

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL  
**NEWSLETTER**



FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026



# STARS OF THE WEEK



**7**

**Thomas  
Elissa  
Ollie  
Reece**



**8**

**Scarlett-Rose  
Lucas  
Harry  
Elissia**

**9**

**Elsie  
Jamie-Leigh  
Lucas  
Mara**

**10**

**Lewis  
Chloe  
Wajeeha  
Phoebe  
Zaion**

**11**

**Evie  
Bella  
Bonnie  
Miley  
Daisy  
Alfie**

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



# YEAR 9 OPTIONS INFORMATION

## Year 9 Options – Information for Parents and Carers

We are pleased to introduce the Year 9 Options page on our school website, which provides important information to support students and families as they prepare to make their Key Stage 4 course choices.

During the coming weeks, Year 9 students will be selecting the subjects they wish to study in Years 10 and 11. These decisions are an important step in their educational journey and will shape the courses they study over the next two years.

Choosing the right combination of subjects can make a real difference. By selecting courses that suit their interests, strengths and future ambitions, students can work towards achieving a strong set of GCSE and vocational qualifications by the end of Year 11.

The grades students achieve across all of their examinations will help determine the post-16 courses and pathways available to them. Every student will follow their own individual route after Year 11, so success will look different for each young person. Our aim is to support students in making choices that are right for them and their future plans.

**On the Year 9 Options page of the website, parents and carers will find a range of helpful resources, including:**

- ***A Year 9 Options presentation explaining the options process***
- ***The 2026 Options Handbook, which includes a curriculum overview of the available courses***
- ***Parent letters explaining each pathway***
- ***Pathway options forms that students will complete to confirm their subject choices***

We strongly encourage parents and carers to review the information with their child and discuss the options available to help them make informed decisions. Link here [Options Page](#)

If you have any questions about the options process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



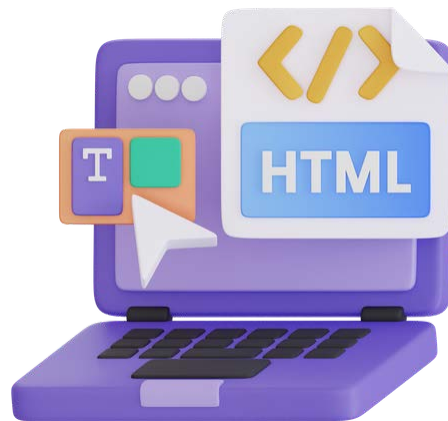
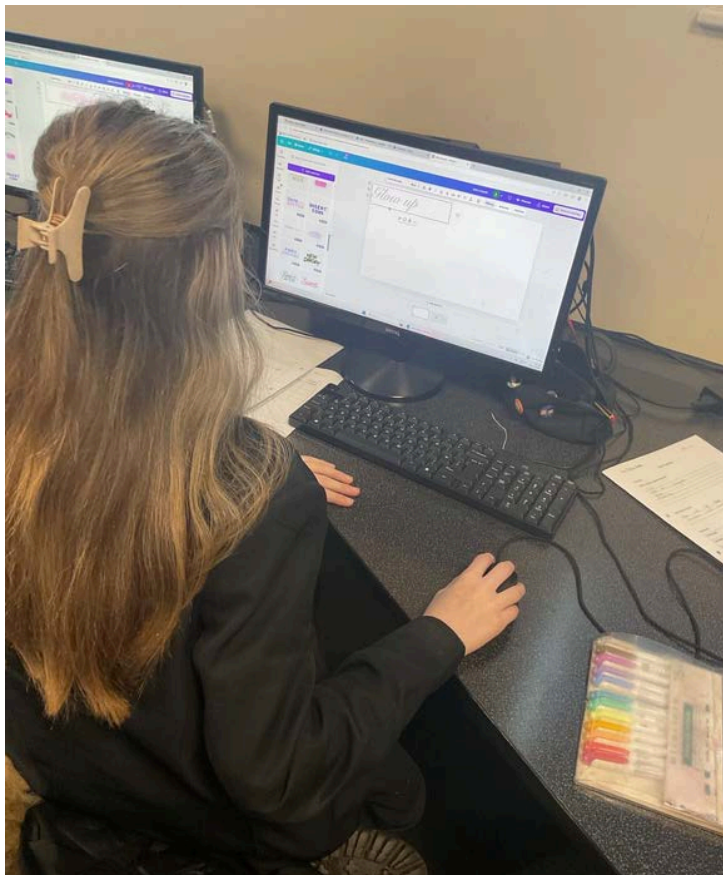
## Becoming Young Web Designers

