

# WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Principal's Welcome

Friday 19th September

Dear Parent/Carer,

The weather at the beginning of this week certainly made up for the lack of rainfall this summer! We are fortunate enough that we have dedicated dining facilities for all year groups. Children can sit with friends and eat their lunch in a warm and dry dining room. Year 7 and 9 share the main dining room, Year 8 and 10 share the gym, and Year 11 have their own dining area. We do not allow students into other areas of the building at lunchtime unless they are using the library or attending a lunchtime club. This is to protect our students and avoid them being areas that are not supervised at lunchtimes. When students are inside the building on wet or dry lunchtimes, we expect that they are sat down in their dedicated dining room. If they don't wish to be sat down in the dining area, they need to be outside. On dry days we encourage students to be outside to get some fresh air and exercise. Students who can't meet our lunchtime expectations, including those that are out of area, will lose their privileges at lunchtime and will have to spend lunchtime away from their friends. Please reinforce this message with your child, especially as the winter months approach and we spend more time inside.

Our Duke of Edinburgh students also had to battle with the elements last weekend, as they pitched camp on Pendle Hill. The students did amazingly well and pitched their tents perfectly to complete the first step of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Well done to all involved!

We had our Year 7 Tutor Evening this week and it was lovely to see so many of our new parents, who were able to listen to how their child has settled into the new school year and discuss anything they wanted to with the form tutors. The role of the form tutor is such a vital role in your child's education. They see your child every morning and every day before they go home from school. They are a single point of contact for your child. Our tutors can also check in on any issues that have taken place during the day or earlier in the week. Please don't hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak with your child's form tutor if there is anything you think we need to know or if you have any questions.

All Year 11 Parents are invited into school next Thursday evening at 6pm. This is for our Power to Perform Information Evening. On the evening parents will be taken through the important dates and deadlines in this crucial year. We will also share revision advice and resources, and the Senior Leadership Team will be on hand to answer any questions parents and carers may have, as you support your child in their final year.

It has been an excellent start to the year, and it has been great to see so many students and how much they seem to have changed, just over a summer, from one year to the next. Attendance at school over these first weeks has been excellent. Please ensure that your child attends school each day. Missing time from school is the factor that has the biggest impact on attainment. If they are not in school, they are missing education! Of course, we understand that children catch illnesses and occasionally can't be in school for genuine reasons. On these days, it is important that a parent/carers calls our attendance office each morning that your child is absent. When your child is absent you may receive a phone call or home visit to check that everything is OK and to see if there is anything we can help with to get your child back into school.

Thank you for continued support



Mr Bates, Principal



# STARS OF THE WEEK



Zoya 7.AOP  
Brooke 7.MFO  
Imogen 7.OCA  
Jessica 7.YGR



Alisha 8.EAJ  
James 8.KSN  
Emily 8.NHU  
George 8.RSW

Ella-May 9.DRA  
Summer 9.HWH  
Laaibah 9.LWI  
Leighton 9.WDA

Saman 10.ABA  
Mollie 10.CMC  
Millie 10.DWI  
Brycen 10.JPE  
Gracie 10.RGR



Summer 11.API  
Melissa 11.ECU  
Miya-Elize 11.JHA  
Shamaela 11.MMO  
Daisy 11.MTU

**Congratulations to this week's top students from each form group.**



# CURRICULUM UPDATE

The Maths Department has made a strong start to the new school year.

