

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Friday 21st November

Dear Parents / Carers

This week our Year 11 students finished their last mock exam and enjoyed a small reward of doughnuts and hot chocolate after the last exam. They have approached these exams really positively and we will now be able to do work with the students in the coming weeks. Students will get their mock results and feedback. Lessons will focus on how students can make improvements to their mock exams and improve their grades. This is a really important part of the mock exam process and is more important than sitting the mocks in the first place, as students now have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and see where their gaps are. Part of the reason behind the mocks is practice, the other is knowing where the gaps are so we can make sure they are not there for the 'real thing' this summer. Our teachers will provide feedback on the precise questions and topics that each student needs to work on. This will form the basis of revision and homework tasks, so please support this at home.

With the mock exams taking the assembly hall out of action, I have been giving thought to our ASPIRE values. It is very important that these become more than words that students see around the school; they must have meaning and impact the school community. Next week's theme is Positivity. I will be explaining to the students that positivity is not about always smiling and being happy, because this is not possible. There will be bad and sad times that you have experienced already and will do again! There will be times when you are struggling and finding things difficult. Positivity is much more than saying 'put a brave face on!' Positivity is about having a can-do attitude and mindset that looks at how you can overcome setbacks and obstacles to achieve what you need to and move forward. Looking for, and taking, opportunities in life, and getting the most out of them. This includes getting the most out of their time in school. The capacity to learn is a gift, the opportunity to learn is right, positivity means making the right choices to make the most from it!

We were certainly surrounded by Positivity on Tuesday evening when we held our STAR awards evening. This was such a fantastic event and it was lovely to see so many of our students and their families, and be able to celebrate their success. A former West Craven High student, who is now studying at the University of York, took to the stage to inspire current students with her speech. Emily Jane Austin, who attended Nelson and Colne College before progressing to University, spoke about how she learnt about the importance of resilience while at West Craven High School and how, with the encouragement of her secondary school teachers, she overcame the obstacles to achieve fantastic results and move on to pursue her goals. During the evening, awards were presented to students for their academic, attendance, sporting and extra-curricular achievements and last year's GCSE students returned to collect subject and achievement prizes as well as their GCSE certificates. The audience were also entertained by the school choir performing 'Don't stop believing' by Journey and 'The Climb' by Miley Cyrus. Having listened to the choir practicing over the recent weeks, it was great to see them perform so confidently on centre-stage.

We are holding our Christmas show on Wednesday 10th December. This will be a fantastic event that will showcase the work students have been doing in dance, music and drama so far this year. I look forward to seeing many of you there.



Mr Bates, Principal



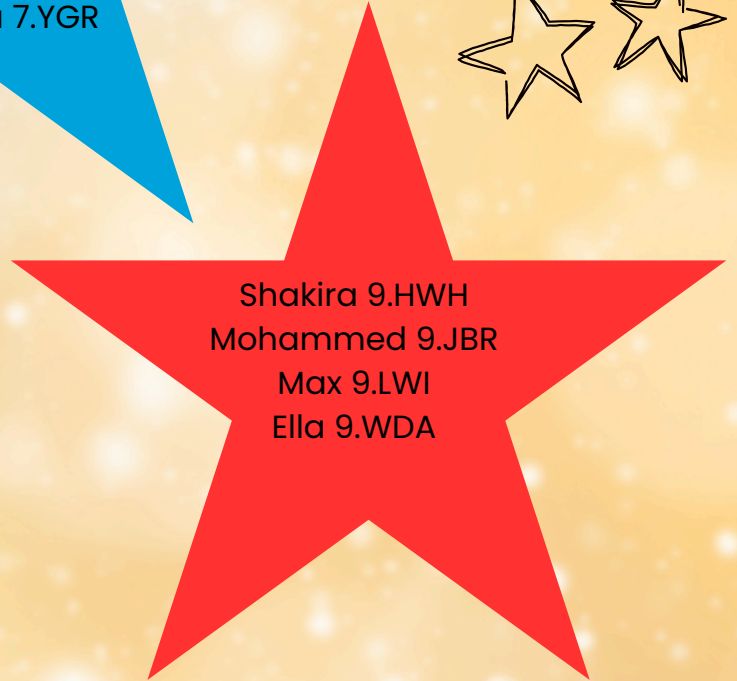
STARS OF THE WEEK



Isabelle 7.AOP
Elissa 7.MFO
Izabella 7.OCA
Jessica 7.YGR



Daniel 8.EAJ
James 8.KSN
Blake 8.NHU
Olivia 8.RSW



Shakira 9.HWH
Mohammed 9.JBR
Max 9.LWI
Ella 9.WDA



Zainab 10.ABA
Eva 10.CMC
Ayesha 10.DWI
Shelby-Hope 10.JPE
Toby 10.RGR



Faye 11.API
Rokas 11.DRA
Summer 11.ECU
Katie 11.JHA
Harry 11.MBA
Amelia 11.MMO
Hanifa 11.MTU
Philip 11.STA

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



STAR AWARDS 2025



STAR Awards – A Wonderful Evening of Celebration

Thank you to all parents and carers who joined us for this year's West Craven High School STAR Awards. It was a truly wonderful evening celebrating the achievement, effort, and progress of our students over the past year.

