

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Friday 5th December

Dear Parents / Carers

I can't believe I'm writing this with just two weeks to go until the Christmas break. There is still so much to do in school before the end of 2025! We have our one-to-one interviews with the Year 11 students starting next week. Every Year 11 student will have an individual meeting with a member of the Leadership Team. We discuss post 16 destinations and check that students have applied for an appropriate college course or training. We then discuss how students performed in the mock exams and, more importantly, what they need to do get the best grades in the summer. This is a two-way conversation where students can access support, and we can give help and guidance. Our aim is to ensure that all our students achieve to their full potential and move on to appropriate learning or training after they leave West Craven High School. We also have mock results day, parents' evening, the Christmas Show, rewards assembly, silent discos, and I haven't even begun my Christmas shopping!

The message certainly is that the year isn't over until 1pm on the 19th December. We are looking forward to celebrating the achievements of our students and having some fun at this time of year, but there is still plenty to do in the classroom and students will be learning right up to the last day. With that in mind, please ensure that your child attends school each day. We know that there are some nasty bugs going around and that children get illnesses, but if they are well enough to be in school, please send them in.

Similarly, we have a number of staff unwell at the moment, and this has a bigger impact in a smaller school. We are using specialist teacher supply wherever possible and our dedicated teachers make sure that work is relevant and students are productive in lessons and learning. I speak to the students about showing everyone respect in and out of school; Whether it is a fellow student, a teacher, caretaker, bus driver or supply teacher, I expect our students to display the same high standards and adhere to our school expectations whatever the interaction. Our students represent the school and influence the image of the schools from those in the community.

While talking of representing our school, the Year 8 football team did so in style, winning the Pendle School's Football tournament this week. Congratulations to all of the students involved and a great win for West Craven. I await my invite to the medal ceremony and lifting of the trophy! I am sure Mr Cameron will be in touch any day now?!

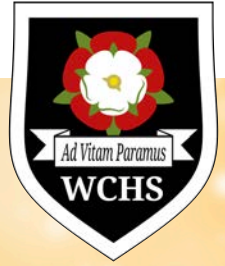
Assemblies this week were led by Deputy Principal, Mrs. Roberston on the theme of independence. Independence is an important part of our ASPIRE values. One thing that we all have control over is our own actions and words. We know the difference between right and wrong, and we all make choices. Mrs. Roberston talked of the independence mindset to be your own person and make the right choices, irrespective of what others say or do. A lesson for us all! Please remind your child to dig out their finest Christmas jumpers for Thursday 11th December and contribute £1 to the charity Save the Children. It is our Christmas Concert on Wednesday 10th December. Our students are working hard to prepare for this festive showcase. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK



7

Charlie
Caiden
Noah
Jessica



8

Daniel
Libby
Noah
George

9

Ryan
Mogran
Freya
Ellie

10

Samuel
Amalie
Martyna
Artem
Amy



11

Daisy
Chrissy
George
Harvey
Noah
Jabar
Antonina

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



CHRISTMAS TREE DONATION

We are delighted to share a wonderful example of community support this Christmas.

Our partner agency, **Justteachers**, has generously donated a beautiful 12ft Christmas tree to West Craven.

The tree was sourced from **Lowfield Christmas Trees**, who donate all profits to Spinal Research, meaning this gift also supports a meaningful charitable cause.

We would also like to thank **TAC Electrical** for kindly giving their time to transport and deliver the tree safely into our school hall.

The generosity of our community partners has helped bring festive spirit to West Craven, and we are extremely grateful for their continued support.



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

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



PENDLE SCHOOLS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

We are thrilled to share the fantastic achievements of our students at the Pendle Schools Cross-country Championships 2025. The event brought together talented runners from across the region, and our West Craven High School athletes truly did us proud with their determination and sportsmanship.

Year 7 Girls

Secured an impressive 4th place finish in a highly competitive field.

Year 7 Boys

Callum – 4th place

Finley – 6th place

Stanley – 11th place

Charlie – 12th place

Oscar – 16th place

Year 8 & 9 Girls

Lola Shackleton – 3rd place, a fantastic podium finish!