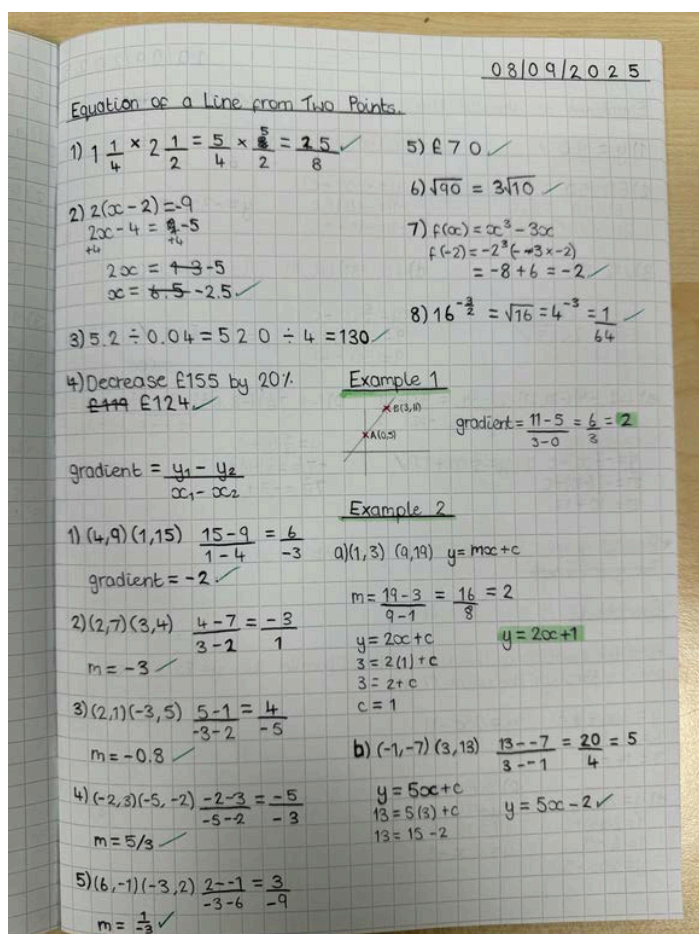
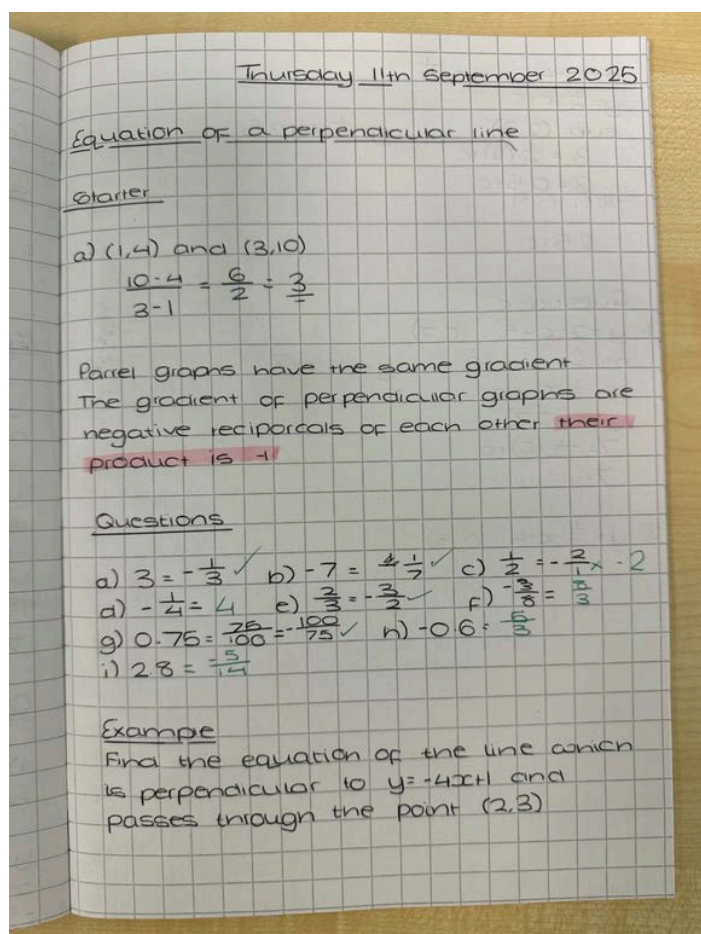
In Year 7, students are working on sequences, algebra and building their understanding of equivalence.

Year 8 are studying ratio and proportion, making links with fractions and percentages.

Year 9 have started the year with number and percentages, developing fluency in these key skills.

At GCSE level, Year 10 are focusing on algebra, including equations and problem-solving. Year 11 are currently working on linear and non-linear graphs as well as preparing for their upcoming mock exams.

Students have shown a positive attitude to their work, and we look forward to seeing them continue to make good progress throughout the term.



# YEAR 11 INFORMATION EVENING

## Power to Perform – Year 11 Parents' Information Evening

**Date:** Thursday 25th September

**Time:** 6:00pm

We are delighted to invite all parents and carers of Year 11 students to our Power to Perform information evening. This event is designed to provide you with the key knowledge and tools needed to support your child during this crucial GCSE year.