We were delighted to see so many families come along to share in the success of their children. The atmosphere in the hall was warm, supportive, and full of pride, and it was fantastic to recognise the hard work and dedication shown by our young people.

Our students were a credit to themselves and to the school, and we are incredibly proud of each of our award winners.

A special thank you also goes to our guest speaker, our staff team, and everyone who contributed to making the evening such a memorable event.

Below is a selection of photographs capturing some of the highlights from the night. We hope you enjoy looking back at these moments as much as we enjoyed celebrating them.



STAR AWARDS 2025



CHRISTMAS SHOW

West Craven High School Christmas Show

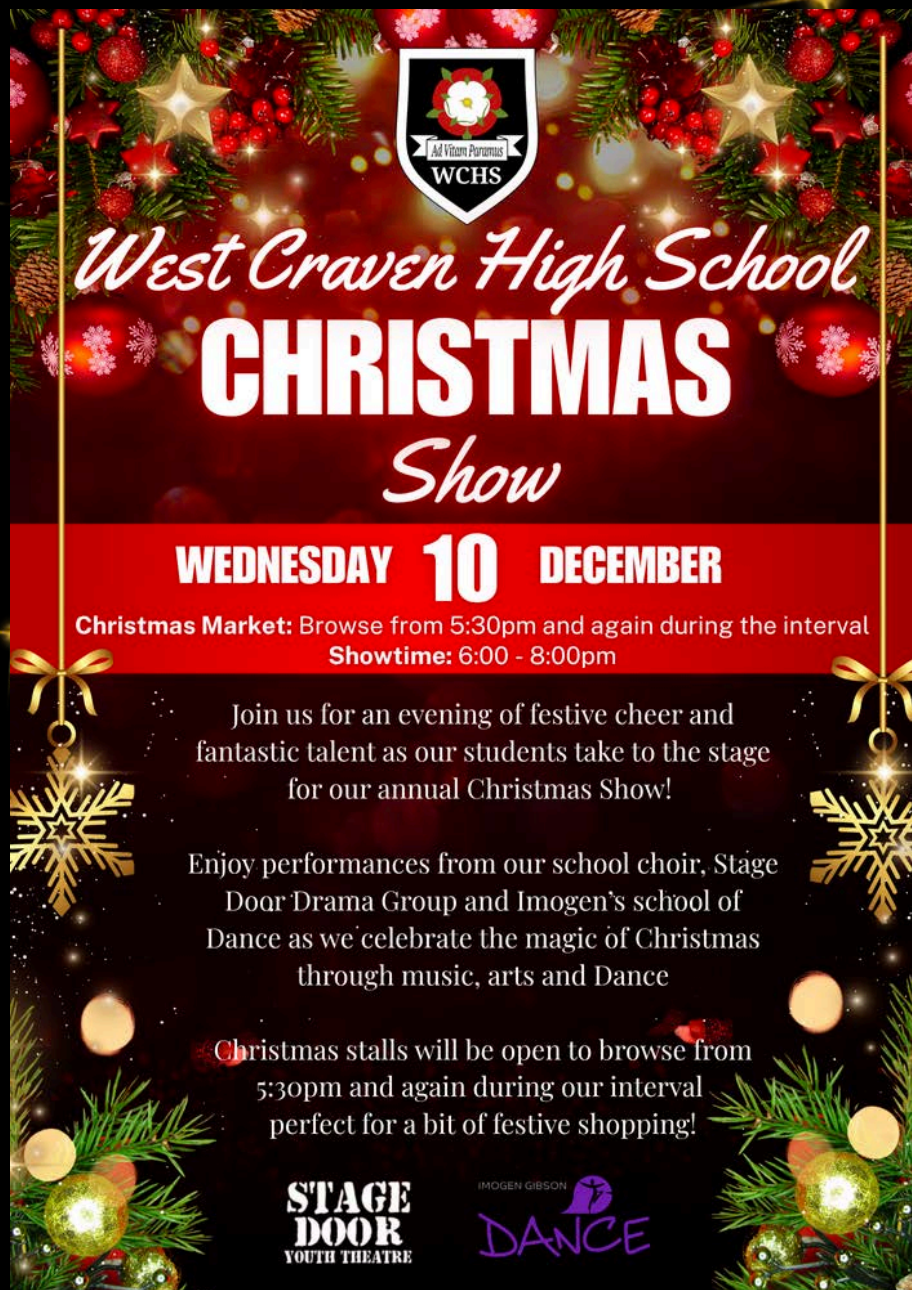
Join us on Wednesday 10th December for our annual Christmas Show – an evening filled with festive cheer, community spirit, and spectacular performances.

We've had a fantastic response from local businesses and community members for our Christmas Market, with a wonderful variety of stalls offering unique Christmas gifts. The market opens from 5:30pm, so come along early to browse and support our stallholders before the show begins.

