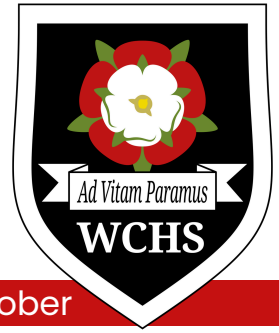


WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Friday 3rd October

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week was our Open Evening. We welcomed 150 families through our doors on Thursday night to come and see what West Craven High School is all about. We asked our students at the beginning of last week if any of them were able to help on the night and support the school. Over 50 of our students came back to school, dressed in their pristine full uniform for 5:30pm and stayed until gone 8pm. They were polite, welcoming and articulate, as they helped prospective parents and students find their way around the school. These students will all receive a reward in assemblies next week and I am extremely grateful to them for giving their time up to represent our school.

The Year 5 and 6 parents spoke very highly of the school and the students while on their visit, as they explored the different classrooms and activities; from murder scenes to dissections, jewellery making to escape rooms, and they got to sample the food from our catering team also. Parents listened to our Head Boy and Girl, James Markham and Chrissy Walton, as well as James Winter and Faye Culkin in year 11, who spoke of their time at West Craven since Year 7. All four students delivered their speeches confidently to a packed school hall and spoke eloquently about their experiences of school. There was also a speech from 2 Year 7 students, Isabella Atkinson and Alessio Morone, who spoke about what it was like to join West Craven High School. I was very proud of how well they spoke to a large adult crowd after just 5 weeks in the school. I have every confidence that these students have a great future ahead of them at West Craven and beyond.

The Open Evening finished at 8pm on Thursday night and it was a genuine struggle to get staff, students and children to stop enjoying the activities and conversations they were engaged in. It was lovely to see so many families from the community and share all that we are doing as a school. I hope to see many of them again in September 2026.

It is great to see our sports fixtures get up and running, with our Year 8, 9 and 10 boys football getting off to a flying start this week; 23 goals across 3 matches. Fortunately, 20 of the goals were ours. Unfortunately, 3 of them were against the Y10s, who played well, but suffered defeat. Our Year 8 and 9s secured confident wins and kept clean sheets. I will watch the fixtures with interest and make space for that trophy!

I have spoken to the staff and students about making every minute of every lesson count. With this in mind, we are focusing on punctuality to lessons. Arriving late to lessons is lost time learning and it interrupts the learning of others when the teacher has to stop the lesson. In school we ask that registers are completed in the first 5 minutes of the lesson. This gives everyone plenty of time to move across school. From Monday if a student is late to a lesson without a valid reason, they will receive a 20 minute detention. If they are late for 2 lessons in a day it will be a 40 minute detention. If they are late to 3 or more lessons in a day, it will result in a 1 hour detention. The attendance team will always contact parents about these detentions in advance. The vast majority of our students arrive before the register is closed and will be happy knowing that their lessons are less disrupted by late arrivals.

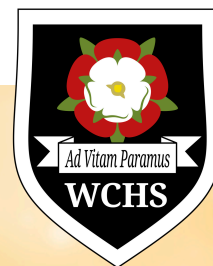
Thank you for continued support



Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK



Zoya 7.AOP
Brooke 7.MFO
Ollie 7.OCA
Anyia 7.YGR



Olivia 8.EAJ
Annie 8.KSN
Harry 8.NHU
George 8.RSW

Charlie 9.HWH
Eva 9.JBR
Max 9.LWI
Ella 9.WDA

Saman 10.ABA
Noah 10.CMC
Chloe 10.DWI
Eva 10.JPE
Toby 10.RGR



Jacob 11.API
Jakub 11.DRA
Aiden 11.ECU
Evie 11.JHA
Simra 11.MBA
Amelia 11.MMO
Anyia 11.MTU
Arkadiusz 11.STA

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



OPEN EVENING SUCCESS

Thank You for Joining Us at Our Open Evening

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who joined us for our Open Evening. It was wonderful to see so many of you exploring our school, meeting our staff, and taking part in the wide range of interactive activities on offer in classrooms.

