

# WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Principal's Welcome

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents / Carers

It wouldn't be right to start the new academic year without recognising the achievements of the Year 11s that completed their exams and their journey with us in the summer 2025. It was wonderful on results day to see so many students opening the results they thoroughly deserved, with the vast majority of our Year 11s getting the results they needed to pursue their chosen next steps. Ultimately, this is the purpose of everything we do in school, which is embodied in our school motto 'Ad Vitam Paramus', meaning 'We are preparing for life'. This year saw improvements in outcomes for students with more students gaining 5GCSEs including English and Maths, at grade 4 and grade 5. While every single exam result is a celebrated, these are important benchmarks, as they enable greater access to Post 16 courses and training. I am very pleased that more of our students are now achieving these grades. There were also more of the very top GCSE results, with 58 grade 7s, 37 grade 8s and 13 grade 9s. This is an excellent achievement and I am very proud of the work and effort the class of 2025 put in to achieve these results. I wish them every success for the future and I look forward to seeing them at the Star Awards later this term.

We now look ahead to the new academic year, where we continue in this vision, developing, supporting and preparing young people to be ready, able and qualified to take their next steps in the world. I have already spoken with the current Year 11 as we start from day one to achieve even better outcomes as a school for the young people in this community. Moreover, I have delivered a very similar message to all year groups this week, including to our new Year 7s, who looked very smart in their new uniforms, ready to begin the next stage of their journey in education with us. My message was clear; We want the best outcomes for our students, as this makes more opportunities available to them. Whatever success looks like for your child, we want them to achieve it during their 5 years with us!

A reminder that we are a mobile phone free school. We understand that children may wish to have a phone with them for their journey to and from school, but there is no place for them in the school day; They are a distraction and can cause more harm than good! Therefore, if students choose to bring their phones, they will be locked away in purpose-built cabinets in each form room. At the end of the day in afternoon registration, their phoners will be returned to them. This is to keep our young people safe and to ensure that they are focusing on learning and developing.


We are delighted to be expanding our extra-curricular offer this year. Please see the information included in the ebulletin about Imogen's School of Dance and Stage Door. Both will be delivered here at West Craven after school each week. Please use the details to express an interest and secure your child's place. We want our students to engage as much outside the classroom as they do within it. We are still not finished and there is more we still want to add this year, so please encourage your child to get involved and take part, and to tell us if there is something that they are interested in that we don't currently offer. I am looking forward to the year ahead, as we work together to achieve great things for all of the students at West Craven. Thank you for your continued support.




Mr Bates, Principal



# YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2025




**YEAR 11 LEAVERS**  
**2025**  
**Ruby Robinson**

**Where are you moving on to?**  
A T Level in Early Years Education at Nelson and Colne College

**What are your future ambitions?**  
To progress to university

**What is your favourite memory from West Craven?**  
Taking part in the rounders after school club

**Pendle**  
Education Trust



**YEAR 11 LEAVERS**  
**2025**  
**Ava Craddock**

**Where are you moving on to?**  
A BTEC Beauty Therapy course at Craven College

**What are your future ambitions?**  
To progress to university

**What is your favourite memory from West Craven?**  
I loved the sports days

**Pendle**  
Education Trust

## West Craven High School celebrates students' achievements on GCSE Results Day

West Craven High School's Class of 2025 are celebrating after receiving their GCSE results and taking the first step towards their ambitious futures.


West Craven Principal, Mr Bates, said: "The achievements of our GCSE students reflect not only their academic talent but also the perseverance and commitment they have shown throughout their studies. I am immensely proud of each and every one of them and wish them continued success as they move forward, chasing new dreams and embracing fresh challenges. We look forward to hearing all about their first few weeks on their new courses at our Star Awards in November!"

Some of the students celebrating their achievements included Ruby Robinson and Olivia Marsden who are both progressing to T Levels at Nelson and Colne College. Ruby will be studying Early Years Education and Olivia will be studying Healthcare Science. Lewis Barnes is also progressing to a T Level in Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction and Bradley Wood is progressing to a T Level in Mechanical Engineering. Connor Graham is also progressing to a T Level in Engineering.