The Christmas Show will start at 6:00pm and will finish at approximately 8:00pm. Enjoy magical performances from our school choir, Stage Door Drama Group, and Imogen's School of Dance, as we celebrate the season through music, arts, and dance.

We can't wait to welcome you to what promises to be a fantastic festive event!

FREE

A festive poster for the West Craven High School Christmas Show. The background is dark with a bokeh effect of lights and is decorated with a border of pine branches, red and gold ornaments, and snowflakes. At the top center is the school crest, a shield with a red rose and the motto 'Ad Vitam Parvum' above 'WCHS'. The main title 'West Craven High School CHRISTMAS Show' is written in a mix of white and gold fonts. Below the title, a red banner contains the date 'WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER'. Further down, text describes the Christmas Market and Showtime. At the bottom, logos for 'STAGE DOOR YOUTH THEATRE' and 'IMOGEN GIBSON DANCE' are displayed.

West Craven High School
CHRISTMAS
Show

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER

Christmas Market: Browse from 5:30pm and again during the interval
Showtime: 6:00 - 8:00pm

Join us for an evening of festive cheer and fantastic talent as our students take to the stage for our annual Christmas Show!

Enjoy performances from our school choir, Stage Door Drama Group and Imogen's school of Dance as we celebrate the magic of Christmas through music, arts and Dance

Christmas stalls will be open to browse from 5:30pm and again during our interval perfect for a bit of festive shopping!

STAGE DOOR
YOUTH THEATRE

IMOGEN GIBSON
DANCE



www.westcraven.co.uk



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



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

NEW LEARNING JOURNEYS

Learning journeys

We are currently developing detailed learning journeys for each of our curriculum areas. Every subject will have a clear, visual overview of what students will be learning from Year 7 through to Year 11.

As an example here are the Science learning journeys for Years 7–11. These give a flavour of what will soon be available for all subjects.

All learning journeys will be published on our website before we break up for Christmas.

YEAR 7 LEARNING JOURNEY INFORMATION

SCIENCE

Solids Liquids & Gases
Cells
Solutions



Autumn Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about how particles move in different states and the science behind why particles change state. I will learn about the similarities and differences between different cells including animal, plant, unicellular and specialised cells of different organisms. I will learn about the differences between a pure substance and a solution and how particles are mixed together.

SKILL: I will learn how to use a Bunsen burner, thermometer and microscope.

Human Skeleton & Muscles
Forces



Autumn Term 2

Knowledge I will learn about the importance and function of the skeleton and different types of muscles in the body and where they are located. I will learn how these interact to help us move. I will learn about different types of forces and examples of these forces as well as being able to measure forces.

SKILL: I will learn to use a Newton Metre and draw force diagrams.

Separation Techniques
Heredity & DNA
Sound, Light & Vision



Spring Term 1

Knowledge I will learn techniques to separate soluble and insoluble substances. I will learn what DNA is, where it is found and the genetic material found within DNA. I will learn about how sound travels in different mediums and how light affects our vision.

SKILL: I will learn different techniques of separating substances. I will learn how to extract DNA from a fruit and draw scientific equipment.

Heating & Cooling
Diffusion



Spring Term 2

Knowledge I will learn about how to accurately measure temperature and look at how different materials can act as conductors or insulators. I will learn about how the temperature of a substance affects a substance rate of diffusion.

SKILL: I will learn how to plot a graph and accurately read a thermometer.

Atoms, Elements & Compounds
Our Solar System & Beyond
Reproduction in Humans



Summer Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about what an atom, element and compound is and properties of different types of elements and how compounds are formed. I will learn about what makes up our solar system and how the movement of earth leads to day and night and seasons of the year. I will learn about puberty and reproductive organs of organisms as well as gestation and birth in humans.

SKILL: I will learn how to use a periodic table.

Series Circuits
Ecosystems
Climate Change
Living Sustainably



Summer Term 2

Knowledge I will learn about making a series circuit and how to accurately measure current and voltage within a circuit. I will learn about food chains and food webs as well as predator-prey relationships and the importance of biodiversity. I will learn about the impact of climate change and what we can do to lead a more sustainable life.

SKILL: How to build a circuit and interpret food web diagrams.

YEAR 8 LEARNING JOURNEY INFORMATION

SCIENCE

Biodiversity
Chemical reactions
Digestive System



Autumn Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about interdependence of organisms in food webs and the varying life on earth. I will learn about chemical reactions including combustion, oxidation and decomposition and how these are displayed in formulae. I will learn about how food is digested in humans including the roles of different organs.

SKILL: I will learn to write word and symbol equations for chemical reactions.

Moving By Force
Diet and Exercise
Making Images
Species and Classification



Autumn Term 2

Knowledge I will learn how forces affect the movement and speed of an object and link this to parachutes and streamlining. I will learn about the component of a balanced diet and why diet and exercise are important. I will learn how images are formed from waves of different coloured light and how simple cameras work. I will learn what a species is and how different organisms are classified.

SKILL: I will learn how to use ray boxes and how to make a pinhole camera.