### What to Expect

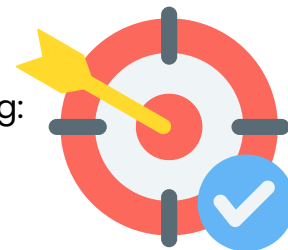
The evening will cover three essential areas:

- Key Dates & Deadlines – Guidance on coursework deadlines, exam timetables, and college applications.
- Revision Strategies – Practical methods already shared with students, enabling you to support them effectively at home.
- Q&A with the Senior Leadership Team – An open opportunity to ask questions and seek advice.

### Student Support Packs

Every Year 11 student will receive a comprehensive revision pack, including:

- Subject-specific revision guides
- Access details for GCSE Pod, past papers, and other resources
- Key information on exam boards and expectations



### Why This Matters

This year is vital in shaping students' futures. With mock exams beginning in November (straight after the October half term) and final GCSE exams starting in May 2026, preparation begins now.

### We will encourage students to:

- Revise independently for at least 2 hours each school night
- Build balanced weekend and holiday study schedules
- Adopt healthy routines that include rest, extracurricular activities, and family time

By attending this evening, you'll gain the tools to support your child in building positive habits, managing workload, and maximising their exam success.

We look forward to welcoming you on **Thursday 25th September.**



# TEEN GYM MEMBERSHIPS

## New Gym Membership Opportunity for West Craven Students

We are delighted to share some exciting news for our students in Years 9, 10 and 11. West Craven High School has partnered with West Craven Sports Centre to give our students the opportunity to access the gym each week with a special membership package.

To get started, students will complete a gym induction, which will be arranged during PE lessons. After the induction, they can sign up for a monthly membership and begin enjoying the gym facilities on a regular basis.

🎉 **As an added bonus, all West Craven High School students will receive their first month's membership at half price – an exclusive discount just for our school community.**

⚠️ **Please note: Students must be aged 13 or above to take part in the induction and membership scheme.**

This initiative is a fantastic way for our students to develop their fitness, improve wellbeing, and take positive steps towards a healthy lifestyle.

If your child is interested, please encourage them to speak to Mr Wilson Head of PE to arrange their induction and get started.



**TEEN GYM** **JOIN NOW**

**Get your GYM membership today!**  
Year 9,10 & 11 Students (Age 13+)  
You can now access West Craven Sports Centre Centre gym each week with a Junior Membership!

**Why Join Us?**

- ✓ Start with a gym induction (arranged through PE lessons in school)
- ✓ Get your junior gym membership
- ✓ Pay a simple monthly charge
- ✓ Enjoy the gym regularly and stay active

**SPECIAL OFFER** All West Craven High School students get their first month **half price!**

pendle Education Trust



Scan this QR code for more information about memberships or call - 01282 666710



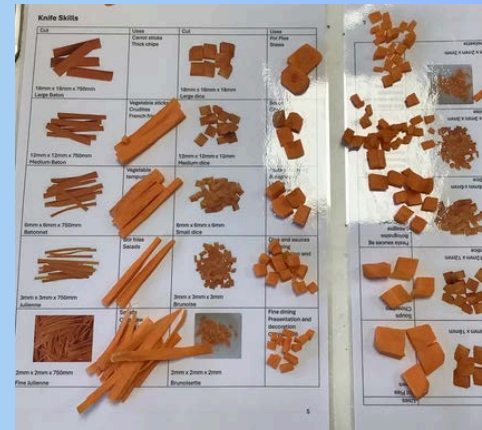
#ASPIRE

# HOSPITALITY AND CATERING



## Year 10 Hospitality & Catering

Our Year 10 students have been busy in their GCSE Hospitality and Catering lessons, practising and developing their chopping skills. This important foundation helps them prepare ingredients safely and accurately, building confidence for more advanced cooking techniques later in the course.



## Sandwich Creations

Our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students have been putting their skills to the test by creating their own sandwiches.

Building on the techniques they developed in Key Stage 3, students explored different flavours, textures, and presentation styles to produce delicious and visually appealing results. It's fantastic to see their creativity and practical skills continue to grow!



# PASTORAL UPDATES

Most of the students are aware of me and as Pastoral Lead for Year 9, I want to reassure both students and parents that I am continuing to work closely with our year group to provide guidance, support, and care during this important stage of secondary school.

My role is to ensure that every student feels safe, supported, and ready to learn, while also helping them navigate the challenges of adolescence both in and out of the classroom. I will be working alongside form tutors, teachers, and families to promote positive wellbeing, encourage good attendance, and celebrate achievements.

