella H-S12th

Anna B 22nd Year 10/11

Boys Intermediate race

Max B 22nd Finley A 24th



Head of PE Mr Martin said, "The conditions were extremely challenging and I was proud of the way our athletes competed. They represented Longcroft exceptionally well."

Mr Baker said, "To be East Riding Schools' Champion is a wonderful achievement. I'm looking forward to seeing how Megan does both this year and beyond."

Congratulations to everyone involved, and best wishes to those runners who qualified to represent the East Riding in the Humberside Schools' Championships.





Headteacher's Welcome

With such a busy start to the academic year, time is passing quickly. It is hard to believe we've reached the half term break already!

It has been wonderful to welcome so many families in to school this term across the range of events that have taken place.

Many have visited for the first time, particularly for our Year 6 and Sixth Form Open Evenings which have drawn in record numbers from many different schools and local areas. There continues to be a real sense of excitement for the future and the wonderful feedback we have received has been overwhelming and hugely appreciated.

You may be aware that recently the Department for Education released early information about school performance across the region and nationally. It is fabulous to see Longcroft's outcomes continuing to improve and again we are celebrating results that sit consistently beyond local and national comparisons. There are only a handful of schools across the Hull and East Riding Local Authorities which are currently performing as well or better than Longcroft across the range of headline metrics and I am incredibly proud of all in our community, but most importantly our young people, in having achieved so well at such a challenging time. Our high prior attaining pupils have performed particularly well, over two thirds of a grade on average above those nationally with the same starting points at the end of primary school. The proportion of grades above a 7 and particularly the number of 9s achieved at Longcroft is extraordinary and very significantly above all available comparisons. Our current Year 11 and 13 are proving to be up for the challenge of continuing the positive trajectory, with some excellent assessment outcomes leading to exciting projections. They are aware that every moment counts and are committed to working hard and achieving well next summer. We of course will continue to do all we can to support each of them in doing just that!

After the excitement of the East Riding Cross Country Championships on Tuesday which you can read more about

in our main article, there have been a flurry of fixtures, clubs and activities through this final week of the half term. A new event at Longcroft has been our cinema evening, complete with Halloween themed treats and sweets. Over 60 Year 7 and 8 pupils joined us in the Theatre for a screening of Hocus Pocus, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. This event was supported by our wonderful Friends of Longcroft School (FOLS) who were able to raise some money towards our reading room initiative. A project which will broaden our already substantial offer of reading space in school. We're off to a great start but there is much fund raising to do, so please look out for opportunities to support our FOLS and if you'd like to get in touch, then there are details each week in the Newsletter.

There has been so much this half term to celebrate and be proud of. It remains a tremendous privilege to be a part of this community and be inspired by those we serve each and every day. Nearly 250,000 acts of Great Heart, Thought and Vision have been registered already! Just one indicator of the sustained demonstration of our values by our wonderful pupils and students.

It was also great today to see nearly 500 pupils collecting their Halloween rewards for meeting our 100% attendance challenge; not just because of the smiles on their faces, but because we know how critically important being in school is and the impact it has on achievement and wellbeing. Well done to all those successful individuals and there will be lots more opportunities throughout the year to celebrate fabulous attendance to school.

I wish all in our community a restful half term, and do hope you can enjoy some time together as families. We can't wait to welcome everybody back to school, recharged, reenergised and ready to make the most of every moment on Monday 6th November.

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

23,234

THOUGHT

122,711

VISION

81,856

GRAND

TOTAL:

227,801





LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

This week I'd like to reflect on a successful first half term of the academic year. So far, we've seen an increase in ClassCharts reward points given to children at the same stage as last year, and attendance is up as well. Well done to all pupils in the Lower School for their hard work, determination, and resilience in these first two months.