Fuels and Energetics
Variation
Waves



Spring Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about heating and cooling during chemical reactions and how these reactions are used in fuels and power stations. I will learn about the variation in living things and how this is passed from parents to offspring. I will learn about sound, how sound waves travel and human hearing.

SKILL: I will learn how to collect and display continuous and discontinuous data.

Reproduction in Plants
Earth's Resources
Breathing and Respiration



Spring Term 2

Knowledge I will learn how plants reproduce and the importance of pollination for food security. I will learn about the structure of the earth, the different types of rocks and how they are cycled. I will learn about how we breathe, gas exchange and respiration.

SKILL: I will learn how to analyse data from a practical investigation on seed dispersal.

Magnets and Electromagnets
Disease and Drugs
Patterns in the Periodic Table



Summer Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about magnetic fields and how magnets interact. I will learn about pathogens, lifestyle disease and how drugs can affect the human body. I will learn about the arrangement of the periodic table and the properties of the different groups.

SKILL: I will learn how to build an electromagnet.

Plant Nutrition and Photosynthesis
Acids and Bases
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases



Summer Term 2

Knowledge I will learn about how plants produce their own food during photosynthesis and how this provides energy for other organisms. I will learn about reactions of acids and bases. I will learn about how greenhouse gases lead to climate change and the involvement of humans in this.

SKILL: I will learn how to safely use corrosive chemicals in neutralisation reactions.

YEAR 9 LEARNING JOURNEY INFORMATION

SCIENCE

Hidden Forces
Carbon Cycle and Climate Change
Materials



Autumn Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about forces in every day situations including gravity, elastic objects, levers and turning forces. I will learn about the processes involved in the cycling of carbon and how this links to climate change. I will learn about the properties and uses of ceramics and polymers and how different metals are extracted.

SKILL: I will learn how to investigate Hooke's Law and how to use the results of displacement reactions to determine reactivity of metals.

Resistance and Parallel Circuits
Adaptations, Competition and Evolution
Climate Change and Biodiversity



Autumn Term 2

Knowledge I will learn how circuits are connected in parallel and how resistance affects the flow of current in circuits. I will learn how organisms are adapted, how they compete with each other and how survival of the fittest leads to evolution. I will learn how climate change is affecting biodiversity and how humans have a responsibility to protect and prevent this.

SKILL: I will learn how to build circuits to measure resistance of components.

Cells



Spring Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about the structure of animal, plant, prokaryotic and specialised cells. I will learn how new cells are made in the cell cycle and how substances are transported around cells. I will learn about stem cells and benefits of concerns involved with their use.

SKILL: I will learn how to investigate osmosis in potato cells.

Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table



Spring Term 2

Knowledge I will learn about the structure of atoms and the discoveries that led to our developing knowledge on this. I will learn the difference between elements, compounds and mixtures and how mixtures are separated. I will learn about the layout of the periodic table and how this developed over time.

SKILL: I will learn how to separate different mixtures using filtration, crystallisation, distillation and chromatography.

Particle Model
Bioenergetics



Summer Term 1

Knowledge I will learn how particles are arranged in solids, liquids and gases and the energy changes involved in state changes. I will learn about density and how to calculate density. I will learn about the two main living process – photosynthesis and respiration.

SKILL: I will learn how to accurately measure volume and mass to calculate density and how to investigate effect of light intensity on photosynthesis.

Bonding
Atomic Structure and Radioactivity



Summer Term 2


Knowledge I will learn about covalent, ionic and metallic bonding and the properties of substances of each type. I will learn about allotropes of carbon, nanotechnology, polymers and alloys. I will learn about alpha, beta and gamma decay, the random process of decay and half-life. I will learn how radioactive isotopes are used in industry and medicine.

SKILL: I will learn how to calculate half-life from graphs and how to balance nuclear equations.

YEAR 10 LEARNING JOURNEY INFORMATION

SCIENCE

Organisation
Quantitative Chemistry




Autumn Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about the hierarchy of organisation in living things. I will learn in detail how the digestive system and circulatory system work together to supply nutrients and oxygen to the body cells. I will learn how chemists make accurate measurements of substances and how this is used in industry to carry out chemical reactions economically.

SKILL: I will learn how to test food samples for different food groups, how to investigate the effect of pH on enzyme function and how to measure mass change during a reaction.

Energy
Infection and Response




Autumn Term 2

Knowledge I will learn about the different energy stores, pathways and what happens to wasted energy. I will learn how to calculate the size of different energy stores/changes using equations and how to measure efficiency and power. I will learn about the different types of pathogens, the diseases they cause, how to reduce the spread of disease and how the body prevents and responds to infection.

SKILL: I will learn to investigate specific heat capacity in a metal block and how to investigate which antibiotic is most effective at killing bacteria.

Chemical Changes

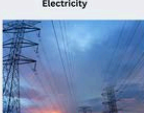


Spring Term 1

Knowledge I will learn how acids and alkalis react in neutralisation reactions. I will learn about the internal conditions of the body using the reactivity series and how this determines how different metals are extracted. I will learn about reduction, oxidation and electrolysis.

SKILL: I will learn how to make a pure salt and how to separate solutions using electrolysis.