Aamna Manazir will be pursuing A Levels in Chemistry, Biology, and Physics at Nelson and Colne College. Other students progressing to A Levels include Daisy Ottewell in History, Ancient History, and English Language and Literature, Alfie Thomas in Accountancy, Economics, and Chemistry, Riley Moss in Product Design, Physics and Business and Sofia Kobylecka in History, English Literature, and Psychology.



# YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2025





## YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2025

**Aamna Manazir**

**Where are you moving on to?**  
A Levels in Chemistry, Biology and Physics at Nelson and Colne College.

**What are your future ambitions?**  
To progress to university

**What is your favourite memory from West Craven?**  
Year 11 Geography trips



## YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2025

**Alfie Thomas**

**Where are you moving on to?**  
A Levels in Accountancy, Economics, and Chemistry  
Burnley College

**What are your future ambitions?**  
To progress to university

**What is your favourite memory from West Craven?**  
I loved my PE lessons and football



## YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2025

**Olivia Marsden**

**Where are you moving on to?**  
A T Level in Healthcare Science at Nelson and Colne College

**What are your future ambitions?**  
To progress to university

**What is your favourite memory from West Craven?**  
Year 11 Sports Day



## YEAR 11 LEAVERS 2025

**Lewis Barnes**

**Where are you moving on to?**  
A T Level in Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction at Burnley College

**What are your future ambitions?**  
To progress to university

**What is your favourite memory from West Craven?**  
Lunchtime football with my friends



# PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The trustees of Pendle Education Trust are seeking a Parent Governor to join the Local Academy Council at West Craven High School and invite parents, foster parents, carers or guardians who would like to be considered, to put their names forward.

An outline of the role can be [found here](#) and we are particularly looking to recruit a parent who, as well as wishing to support West Craven High School in improving outcomes for students, has an interest in further developing the school as a community asset and working with the other Pendle Education Trust schools in the area.

If you are interested in standing as a Parent Governor and wish to find out more about what the role entails, please contact Val Townsend, Clerk to the Trust at [vtownsend@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk](mailto:vtownsend@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk)

You may also find the following website useful [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk).

If you wish to be considered, you will need to complete the form below by **9am on Friday 19th September 2025** or if you wish to complete a paper form, contact the school office for this. If we have more suitable candidates than there are vacancies, an election process will be held.

It should be noted that parents who have been adjudged bankrupt, who have been removed as a trustee or who have received a prison sentence of more than three months for a criminal offence are disqualified from serving as a governor. All governors are required to complete a DBS check.

We do hope you are interested in standing and look forward to receiving your application.



# PASTORAL UPDATES

## ☀️ A Wonderful Start to Year 7 ☀️

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share how incredibly well our Year 7 pupils have settled into life at high school. The transition from primary to secondary school can be a big step, but your children have approached it with enthusiasm, resilience, and a fantastic attitude.

Although it's been a short week, from the very first day, they have shown kindness to one another, curiosity in their learning, and a growing confidence in navigating their new environment. It's been a joy to see them forming new friendships, engaging positively with staff, and embracing the opportunities that come with being part of our school community.

In lessons, pupils have impressed staff with their focus, creativity, and willingness to take on new challenges. Around school, they've demonstrated respect, responsibility, and a genuine eagerness to contribute to our shared values.

I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them and look forward to supporting them as they continue to grow and thrive throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Together, we can ensure that Year 7 is a happy, successful, and memorable experience for all.


Warm regards,

Mrs Harper



# OUR CORE EXPECTATIONS

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL



## Be Safe

- We move around the school calmly on the left
- We Use the one way system correctly
- We don't use our mobile phones in school, this is to safeguard everybody
- We don't wear jewellery except one pair of studs in lower ear and a watch
- We ensure we have calm behaviour at breaks and lunchtimes
- We stay in the correct supervised areas at break and lunchtimes


WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL



## Be Respectful

- We model SELF
- We have good manners
- We treat people and our school environment with respect
- We are kind and helpful
- We line up and conduct ourselves properly when asked to
- We respond to the silent signal promptly
- We accept everyone as the individuals that they are

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL



## Be Ready

- We attend school and arrive on time
- We are fully equipped for learning
- We wear correct uniform
- We arrive on time to lessons

## The West Craven Way:

We are excited to introduce our new core expectations:

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Ready**

Students were actively involved in shaping what these rules mean for us all, sharing their ideas and helping to define the criteria for each.