We have celebrated successes with pupils related to their academic achievements and efforts in lessons. We recognise that success looks different for each individual but retain high expectations for all pupils in terms of effort and work produced in lessons. Reflecting on the progress made by my own Year 7 class whom I teach for Science every week, they have exceeded expectations at this early stage of their time at secondary school. They are already proficient at using Bunsen Burners safely, they have completed a range of experimental investigations with accuracy and precision and are presenting their work to a high standard. Our Year 7 cohort are making great strides, and taking advantage of the myriad opportunities available at Longcroft. Mr Martin, Head of Physical Education, relayed to me that he had to run trials for Cross Country at Year 7 for the first time this year due to the scale of interest and up take in the sport. It's excellent to see our young people so keen to get involved.

In the run up to the half term break, we celebrated with students who have achieved high attendance. We have children who attended consecutively for the final fortnight of academic year, with a Halloween themed treat. We acknowledge that it is not always possible for a child to achieve 100% for various reasons, but we are keen to





encourage that the children attend every day possible. As well as our attendance challenge, on a weekly basis there is a £5 Amazon Voucher competition for those with 100% attendance in the previous week.

Last week we celebrated Charlie's success in karting, this week I'd like to congratulate Year 7 pupil Arnie on his success competing in the British Mini Bikes Championship. The #83 wearing youngster has just clinched the 2023 championship title, ahead of his nearest competitor by one point! This is a massive achievement, and at the age of 11, who knows how far Arnie could eventually go! Speaking with Arnie, he is now considering taking on further challenges, competing abroad and against riders from other countries. Arnie is excellent example of ambition and perseverance; we wish him all the best for the future.

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

Kai Wring
 Macie Bullamore
 Summer Oliver
 Spencer Uzzell
 Millie Freer
 George Hogg
 Max van den Ban
 Olivia Chilcott
 Jake Redmond
 Oscar Purchon

Year 8

Ruby Rogers
 Eddie Pickering
 Neve Meagher
 Will Balmforth
 Alex Matta
 Izzy Barwick
 Alfie Robinson
 Lily Hardman
 Daniel Kemp
 Lily Curtis

Year 9

Ben Carlyle-Smith
 Ava Bryce
 Evie Woad
 Alicia Hicks
 Lexie Burke
 Millie Wisher
 Sienna Robinson
 Ben Smedley
 Maisie Monaghan
 Mason David

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: Freya Marshall

Year 8: Izzy Barwick

Year 9: Darcie Polson



UPPER SCHOOL



Mr Henderson writes:

Each term we provide a range of parent engagement events for our Upper School pupils. These are designed to inform and equip families with knowledge and understanding to most effectively facilitate learning, revision and exam preparation at home. They also include support with well-being, managing the pressures of key transition years such as Year 11 and preparing for next steps. We know from recent years that there is a strong link between attendance at these events and success in GCSE exams.

I recently wrote about the fabulous response to our Year 10 'Welcome to GCSE' event, the first of our KS4 parent engagement evenings this term. In the first week back after half term it is the turn of Year 11, and we look forward to welcoming families to our first 'Walking Talking Mocks' session on Thursday 9th November.

During this evening you will receive detailed assessment information and explore effective revision strategies, with a specific focus on the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. We will provide you with a revision pack and a revision planner for use in preparing for December Mock Examinations, a key milestone.

There will be sessions on wellbeing and the use of online learning resources, and we will also have a display from Ms Carvill our librarian, who runs the Revision Guide shop. Not only does our library stock and sell all revision guides linked to our courses, but also revision cards and additional resources that many pupils find hugely supportive. A list of extra revision and intervention classes, (Period 6) will also be communicated to parents and pupils, including lunchtime sessions.

I very much look forward to seeing you all there, and if you've not yet confirmed your attendance, please use the link sent through ClassCharts this week to book your place. It is now just **47 days** until the Year 11 Mock Examinations begin including half term so time is of the essence.



Parents' Consultation Evenings

Information will be circulated shortly on how to book places for our Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evenings which this year will be in person at Longcroft School. The appointments are split between 15th and 22nd of November to ensure maximum availability for families to meet with subject teachers. You will receive a letter with all of the details, including a link to School Cloud where you can make your bookings. Please do all you can to attend – it is a hugely important evening.