Electricity




Spring Term 2

Knowledge I will learn about how current, potential difference are linked and how energy is transferred in electrical circuits. I will learn about different electrical components, how power is supplied through the national grid and the domestic uses of electricity.

SKILL: I will learn how to measure the resistance of a wire of increasing length and different electrical components.

Waves
Rates of Reaction




Summer Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about the different energy stores and pathways and what happens to wasted energy and how to use equations involved with these. I will learn about the different types of pathogens, the diseases they cause, how to reduce the spread of disease and how the body prevents and responds to infection.

SKILL: I will learn how to use ray boxes to investigate reflection and refraction and how measure infrared radiation using a Leslie cube.

Ecology



Summer Term 2


Knowledge I will learn how an living and non-living factors interact in an ecosystem and how resources are cycled in the water and carbon cycles. I will learn about biodiversity; the impact humans are having on it and how we can protect it.

SKILL: I will learn how to use a quadrat to estimate population sizes and monitor changes in distribution along a transect.

YEAR 11 LEARNING JOURNEY INFORMATION

SCIENCE

Homeostasis
Organic Chemistry




Autumn Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about the process of homeostasis, which maintains the internal conditions of the body using the nervous and endocrine systems. I will learn about how and why crude oil is separated, how demand is met for fuels and how they react in combustion reactions.

SKILL: I will learn how to measure reaction time using the ruler drop test and how to test for alkenes using bromine water.

Forces




Autumn Term 2

Knowledge I will learn about the different contact and non-contact forces and how they act in pairs on objects to affect their motion and/or shape. I will learn about Newton's laws of motion and how these link to day to day life, for example stopping distance and safety systems in cars.

SKILL: I will learn how to investigate Hooke's Law in elastic objects and how to measure the acceleration of an object with increasing force.

Inheritance
Using Resources




Spring Term 1

Knowledge I will learn about DNA and its uses in embryo screening, genetic engineering and selective breeding as well as how natural selection leads to evolution. I will learn about how finite and renewable resources from the earth are used, the importance of reusing and recycling to ensure sustainability, how potable water is made and waste water treated.

SKILL: I will learn how to use punnett squares to predict the offspring of a genetic cross and how to test water samples.

Chemistry of the Atmosphere
Electromagnetism
Chemical Analysis




Spring Term 2

Knowledge I will learn about how the earth's atmosphere has evolved over time, the processes that have led to these changes and the global warming crisis. I will learn about how electricity interacts with magnetic fields in the motor and generator effects. I will learn how scientists test for different chemicals and analyse mixtures using chromatography.

SKILL: I will learn how to test for common gases, ions and use chromatography to analyse a mixture.

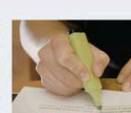
Exam Focused Revision



Summer Term 1

Knowledge I will practice exam style questions learning how to apply knowledge succinctly and logically. I will practice using command words like describe, explain and analyse. I will practice numeracy skills like drawing a graph, identifying anomalies and calculating a mean. I will practice scientific skills like identifying sources of error and inaccuracy.

Last exams.
Summer break!



Summer Term 2

SPORTS FIXTURES

Year 8 Boys Football – Lancashire Schools Cup

Our Year 8 boys put on a fantastic performance in the Lancashire Schools Cup fixture against Lostock Hall, Preston. It was a high-quality, hard-fought match that ended 2-2 after full time. Unfortunately, the result was decided on penalties, with our team narrowly missing out 5-4. A great effort from all involved – well done, boys!



Mr Wilson
Head of PE



Out of School Achievement!

Celebrating Mr Hussain's Fantastic Achievement!

We are delighted to celebrate the wonderful achievement of our Head of Computing, Mr Hussain, who recently completed a 10k run. This is a fantastic personal milestone and a great example of determination and commitment.

Well done, Mr Hussain – we are all incredibly proud of you!

