

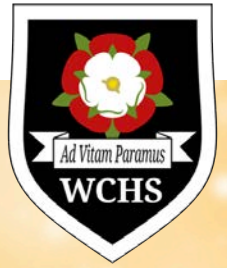
WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER



FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026



STARS OF THE WEEK



7

Zoya
Brooke
Eva
Daisy

8

Tia
Hana
Lola
Liam

9

Pippa
Sophie
Max
Bobbie

10

Leo
Eva
Ayesha
Harrison
Amy

11

Kenzie
Oliver
Georgia
Sophie
Thalia
Jabar

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



CURRICULUM UPDATE FOOD

Year 7 Shine in the Kitchen with Nutritious French Toast Creations

Our Year 7 students have been busy in the food room this week, rolling up their sleeves and learning how to make French Toast as part of their focus on nutritious breakfast dishes.

This practical lesson encouraged pupils to explore how simple ingredients can be transformed into a balanced and energising start to the day. Students learned key cooking skills such as whisking, safe frying techniques, flavour balancing, and the importance of choosing wholesome toppings to boost the nutritional value of their meals.

The classroom was filled with the warm aroma of cinnamon, vanilla, and golden-toasted bread, and the pupils were proud to plate up their delicious creations. The activity not only strengthened their confidence in the kitchen but also highlighted the importance of beginning the day with a meal that fuels both body and mind.

A fantastic effort from all of Year 7—well done, young chefs! We can't wait to see what they cook up next.



CURRICULUM UPDATE ART



Year 8 Dive Into Pop Art: Exploring Food in Art Through Mixed Media

Our Year 8 students have been immersing themselves in the vibrant world of Pop Art, a movement known for its bold colours, playful themes, and celebration of everyday objects. This term, their focus has been Food in Art, a theme that has sparked creativity, curiosity, and plenty of colourful experimentation.



Mrs Whittle
Head of Art



Year 10 Work Experience – Important Information for Parents

Our Year 10 students will shortly be taking part in their work experience placements. This is a valuable opportunity for them to gain insight into the world of work, develop employability skills and build confidence for their future education and career pathways.

While on placement, students are expected to behave as if they are in a real job. They are representing themselves, their families and the school, and should act in a polite, responsible and professional manner at all times.

Attendance and punctuality are extremely important. Students should arrive on time each day and plan their journey in advance. If a student is unwell and unable to attend their placement, they must contact both their placement provider and the school as soon as possible, following normal school absence procedures. If they are running late, they should inform their placement straight away and explain the reason for the delay.

Students should dress appropriately for their workplace and follow any guidance given by their employer regarding appearance, uniform or health and safety requirements. If they are unsure what to wear, they are encouraged to check in advance with their placement provider or the school.

Health and safety is a priority. Students must follow instructions at all times and should not use any equipment unless they have been trained to do so. Any accidents, concerns or issues should be reported immediately to their workplace supervisor and the school.

If a student experiences any problems on placement such as feeling unsafe, being given unsuitable tasks, or having concerns about their treatment they should tell their workplace supervisor and contact the school without delay so that the issue can be resolved quickly.

As part of their placement, students are required to complete a work experience diary each day. This should include details of the tasks they have completed, the skills they have used and what they have learned from the experience. This diary is an important part of the programme, as it helps students reflect on their learning and provides evidence of the skills they have developed.

We kindly ask for parents and carers to support their child by:

- Encouraging punctuality and good attendance
- Discussing their day with them and what they have learned
- Reminding them to complete their diary daily
- Supporting them to communicate promptly if there are any issues



Work experience is an important step in preparing our students for future education and employment, and your support in helping them make the most of this opportunity is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding work experience placements, please contact school.



SPORTS UPDATE

Year 7 Netball Team Celebrate First League Win!

Our Year 7 Netball team started their league campaign in fantastic style with a 9–4 victory over Primet. Before the first whistle, the girls experienced a mix of excitement and nerves but as soon as play began, their focus and determination quickly took over.

The team settled into the game confidently, taking an early lead thanks to some excellent shooting from Brooke. Throughout the match, every player demonstrated great teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. Maryam was selected as the Opposition's Player of the Game, though it was a tough choice every member of the squad put in an outstanding effort. A special well done goes to the girls who were fasting and still gave it their all.

