

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Friday 28th November

Dear Parents / Carers

Its Christmas! Well, Monday when we come back after the weekend will be December, so close enough! The celebrations can start. I hope to see as many of you as possible around our Christmas Tree in our Main Hall, enjoying the various performances by our students on Wednesday 10th December at our Christmas Show. I have taken a sneaky peak at some of the act while they rehearse, so I know that this year's show is going to be fantastic!

Continuing with the festive theme, our Christmas Jumper Day is on Thursday 11th December. Students should wear their school uniform with the option to replace the jumper and blazer for a Christmas jumper, or they can wear full uniform with a Christmas accessory. The cost is £1 per student and the money raised goes to the charity Save the Children.

It is an important time of year to think of those less fortunate at this time of year. The Christmas period is a time for fun and celebration, but for others it can be a difficult time of year. There are many people struggling with increased pressures on household income at the moment and I know that Barnoldswick food bank is relied upon by many people. We are asking all of our community to donate what they can for the Barnoldswick food bank. We filled up 2 supermarket trolleys last year and the volunteers had to make two trips in the car. I'd love it if we could donate even more this year. We are asking students to bring in non-perishable food items and pass them to their form tutors by the 9th December. This is a small token that we can all do that makes such a massive difference for those that need it. Please donate what you can.

The Year 11 students completed their practical exams this week in Art, Photography, 3D Design and Spanish Speaking. The work produced by the students was very impressive and I know we will take the opportunity to display this as soon as we can. We hope to have the work displayed on the evening of the Christmas Show, so come along and see the students' fantastic work and then enjoy the show! The Year 11 have their College Application Day next week on Wednesday 3rd December and they will receive their mock results ready for Parents Evening on Tuesday 9th December. We are running a no-appointments evening to allow parents to see as many teachers as possible in this important year. We know that teachers get booked-up via the online system and that some parents can't get an appointment. This does mean that appointments will be concise and informative, and we ask that you make an additional appointment if you need a longer discussion with us.

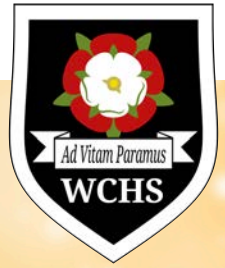
The weather has certainly turned cold this month, and I can't help noticing the number of students that leave school without a coat. Please encourage you child to wrap-up warm this winter and be prepared for the cold weather on their journeys to and from school. It is also the time of year when I remind students to take care on their journey home. It is dark early and driver visibility can be poor. Please remind your child to concentrate when walking home; keep to the pavements, and look up from their phone when they are crossing a road! Similarly, a reminder to please not park around the school or on the school site for pick-up and drop-off. It is unsafe for our students.



Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK



Freya 7.AOP
Huzaiifa 7.MFO
Harrison 7.OCA
Jessica 7.YGR



Scarlett-Rose 8.EAJ
Annie 8.KSN
Harry 8.NHU
Sophie 8.RSW

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

Christopher 10.ABA
Amalie 10.CMC
Wajeeha 10.DWI
Elise 10.JPE
Gracie 10.RGR



Faye 11.API
Daisy 11.DRA
Summer 11.ECU
Grace 11.JHA
Grace 11.MBA
Noah 11.MMO
Alfie 11.MTU
Umar 11.STA