Year 10 & 11 Girls

Bella – 2nd place, an outstanding achievement!

These results reflect the hard work and dedication of our students and the support from staff and families. Congratulations to all participants—you represented West Craven High School brilliantly!



Ms Bateman
PE Teacher



YEAR 8 FOOTBALL TEAM TRIUMPHS AT PENDLE SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

The Year 8 football team delivered an outstanding performance last night, emerging as champions of the Pendle Schools 7-a-side football competition.

The squad remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, showcasing skill, determination, and teamwork. What made this victory truly special was the contribution of every single player—each member played a vital role at key moments, making it a remarkable all-round team effort.

Winning Squad:

- Henry Ashby
- Ashton Garner
- Olivia Hindley
- George Ashby
- Haris Zia
- Thomas Carr
- Daniel Morajka
- Mason McVittie
- Alfie Finnigen
- Corey Hal



Mr Wilson
Head of PE

Congratulations to the team for their incredible achievement and for representing our school with pride!



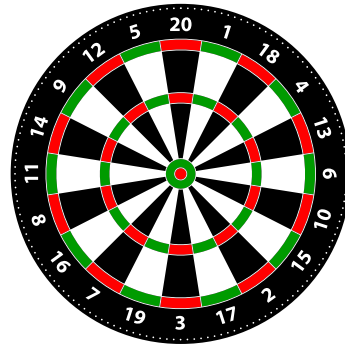
DARTS TOURNAMENT

Lunchtime Darts Tournament a Hit with Students!

Mr Cameron has launched a brand-new lunchtime darts tournament, and it's already proving to be a huge success. With fantastic numbers attending every day, students are enjoying the chance to take part in some friendly competition, practise their skills, and get involved in a fun new activity.

The tournament is open to all, and the positive atmosphere in the room each lunchtime shows just how much our students are embracing the challenge. A big thank you to Mr Cameron for organising such an engaging and inclusive opportunity for our school community.

We look forward to seeing the tournament continue to grow!



Mr Cameron
PE Teacher



We're excited to invite all students and staff to our annual Christmas Dinner
on **Thursday, 11th December!**

Join us for a festive celebration filled with delicious food and a chance to come together as a
school community before the Christmas holiday's.

As it's also Christmas Jumper Day – students can look festive too!

*Christmas
Dinner*



We are excited to introduce **CURIOSITY QUEST**

An engaging opportunity for our Year 7 students to explore, research, and showcase their innovative ideas! The Extraordinary Minds Academy, led through Nelson and Colne College, has been created to spark the imagination of learners. Dedicated to expanding their academic confidence and abilities, the programme will allow students to use a wide range of skills including developing their leadership potential.

What is Curiosity Quest?

This project encourages year 7 students to dive into topics that spark their interest, solve mysteries, explain wonders, or tackle big questions such as “Who built the pyramids?” Students can enter individually or as part of a small group.

What students need to do

Choose a topic and subject that interests them

Research the topic thoroughly – gather information, debate ideas constructively, and seek different perspectives from peers, teachers, and family.

Prepare their submission to submit a 500 word document summarising their findings by Monday 15th December

Please speak to Mrs Harper if you have any further questions.



PRIMARY SCHOOL HARRY POTTER BOOK DAY

Harry Potter Book Day Magic at West Craven

Last week, we were delighted to welcome children from Barnoldswick Church of England Primary School as they joined us to celebrate Harry Potter Book Day.

This year's theme, Friends and Foes, explored the magical friendships and legendary rivalries that make the world of Hogwarts so unforgettable. Throughout the visit, children took part in engaging reading sessions, interactive activities, and themed challenges in our library, all designed to spark imagination and nurture a love of reading.

To make the day even more enchanting, pupils were encouraged to bring along their wands, glasses, scarves, and to come dressed as their favourite characters. Their creativity and enthusiasm helped make the event truly memorable.

It was a pleasure to host such excited and imaginative young readers, and we look forward to welcoming them back for future events.