Team:

Maryam, Aisha, Brooke, Ruby, Jessica, Evie, Isabelle, Sasha, Zoya

The team now looks ahead to their next fixture, an away game against Marsden Heights, scheduled for next week. We wish them the best of luck—keep up the brilliant work, girls!



Mr Wilson
Head of PE



EASTER CONCERT

**WEST CRAVEN HIGH
SCHOOL**

EASTER CONCERT

DATE

11TH MARCH

6:00PM - 7:00PM



**LIVE
MUSIC**

🎵 **Easter Concert – You're Invited!** 🎵

We are delighted to invite all parents, carers, and families to our West Craven High School Easter Concert on **Wednesday 11th March, from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.**

This special event will feature a wonderful programme of live performances from our talented students, who have been working hard to prepare an exciting mix of musical pieces. From beautiful vocals to impressive instrumental work, it's set to be an uplifting celebration of their creativity and dedication.

🌟 **Free entry – no tickets needed!**

Simply come along, find a seat, and enjoy an hour of fantastic music.

We encourage you to bring family and friends to support our young performers – your presence truly makes the evening memorable for them. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing this joyful event together!



www.westcraven.co.uk



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



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

EASTER CONCERT



Choir Rehearsals Underway!



www.westcraven.co.uk



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



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

PASTORAL UPDATES YEAR 11

Year 11 Parent Newsletter

I am delighted to welcome our Year 11 students back from the half term break for what promises to be a very busy and important term. This term begins with focus and determination, as students move straight into two weeks of mock examinations. These assessments are an important opportunity for them to demonstrate their progress and to identify areas for further development as they continue their preparation for the summer exams.

Prom – Key Information

This week, I wanted to focus on sharing some key information regarding the upcoming Prom Celebration, this will help with any necessary advance planning. I know students are excited, and I want to ensure families have all the information they need in good time.

Date: Thursday 25 June 2026

Venue: Crow Wood, Holme Road, Burnley, BB12 0RT

Time: 7:00pm – 11:00pm

Students will enjoy a fantastic evening including:

- **Red carpet arrival**
- **A two-course meal**
- **Welcome drink**
- **Professional photographer**
- **DJ and awards**

Transport Arrangements

Families are kindly asked to make their own transport arrangements for students both to and from the event.

Ticket Price: £40 per student

Further information on ticket sales, food choices and final arrangements will be sent out in due course.

Thank you for your continued support during this crucial term. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Gartland – Head of Year 11



YOU ARE INVITED TO



PROM NIGHT

CLASS OF

2026

Join us for a special night to celebrate the end of your high school years and make unforgettable memories with friends

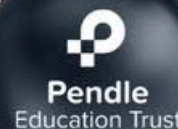
25TH JUNE 2026

Ticket price £40

- Red carpet arrival
- A two-course meal
- Welcome drink
- Professional photographer
- DJ and awards

Arrival from 6:30pm
Event 7pm- 11:00pm

VENUE: CROW WOOD HOTEL
BURNLEY



DRESS CODE: FORMAL ATTIRE



STARS OF THE WEEK

Promoting Stars of the Week – Celebrating Our Aspire Values

We are delighted to introduce Stars of the Week, an initiative to recognise and celebrate students who consistently demonstrate our **Aspire** values through their behaviour and attitude to learning.

Each week, staff will nominate students who:

- ✓ Have achieved the highest number of positive points on ClassCharts
- ✓ Have received no negative points during the week



These students will be awarded a Star of the Week certificate in recognition of their excellent conduct and commitment to our school values.

As an extra reward, every Star of the Week will also receive a raffle ticket, which will be attached to their certificate and entered into a half-termly prize draw.

🎁 Prize Draw Reward:

At the end of each half term, one lucky Star of the Week winner will be drawn at random to receive a **£25 Amazon gift voucher**.

This initiative is designed to encourage positive behaviour, celebrate success, and recognise students who consistently make positive choices in school.

We look forward to celebrating many Stars of the Week throughout the year and continuing to promote our Aspire values across the school community.