We are extremely proud of what they have achieved, and now have a set of simple, easy-to-follow rules that everyone at West Craven High School can embrace.

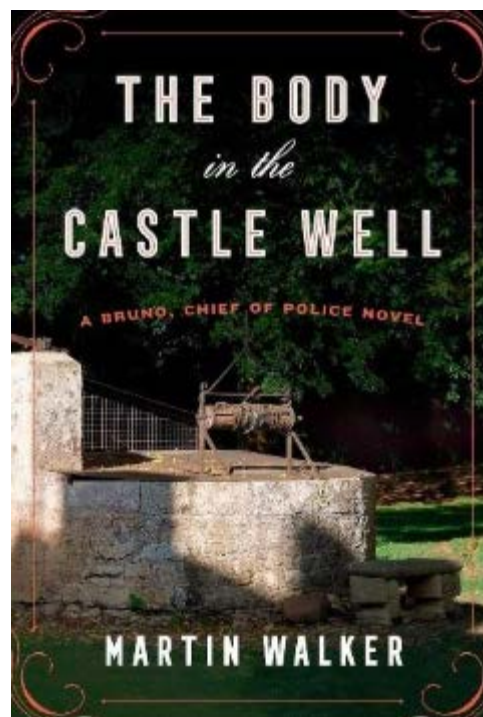
As we move forward, we will continue to aspire to follow the West Craven Way—by being ready, being respectful, and being safe every day.



# WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

The librarian loves *The Body in the Castle Well* by Martin Walker. This is the 12th book in the series and it now feels like the characters have become friends

**The library has lots of new books available, with something for everyone. The librarian hopes you all enjoy these books.**



September is a time of transition. Change can be difficult and for those pupils who are maybe finding these first few weeks a bit tricky, the library has a range of books to help. There are books available on friendship issues, self-esteem and confidence. These books are located in a quiet corner near the sofa. A perfect spot to find a book to help you settle in to school life.

West Craven High School

## Library Days



Monday Years 10 & 11



Tuesday Years 7, 8 & 9



Wednesday Years 7, 8 & 9



Thursday Years 7, 8 & 9



Friday Years 10 & 11



#ASPIRE



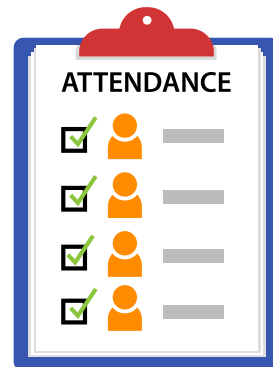
Happy Reading!

Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful



# ATTENDANCE

A huge shoutout to all pupils for their **excellent attendance** so far!! Being present and punctual is one of the most important steps toward achieving their goals, and the commitment to showing up ready to learn is truly impressive. Your support as parents is important as consistent attendance sets the foundation for success both inside and outside the classroom.



## Important Attendance and Safeguarding Reminders

- As part of our safeguarding, Parents/Carers must report absence to the school **before 9.00 am on every day that a student is absent via the absence line; 01282 812292 option 1 or by emailing [attendance@westcraven.co.uk](mailto:attendance@westcraven.co.uk)**
- When absence is due to illness, parents/carers must always inform the school of the exact nature of the illness.
- If the school is not notified of a student absence parents/carers will be contacted by SMS and then phone/email by the Attendance Officer.
- If parents/carers give no reason for absence, then this is an unauthorised absence. Failure to notify school is a safeguarding concern.
- If your child is absent for 3 consecutive days without notification, a Home Welfare Visit will be done by the Attendance Team
- Term time leaves of absence will only be granted by the Headteacher in exceptional circumstances.
- Applications must be made at least 3 weeks before the absence.
- Medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours wherever possible and proof of the appointment sent to the school (either the text notification or appointment card).