A special thank you also goes to our student helpers and prefects, who did a fantastic job welcoming families, leading tours, and sharing their experiences of life at our school.

Throughout the evening, families had the chance to hear from our Principal, Senior Deputy Principals, Senior Prefects and Year 7 students, who all spoke passionately about our school community and what makes it such a special place to learn.

We hope you enjoyed the evening and that it gave you a real sense of the opportunities, support, and warm welcome we offer every child.

For families applying for a Year 7 place in September 2026, please remember the deadline for applications is 31st October 2025. Applications can be made online via the local authority website. [click here](#)



SPORTS FIXTURES

School Football Highlights!

Our Year 8 superstars smashed it again with a 14–0 win at Marsden Heights! What a performance — this team is on fire!

Not to be outdone, Year 9 stormed to a 6–0 victory, showing real skill and teamwork. Huge congratulations to them!

Year 10 fought hard in their match but came up short with a 3–0 loss. Plenty of positives to take forward though — we're excited to see what's next from them!



Mr Wilson
Head of PE



Personal Development

This week our PSHE sessions saw a number of guests come in and talk to our students, ranging from College presentations to talks on the importance of sexual health to our Year 9 students. Year 10 had a focus on mental health and how to look after themselves, especially across these next two years in the build up to college applications and exams.

On Friday Year 11 had an assembly from Training 2000. A local provider of apprenticeships who discussed what an apprenticeship is, how they are accessed and future possibilities.



Mr Brook
Personal Development
& Careers Lead



YEAR 7 STUDENT FEEDBACK

Starting high school is a big step... but our new Year 7s have settled in brilliantly! We asked them how they've found their first few weeks — here's what they had to say...

Year 7

Student Feedback



"At first I was nervous about starting high school, but now I feel really settled and I've already made lots of new friends."



Year 7

Student Feedback



"The teachers are really supportive and help if you don't understand something."



Year 7

Student Feedback



"I love that there are so many clubs and activities to try — I've already joined football and art club."



Year 7

Student Feedback



"The school feels much bigger than primary, but after a few days I knew my way around."



Year 7

Student Feedback



"The older students have been really kind and helped me when I wasn't sure where to go."



Year 7

Student Feedback



"High school gives me more independence and responsibility, which makes me feel more grown up."



CURRICULUM UPDATE COMPUTING/BUSINESS

Computing and Business Learning in Action

It has been a busy and exciting half term across Computing and Business lessons, with students from Year 7 through to Year 11 developing key skills for their future learning and careers.

Year 7

Our newest students have been getting familiar with their computers and focusing on Digital Literacy. They have learned how to use apps such as Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Teams, and are currently creating presentations about how to use the internet safely and responsibly.

Year 8

Year 8 students have been delving into Computer Systems, exploring what goes on “under the hood” of a computer. They have also been developing their understanding of Computer Logic by making virtual circuits using logic gates.

Year 9

In Year 9, students have started programming using the Python language. They have been creating interactive programs – from asking users how they are, to building number-guessing games that test both logic and creativity.

Year 10 – Business in the Real World

Students in Year 10 have been learning about Business Ownership Models and exploring the types of people who may want to start a business. These lessons are helping them understand the foundations of enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Year 11 – Marketing

Our Year 11 students have been developing their knowledge of Marketing Strategies. They are considering how businesses can be successful by reaching their audiences effectively, giving them an excellent grounding for both exams and real-world applications.

Across all year groups, it is clear that students are building skills that will not only support their studies but also prepare them for the fast-changing digital and business world.



Mr Hussain
Head of Computing



PASTORAL UPDATES

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. I am delighted to introduce myself as the Pastoral Lead for Year 11, and I am very much looking forward to supporting your child through the final and most important stage of their secondary school journey.

Year 11 is a crucial time, and my priority is to help make this year as smooth, focused, and successful as possible. My aim is for every student to achieve their full potential, enabling them to move confidently into their chosen next steps—whether that be college, an apprenticeship, or another exciting pathway.

Following the fantastic exam results achieved by the class of 2025, we are setting our sights high once again. I am confident that, with the right support and encouragement, this year group will continue to thrive and exceed expectations.