Attendance and Rewards

Finally, the weekly competition for attendance continues and GCSEPod prizes will start to be issued after half term for both Years 10 and 11.

One of the largest contributing factors to learning, progress and GCSE success is attendance. The evidence for the link between attendance and achievement in schools is staggering, not only in the UK but around the world.

At this stage of your child's school life the rate of content delivery in lessons is high and every missed day or lesson is likely to directly impact on a question or aspect of an examination. It is essential that any missed work is caught up and attendance is as high as possible. If you need support in this regard, please contact Miss Harsley at any time. You will continue to receive regular updates and information, both directly and through our weekly Newsletter, which aims to promote being in school as often as possible and ideally all the time. Thank you for your continued support in this regard.

Mr Henderson
Head of Upper School





Congratulations to our Upper 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**

Anna Bruton	Elise Forster
Mathilda Smith	Cal Skinner
Lily Pepper	Rachel Harris
Charlotte Skilbeck	Annie Mason
Jasmine Lambert	Ella Curley

Year 11

Rossi Moulson
Mary Anderson
Alissia d'Andilly
Lewis Kitchin
Ruby Stanway

Molly Agus

Natasha Sharpe

Lydia Curley

Lauren Matthews

Summer Mulvana

Each week Year 11 pupils who have been nominated by their teachers for going over and above expectations are invited to celebrate with Mr Cassidy on **Hot Chocolate Friday!**

Congratulations to this week's nominations:

Imogen Capes: outstanding SENECA homework - **Mrs Scott**

Ali d'Andilly: Great application of Year 9 material (Hitler's infrastructure projects) with the response to US Great Depression – **Mr Charlesworth**

Lauren Matthews and **Ruby Roberts:** hard work on studying Romeo and Juliet – **Mrs Smith**

Lewis Kitchin for helping the whole class with resources for our listening sessions - **Mrs Barry**

Tristan Carlo Pineda for his delicious contribution to Cake Monday this week - **Mrs Barry**

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 10: Finn Bridgeman

Year 11: Lucy Marham



Mr Chapman writes:

Open Evening Success

This week was the first chance this year for our Year 11 students and those from other schools and colleges to visit our Sixth Form space.

It was a wonderful evening with over 200 guests browsing, resourcing, talking and engaging in our offer for September 2024.

Every subject that is on offer for September was represented by a teacher of that subject and that is a really important and key factor in our offer to students after their GCSEs - they already know who their teachers are going to be. This really helps to inform their decision as the range of offer open to them is vast.

Many students also report that they appreciate being in small class sizes for every subject. Again, this really helps with the care and quality of work being produced by students.

Of course, a key feature of our Sixth Form is that we know every student really well. That's not just a token phrase, it really is the backbone of the Sixth Form.

Being a part of this small Sixth Form is special and it really is a wonderful place to grow, study and learn.

We are delighted to be able to offer such a wide range of courses, including:

- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Criminology
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- Government & Politics
- History
- Law
- Maths and Further Maths
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Theatre Studies

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of our Sixth Form provision.



Theatre Studies Students Impress

Our Year 13 Theatre Studies students were finally able to perform their devised piece. This is the piece that they create from the ground up and perform to a camera. The piece is marked by an examiner later in the year. This year their piece was based on stimulus 'County Lines' and vulnerable students. It's worth 30% of their A Level exam. Mr Thomson, our Drama teacher said the piece was an "outstanding performance – the result of lots of hard work." Mr Thomson added that the support students received from ex A Level student Jude which we featured recently had clearly had a positive impact.

The students spent lots of hours in the studio and they will be showing their piece to Year 11 and Year 12 to support their learning.

They also performed their piece at the Sixth Form Open evening this week...



Tyler's Golden Performance

Congratulations to our Sixth Form students who took the UK Maths Trust Senior Challenge – a 90 minute long test consisting of 25 multiple choice questions designed to make students think. The stimulating problem test even the most experienced problem-solvers and students are not expected to complete all the questions during the time.