It is well known that poor attendance will impact on children's learning as well as their sense of well-being, sense of belonging and establish life-long habits for good attendance in general. The following figures show clearly how time lost cannot be regained:

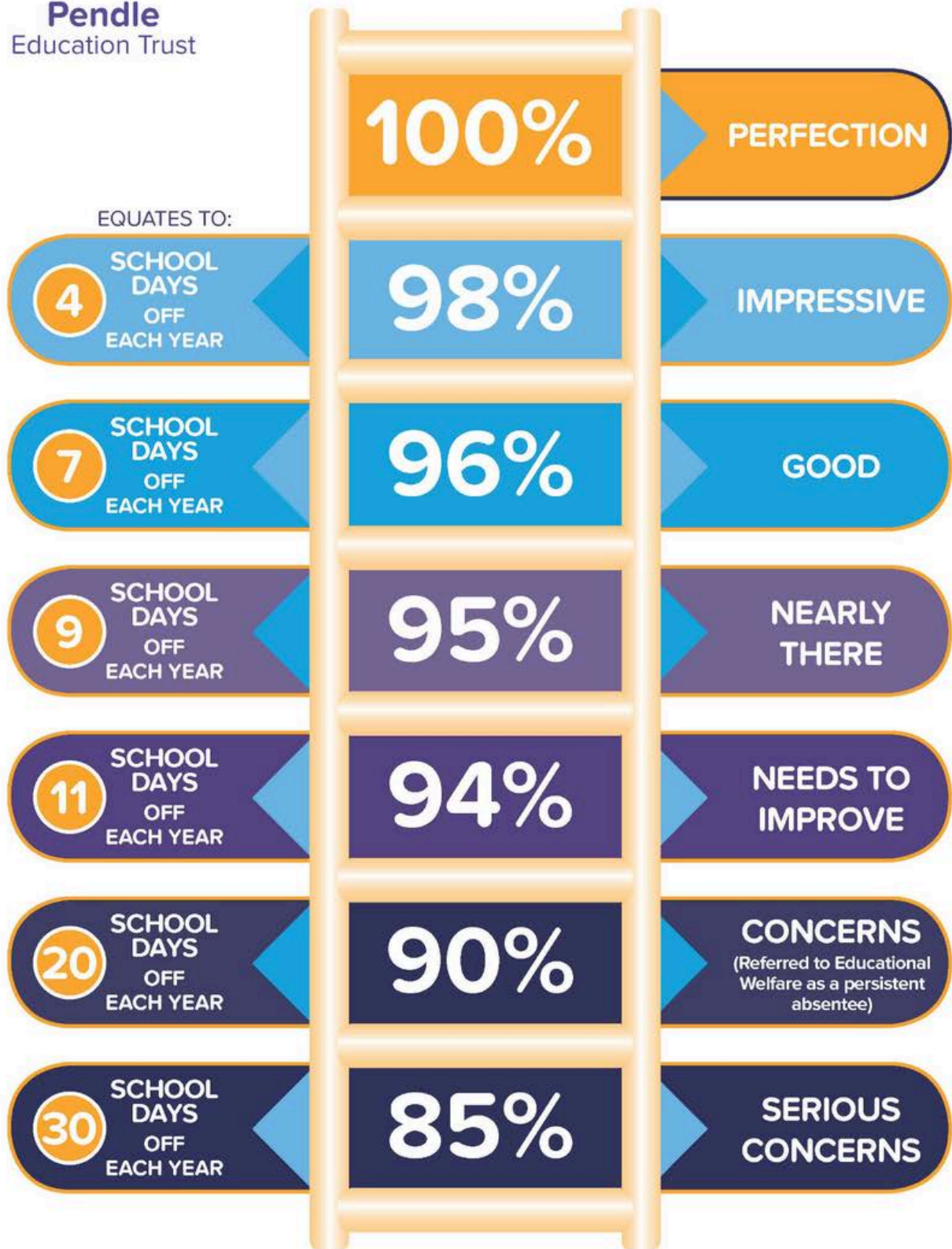
- **98% attendance means that your child has missed 4 days in the school year**
- **95% attendance means that your child has missed 10 days in the school year**
- **90% attendance means that your child has missed 19 days in the school year**
- **80% attendance means that your child has missed 38 days in the school year**
- **5 minutes late each day means three whole days lost each year**
- **17 days missed from school each year equates to a whole GCSE grade**
- **Attendance affects learning, future earning, wellbeing and a sense of belonging**