One of our key priorities this term is to ensure that all students have submitted at least one college or post-16 application before the Christmas break. This will give them the best possible start to planning their futures. Please do keep an eye out for information about upcoming college open evenings—these are invaluable opportunities for students to explore their options.

We recognise that Year 11 is a demanding and high-pressure year, so we are committed to supporting students not only academically but also in their wellbeing and motivation. As such, we will be offering rewards to celebrate the students' hard work, effort, and positive contributions. Following feedback from the students themselves we hope to offer a number of incentives including a silent disco experience and a pizza treat, these will be given to students who consistently demonstrate good attendance, punctuality, effort, behaviour, and commitment to their studies.

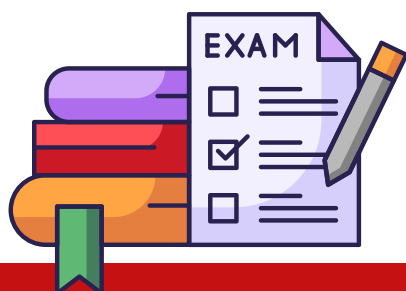
I am here to help both students and families navigate this year, so if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Working together, we can make this a successful and rewarding final year for your child.

We are working hard as a school to ensure that all of our Year 11 students are fully supported in the run-up to their mock exams and GCSEs. Every student will shortly receive a new revision planner and a revision strategies guide to help them organise their independent study effectively at home.

We will also be sharing a comprehensive revision timetable which sets out the after-school Lesson 6 sessions available for each subject. These sessions will give students valuable opportunities to consolidate their learning and access tailored support from their teachers.

In addition, Year 11 students will have the opportunity to take part in revision sessions during the second week of the October half-term, and further details will be shared with families soon.

Thank you for continuing to support your child during this important stage of their education.



Mrs Gartland
Pastoral Lead Year 11



HOSPITALITY AND CATERING



Hospitality and Catering Success

Our Hospitality and Catering students have once again had a fantastic week in the kitchen. They have been busy preparing a range of delicious dishes, taking great care not only with taste but also with presentation. It has been wonderful to see their skills and creativity developing as they produce food that looks as good as it tastes.

Mrs Whittle
Head of CVOC



NATIONAL POETRY DAY

National Poetry Day 2025: Creativity in Action

On Thursday, we joined schools and communities across the country to celebrate National Poetry Day. This year's theme encouraged students to explore the power of words and how poetry can inspire, comfort, and connect us.

As part of our celebrations, a group of talented Year 8 students read and performed a selection of poems. Their performances highlighted not only their confidence and creativity but also the enjoyment that poetry can bring.

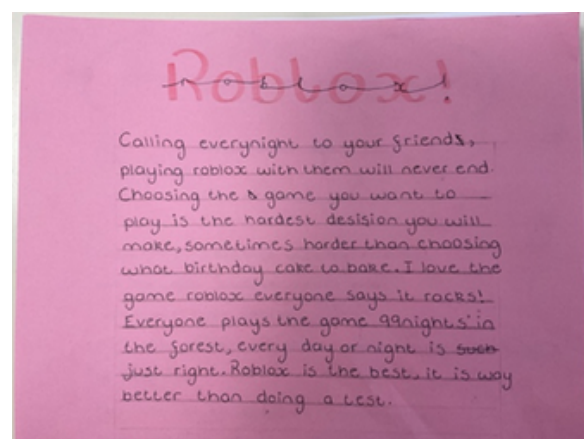
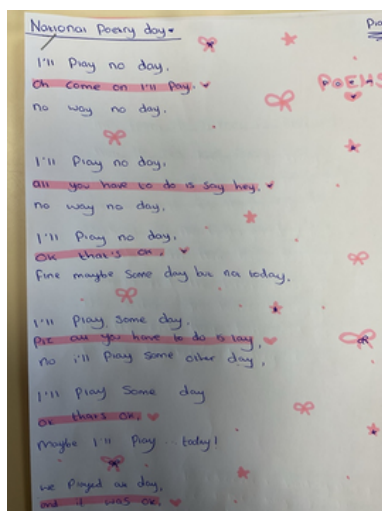
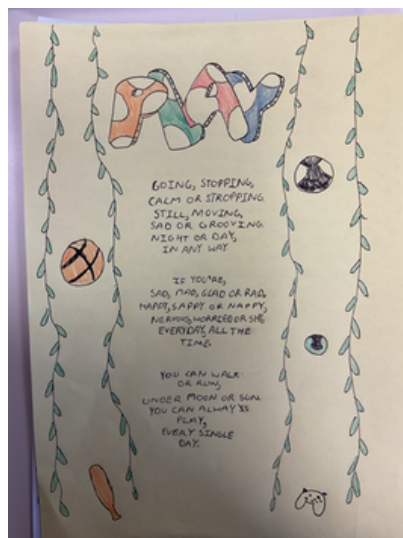
It was wonderful to see our students embracing the art of poetry and sharing their voices with staff and peers. Well done to everyone involved!