Over the past few weeks, pupils have been diving into the world of web design and discovering what really makes a website effective. They began by exploring real-life examples, discussing what helps a website feel clear, accessible, and enjoyable to use. This sparked lots of thoughtful conversations about layout, colour choices, navigation, and how information is presented.

To deepen their understanding, pupils also took a look behind the scenes, learning about the basics of HTML—the language that structures every webpage. They practised using essential tags to create headings, paragraphs, links, and images, building confidence as they experimented with how each element shapes the look and feel of a site.

Now, pupils are moving on to the most exciting stage: creating their own websites. Each pupil has chosen a topic that interests them, from hobbies to causes they care about. They are now applying their new skills to plan, design, and build a website that reflects their ideas and personality.

This project not only develops technical skills but also encourages creativity, problem-solving, and independent thinking. It has been wonderful to see pupils grow in confidence as they realise just how much they can achieve as young digital creators.



**Mr N Hussain**  
Head of Computing

# SCHOOL LUNCH SURVEY

# Taylor Shaw

Seeing food differently

📄 Help Shape Our School Lunch Menu

Our catering provider, Taylor Shaw, would like to hear from parents, carers and students about what you would like to see on the school lunch menu.

By scanning the QR code below, you can complete a short survey to share your views and preferences. Your feedback will help them plan future menus that better reflect what our students enjoy and want to eat.

We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey as soon as possible, so we can gather accurate results and useful ideas for future menus.

Thank you for supporting our school catering service.

📄 Scan the QR code below to take part.



West Craven - Catering Survey



# EASTER CONCERT

**WEST CRAVEN HIGH  
SCHOOL**

**EASTER CONCERT**

DATE

**11<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.westcraven.co.uk)



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



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

# PASTORAL UPDATES YEAR 7

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well.

As Year 6 pupils across our local primary schools receive the long-awaited news about their high school placements, it feels like the perfect moment to pause and reflect on the incredible journey our own Year 7 students have taken over the past months.

It's easy to forget how big that leap from primary to secondary school truly is. Back in September, our Year 7s walked through the gates with a mixture of excitement and nerves, finding their way around new buildings, meeting new teachers, and beginning to build new friendships. They started their adventure with curiosity, courage, and a willingness to try—qualities that have shone through every step of their first year.

Now, as they look ahead to becoming confident Year 8s, it's remarkable to see how far they've come.

During their time so far, our Year 7s have embraced a whole new level of independence—taking on timetables, organising homework, and developing resilience when faced with new challenges. They've thrown themselves into lessons, clubs, sports, performances, and leadership opportunities with enthusiasm and maturity. Many have discovered new talents and interests they didn't even know they had back in primary school.

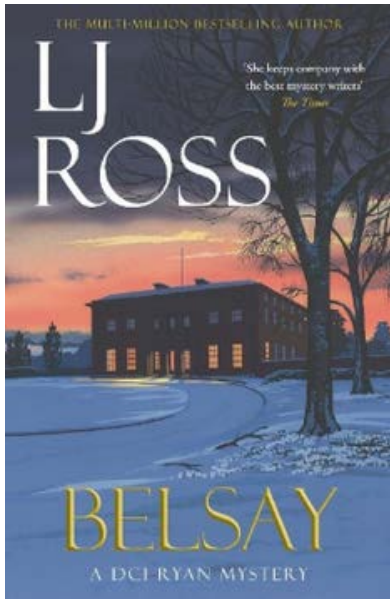
Equally importantly, they've built strong friendships and contributed to a supportive, positive year group community. Their kindness, teamwork, and willingness to help one another have been a standout feature of the year.

As our current Year 6 pupils begin to imagine the exciting chapter ahead of them, our Year 7s stand as a great example of what is possible. They've shown that with determination, curiosity, and a little bit of courage, the transition to high school becomes a journey filled with success and self-discovery.