Please know that my door is always open for any concerns, and I look forward to working together to help Year 9 have a successful and rewarding year.



**Mrs Waddington**  
Year 9 Pastoral Lead



Hello! I am the Burnley FC in the Community Mental Wellbeing Worker based at West Craven High School. The BFCitC Schools Mental Wellbeing Project offers support that is accessible to students that are struggling with their mental health, providing early intervention informed by low intensity CBT practice. The SMWP specifically aims to reduce levels of mental distress whilst positively impacting attendance, academic performance, knowledge and understanding of mental health by working with students and providing them with the tools to enhance their personal wellbeing. If you have any queries, feel free to get in touch:

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



**BURNLEY FC**  
IN THE COMMUNITY



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



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



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

## Year 11 Pupils Complete Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

On Friday 12th September, a group of Year 11 students embarked on the first day of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expedition. The journey began with a challenging walk from Padiham to Whitehough campsite, nestled at the foot of Pendle Hill.

Despite facing difficult weather conditions along the way, the pupils pressed on with determination. By the time they reached camp, the clouds had cleared, giving them a chance to pitch their tents and cook their evening meal. The night was filled with laughter, floodlit football, and campfire conversations before the rain returned in the early hours, leaving some students with flooded tents.

Undaunted, the group rose early on Saturday and set off on a five-mile hike over Blacko, before returning to school to successfully complete this stage of the award.

Expedition assessor Sean Whittle praised the pupils for their resilience, positive attitude, and teamwork throughout the two days. Their efforts mark a strong step forward on their Duke of Edinburgh journey.



# STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP

## Year 11 Study Skills Workshop – Tackling GCSE Revision with Confidence

On Thursday, our Year 11 students took part in a dynamic and interactive study skills workshop designed to support them in preparing for their upcoming GCSE examinations. The session, tailored specifically for Key Stage 4 learners, provided students with a wide range of evidence-based learning and revision strategies to help them study more effectively and approach revision with confidence.

**Throughout the workshop, students were introduced to techniques including:**

- 🧠 **Memory strategies to boost recall**
- 📄 **Condensing text and topics into manageable chunks**
- 🗺️ **Association maps to link ideas and concepts**
- 🔄 **The Review Philosophy for long-term learning**
- 📝 **Exam preparation techniques**
- 🌱 **Developing a growth mindset**

The focus was not only on practical methods for revision but also on building motivation and self-belief. Students left the session feeling inspired, better equipped, and more confident in their ability to take control of their learning.

This workshop is a valuable part of our ongoing commitment to preparing students for success in their GCSEs and beyond. We look forward to seeing them put these new tools into action in the months ahead.



# FUNDRAISING

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

We're excited to be hosting a **Macmillan Coffee Morning at West Craven High School** on **Friday 26th September from 11:00am – 12:00pm.**

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for a hot drink and a slice of cake, all in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. If you'd like to attend, please call our school office so we can ensure your child can join you.

### **Cake donations needed!**

We would love parents and carers to bring in cakes to sell on the day—please bring them into school in the morning.

### **Star Baker Competition** 🍰

Students are invited to take part in our Star Baker competition by bringing in a cake of their own making. Please provide a full list of ingredients and no nuts, for safety reasons. Winners will receive prizes in each year group!

### **Cake Sale at Lunchtime**

We'll also be selling cakes at lunchtime, so students can bring some money if they would like to buy a treat.

**Thank you for helping us support this fantastic cause and for sharing in the fun! ❤️**

WORLD'S BIGGEST  
**COFFEE  
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**



# CELEBRATING OUR YEAR 11 LEAVERS

We are thrilled to announce that our Year 11 students have achieved the school's best ever GCSE results, with the highest number of top grades (7-9)! To celebrate their incredible achievements, we've created a special banner that will be proudly displayed on our school gates. We are so proud of our students and their hard work – well done to them all!

## Congratulations Class of 2025



★ **BEST OUTCOMES**

★ **HIGHEST NUMBER  
OF TOP GRADES (7-9)**



#ASPIRE

We are so proud of you!



# OUR SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

## Working Towards Carbon Net Zero by 2030

At West Craven, we are committed to making a difference for our students, our community, and our planet. That's why we are working hard towards becoming carbon net zero by 2030.

We are already taking action in six key areas:

- Reducing and managing waste
- Working towards eliminating single-use plastics
- Lowering our water and energy consumption
- Using recyclable materials in our canteens
- Creating more green spaces around school
- Running environmental awareness projects

These steps are not only about protecting the environment but also about educating and empowering our students to take responsibility for the world they live in.