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

This week in WAARA

Yesterday was National Poetry Day on Thursday 2nd October! This year the theme was 'PLAY' and students experimented with how board games can be used as extended metaphors for life. Inspired by the poem 'Monopoly', some students chose a board game which could form the basis for their metaphor for life concept in their poem. Here are some examples from KS3 who investigated the idea of 'play' and what that means to them



The librarian loves
Never Flinch by Stephen King. This is the fourth book in the "Holly" series. I am completely engrossed with this book, a perfect read now the nights are drawing in.



Mrs Haynes-Cooper
Director of English and
Whole School Literacy



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

At Open Evening, we welcomed students from local primary schools currently in Year 6, who are searching for their new school! The English Department was resplendent as we explored what it means to be a student at West Craven. In the first half term of Year 7, students examine different poems which all feature the theme of identity and our place in the world.



October 2nd was National Poetry Day. To mark this day, the library had a wide range of poetry books and books written in verse on display



In the UK, Black History Month happens every October. The library has a display to help pupils understand and appreciate the impact of black heritage and culture. People from African and Caribbean backgrounds have been a fundamental part of British history for centuries. However, their contributions to society have often been overlooked or distorted. This year's theme is "Standing Firm in Power and Pride". We hope the library display helps our pupils broaden their understanding of Black history and encourages them to continue to advocate for progress and social justice.



EXTRA CURRICULAR OFFER

West Craven High School

After School Clubs



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Badminton PE 	Rugby YR 7&8 3G Pitch 		Netball Yr 9 & 10 	Art Room M10 (Starting after half term) 
Teambuilding Once Per month Starting after half (term) Room M3	Netball Year 7&8 		Football Yr 7, 8 & 9 	
French Club Room G3 Year 10s	Basketball All pupils Sports Hall 		Dodgeball Yr 7 & 8	
Library Homework club	Library Homework club	Library Homework club	Library Homework club	
Youth Enterprise / Fundraising Room G11 	Band club Main Hall 		DT Revision Yr 11 Room G7 Starting after half term	
History Year 7,8,9 Room M7	Stage Door Drama Club 3:30pm - 4:45pm Room T1/2 		SEN Homework Club Room M8	
			Imogen's dance School 3:30pm-4:30pm Gym 	
			Science Club Room M2 	



EXTRA CURRICULAR OFFER

West Craven High School Lunchtime Clubs



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Library Years 10 & 11	 Library Years 7,8, & 9	Library Years 7,8, & 9	Library Years 7,8, & 9	Library Years 10 & 11
Games Club Room M1 	Choir Lunch time Room G8 	Computing All Years Room G11	Touch Typing Club All years Room G12 	
	 Creative Writing Room T8 Year 7 only		Karaoke Club Room T7 	



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

☀️ Out of School Achievement ☀️

🏏 Congratulations to Milo! Representing Earby Junior Cricket Club, Milo has had an outstanding year in cricket and has been recognised with an incredible amount of awards for 2025:

Under-15s Batting Award

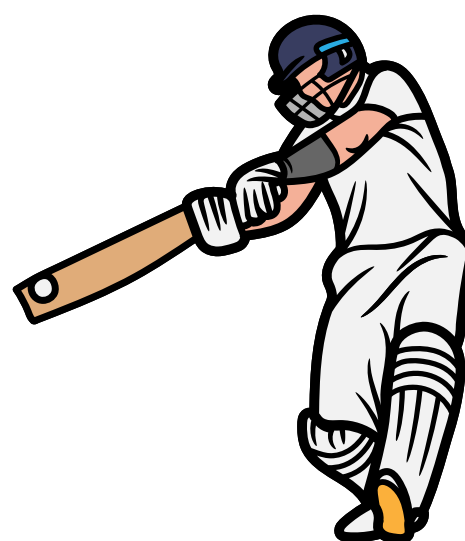
Under-15s Fielding Award

Michael Wiseman Youth Award for Cricket

Under-15s Tom Barrett Memorial Trophy - Cricketer of the Year 2025



We are extremely proud of Milo for his dedication, talent, and sporting success — a fantastic achievement that deserves to be celebrated! 🌟



If you would like to share your child's out of school achievements, please contact jevetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk



www.westcraven.co.uk



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Year 10 one to one Careers Meeting 7th October
Burnley College Assembly Year 10 - 9th October
Burnley College Assembly Year 11 - 10th October
Lancashire Sexual Health Team - 13th October
Year 10 Careers Meetings 13th October
Year 10 Barclay's Life Skills - 23rd October
DWP - Workplace Skills - 24th October
Friday 24th October - school closes for half term
10th November - school reopens for staff and students
Remembrance Day 11th November
West Craven Book Fair - 13th November
Year 10 Careers Meeting 17th November
Star Awards - Colne Muni - 18th November
Year 11 Mock Interview Day - 27th November



www.westcraven.co.uk



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

OUR COMMUNITY



Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers/Students

RE: FREE COME and PLAY EVENTS at BURNLEY MUSIC CENTRE

Your son/daughter has been invited to our exciting Open Evening events. Each Tuesday, Burnley Music Centre, based at St Leonard's Primary School, Moor Lane, Padiham BB12 8SJ, are inviting you to attend their Music Centre.

The events will run from 3.40pm until 8.00pm with the opportunity to join in our ensembles. You can attend for specific ensembles or attend for the whole evening. Children can be dropped off and then collected or parents may stay. Please register your attendance by emailing: victoria.fletcher@lancashire.gov.uk. You may bring snacks and drinks for the duration of the event (nut free) and of course your instrument if you already play one.

BURNLEY MUSIC CENTRE ENSEMBLE TIMETABLE

TIME	ENSEMBLE	TEACHER
3.40pm – 4.20pm	BAND	Mr Sheehan
4.00pm – 4.30pm	SAMBA BAND	Mr Mioduszewski
4.10pm – 4.50pm	STRING GROUP	Mr Booth
4.20pm – 4.50pm	THEORY GROUP	Mrs Spall
4.50pm – 5.20pm	GARAGE BAND	Mr Sheehan
5.00pm – 5.30pm	RECORDER with ARTS AWARD ENSEMBLE	Mrs Fletcher
5.20pm – 5.50pm	INTERMEDIATE GUITAR ENSEMBLE	Mr Webb
5.20pm – 5.50pm	BEGINNER UKULELE and GUITAR ENSEMBLE	Mr Sheehan
5.20pm – 5.50pm	ENSEMBLE for ALL	Mrs Bradley
5.50pm – 6.20pm	CHOIR	Mrs Bradley
7.00pm – 8.00pm	BEAT LAB	Mr Barney Sheehan

As a service we are committed to providing high quality events that motivate young people to grow and thrive as musicians. We hope that this event will enable you to connect with other like-minded young people and encourage them to engage further in musical opportunities that the music service provides in the local area.

We very much hope that your child can come along and take part in this fantastic opportunity! After you have attended the event you can sign up for the ensembles here:  and sign up for lessons here: 

The termly fee for the Silver Ensemble Package is £30 per term and you are able to attend as many of the ensembles as you wish across all our Music Centres in Lancashire for this overall cost.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Centre.