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



CHRISTMAS SHOW

West Craven High School Christmas Show

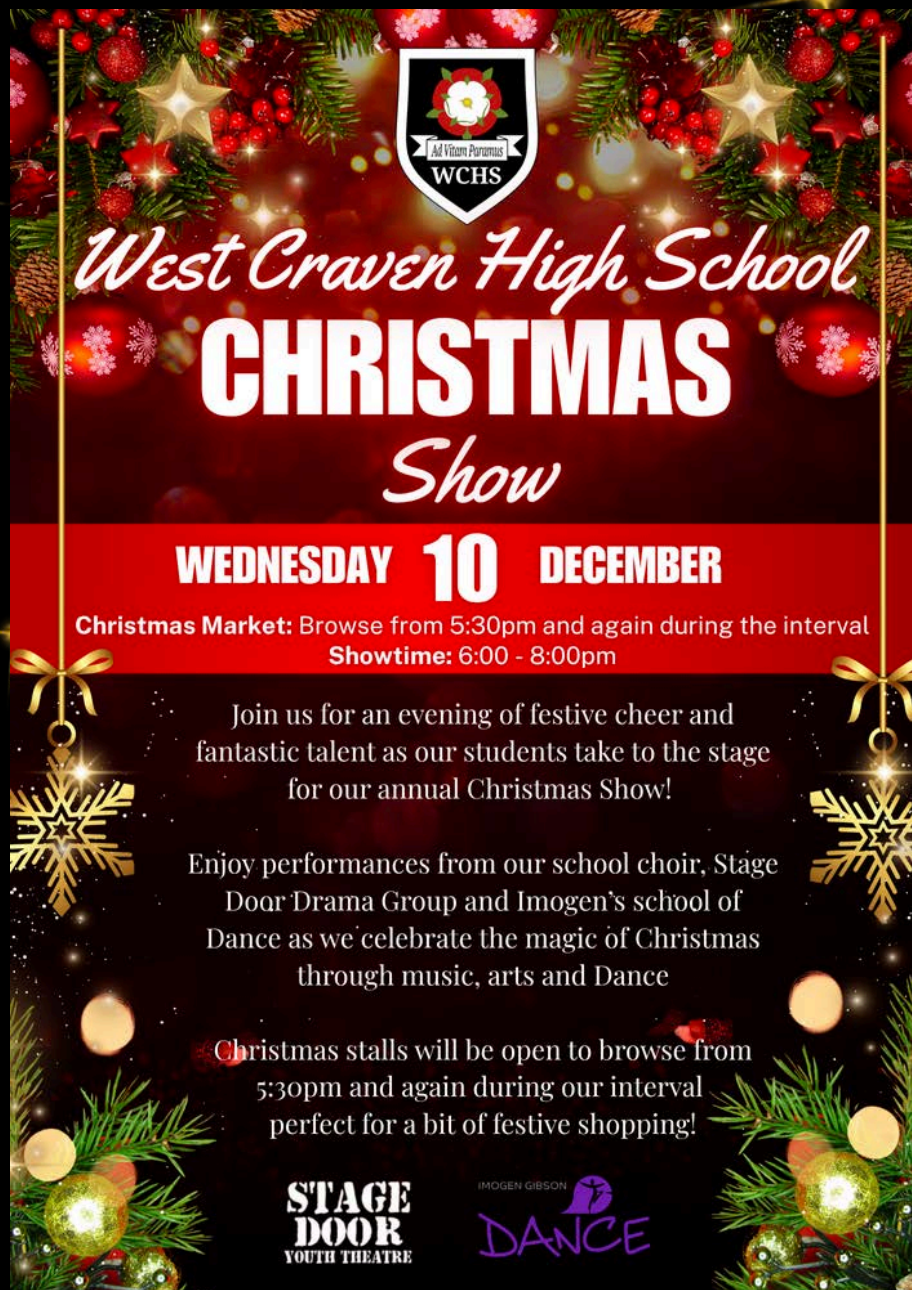
Join us on Wednesday 10th December for our annual Christmas Show – an evening filled with festive cheer, community spirit, and spectacular performances.

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 red with gold stars and snowflakes. At the top center is the school crest with a white rose and the motto 'Ad Vitam Parvitas' above 'WCHS'. The main title 'West Craven High School CHRISTMAS Show' is written in a mix of white and gold fonts. Below this, 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. The poster is decorated with gold stars, snowflakes, and Christmas ornaments.

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



SPORTS UPDATE



A huge well done to Bella, who placed second at the Pendle Schools Cross-Country Championships this week! We are incredibly proud of her fantastic achievement and the determination she has shown throughout the competition.