We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved so far—and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow, lead, and flourish as they move confidently toward Year 8. Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Harper  
Year 7 Pastoral Lead





The librarian loves Belsay by L J Ross. I visited Belsay during half term and I was delighted to find a second- hand book shop within the grounds. I purchased this fictional book and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The book is part of a series and I am looking forward to reading some more books by this author. All her books are based in the Northumbria area.

National Careers Week is from the 2nd – 7th March. The library has a display of careers books to help our young people choose which employment pathway they want to take after secondary school. Pupils accessing the library can use the PCs to access NCW One Stop Shop. This website has a number of excellent resources, including videos.

## Word of the week: Curriculum vitae

Curriculum vitae is a noun, usually abbreviated to C.V. It is a brief account of a person's education, qualifications, and previous occupations, typically sent with a job application.

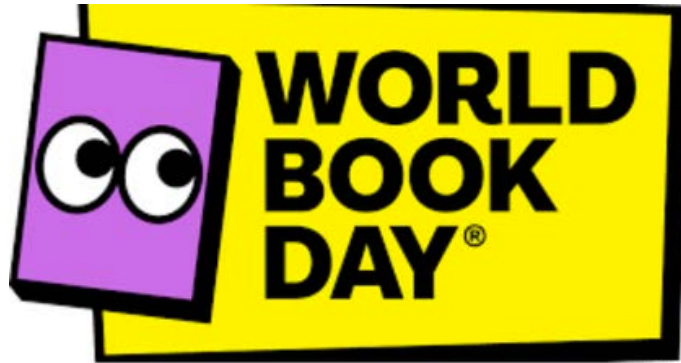
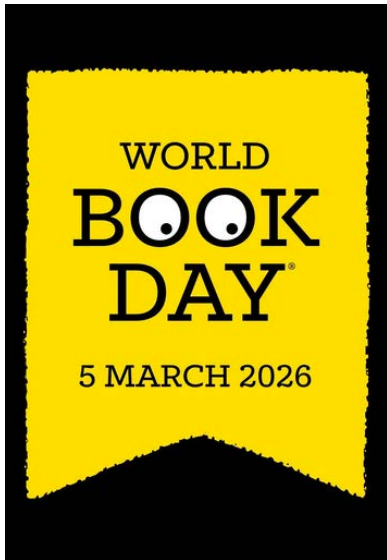


If you would like to order anything from our virtual book fair, please make sure you have done this by the end of the weekend so you do not miss the deadline.

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/clubs/parents/your-club>



# WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

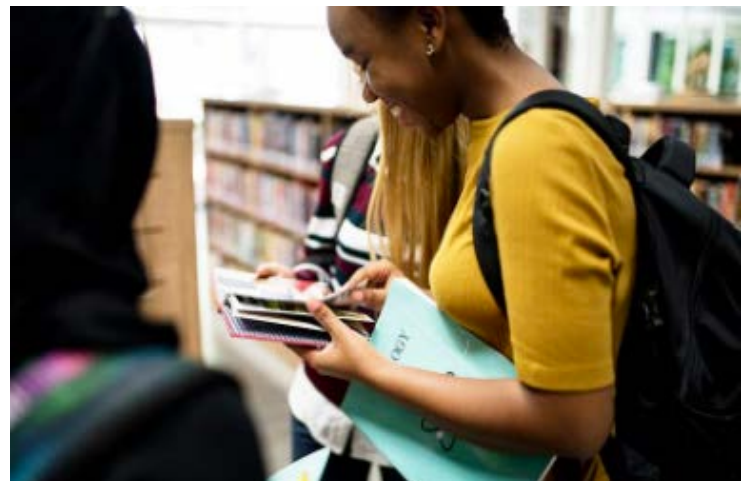


As part of our World Book celebrations, we were delighted to welcome author Ash Dickinson to our school on the 3rd March. He conducted a number of workshops throughout the day which brought poetry to life in a unique and inspiring way. We hope you enjoy the photographs from this event.