The UK Maths Trust is the leading charity that advances the education of young people in maths and their challenges form a valued part of our enrichment programme, which offers opportunities for students to broaden their horizons and challenge themselves academically.

The most successful students in the UKMT Challenges earn the opportunity to progress beyond the initial stage. A follow-on round to the Senior Maths Challenge, the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo is a 60 minute, 25 multiple choice challenge. Entry is by invitation based on a qualifying SMC score, and we are proud that Year 12 student Tyler achieved the required standard.

Tyler said, "I've taken the other challenges before, and earned Gold last year in the Intermediate Challenge. I'm pleased with my performance and I'm looking forward to the next stage."

Congratulations to everyone who took part, and thank you to Mrs Powell who co-ordinates Longcroft's entries.

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form



SAFEGUARDING



Mr Rogers writes:

Embracing Technology in Parenting: A Pathway to Enhanced Learning and Connectivity

In this rapidly advancing digital age, technology has become an integral part of our daily lives. It impacts the way we work, communicate, and entertain ourselves. As parents, it's natural to have concerns about the role technology plays in our children's lives. However, when used appropriately and responsibly, technology can offer remarkable benefits to their development and future success. In this article, I'll explore how parents can embrace technology as a catalyst for enhanced learning and connectivity.

Section 1: Navigating the Digital Landscape

In today's world, children are growing up surrounded by digital devices, and it's crucial for parents to guide them through the digital landscape. To do so effectively, consider the following strategies:

- 1. Set Clear Boundaries:** Establishing screen time limits is essential. The American Academy of Paediatrics recommends that children aged 2 to 5 years should have no more than one hour of screen time per day, while older children should have consistent limits on the amount of time they spend on screens.
- 2. Quality Content Matters:** Encourage your children to engage with educational and age-appropriate content. There are countless apps, games, and websites designed to promote learning in various subjects. Take the time to explore these resources and select those that align with your child's interests and educational needs.
- 3. Online Safety:** Teach your children about online safety, including the importance of not sharing personal information, recognizing potential risks, and being cautious when interacting with strangers online. Use parental control tools and filters to create a safe online environment.



Section 2: Technology as an Educational Tool

Technology can be a powerful tool for enhancing your child's education. Here are some ways to leverage it for their benefit:

4. **E-Learning Platforms:** Many schools and organizations offer e-learning platforms that provide access to a wide range of educational materials, from textbooks to interactive lessons. Encourage your child to use these platforms to supplement their learning.
5. **Educational Apps and Games:** There is a vast array of educational apps and games that make learning enjoyable. These apps cover subjects like mathematics, science, languages, arts, and more. Look for apps that align with your child's grade level and academic needs.
6. **Virtual Tours and Museums:** Take advantage of virtual tours and online museums to expose your child to art, history, and culture. These experiences can be both educational and engaging.

Section 3: Strengthening Family Connectivity

While technology can sometimes be seen as a barrier to family bonding, it can also be a tool for bringing your family closer together:

7. **Video Calls:** Platforms like Zoom, Skype, and FaceTime allow families to connect with loved ones, even if they're miles apart. Encourage your children to maintain relationships with relatives and friends through video calls.
8. **Shared Online Activities:** Engage in shared online activities as a family. Whether it's playing multiplayer video games, watching educational videos together, or cooking a new recipe found online, these activities can foster togetherness.
9. **Digital Storytelling:** Encourage your children to create digital stories or family journals. They can use technology to document their experiences, write stories, or create multimedia presentations about family vacations or special occasions.

Section 4: Staying Informed and Adaptable

10. **Parental Involvement:** Stay informed about the latest digital trends and technologies. Attend workshops or seminars on digital parenting to equip yourself with the knowledge needed to guide your children effectively.
11. **Adapt to Change:** Technology is constantly evolving. Be open to new developments and be willing to adapt your approach to technology as your child grows and their needs change.