We'd love our students to get involved in this important journey. Students who are interested can join our School Green Team, helping to shape projects, come up with new ideas, and make a real impact both in school and beyond. **Contact Mr Wilson to find out more!**

Together, we can make a difference for the future. 🌍💚

**WALK OR CYCLE TO SCHOOL**



Instead of hopping in a car every morning, walk or cycle to school. Car travel accounts for 19% of the average person's carbon emissions.

**SWITCH APPLIANCES OFF**



Switch off your TV and devices when you are not using them. By doing this you can save energy, which will in turn help the planet.

**RECYCLE YOUR WASTE**



Recycle your packaging or waste rather than throwing it straight in the bin. Look for the recycled paper and commingled bins in school.

**CUT OUT SINGLE USE PLASTICS**



Single use plastics are a huge waste of the world resources, they can also cause serious damage to sea creatures and wildlife. Use a refillable water bottle every day.

**SAVE PAPER THINK BEFORE YOU PRINT**



THINK BEFORE YOU PRINT!  
Do you really need to print that?

Pendle Education Trust

TIPS FOR SAVING PAPER

- 01 BE SELECTIVE ABOUT WHAT YOU PRINT
- 02 GO DIGITAL - READ, SEND & STORE DIGITAL DOCUMENTS
- 03 USE PRINT PREVIEW TO CHECK YOUR DOCUMENT IS CORRECT
- 04 USE BOTH SIDES OF PAPER
- 05 RECYCLE

SAVE PAPER. SAVE MONEY. SAVE FORESTS!

**CONSERVE WATER**



Make small changes by switching off the taps whilst you clean your teeth and taking shorter showers, it'll make a huge difference.

**GROW YOUR OWN FOOD**



As well as learning about where your food comes from, planting a simple vegetable garden also helps the environment.

**GO MEAT FREE**



Although cutting out meat completely can be daunting, a few simple tweaks, such as cutting down on the amount of meat you eat or giving meat-free Mondays a go - can make a difference.



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This week we launched our PSHE programme for this academic year with many external visitors. As well as being experts in their profession, they give students a fresh perspective on topics important to them in their stage of life. Year 11 had a visit from Nelson and Colne College on Monday morning to talk about Post -16 options. This followed an informative assembly last Friday from Craven College.



On Tuesday we had a visit from a theatre production company, in conjunction with Lancashire County Council who delivered a road safety assembly to our Year 7 cohort. This is supporting the work they are currently doing in PSHE lessons around transition to secondary school.

Year 9 had a visit from a member of the Lancashire Sexual Health Team who discussed the importance of and examples of various methods of contraception



**Mr Brook**  
Personal Development  
& Careers Lead

**Lancashire**  
**Sexual Health**  
**Service**



## Looking for the very best start to your young person's future after GCSEs?

Here at **Nelson & Colne College**, we share your hopes and dreams for your young person and are with you every step of the way on their journey to Be Extraordinary.

Plus .... we have the expertise, passion and experience to make those dreams a reality as we're proudly ranked the #1 College in England for A Level progress and have been rated Outstanding by Ofsted for over 20 years.

**We're pleased to invite you - and your young person - to join us at our**

### **A Level Open Event**

**Nelson & Colne College, Scotland Road, Nelson**

**Saturday, 20 September**

**10am-2pm**

It's a great opportunity to discover how we nurture and support each individual learner to achieve their full potential and are seen as a national leader in academic excellence. Find out more about our outstanding A Level courses, meet our expert teaching staff, hear from College leaders and tour our friendly campus

There's also an unmissable chance to learn more about the **Extraordinary Minds Academy** which helps our students truly stand out from the crowd and secure places in some of the UK's top universities. In fact, three of our exceptional Class of 2025 students – Ray Abbott, Sai Chinmayee, and Jacob Brown – received offers to study Natural Sciences, Medicine, and English Literature at the University of Cambridge this year. Their success is part of a proud tradition at NCC and shows our commitment to support your young person to Be Extraordinary..

**Don't miss it – book your place at the A Level Open Event today!**

**A Level Open Event Registration Page – Nelson & Colne College**

We look forward to welcoming you.