# ATTENDANCE



**Pendle**  
Education Trust

## Attendance Ladder



IMOGEN GIBSON  
school of

DANCE



**LEARN TO DANCE AT**  
**WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL**  
**EVERY THURSDAY 3:30PM - 4:30PM**

**SIGN UP TODAY**

**FREE**



**email: [office@westcraven.co.uk](mailto:office@westcraven.co.uk)**

*Places are limited, open to all year groups*



# NEW EXTRA CURRICULAR SESSIONS

FREE

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL



# STAGE DOOR

## YOUTH THEATRE GROUP

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB  
EVERY TUESDAY  
3:30PM - 4:45PM

SIGN UP TODAY

email: [office@westcraven.co.uk](mailto:office@westcraven.co.uk)

*Places are limited, open to all year groups*



[www.westcraven.co.uk](http://www.westcraven.co.uk)



[westcravenhighschool](https://www.facebook.com/westcravenhighschool)



[westcraven.barnoldswick](https://www.instagram.com/westcraven.barnoldswick)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- 8<sup>th</sup> September school photographs Years 7,9 & 11
- 12<sup>th</sup> September Craven College assembly
- 12<sup>th</sup> September - Trip to Wood End Farm
- 15<sup>th</sup> September Nelson & Colne College visit
- 15<sup>th</sup> September Lancashire Sexual Health Team visit
- 16<sup>th</sup> September Streetwise Assembly
- 18<sup>th</sup> September Year 7 Tutor Evening
- 18<sup>th</sup> September Year 11 Revision Workshop
- 25<sup>th</sup> September European Day of Languages
- 25<sup>th</sup> September Year 11 Power to Perform event
- 26<sup>th</sup> September Macmillan Coffee morning
- 29<sup>th</sup> September Year 10 one to one careers sessions
- 2<sup>nd</sup> October Year 10 Careers Event Colne Muni
- 2<sup>nd</sup> October Open Evening 6-8pm



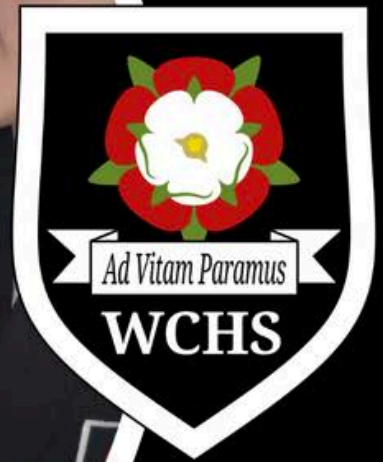
# OUR NEXT OPEN EVENT

## WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

#ASPIRE



Pendle  
Education Trust



# OPEN EVENING

**Thursday 2nd  
October 6pm - 8pm**

**SAVE  
THE DATE**



01282 812292



WestCraven.Barnoldswick



West Craven High School

Book your tickets now [www.westcraven.co.uk](http://www.westcraven.co.uk)



[www.westcraven.co.uk](http://www.westcraven.co.uk)



[westcravenhighschool](https://www.facebook.com/westcravenhighschool)



[westcraven.barnoldswick](https://www.instagram.com/westcraven.barnoldswick)

## Coverstar

Coverstar say they are "the safe TikTok alternative." They state, "there is no specific age limitation...however, if you are under the age of 13, you must obtain parental consent." Users can post, comment and livestream.