Bella also secured a brilliant win through the Lancashire Athletic Association, representing Blackburn Harriers and Athletic Club and West Craven High School with outstanding effort and sportsmanship.

Huge congratulations, Bella – we are so proud of you!



Mr Wilson
Head of PE

Expectations Reminder: Extra-curricular and Enrichment

All students are encouraged to take part in the wide variety of activities at West Craven High School. We encourage not just academic development but personal growth through structured sessions before school, at lunchtime and after school. All extra-curricular activities are free and are a great way to try something new and make new friends, just simply turn up and have a go!

We also have the Pendle Education Trust Secondary Pledge which we are committed to along with Colne Primet Academy, our sister secondary school in the Trust. Pendle Education Trust pledges that all our secondary students will experience all 5 out of 5 of these opportunities before leaving secondary school.

Cultural appreciation	Exploring careers	Fundraising	Community Involvement	Eco-awareness
e.g. trip to the theatre	e.g. attend a careers fair	e.g. <u>organise</u> an event for a good cause	e.g. get involved in a community project	e.g. take part in a sustainability project



CURRICULUM UPDATE ART

Over the past few weeks, our art classrooms have been full of creativity as students worked hard on their entries for the **Pendle Education Trust Christmas Card Competition**. Each year, students from across our five schools are invited to design a festive card that we share digitally at Christmas, and this year's theme – Friendship – inspired some truly wonderful artwork.

We received an amazing range of designs, each one capturing the spirit of kindness, togetherness, and support. Here's a selection of the fantastic entries we received.

The winners will be announced next week and will receive a certificate and prize from the CEO of Pendle Education Trust, which will be presented at Castercliff Primary Academy on 9th December.



PASTORAL UPDATES

Year 7 truly shone last term, demonstrating teamwork, kindness, and school spirit in everything they did.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 7 have truly gone above and beyond, making us incredibly proud with their achievements and contributions. Their involvement in the McMillan Coffee Morning was nothing short of fantastic. From baking and decorating cakes to buying cakes to sell, they showed generosity, creativity, and teamwork, helping to raise funds for such an important cause. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and sense of community in action.

Another highlight was our visit to Burnley football club. Out of the five students chosen to attend, two of them were from year 7. They represented our school with maturity and respect, engaging positively throughout the day and impressing everyone they met. They asked thoughtful questions, showed genuine interest, and demonstrated the qualities we value most, making them excellent ambassadors for our school.

To start the new term, it was time for our annual Star Awards at the Municipal Hall in Colne on the 18th of November. Four year 7 students received awards on the night. The awards celebrate their hard work, positive attitude, and commitment to excellence, and every recipient should feel immensely proud.

Well, done, Year 7—you have set a brilliant example for others and shown what can be achieved through effort and enthusiasm. We can't wait to see what you accomplish next!

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Harper



Mrs L Harper
Year 7 Pastoral Lead



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This week our assembly focus was on positivity. Miss Grant shared a fantastic assembly looking at Simone Biles and her come back following the 2020 Olympics in which she withdrew from the competition. Students also took part in positivity bingo in which they had several positive challenges they had to complete!



Next week our Year 11 students will have an opportunity to meet with a college to discuss further steps and apply for a college course. It is great to see so many students applying even with all of the pressures of mock exams and lessons. Just a reminder that all Year 11 students should apply for college by the Christmas break.



Mr J Brook
Personal Development Lead



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY / FOODBANK DONATIONS



West Craven High School Christmas Jumper Day

THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER



Save the
Children

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
SAVE THE CHILDREN
CHARITY

Please bring
in a £1
donation



If you don't own a Christmas jumper you can wear a Christmas accessory.
All other uniform items are required

We're excited to celebrate Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 11th December!

Students are invited to wear a festive Christmas jumper or a single appropriate Christmas accessory to help spread some seasonal cheer. Please note that full school uniform must still be worn, with the jumper or accessory added on top.