A dark blue graphic with a pink header that reads 'JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS'. Below the header is a grid of event details. The events listed are: A Level Open Event (SAT, 20 SEPT, 10.00am to 2.00pm), Year 11 Open Event (WED, 15 OCT, 5.30pm to 7.30pm), Year 11 Open Event (TUE, 11 NOV, 5.30pm to 7.30pm), Careers Open Event (THU, 5 FEB, 5.30pm to 7.30pm), Year 7, 8, 9, 10 &amp; 11 Event (THU, 23 APR, 5.30pm to 7.30pm), New Student Day (THU, 25 JUN, All Day), and GCSE Results Day (THU, 30 AUG, All Day). The website 'ncc.eastlancslearning.ac.uk' is listed at the bottom.



# OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

## Out of School Achievement

A huge congratulations to Tom on his outstanding success in cricket this season! Tom's dedication and commitment have truly paid off, as he has been recognised with three awards to celebrate his achievements:

- 🏆 **Under 11's Bowler Award – Barnoldswick Cricket Club**
- 🏆 **Under 11's Batter Award – Barnoldswick Cricket Club**
- 🏆 **Under 11's Bowler Award – Whalley Cricket Club**

What a fantastic way to round off his 2025 junior cricket season. We are so proud of you, Tom – well done!

## Out of School Achievement

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of Ella in Year 9, who has had not one, but two short stories published this year.

Her first was published through Young Writers, and more recently she had the opportunity to work with author Nathan Parker at Barnoldswick Library, resulting in another of her stories being published.

This is an incredible accomplishment and a fantastic example of how our students' talents shine both inside and outside of school. Well done, Ella – we are so proud of you!

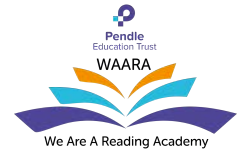
If you would like to share your child's out of school achievements, please contact [jvetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk](mailto:jvetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk)



# WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

## This week in WAARA...

Year 7 have visited the library in their English lessons this week, exploring a large selection of fiction and non-fiction relating to the theme of war, conflict and identity. They were practicing their summary writing skills by reading sections of the resources and identifying the key points.



This year, form classes will spend of their 'Drop Everything and Read' sessions in the library, giving them an extra chance to spend time in the space and explore the new books recently added!



In English this week, Year 10 are looking at structural devices in texts and had to complete a jigsaw of literary techniques and definitions to make a shape – a great link between Maths and English!



The librarian loves *The Post-Birthday World* by Lionel Shriver. It's a Sliding Doors type book, which depicts two alternate futures. Lionel Shriver was the author of *We Need to Talk About Kevin*.





**50 Book Challenge**

Are you ready to take on the challenge?  
Throughout your five years at West Craven  
high school, we're inviting YOU to read 50  
amazing books – starting this summer!

- ✓ Start reading over the summer holidays
- ✓ Choose from our exciting list of 50 books
- ✓ Find them in our school library or your local library

If you have not started the 50 book challenge yet, come along to the library and ask the librarian for a book list. You will receive a prize for reading 10 books.



## Author Spotlight

Agatha Christie was born on the 15th September 1890 in Torquay, Devon. She was an English detective novelist and playwright whose books have sold more than 100 million copies. She began writing whilst working as a nurse during World War 1. Her first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, introduced Hercule Poirot. Her other principal detective, Miss. Marple, first appeared in *The Murder at The Vicarage*. Agatha Christie's plays included *The Mousetrap*, which set a world record for the longest continuous run in one theatre. Agatha Christie wrote romance novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. Agatha Christie was made a Dame in 1971 and she died in 1976.

Ready for a little surprise? The word avocado comes from the Spanish, aguacate, which in turn comes from the Nahuatl, ahucatl, meaning testicle. It may come as a surprise at first, but the more you think about it, the more it resembles men's soft spot. This resemblance becomes even more distinctive once you've seen avocado duos dangling from trees.