Whilst Coverstar does not include private messaging, users can still interact via public comments. Coverstar does use moderation tools to scan all user-generated content. It is also important to be aware that Coverstar does allow in-app purchases ranging from £0.99 - £59.99.

If your child is using this app, ensure they know how to use the reporting tools. Bark provide a full review of Coverstar here, but they rate it as suitable for 10+:

<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/coverstar-app-review>.

## Test your knowledge: Online Scams

Childnet have created a quiz for 9-13 year-olds that includes a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help your child protect themselves online. Find out more here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/>

## Online Safety Act

### What is the Online Safety Act?

The Online Safety Act 2023 is a set of laws introduced to protect children and adults online. Ofcom is the regulator for online safety in the UK, responsible for ensuring companies follow the new rules. As part of this role, Ofcom have designed the Children Codes of practice, which came into force in July



2025. The codes outline what all online services likely to be accessed by children must do to protect children online, for example:

- Enforce age limits.
- Protect children from accessing harmful or age-inappropriate content. This includes content relating to self-harm and eating disorders.
- Ensure users can easily report harmful content.

Ofcom has the power to enforce the rules as well as issue fines if companies fail to comply. You can find out more here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online>

### How will it help to protect my child?

One of the main purposes of the Act is to protect children online. Ofcom has published information on how they are helping children to be safer online. The first link is a guide for parents, which also includes a section on what you can do as a parent. You can access this information here:

- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-ofcom-is-helping-children-to-be-safer-online-a-guide-for-parents>
- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-the-online-safety-act-will-help-to-protect-children>

### Further information

Online Safety Act: explainer:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-act-explainer/online-safety-act-explainer>

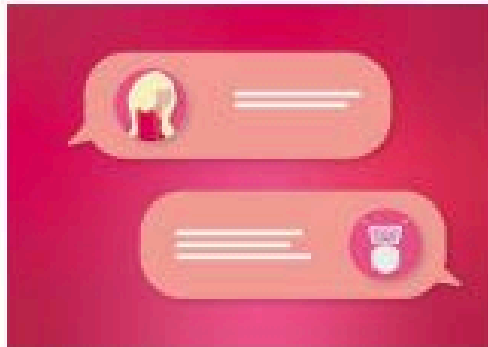
Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/sept-2025/>

# Artificial Intelligence (AI)

## What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow, and examples include:

- **Search engines** such as Google now include an AI-generated overview as part of their results.
- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa, Meta AI and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat.



## Opportunities

AI can be an effective tool when used correctly, for instance:

- **Homework** – children can use AI to support and assist their learning.
- **Advice** – AI can be used to provide information and suggestions on a variety of topics.

## Risks and concerns

- **Misinformation** – ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- **Privacy issues** – read any privacy policies before using.
- **Chat apps** - a simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos that can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

## How can I protect my child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Develop your child’s digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

## Further information

- Overview: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/>
- Should you worry if your child has an AI friend? <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/should-you-worry-if-your-child-has-ai-friend>

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## Roblox: Grow a Garden

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Grow a Garden is one of the latest games available on Roblox and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as ‘minimal’ for content maturity, which Roblox define as “may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear.” Roblox believe that the game play is suitable for everyone. However, as the game is on Roblox, it is important to be aware of the following:

- **Chat** – strangers can interact with your child.
- **In-game purchases** – this game does include in-game purchases.
- **Screen time** – set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of the content on Roblox is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing, ensure they know how to use any reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

## Further information

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

## Grooming online

Grooming is when somebody seeks to build a relationship with a child to exploit them or cause harm.

It is important that we teach our children how to recognise red flags. Childline have lots of useful information on their website, including where to get further support from:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>

# T Level Information Event for Parents/Carers & Educators

SPILL THE

T

Scan the QR code to register today!



Join us on for our 'Spill the Tea on T Levels at Tea Time' Webinar Live on Microsoft Teams, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00-8.00pm

Learn more about T Levels in Health and how they could support your child's bright future! An opportunity not to be missed - aimed at parents and school staff.

With testimonies from Health T Level students and NHS and Social Care staff plus a 15 minute Q&A!

**T-LEVELS**  
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