We are kindly asking for a £1 donation, which students can give directly to their form tutor on the day. All funds raised will go towards supporting our chosen Christmas charity.

We Need Your Help Supporting Our Local Food Bank

We are kindly asking our students to bring in donations for our local food bank as part of our West Craven High School Christmas appeal. We are collecting non-perishable food items only, and these can be brought into school any time between now and Monday 9th December.

All donations, big or small, will make a real difference to local families this winter. Thank you for your support and generosity.



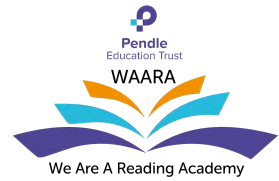
table Pantry Items
Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas)
Canned fruits (in juice, not syrup)
Canned beans (black beans, kidney beans, chickpeas)
Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon)
Canned soups and stews (low-sodium preferred)
Dry Goods
Rice (white, brown, or instant)
Pasta and noodles
Instant mashed potatoes
Dry beans and lentils
Breakfast Items
Oatmeal
Cereal (low sugar)
Granola bars
Shelf-Stable Proteins
Peanut butter or other nut butters
Powdered milk
Shelf-stable tofu
Cooking Essentials
Flour
Sugar
Cooking oil (vegetable, canola)
Spices and seasonings (salt, pepper, garlic powder)
Ready-to-Eat Items
Crackers
Trail mix
Dried fruit
Shelf-stable snack packs
Special Considerations
Baby food and formula
Gluten-free or allergy-friendly items
Low-sodium and low-sugar options



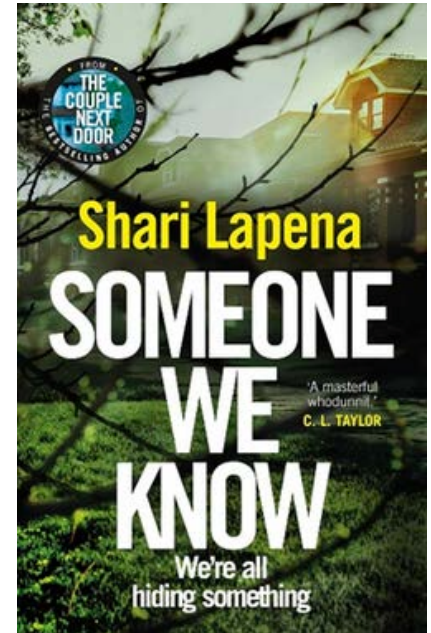
WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

The librarian loves

Someone We Know by Shari Lapena. This is an intriguing thriller written with short chapters that help keep the novel moving. It is the ideal book to read when you do not have a lot of time as you can read a chapter in under 10 minutes, making it an ideal lunch break or bedtime read.



Book Review		Rating: ★★★★★	
Book Title: <u>I am Rebel</u>			
Author: <u>Ross Montgomery</u>			
Fiction or Non-fiction: <u>Fiction</u>			
What is the book about? <u>A dog that loves his owner too much that he would die for him.</u>	Who would you recommend the book to? Why? <u>my other friend because she likes her and stress like her.</u>	What ages and interests is this book suitable for? Why? <u>for 8+ because it has a gun and at the start it's really scary.</u>	Book Illustration



Book Review		Rating: ★★★★★	
Book Title: <u>It's behind you</u>			
Author: <u>Kathryn Foxpeuld</u>			
Fiction or Non-fiction: <u>Fiction</u>			
What is the book about? <u>A group of people who need to survive in a cave. The last one alive wins all the money.</u>	Who would you recommend the book to? Why? <u>I would recommend to people who like horror and intense books because it's an intense survival book. It's very interesting.</u>	What ages and interests is this book suitable for? Why? <u>9-14 because it's scary but not too scary at the same time.</u>	Book Illustration

• BOOK •
★ Review. ★

Number 200 in the Dewey Decimal Classification System is where you would find books about religions. As with all the 10 major numbers of the Dewey Decimal System, there are sub headings under that number, although schools tend to have a more simplified system to make it easier to find books. This beautiful book on World Religion is in the 200 section. These pictures do not do it justice; it is a beautifully illustrated book.