Technology is an integral part of our lives, and it can also be a valuable tool in parenting. By setting clear boundaries, choosing quality content, and promoting responsible use, parents can help their children make the most of technology's educational benefits. Additionally, technology can facilitate family connectivity when used thoughtfully. Embracing technology as a parenting tool requires vigilance and adaptability, but the rewards in terms of enhanced learning and stronger family bonds are well worth the effort.

As parents, our role is to provide guidance and support as our children navigate the digital world. With the right approach, technology can be a pathway to a brighter future for our children.

Mr Rogers
Deputy Headteacher
Head of Care and Achievement



Footballers On Their Travels



Congratulations to our girls' football teams who had their first away games this year, taking on Driffield. Both our teams played very well despite challenging pitches making conditions difficult. The Year 9 and 10 team played a strong attacking game and were leading until the last few minutes, the game ended in a draw which was a fair result. The Year 7 and 8 team enjoyed a convincing win, demonstrating good passing and linking well as a team.

Well done to everyone who played.

Owen's International Honour

Congratulations to former pupil Owen Bruton on his call-up to the Great Britain Under-20 ice hockey squad for this year's World Championships.

The 17-year-old, who plays for Hull Seahawks, is the second youngest player selected in the squad, which will contest the Division II Group A tournament in Dumfries between December 11-17.

GB will play host to Lithuania, Netherlands, Spain, China and Korea.

GB U20 MEN SQUAD		
NETMINDERS		
BEN NORTON BRISTOL PITBULLS/CARDIFF DEVILS	ALEX OLDALE MANCHESTER STORM	DAN NORTON (EMERGENCY BACK-UP) MILTON KEYNES LIGHTNING/MILTON KEYNES THUNDER
DEFENCE		
KELL BEATTIE SOLWAY SHARKS/BELFAST GIANTS	KIERAN CHUNG POWELL RIVER KINGS, CANADA	SAM COOPER SHEFFIELD STEELBOBS/SHEFFIELD STEELERS
ARCHIE HAZELDOINE COVENTRY BLAZE	MILIQUE MARTELLY MK LIGHTNING	BILLY THORPE PETERBOROUGH PHANTOMS
JACOB WHITE-SEY SLOUGH JETS/BRISTOL PITBULLS		
FORWARDS		
FINLEY BRADON LEEDS KNIGHTS	BEN BROWN MK LIGHTNING	OWEN BRUTON HULL SEAHAWKS
OLIVER ENDICOTT LEEDS KNIGHTS/COVENTRY BLAZE	CARTER HAMILL MK LIGHTNING/MK THUNDER	JACK HOPKINS COVENTRY BLAZE
CONNOR LEE MANCHESTER STORM/TELFORD TIGERS	SAMUEL LYNE NORTHWOOD SCHOOL, USA	AUSTIN OSBORN VERNAL OILERS, USA
DAWSON OSBORN VERNAL OILERS, USA	LUCAS PRICE TELFORD TIGERS	JOSHUA SHAW SWINDON WILDCATS
MACK STEWART BELFAST GIANTS/MK LIGHTNING		



Owen's Hull Seahawks coach Matty Davies "He fully deserves this call up. I'm not surprised they have picked him in terms of what he will offer in all kinds of game situations. I'm really proud of him, he's an absolute diamond and when he told me, I was buzzing for him."

GB Under-20 head coach Martin Grubb said: "As always, there have been some very tough decisions to be made to select this team and some very good players were left out. We knew we needed the right mix of skill, speed, character and players who would fit into our system and embrace their role and we feel we have that."

Mr Baker said, "It has been a pleasure to follow Owen's development as an ice hockey player since he first represented his country while in Year 8. He is extremely ambitious and I know he works hard on his game. I'm sure he will enjoy this opportunity and continue to improve – I am looking forward to seeing where his career in the sport takes him."



Extra-curricular Opportunities

We are proud to offer an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities, a selection of which are listed here.

In addition, our Homework Club in A7 is open to all pupils each morning (8.15 – 8.40am) and after school until 4.15pm.