★ Stars of the Week ★
Celebrating students who show our **ASPIRE** values

At West Craven High School,
Stars of the Week recognise students who demonstrate:

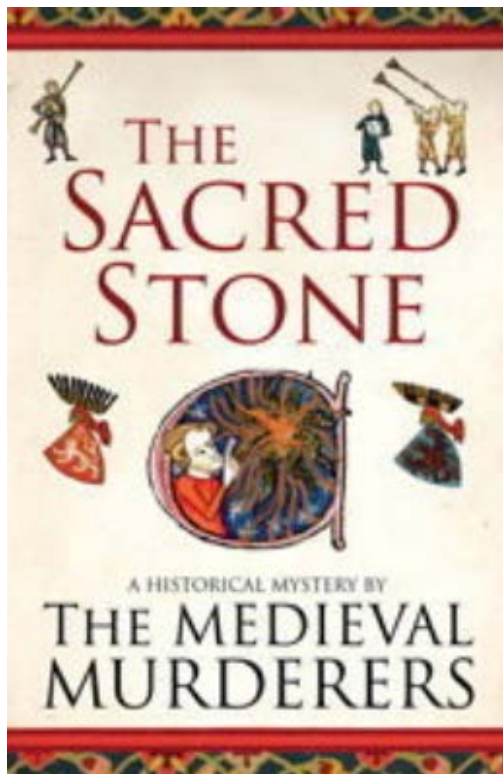
- **Ambition**
giving their best effort, aiming to improve, challenging themselves
- **Supportive**
helping others, encouraging classmates, showing kindness
- **Positivity**
having a can-do attitude, responding well to feedback
- **Independence**
taking responsibility for learning, being prepared and organised
- **Resilience**
not giving up, bouncing back from mistakes
- **Equality**
treating everyone with fairness, respect and inclusion

What Do You Get?
A **Star of the Week certificate** and **One raffle ticket** each time you are chosen

Prize Draw
All tickets go into a **half-term prize draw** for a **£25 Amazon voucher**

Ad Vitam Paramus
Live the **ASPIRE** values. Be recognised. Be a Star.





The librarian loves *The Sacred Stone*, which has been written collaboratively by several authors. The book has five acts. Each act is based on something that actually happened and there are historical notes at the end of each act. I am enjoying these notes and I think it is clever how each author has built a story around an event that occurred in medieval times.

March is Women's History Month, an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements in many areas including literature, sports, art, science and medicine. The display in the library is designed to inspire and educate our young people.



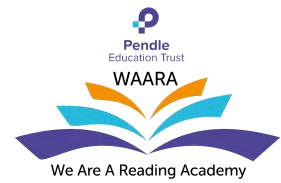
Word of the week: Equality

Equality is a noun and it is the right of different groups of people to have a similar social position and receive the same treatment.



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

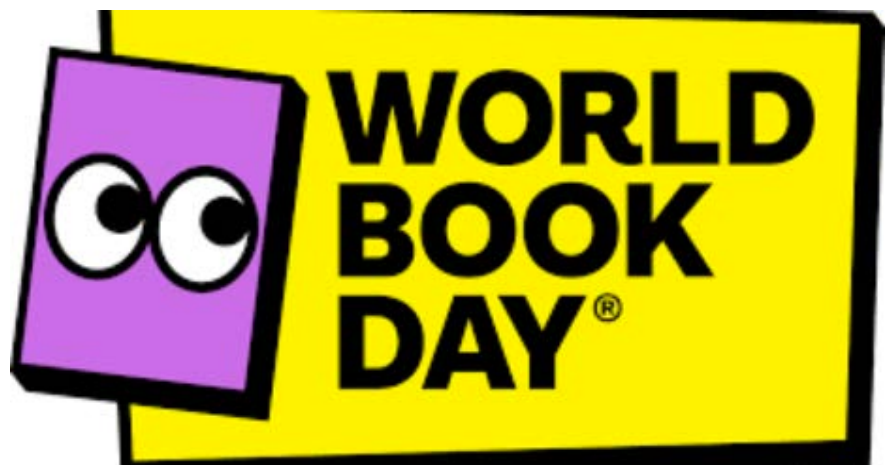
Our library has revision guides for pupils who wish to study in the library. Furthermore, the library has a suite of PCs for pupils to access GCSE pod. The library is open at break and lunch and after school.



As part of our World Book celebrations, we are excited to welcome author Ash Dickinson to our school on the 3rd March. Please have a look at his profile for more information Ash Dickinson

Ash Dickinson – poet, author, comedy performer, workshop facilitator

<https://ashdickinson.com/>



Toni Morrison: 9 Essential Books, Works by Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison was born on the 18th February 1931 in Ohio. She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993, becoming the first Black female writer in history to be honoured with this prize. Her books can be found in the library.