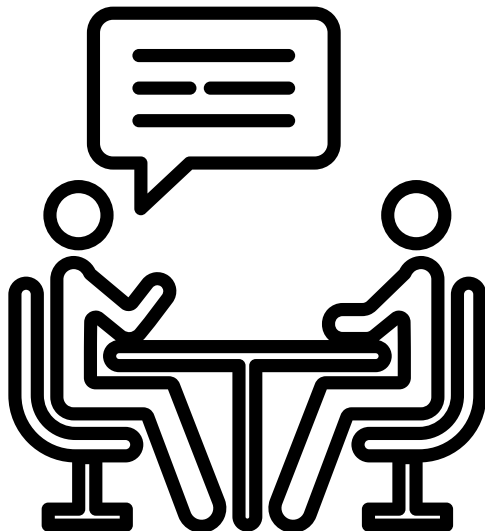


PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This week our Year 11 had an opportunity to meet with a college of their choice to discuss their next steps and the course they wish to apply for. This is a valuable experience to allow students as much support and opportunity to make the best decision for their future. In addition to this we continued with our Year 10 one to one careers appointments. After speaking to a selection of students this week, it is evident how important these meetings are as they build up to applying for college this time next year.



Next week we have our last PSHE session of the term as well as our Year 11 Mock Interviews. This promises to be a fantastic event with a number of employers from a wide range of sectors coming to support us. This a great experience for our students in preparation for job interviews they will no doubt take part in over the next few years.



Mr J Brook
Personal Development Lead



Nelson and Colne College are delighted to invite our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils from school to join their upcoming free after-school academies this December and January – and they have just added even more sessions!

These academies are a fantastic way for students to:
Explore subjects they're passionate about
Enjoy interactive activities
Learn about careers, courses and apprenticeships
Experience college life and meet tutors and other pupils

Upcoming Academies:

Future Hair Professional Academy (Creative)

Next Dates: 9 or 11 Dec – NCC & ARC

Future Engineers Academy

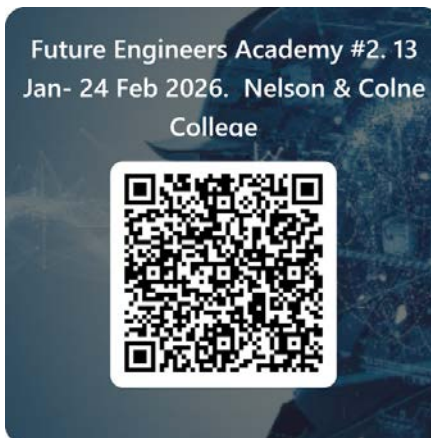
Next Date: 13 Jan – NCC only

Future Construction Professional Academy

Next Date: 21 Jan – ARC only

Future Digital/IT/Cyber Analyst Academy

Next Date: 21 Jan – NCC & ARC





arc.

Accrington
& Rossendale
College

ncc.

Nelson & Colne
College

MEET THE SCHOOLS TEAM

Left to Right:

- **Hayley Stewart** - Academic and Technical Education Mentor
- **Adam Hussain** - Academic and Technical Education Mentor
- **Paul Scott** - Academic and Technical Education Mentor
- **Melanie Wright** - Schools Team Lead
- **Becky Bottacin** - Academic and Technical Education Mentor

Our Schools Team is led by Melanie and our Academic and Technical Education Mentors are a dedicated team who will support school staff, pupils, parents and guardians by offering a range of activities including:

- ✓ School classroom sessions, assemblies and interactive activities to inspire pupils career choices
- ✓ Parents evening attendance in school
- ✓ College campus visits
- ✓ On campus taster sessions
- ✓ Application help and support
- ✓ Personalised campus tours
- ✓ 1:1 appointments in school or on campus to support with college course and careers information



SCAN TO BOOK
AN APPOINTMENT
WITH US



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Meet our...