Monday

Film Society – Year 11 pupils and Sixth Form students meet to watch, discuss and explore different genres of film.

Tuesday

Dungeons & Dragons – an opportunity for pupils of all ages, Sixth Form students and staff to enjoy this fantasy table-top role-playing game.

Rugby – all year groups

Orchestra – open to all instrumentalists of all abilities

Art Club – open to GCSE and A Level Artists

Wednesday

Netball – all year groups

Choir – an opportunity to prepare for Christmas performances.

Drama Club – in Room 65

Thursday

Girls' Football – all year groups

Hockey – all year groups

Production Rehearsals – opportunities for our cast and crew to rehearse for this year's production

Friday

Badminton – all year groups

Table Tennis – all year groups





Memory Lane

This week, as the country and football world pays tribute to one of football's greatest ever players, we take a trip back to 1998 and feature a visit from the legendary Sir Bobby Charlton.

Sir Bobby, who died on Saturday aged 86, won 106 caps for England and scored 49 international goals - both records at the time.

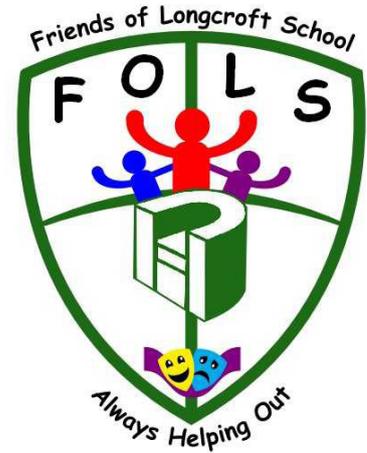
His visit to Longcroft saw him meet several of our pupils, Sixth Form students and staff. He presented Head of PE Mrs Dewar with the SportsMark – an award recognising Longcroft's excellence in terms of standards in sport and physical education.

Mr Baker said, "It was an honour to meet a sporting great – a key member of England's World Cup winning team of 1966 who captained Manchester United to European Cup victory in 1968. He had time for everyone, and I am not surprised his passing has led to tributes from across the globe."





The Friends' Corner



AGM: Wednesday 15th November

fols@longcroft.eriding.net

Charity Reg No. 515674

The Friends of Longcroft school are holding their AGM at 6pm on Wednesday 15th November in the staff room at Longcroft.

As a registered charity this is something we are legally obliged to do. It gives us the opportunity to elect new people into the posts of Chair, Treasury and Secretary (required posts on a committee) but also gives us the opportunity to discuss what the FOLS have achieved so far and what their plans are for the future.

We aim to keep it as light and informal as we can and everyone is welcome to attend. You don't need to sign up for the committee but it would be lovely to meet new 'friends'.

With people's help we can raise more money, which all gets ploughed back into the school so every child can benefit from the FOLS work.

So why not come along and find out more about the FOLS we would love to see you.



Raise Money, With Easyfundraising.com

Don't forget when shopping online, booking a holiday or even renewing your insurance you can support the Friends of Longcroft School by using Easyfundraising.com and choosing us as your selected charity. Once you have started to use them you will see how many retailers and companies donate on your behalf, without costing you a penny. If you are spending the money anyway, why not help us support our school?



LIBRARY NEWS



Ms Carvill writes:

“One of the lessons that I grew up with was to **always stay true to yourself** and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals.”

—Michelle Obama

A huge well done to all those pupils who entered the Black History Month Poetry Competition, *Saluting Our Sisters*. The competition was designed to recognise the amazing contributions black women have made to society and continue to make.

Thank you to teachers, particularly our English teacher Ms Thomas, for encouraging our poets so wholeheartedly. Writing poetry is not easy, but as usual our pupils created some fabulous and moving verse.

Congratulations to the joint winners of the competition, George Coughlin and Sarah Shrimpton. Prizes, awarded this week, included signed copies of Brilliant Black History, goodie bags and Class Charts.

On the next page, you can read their poems.