Nahuatl is a language of the Aztecs, native to Mexico. The language is still spoken by approximately 1.5 million people native to Mexico. It's worth adding that avocado is not the only English word borrowed from the Nahuatl language. The list includes chilli, chocolate, tomato and guacamole.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

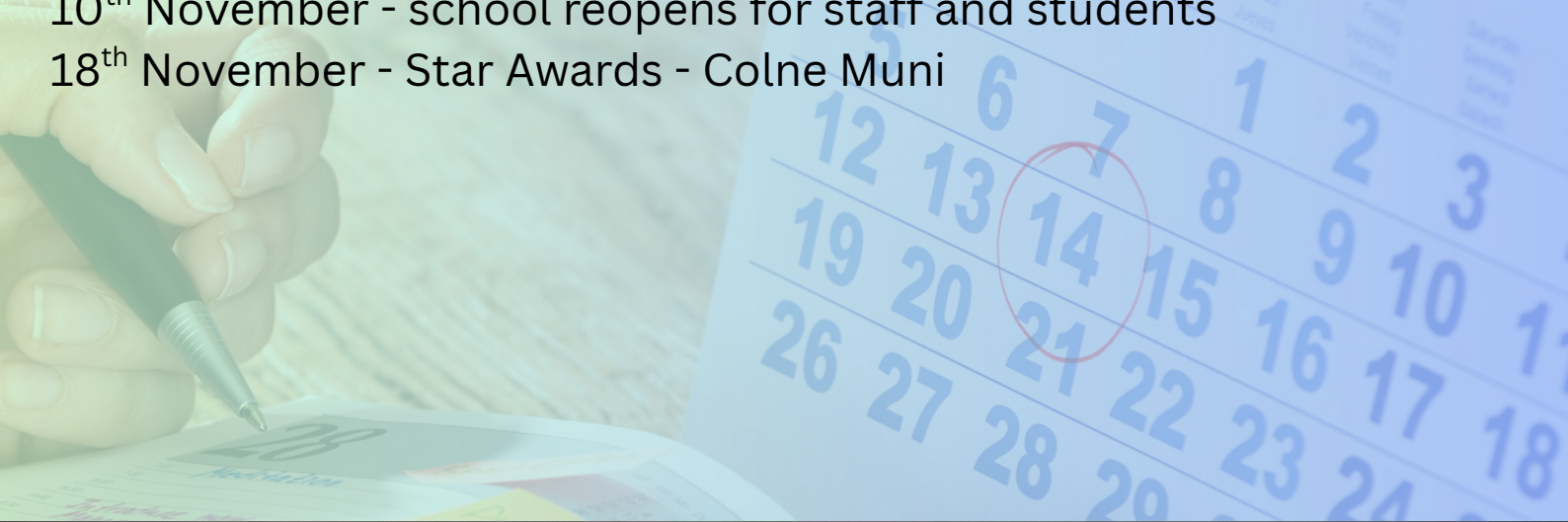
2nd October Year 10 Careers Event Colne Muni

2<sup>nd</sup> October Open Evening 6-8pm

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October - school closes for half term

10<sup>th</sup> November - school reopens for staff and students

18<sup>th</sup> November - Star Awards - Colne Muni



# OUR COMMUNITY

## Barnoldswick Youth Club is back!

We're excited to welcome Year 7 students to Barnoldswick Youth Club! Come along, make new friends, join in with fun activities, and be part of something great in your community.

 **Starts: Wednesday 17th September**

 **Where: Barnoldswick Youth Club**

 **Who: Year 7 students**

It's the perfect place to chill out, get involved, and try new things after school. Don't miss out – bring your friends along and get involved!

# BARNOLDSWICK YOUTH CLUB

## Barnoldswick Youth Club is back!

We're excited to welcome Year 7 students to Barnoldswick Youth Club! Come along, make new friends, join in with fun activities, and be part of something great in your community.

 **Starts: Wednesday 17th September 5:30 - 6:30pm**

 **Where: Barnoldswick Youth Club**

 **Who: Year 5,6, & 7 students**

It's the perfect place to chill out, get involved, and try new things after school.

Don't miss out – bring your friends along and get involved!



STATION ROAD, BARNOLDSWICK, LANCASHIRE ENGLAND, BB18 5NA



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



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



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

# OUR COMMUNITY

## Community Advertisements

In this section of our newsletter, we share posters for local events, activities, and charities.

If you would like us to advertise a community event or club, please email [jvetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk](mailto:jvetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk).

Please note that West Craven High School is not affiliated with these organisations and cannot endorse the events, promotions, or clubs. We will only feature events that we consider appropriate for our school community.

We are  
Community

## Stay connected, follow us on Facebook and Instagram

A very warm welcome to all our new Year 7 families! We are thrilled to have you join the West Craven High School community. To stay updated on school news, student achievements, important events, and reminders, we encourage all parents and carers to follow our official Facebook and Instagram pages.



**West Craven High School**



**WestCraven.Barnoldswick**