Her poem Eve Remembering is reproduced below:



1

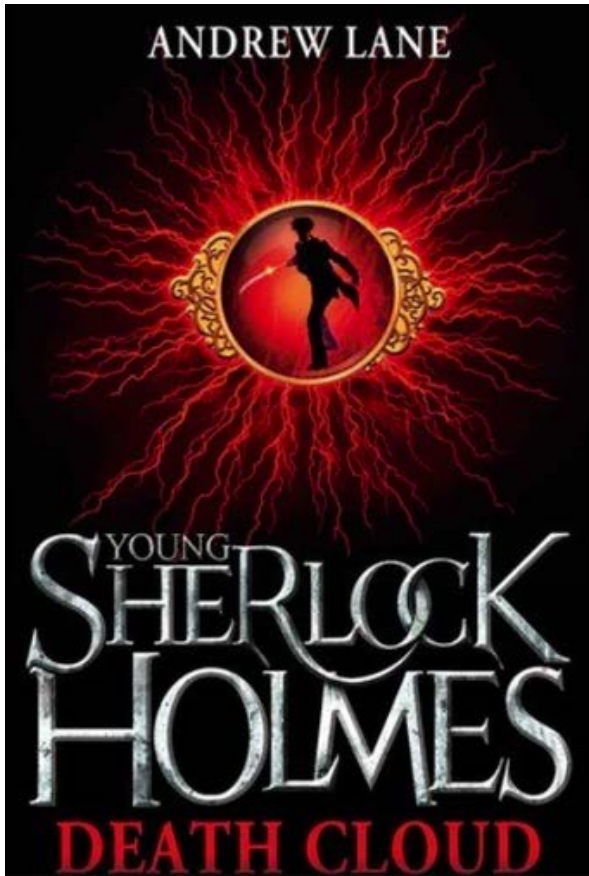
I tore from a limb fruit that had lost its green.
My hands were warmed by the heat of an apple
Fire red and humming.
I bit sweet power to the core.
How can I say what it was like?
The taste! The taste undid my eyes
And led me far from the gardens planted for a child
To wildernesses deeper than any master's call.

2

Now these cool hands guide what they once caressed;
Lips forget what they have kissed.
My eyes now pool their light
Better the summit to see.

3

I would do it all over again:
Be the harbour and set the sail,
Loose the breeze and harness the gale,
Cherish the harvest of what I have been.
Better the summit to scale.
Better the summit to be.



The Young Sherlock series will be appearing on Prime Video in March. The book series is in the library if pupils want to read the books before watching the programme.



Dominic Sandbrook has launched a new podcast called Bookclub. In the current episode he discusses Wuthering Heights, offering insights into Emily Brontë's life and the world she lived in. The podcast is available on Spotify.



Reading for pleasure improves children's wellbeing, confidence, and their reading skills, helping them to learn and be happier. That is why we are so excited to part in the Senior National Reading Champions Quiz with @literacy-trust to celebrate and encourage pupils on their reading journeys. The regional heat takes place on the 2nd March at Fisher More school. Please look out for the photographs in next week's bulletin.

College Open Events

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



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

Celebrating Katie's Success at the Steel the Show Dance Event

On 22nd February, Year 11 student Katie Hanson achieved outstanding success at the Steel the Show Future Dance competition held in Sheffield. Showcasing both her talent and dedication, Katie delivered two exceptional performances that earned her top awards in highly competitive senior categories.

Katie secured an impressive 2nd place in Senior Jazz with her dynamic and expressive routine titled "I Move On." She followed this with a beautifully performed Senior Lyrical piece, "You Can't Make Me Love You," which earned her a strong 3rd place finish. These achievements reflect not only Katie's hard work and passion for dance but also her commitment to continually improving her craft. Her success at a regional competition of this standard is something she should be incredibly proud of. We congratulate Katie on her fantastic results and look forward to seeing her continue to excel both in and out of school.

Well done, Katie!