Rosa Parks by George Coughlin

Rosa, oh Rosa,
Breaking down barriers,
Fighting for rights,
Braving the fights.

Her courage, her bravery,
A legacy to see,
An inspiration to us,
So, we may be free.

Let us remember her journey,
Let us not forget,
Let us honour her memory,
And never regret.

Rosa, our heroine,
She made the world a better place,
Now let us stand together,
And fight for justice and grace.

Rosa, oh Rosa,
A legacy we cherish,
Her courage, her strength,
Will never perish.

Pride by Sarah Shrimpton.

I walk down the street,
My head lifted high,
Confidence spilling out,
As people see my powerful stride.

I sit on the bus,
I'm not afraid to hide,
They ask me to move,
But I have too much pride.

No one can get my head to fall down,
No one can steal my pride,
Or my crown.

I am a black woman,
And I am proud to be,
I am a black woman,
And no one can stop me.

Halloween Reads

As Halloween approaches, it's time to indulge in a few scary reads.

What better time to activate your courage and problem-solving skills.

Horror is not for everyone, but it's popular with many pupils and students at Longcroft. Why?

Reading horror takes you on an emotional and physical journey. You feel the terrifying events the characters are facing but you learn that everything can be survived. However dark the world might appear, you feel enriched, thrilled, and know that most things in life are surmountable.

Below are a few favourites:



**Dyslexia – friendly****Seven Ghosts by Chris Priestley
AR Book Level 4.5 – Blue 11+**

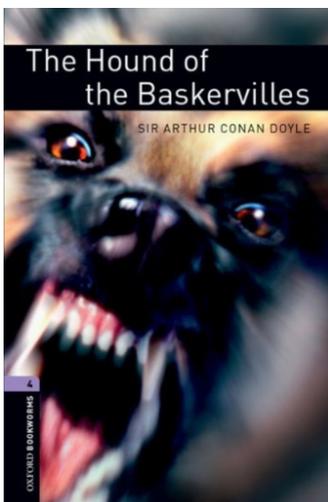
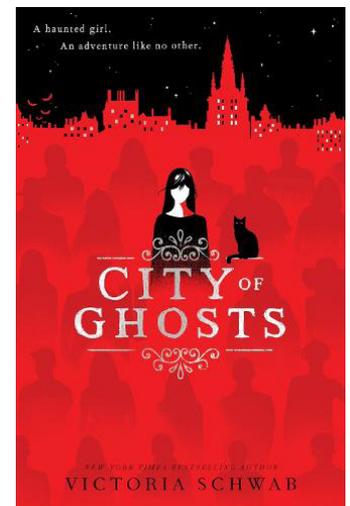
Jake has been shortlisted in a writing competition, and he and the other finalists have been invited to a stately home where they hear the stories of seven ghosts who haunt the walls. As each story becomes spookier than the last, and the tour guide's behaviour gets more suspicious, Jake becomes increasingly uneasy.

Something is terribly wrong!

Year 7**City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab
AR Book Level 4.8- Blue – Reading Age 11+**

Hauntings, mystery, history, and the bonds between friends are explored in this atmospheric treat by NYT bestselling author, Victoria Schwab.

When Cass's parents begin hosting a TV show about the most haunted places in the world its time to head off to eerie Edinburgh. Luckily for the family, Cass has supernatural gifts, but can they spare her from a city where ghosts are more dangerous than you could ever imagine? Thrilling.

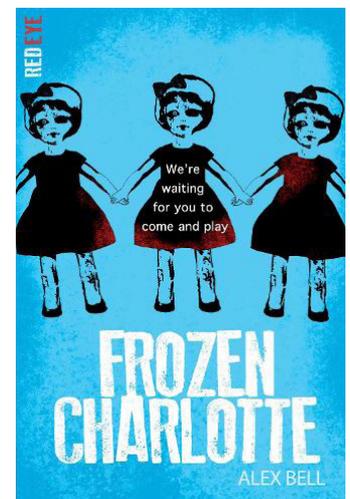
**Year 8****The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle
(Unabridged)****AR Book Level 8.3 – Gold – Reading Age 12 +**

This classic tale of a terrible beast, and a house shrouded in fog, is set on a treacherous moorland where all manner of fearfulness thrives. Enter Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson to solve a cold-blooded murder. The Hound of the Baskervilles has gripped readers for generations. Challenge yourself.