CURRICULUM HEADS OF DEPARTMENT



Amy Lucas

Head of Foundation Learning

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Ayub Moosa

Head of Construction and
Motor Vehicle

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Chris Mayoh

Director of Engineering,
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Joanne Halliwell

Head of Hair and Barbering

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Additional Learning Support
Manager

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Kirsten Graham

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Michael Milligan

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Years & Health and Social Care
Professions

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Ruth Shaw

Head of A Level Humanities
and Business

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Saiqa Zulfqar

Head of Digital (IT), Creative
Arts and Media

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Ste Buckley

Head of Learner Experience
and Sport

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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

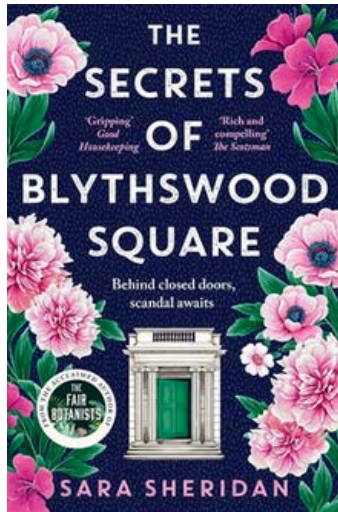
We are kindly asking our students to bring in donations for our local food bank as part of our West Craven High School Christmas appeal. We are collecting non-perishable food items only, and these can be brought into school any time between now and Monday 9th December.

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



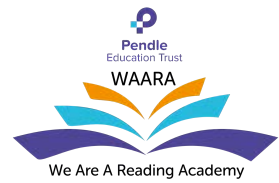
table Pantry Items
Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas)
Canned fruits (in juice, not syrup)
Canned beans (black beans, kidney beans, chickpeas)
Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon)
Canned soups and stews (low-sodium preferred)
Dry Goods
Rice (white, brown, or instant)
Pasta and noodles
Instant 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





The librarian loves

The Secrets of Blythwood Square by Sara Sheridan. Historical fiction is one of my favourite genres and I am always extremely impressed with the research Sara does. I thoroughly enjoy her notes at the end and the additional reading she recommends.

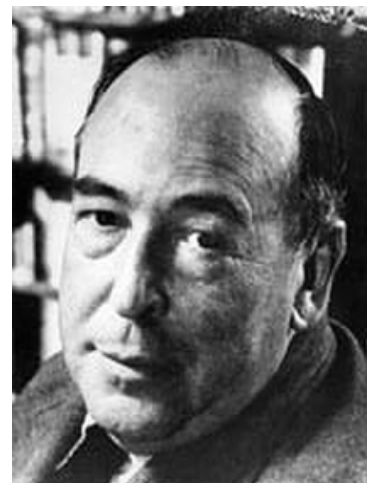


As the days get chillier and shorter, getting cosy with a book and a hot chocolate is the perfect thing to do. The current seasonal display in the library is books based around the theme of Christmas and winter. Our pupils have spent some time in the library this week looking at these books and choosing ones to take home. There are books covering all genres, including a book of Christmas crafts.

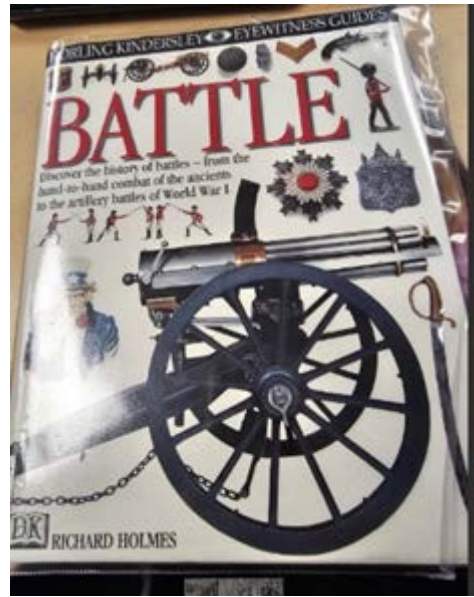


A parent kindly donated these beautiful books to the library this week. The school is always appreciative of donations and these two books will be a wonderful addition to the school library.

C. S. Lewis was born on November 29 1898 in Belfast. His mother died when he was 10 and his father allowed him and his brother a great deal of freedom. He enjoyed games of make believe, and this is clearly reflected in the book series he wrote: The Chronicles of Narnia. These books are available to borrow in the library.



