

LONGCROFT NEWS

Friday 8th September 2017

Welcome to the first edition of Longcroft News for the 2017/18 school year.

For parents of students returning to school, we hope you had a good summer. For those new to the school and receiving this for the first time, we hope your children have enjoyed their first few days at Longcroft – you will receive Longcroft News every Friday during term time.

Our Five Rules for Good Behaviour

Longcroft has developed five basic rules for the new school year, which illustrate the good behaviour expected from all students. They are:

1. Follow the instructions of all adults immediately
2. Treat other people as you would expect to be treated yourself
3. Respect our school environment
4. Comply with our rules as they are for your safety
5. Be proud of Longcroft - promote a positive image of our school

These five clear and easy to understand rules are in place to ensure Longcroft remains a happy, friendly and well behaved environment for all our people, the majority of whom are already well behaved young people.

Welcome to New Staff

Several new members of staff have joined Longcroft this term and we hope they all have a great start to their time with us.

Our new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Coordinator is Mrs Marshall.

New to the Science Curriculum Team are Dr Brackenbury, Miss Rushby, Miss Sinclair and Mr Laurie.

Joining English are Mr Murray and Mr Dear.

The Lower School Reception also has new faces, with Miss Smith in a morning and Mrs Starkey covering afternoons.

Welcome to you all!

Senior Leadership Team - Changes of Responsibility

There have been some changes of responsibility and structure within the Senior Leadership Team. The below information explains who is now responsible for what and will help guide parents as to who they need to speak to if they have to contact Longcroft:

- **Mr O'Donnell** – Headteacher

- **Mr Baker** – Deputy Headteacher
- **Mr Chapman** – No longer responsible for Key Stage 4 (Upper School). Instead, Mr Chapman will be focusing on Teaching, Learning the Professional Development of Staff.
- **Mr Colepio** – No longer responsible for Key Stage 3 (Lower School). Instead, Mr Colepio will be focusing on the Progress students are making and Transition (the move from primary to secondary school)
- **Mr King** – Newly appointed to the Senior Leadership Team, Mr King will manage Behaviour and Attendance
- **Mr Henderson** – Overview of Curriculum and Assessment
- **Mrs Hutchinson-Jones** – Will focus on Personalised Learning and Attendance.
- **Mrs Marshall** – Our new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Coordinator
- **Mr Ellis** – Systems Information Manager

Hopefully the above details give a basic overview as to who to contact for what. For example, in the past if there was a behaviour issue with a students in Year 10 this might have been dealt with by Mr Chapman as Head of Upper School, but now this issue will be dealt with initially by Mr King.

If you need to contact the school and are unsure as to who you need to speak to, speak to reception and they should be able to point you in the right direction or find out who you need to contact.

Curriculum Leader Changes

There have also been a few changes with curriculum leadership. Mr Worthington is now the Curriculum Leader for Sciences, whilst there is now no designated Curriculum Leader for Humanities. Instead, there is a Head of Department for each of the three main subjects that comprise Humanities – Mr Bull for Geography, Mrs Holland for History and Mr Fox for Religious Education.

A-level Exam Results

Congratulations to all our Year 13 students on their A-level exam results.

We experienced an improvement in Longcroft's overall attainment levels, giving our Sixth Form an Advanced Level Performance Systems (ALPS) score of 4 – higher than last year.

Subjects worth particular mention for their successful results include Law, PE, Psychology and English Literature. In addition, Art did exceedingly well with all 5 students who took the subject being awarded A*, whilst Maths and Further Maths were amongst the best nationally (including 5 A*).

We are very proud of the achievements of all our Year 13 students, who have now gone on to Further Education, Higher Education and employment. Congratulations must also go to the members of staff who taught them through their Sixth Form years, resulting in these excellent academic successes.

GCSE Exam Results

At GCSE level, the success of a school is now not judged on results alone, but also the amount of progress students make.

With a national progression benchmark of 70%, some subjects did well, including French (71%), Biology (72%), Chemistry (74%), Drama (75%) and the European Computer Driving Licences, known as ECDL, (99%). However, many other subjects fell short of that benchmark.

In terms of attainment and the grades students actually received, the result is 53.5% of students gaining any five A* to C passes. Unfortunately, this is a lower percentage than last year. We are taking positive steps to resolve this, with plans and whole school priorities already in place to address the situation and gain better results next year. Despite some of our students doing well, with many individual achievements, we need to make sure all target forecasting systems are correct and raise Longcroft to the position it deserves to be at.

Year 7 and 8 Text Books

Just a reminder that all exercise books for students in Year 7 and 8 must be covered using sticky back plastic – students may also decorate their books with subject-linked images. We would be very grateful if this could be done by the end of September. This made a huge difference over the past two years as the books now last longer and look neater. Sticky back plastic can be purchased either from the School Library or from any good stationery retailers as the cost of about £3 a role.

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