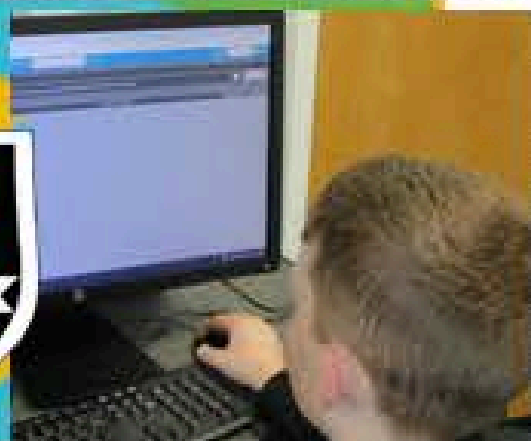
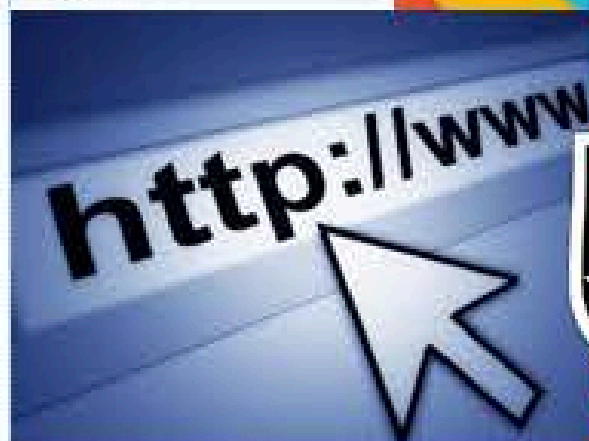
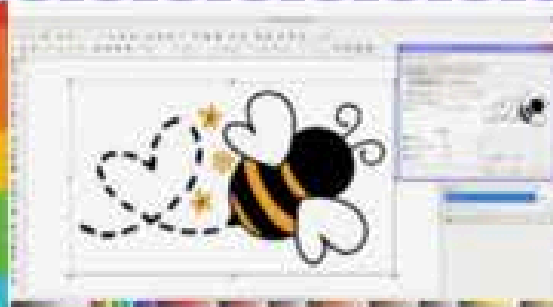
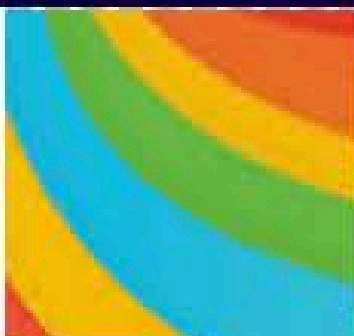


Year 8 Working with media Graphics



INKSCAPE

This term, Year 8 students are working with graphics using vector graphic editing software. The students will produce an illustration, a logo, or some icons using vector graphics. Vector graphics can be used to design anything from logos and icons to posters, board games, and complex illustrations. Through this learning the students will better understand the processes involved in creating such graphics and will be provided with the knowledge and tools to create their own.



PASTORAL UPDATES

This week marks the end of the first set of Year 11 mock exams, and I am really pleased to say that the year group have faced this challenge with real positivity and determination. They have worked incredibly hard, and our exam invigilators have commented on their excellent conduct throughout the assessment period. I am very proud of them.



As we continue into the busy half term and the lead-up to the Christmas break, I would like to draw your attention to several important dates and events:

I would like to remind families that all Year 11 students should aim to have submitted their college applications before the Christmas break. To support this, we are holding a College Application Day in school on **Wednesday 3 December** where representatives from local colleges will be available to guide students, offer advice, and support them through the application process.



Parents' Evening is fast approaching, this will take place on Tuesday 9 December—this will be an important opportunity to discuss the mock exam results, current progress and next steps. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Full details to follow.



Chocolate Tombola - Our senior prefects will be running a chocolate tombola during the evening of our Christmas Show, Wednesday 10 December, this is to help raise funds for their prom; we kindly ask for donations of chocolates or sweets ahead of the event and would greatly appreciate the support of the whole year group.



Thank you, as always,
for your continued support.

Mrs Gartland
Head of Year 11



Mrs D Gartland
Year 11 Pastoral Lead

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This week we celebrated the excellent attitude, progress and community engagement of our students at this year's annual Star Awards. Students from Year 7 to Year 11 and current Year 12 received awards for showing fantastic engagement, commitment to their school work and how they have helped others both in school and in the local area.

This was an amazing evening and truly highlights what great students we have here at West Craven High School.



Next week, during tutor time, our Year 9 students will be completing a health and wellbeing questionnaire as part of Lancashire County Council's vision to get the views of student's across the county.



In addition to this, we continue with our careers interviews and Year 11 continue to apply for college in the build up to their college application day on the 3rd December.



Mr Brook
Personal Development
& Careers Lead



CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION

A huge thank you to all the students who took part in this year's Christmas Card Competition. We have been blown away by the creativity, effort, and festive spirit shown across all the entries.

Over the coming days, we'll be carefully looking through all the beautiful artwork submitted. We will be announcing our school's winners early next week, so keep an eye out for the results!

Well done to everyone who entered – your talent has truly made this a joy to judge. 🎄 ✨



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Each year we ask children from our five schools to design a card for us to send out digitally at Christmas.

This year the theme is “friendship”

Using a piece of A4 paper or card folded into an A5 card, we would like you to design a card based on this theme. It can be portrait or landscape. Please don't include any words on your design.

All cards will then be sent to residents at local care homes using the Cards for Kindness scheme.

A primary and secondary winner will be chosen to be sent out digitally as our Trust card for 2025.

Deadline: please hand your cards into your school by 12pm on Friday 21st November.

GOOD LUCK!



Explore Your Future – College Open Events

Over the next few months, there are lots of exciting college open events taking place across our area. If you're in Year 10 or 11, this is the perfect opportunity to start exploring your next steps. Visiting different colleges will help you discover the courses, facilities and opportunities available – and give you a real feel for where you might want to study after West Craven. Make sure you get along to some of these events to find out more and start planning your future!