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

William Blake was born on the 28th November 1757. Largely ignored during his lifetime, or considered insane for his mystical Christian writings, Blake was buried in an unmarked grave. He is now considered one of the leading lights of English poetry. His poem The Tyger is reproduced below:

The Tyger
Tyger! Tyger! burning bright
In the forest of the night
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, and what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? and what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,
And watered heaven with their tears,
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the lamb make thee?

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?



As part of the celebrations for Dr. Who Day on the 23rd November, scripts have been released from the long running TV show. This is a brilliant resource for budding young writers and it is available at:

[Click here](#)



Books make an ideal Christmas gift. Love Reading 4 kids has a great choice and brilliant recommendations. If you buy books from them, you can nominate a school of your choice to receive 25% of the cover price Christmas Inspiration for Toddlers to

Teens
[click here](#)



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

To support our students in becoming proficient readers, West Craven High School uses GL assessments, a series of diagnostic tools that help us understand each pupil's unique strengths and areas for improvements. Through these assessments we gain detailed insights into students reading abilities.



After completing these initial assessments, students who we believe require reading support are placed into one of our reading intervention groups. To provide effective reading intervention, West Craven High School uses two specialised reading programmes: Lexonic Leap and Lexonic Advance,

Lexonik is a teaching programme that covers the essential areas of literacy that are required across the curriculum and at every level.

We set high expectations for all our students and strive to ensure all of them achieve the very best results they can. We also believe that Lexonik will help develop their confidence and perception of just what they are capable of.

The programme develops students' ability to detect and manipulate sounds within the English language and develop their oracy, reading and spelling.

Through these targeted interventions and assessments, West Craven High School is committed to helping every student develop into a skilled and confident reader. If you would like to find out more about GL assessments, please visit Information for parents – GL Support –

[click here](#)



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

Pupils inspired by the teaching they have received on gothic and Victorian literature, may enjoy a trip to the Bronte Parsonage Museum in Haworth.

[click here!](#)

There is currently an exhibition at the museum on the enduring legacy of the Brontes'. A screening of Jane Eyre will be held at the museum on the 11th December.



Pupils from Year 7 have been visiting the library this week to borrow books and look at the book displays. As you can see from the pictures, they have loved being in the library. We hope you enjoy the book reviews they wrote during their visits.



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 
Teambuilding Once Per month	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

Lola recently showcased her incredible talent at the in-house gymnastics competition at Ambitions Gymnastics, Cross Hills on Saturday, 22nd November.

She trains weekly with the Blue Squad at Ambitions, attends tumble sessions, and also keeps active through dance at Imogen School of Dance every Thursday evening.

At the competition, Lola delivered an outstanding performance:

- 🥇 1st Place in Gymnastics Floor Routine
- 🥈 2nd Place in Vault

We are so proud of Lola for her dedication, hard work, and passion for gymnastics and dance! ❤️



Out-of-school Achievement

Rita has been attending Stagecoach in Skipton since the age of 3, and her confidence and acting skills have flourished over the years. Recently, she gave a brilliant performance as Donkey in Shrek the Musical during her annual stage school show. Rita was also awarded Stage 3 Student of the Year and received her 9-year attendance certificate.

In addition, she was recently recognised as a Rising Star at West Craven, making this an incredible couple of weeks for her achievements.

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



SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From the continuing impact of COVID-19 to the war in Ukraine, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they have seen.



2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.



3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what is happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.



4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make us feel angry, scared. Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.



5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.



6 CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.



7 SET LIMITS

Managing screentime and content can be difficult at the best of times, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try and at least limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screentime limits.



8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once: instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.



9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.



10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.



11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.



12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.



Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.