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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



5th March World Book Day

11th March - Easter Concert

11th March - Stretch and Challenge Day - Nelson and Colne College

11th March Macbeth Theatre Production

12th March Pendle Education Trust Careers Day

12th March Year 7 parents evening

14th March Maths PI Day

16th March Year 10 Work Experience Week 1

17th March - DWP Year 8 session - Routes to Employment

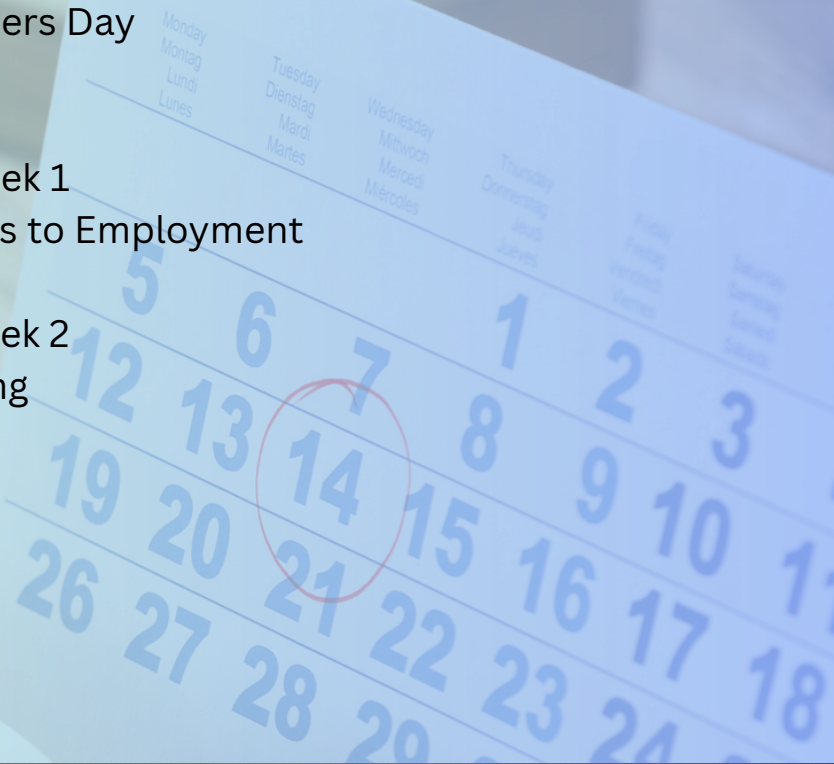
18th March Year 9 Vaccinations

23rd March Year 10 Work Experience Week 2

26th March - Year 11 Intervention Evening

27th March End of Term - school closes

13th April - school re-opens.



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





YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and 'take a break' reminders. You can find out more here:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/march-2026/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE Online Safety Hub

EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then 'Which?' provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Virtual Private Networks

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps make your connection between a device and the internet more secure and can help protect personal information and add privacy. However, whilst a VPN has benefits, it is important that you are aware that if your child is using a VPN, they may be able to get round Wi-Fi restrictions, access blocked or restricted websites and bypass parental controls. It may also mean that their browsing history is hidden.

The NSPCC provides a helpful overview of VPNs, plus top tips and conversation starters here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/vpns-and-online-safety/>

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you. It will then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can for example, exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

Further information

- <https://cybersmarties.com/behind-the-screen-how-algorithms-shape-what-kids-see-online/>
- The BBC discuss algorithms in this article about doomscrolling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwnk3qt>

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Five Nights at Freddy's

Five Nights at Freddy's is a horror game designed to frighten players with jump scares or creepy characters. It can be accessed from several places, for example on an Xbox (PEGI rating of 12) and on the App store (age rating of 13+). There is merchandise available, which may suggest that it is child friendly. We would recommend that you preview the game first to ascertain its suitability for your child. You can view Bark's review here:

<https://www.bark.us/content-review/five-nights-at-freddys-review/>

Screen time and online harms

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have created a page that brings together key resources on screen time. Find out more here:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/screen-time-online-harms-resources-members>

New government campaign: Is your child influenced by toxic content?

The Government have launched a new campaign providing guidance to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts and advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content. It also includes a quiz to help you and your child spot misleading or unreliable information online. You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/is-your-child-influenced-by-toxic-content-new-government-campaign-supports-parents-to-talk-about-harmful-online-content>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS



Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION



Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE



Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

FUNNY JOKES

ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE



Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE



Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES



Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

AI OVERVIEW

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS



While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS



One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT



While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY



Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