Best wishes and kind regards

Victoria Fletcher

Head of Burnley Music Centre
District Music Lead (East)
Lancashire Music Service
Lancashire County Council
E: victoria.fletcher@lancashire.gov.uk
M: 07704 719755
W: www.lancashire.gov.uk
W: www.lancashiremusicclub.co.uk

Lancashire County Council
PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD

SIGN UP!



FREE TO ATTEND

VENUE

ST MICHAELS CE HIGH SCHOOL
ASTLEY RD, CHORLEY PR7 1RS

WHEN

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2025

TIME

10AM-3:30PM



CARLETON'S BIG PUMPKIN HUNT!

Saturday 18th October 2025

10:30AM – 16:30PM

TICKETS ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY!

Follow the clues and map to find the 25 hidden Pumpkins around the village, write down the film title next to each Pumpkin number on your check sheet, then receive your yummy treats once you've made it back to the finish!

Tickets are £5pp and are available from:

**Aimeé – (07875) 943849
Carleton Village Store**



www.westcraven.co.uk



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[westcravenbarnoldswick](https://www.instagram.com/westcravenbarnoldswick)

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**.

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



www.westcraven.co.uk



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



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



Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2025

Risks of using AI for mental health

AI chatbots and wellness apps are becoming increasingly popular, which may lead to your child accessing them to support their mental health.

What should I be concerned about?

- The information/advice given may not always be accurate.
- Privacy concerns of how data is collected and used.
- Children may use these apps rather than seeking help from an adult.

What can I do?

- Chat to your child regularly about what apps and websites they are using and why.
- Remind them AI is a tool and not a substitute for qualified professionals who provide tailored advice/support.
- Talk to them about how they should fact check information.
- Check age ratings.

Further information

<https://stigmafreementalhealth.com/blog/supporting-youth-mental-health-with-ai-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers/>

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

YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc.

YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/ guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:



1. YouTube Kids – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

2. Supervised accounts – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- **Inappropriate content**
- **Excessive Screen time** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- **Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is incredibly popular with young people and is used for group chats, voice messages and video calls. **Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp.**

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. Since WhatsApp lacks parental controls, it is important to think about whether it is really the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying. Furthermore, do they understand how to manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

What should I be aware of if my child is using WhatsApp?

- **Group chats:** Everyone within a group, even if they are not one of your child's contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.
- **Inappropriate content:** users can be exposed to content that is not suitable for their age.
- **Location sharing:** talk to your child about the potential danger of sharing their location.
- **Chat lock/secret code:** users can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting so a chat does not appear in the main chat.
- **Screentime due to addictive nature**
- **AI:** WhatsApp includes Meta AI.

What can I do?

- Check privacy settings, for example check who can add them to groups.
- Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time, Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/424124173736394>
- Show your child how to block and report other users. Find out how here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>
- Use parental controls such as screentime controls or do not disturb to reduce alerts.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

Further information

Find out more here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc8vxg8>
- https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq_content

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Italian Brainrot

Have you heard of Italian Brainrot? It is a viral trend consisting of AI generated characters featuring in memes and videos. It originally started on TikTok but can now be seen on other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. There are also lots of spinoff content including a game on Roblox.

Whilst the content is generally nonsensical and children will find some of it funny, some content can include inappropriate/offensive language and content that might not be suitable for your child's age.

iOS 26

Apple have released their new operating system – iOS 26. Protect Young Eyes have published an article detailing the changes relating to your child's safety, including content filtering in Safari. Find out more here:

<https://www.protectyouneyes.com/blog-articles/a-parents-guide-to-ios-26>

Managing Digital Spending

Parent Zone have created a guide to help teach your child how to manage their online spending. You can read it here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/managing-digital-spending-guide-parents>

ADHD, Screen Time, and Healthy Boundaries

Bark have created this guide for parents of children with ADHD to support you in helping your child create a healthy relationship with technology. You can access it here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/adhd-kid-and-tech/>