Year 9**Frozen Charlotte by Alex Bell
AR Book level 5.3 – Red – Reading Age 13+**

Dunvegan School for Girls has not been open for years and is now a family home. The teachers and pupils are long gone, but did they leave something behind?

Sophie arrives to spend the summer holidays with her cousins but as the days pass by it seems the ghosts of the former school continue to lurk. Who is the girl with a room full of antique dolls? Who is the girl that died?





Year 10

Say Her Name by Juno Dawson AR Book Level 5 – Red – Reading Age 13 - 16 YA

This witty and truly terrifying horror story sends shivers down your spine. Roberta is not a believer in ghosts, and so a Halloween dare at her spooky boarding school doesn't phase her at all; especially when her closest friend Naya and cute Caine agree to join in.

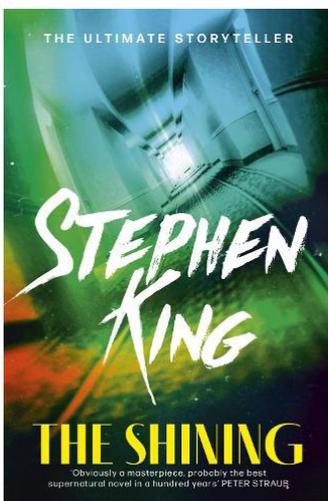
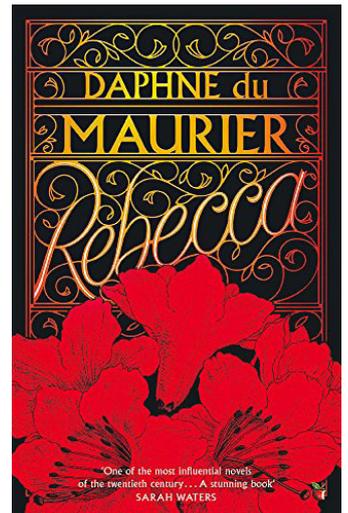
Will the trio be able to summon up the legendary ghost of 'Bloody Mary'? Yes, they will! Unfortunately, as Mary rises from the afterlife the terror begins and it's a race against time to survive. Thrilling.

Year 11

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier AR Book Level 6.8 – Yellow

When a nameless young woman marries a wealthy widower, her world changes beyond recognition. Life is blissful, until the couple return to Manderley, her husband Max de Winter's ancestral home on the Cornish coast. The memory of Max's dead wife, Rebecca, is kept terrifyingly alive by the cold and forbidding housekeeper, Mrs Danvers. Rebecca's persona haunts the house at every turn, and his new young bride becomes increasingly anxious as she struggles to find her own identity.

This international bestseller was published in 1938 and has never been out of print. Darkly disturbing, a gift of a book!



Year 12 and 13

The Shining by Stephen King AR Book Level 5.8 – Red

A work of classic horror fiction, King's 1977 novel established him as a master of the genre. This terrifying tale of a hotel caretaker driven insane by monstrous supernatural forces is beyond chilling.

When five-year-old Danny's dad takes on his post at Overlook Hotel he has no idea his son is a 'shiner' or has psychic powers. As the snow falls and blizzards about the sense of isolation and terror mounts. The hotel is empty, so who is the lady in Room 217 and what evil forces are making masked guests appear in the elevator? Superb.



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



Years 8 and 9

Mrs Newsam

07827 587483

zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 10

Mrs Ellis

07900 394085

annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 11

Miss Harsley

07810 416081

katie.harsley@longcroft.eriding.net



Sixth Form

Miss Taylor

01482 862171 ext. 1338

emily.taylor@longcroft.eriding.net