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY



The explanation of the Dewey Decimal System has now reached Number 300. This is where you would find books about social sciences, the military and customs.

Year 7 are thoroughly enjoying their Bookbuzz books. I hope you enjoy their reviews.



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 | |



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

Year 9 Parents Evening - 29th January

Poetry Live - YR10 Manchester Bridgewater Hall 4th February

Year 10 Barclay's Life Skills (session3) 5th February

Year 11 revision launch - 5th February

NSPCC Number Day - 6th February

National Apprenticeship Week - 9th February

Safer Internet Day - 10th February

End of term - school closes - 13th February

School re-opens - 23rd February



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 QR CODE SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

QR code scams (also known as 'quishing'), involve the malicious use of Quick Response (QR) codes to deceive people into revealing personal information or downloading harmful software. These scams exploit QR codes' convenience and widespread use – for example, in adverts, restaurant menus and public notices, with criminals installing fake QR codes which direct users to bogus sites.

PAYMENT SYSTEMS

Cybercriminals may seek to change a QR code that's related to a legitimate payment service, such as in a restaurant. If a customer scans the QR code expecting to order and pay for goods or services (such as a meal in this case), they may be directed to a site controlled by the scammers. Entering their payment details would then allow the criminals to defraud them.

DISCOUNTED GOODS

A poster promises goods or services at a discounted cost, requiring people to scan a QR code to register and pay. The poster, however, is malicious, and there is no discount. Again, providing your payment details would allow the criminal to access your funds. This scam is reasonably common and is often found in car parks in major cities.

PRIZE DRAWS

A QR code is provided for a prize draw, advertised on a poster which is likely on display in a public space. Scanning the QR code will result in being asked to provide further information (such as your email address, name, address or phone number), which is then used by criminals for further social engineering attacks or even identity fraud.

WIFI CONNECTION

Scanning a QR code may be the means of connecting to the Wi-Fi network in a hotel or other public area. This is usually legitimate, but if the QR code is a fake, it could result in criminals viewing your browsing history and even your login details. These can subsequently be used for phishing attacks and identity fraud – and even financial fraud, if they're able to access your banking credentials.

FAKE EVENTS AND TICKETS

A poster highlights news regarding an upcoming event, or regarding an additional allocation of tickets for a sold-out concert or other performance. It directs the user to scan a QR code for more information, to register or possibly to pay. The QR code then leads to a fake site hosted by scammers, aiming to gather data on the user for future attacks or to exploit or defraud them immediately.

Advice for Parents & Educators

BE VIGILANT

QR codes are becoming more prevalent, and cyber criminals are increasingly seeking to use them to steal information and commit fraud. As such, it is important to remain aware of the risks. Always consider these safety concerns before scanning a QR code and avoid doing so unless you're certain it's legitimate. Be sure to keep your device's operating system updated as well, to keep you protected from known safety risks.

CHECK FOR SIGNS OF TAMPERING

Where QR codes are printed or displayed, check for any sign of tampering: as a sticker with a new QR code being placed over the top of the previous code, for instance. Where there are signs of tampering, you should consult a member of staff (if you're in a hotel or restaurant, for example) or simply avoid scanning the code altogether.

CHECK THE URL

Most phones now show the web address or URL which a QR code connects to, and they typically require users to accept being taken to this address before progressing. Check that the web address matches that of the site or service you're expecting to access via the QR code you've scanned. If it seems dubious in any way, don't click on it.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SOURCES

Consider the source of the QR code and its trustworthiness. A QR code for payment in a restaurant, for example, is likely to be legitimate if you can see it printed on every menu; a random poster pinned up in the street or in a building's corridor is more likely to be fraudulent. If you're unsure, err on the side of caution and don't scan the code.

USE THE DEFAULT QR CODE SCANNER

Most mobile devices come with the ability to scan QR codes built into the camera app. Where possible, you should seek to use this default functionality and avoid the use of third-party QR scanning apps which may have themselves been tampered with or compromised. Stick to reputable methods.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College