College Open Events

College Name	What do they offer?	When?
Nelson and Colne College	Vocational A-Levels T-Level Apprenticeship	Wednesday 15th October 2025 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm Tuesday 11th November 2025 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm Thursday 5th February 2026 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Careers open event) Thursday 23rd April 2026 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 event) Thursday 25th June 2026 – All day (New student day) Thursday 20th August 2026 – All day (GCSE results day)
Accrington and Rossendale College	Vocational A-Levels T-Level Apprenticeship	Wednesday 22nd October 2025 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm Tuesday 3rd February 2026 – 5.30 to 7.30pm Tuesday 28th April 2026 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Careers open Event) Tuesday 28th April 2026 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 event) Friday 26th June 2026 – All day (New student day) Thursday 20th August 2026 – All day (GCSE results day)
Burnley College	Vocational A-Levels T-Level Apprenticeship	Tuesday 18th November 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm Wednesday 21st January 2026 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Themis careers event) Tuesday 10th February 2026 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm Wednesday 6th May 2026 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 event)
Craven College	Vocational T-Level Apprenticeship	Thursday 9th October 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Aviation Academy) Wednesday 15th October 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Aviation Academy) Monday 17th November 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Skipton) Wednesday 19th November 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (Aviation Academy) Thursday 20th November 2025 – 5.30pm to 7.30pm (The Aviation Academy) Wednesday 11th February 2026 – 3.00pm to 6.30pm (Apprenticeship and careers fair at Craven College)
Myerscough College	Vocational T-Levels Apprenticeship	Saturday 15th November 2025 – course advice morning Saturday 6th December 2025 - course advice morning (Preston centre ONLY) Saturday 7th February 2026 - course advice morning Saturday 18th April 2026 - course advice morning
North Lancs Training Group	Apprenticeship	Wednesday 18th March – 1pm to 6pm (Accrington) Thursday 26th March – 1pm to 6pm (March)
Training 2000	Apprenticeship	Wednesday 28th January – 4.30pm to 7.30pm Thursday 29th January – 4.30pm to 7.30pm

**THEMIS
APPRENTICESHIP
CAREERS EVENT
WED 21.01.26 | 5.30-8PM**

Meet Employers with Apprenticeship Opportunities

Themis
APPRENTICESHIPS



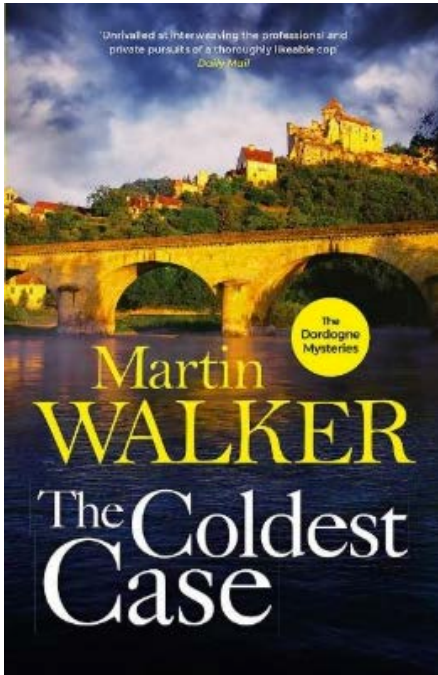
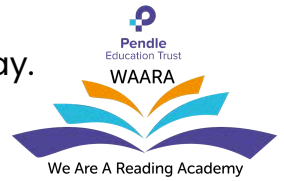
Book now burnley.ac.uk/whats-on



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

The librarian loves

The Coldest Case by Martin Walker. This is the 14th book in this series and I am really enjoying seeing the characters develop. I am hoping to visit the area where the book is written, as the author writes about it in such a beautiful way.



George Eliot was the pen name of Mary Ann Evans. She was born in Warwickshire on the 22nd November 1819. She is more well known for her novels, but she also wrote poetry.

One of her poems is reproduced below:

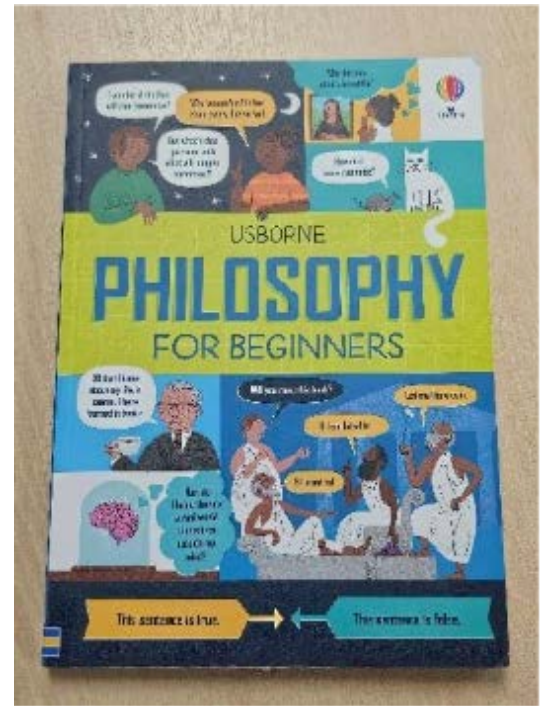
Count That Day Lost
If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
And, counting, find
One self-denying deed, one word
That eased the heart of him who heard,
One glance most kind
That fell like sunshine where it went —
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay —
If, through it all
You've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to one face—
No act most small
That helped some soul and nothing cost —
Then count that day as worse than lost.



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

This intriguing book is available to borrow from the library. During November, the library displays have been focused on information books. There are a wide range of non-fiction books in the library. These books are ordered using a system called the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Each subject area has its own number. Philosophy is number 100. The Dewey system can seem daunting if you have not come across it before, but over the next few weeks, the librarian will provide a little more insight into how you can find information books.



What our pupils say about the library:

- “we love the displays”**
- “it’s quiet and peaceful”**
- “it’s the perfect place to revise”**
- “we love the calm environment”**

If you are feeling the cold, you might want to borrow this book. It’s full of warming recipes, ideal for cold nights.



Thank you to everyone who attended the book fair. We hope you appreciated having the fair and you are enjoying your book purchases. After February half term, as part of our World Book Day celebrations, the library will be running a virtual book fair. Details to follow in the new year.



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

Our school is excited to be taking part in Bookbuzz, a fantastic programme from BookTrust – the UK’s largest children’s reading charity – designed to inspire young people to read for pleasure.

Students will have the opportunity to explore a brilliant selection of books and discover stories that spark their imagination.

To find out more, please take a look at the poster below.



Your child has received their chosen Bookbuzz book – here’s why!



Our school is taking part in **Bookbuzz**, a programme from BookTrust (the UK’s largest children’s reading charity) to get children reading for pleasure. To find out more about BookTrust visit booktrust.org.uk.

BookTrust research shows reading regularly boosts wellbeing, inspires creativity, sparks imagination, and encourages great conversations.

Your child chose their own book from this year’s Bookbuzz selection – and it’s theirs to keep! Here’s how you can get involved at home:

1. Chat about their book

Talking about books helps build confidence and a love of reading. Ask your child why they chose their book? Who is their favourite character? What do they like most about the book?

2. Keep the momentum going

Has your child finished their book? Explore our Bookfinder at booktrust.org.uk/bookfinder or visit your local library or bookshop for more fantastic titles your child might enjoy.

3. Discover more

Explore tips, book recommendations and ways to support reading at home by visiting booktrust.org.uk. You can also follow @BookTrust on social media or sign up to their family newsletters.

Got questions or feedback?
Contact BookTrust at bookbuzz@booktrust.org.uk
or call 020 7801 8800.



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

Out-of-School Achievement

We are proud to celebrate Olivia's fantastic contribution to her community! On Sunday, 9th November, Olivia represented the Girl Guides group by carrying the flag during the Remembrance Parade in Barnoldswick. This is a wonderful example of leadership and service beyond school—well done, Olivia!



Student Spotlight: **Alisha Akhtar Publishes Her First Book on Amazon**

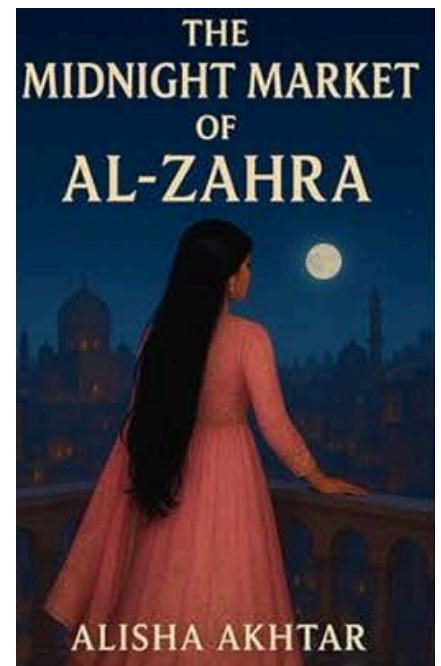
We are excited to highlight the incredible achievement of Alisha Akhtar, who has recently self-published her debut book, *The Midnight Market of Al-Zahra*, now available in paperback on Amazon.

Publishing a book is no small feat, especially for a young author. Alisha dedicated countless hours to writing, revising, and preparing her manuscript for publication. Her imagination and commitment brought *The Midnight Market of Al-Zahra* to life—a story that reflects her creativity and passion for storytelling.

Alisha's accomplishment is an inspiring reminder of what students can achieve beyond the classroom when they follow their interests with perseverance and confidence. We are immensely proud of her and look forward to seeing where her writing talent takes her next.

Congratulations, Alisha, on this remarkable milestone!

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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Year 11 College application day - 3rd December

Flu Vax - all year groups - 4th December

Year 11 Parents Evening - 9th December

Christmas show - 10th December

Year 11 Mock Interviews 11th December

End of term - 19th December - students dismissed at 1pm

School re-opens - 5th January 2026



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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

DEEPIAKE ABUSE CONTENT

Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or AI-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.

BLURRED REALITY

Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.

USED FOR BULLYING

Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely. AI-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

AI-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.

DISINFORMATION

AI-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. False clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. AI is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.

IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS

With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation – and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of video, in particular, on social media.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.

TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.

STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College