On Monday, Mrs. MacDonald took Ella, Rita, Freya, Ava and Isabelle to the National Reading Champions Quiz at Fisher More secondary school. They had to answer 75 questions over several rounds, which was a difficult task but one which they rose to. We unfortunately did not win, but well done to these pupils for stepping out of their comfort zone and representing our school.

There are lots of events happening in the library and we would love our pupils to be involved. The librarian would like some pupils to help during busy times in the library, such as break and lunch and when there are events in the library. If a pupil wishes to apply for this role, please ask them to call into the library and speak to Mrs. MacDonald.





NPG 1899; Elizabeth Barrett Browning – Portrait – National  
...Elizabeth Barrett Browning was born on the 6th March  
1806, near Durham. Her poem Aurora Leigh is now  
considered an early feminist text. One of her poems is  
produced below:

## **The Lady's Yes**

**" Yes !" I answered you last night ;  
" No !" this morning, Sir, I say !  
Colours, seen by candle-light,  
Will not look the same by day.**

**When the tabors played their best,  
Lamps above, and laughs below —  
Love me sounded like a jest,  
Fit for Yes or fit for No !**

**Call me false, or call me free —  
Vow, whatever light may shine,  
No man on your face shall see  
Any grief for change on mine.**

**Yet the sin is on us both —  
Time to dance is not to woo —  
Wooer light makes fickle troth —  
Scorn of me recoils on you !**

**Learn to win a lady's faith  
Nobly, as the thing is high ;  
Bravely, as for life and death —  
With a loyal gravity.**

**Lead her from the festive boards,  
Point her to the starry skies,  
Guard her, by your truthful words,  
Pure from courtship's flatteries.**

**By your truth she shall be true —  
Ever true, as wives of yore —  
And her Yes, once said to you,  
SHALL be Yes for evermore.**



# College Open Events

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



# EXTRA CURRICULAR – SPRING TERM 2

We are pleased to share details of our Spring Term 2 extracurricular programme, which offers a wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs designed to enrich students' learning and support their personal development.


This half-term, students can take part in a variety of activities including Homework Support Club, Stage Door Drama Group, Volleyball, Imogen's Dance School, Band Club, and many more. These opportunities give students the chance to develop new skills, explore their interests, and build confidence outside the classroom.





All students who attend extracurricular activities will receive positive points on ClassCharts, recognising their commitment and participation. In addition, students who regularly attend clubs throughout the term will be awarded a certificate at the end of the term to celebrate their involvement.

We encourage all students to get involved and make the most of the fantastic opportunities available.

West Craven High School

## Lunchtime Clubs



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>Library</b> Years 10 & 11	 <b>Library</b> Years 7,8, & 9	<b>Library</b> Years 7,8, & 9	<b>Library</b> Years 7,8, & 9	<b>Library</b> Years 10 & 11
	<b>Choir</b> Lunch time Room G8	<b>Computing</b> All Years Room G11	<b>Karaoke Club</b> Room T7	
	<b>Youth Enterprise / Fundraising</b> Room G11	<b>Creative Writing</b> Room T8 Year 7 only		
				



# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – SPRING TERM 2

West Craven High School (Spring Term 2)



## After School Clubs

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>Indoor Football</b> (Year 7 & 8) 	<b>Netball</b> (Year 7&8) 		<b>Football</b> 3G pitch (Year 7&8) 	<b>Art</b> Room M10 
<b>Volleyball</b> Gym YR7&8 Boys & Girls				
<b>French Club</b> Room G3 Year 10s 			<b>Science Club</b> Room M2 	
<b>Library</b> Homework club	<b>Library</b> Homework club	<b>Library</b> Homework club	<b>Library</b> Homework club	
	<b>Band club</b> Main Hall 		<b>SEN Homework Club</b> Room G6	
<b>History</b> Year 7,8,9 Room M7 	<b>Stage Door Drama Club</b> 3:30pm - 4:45pm Room T1/2 		<b>Imogen's dance School</b> 3:30pm-4:30pm Gym 	

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



11th March - Easter Concert

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

11<sup>th</sup> March Macbeth Theatre Production

12<sup>th</sup> March Pendle Education Trust Careers Day

12<sup>th</sup> March Year 7 parents evening

14<sup>th</sup> March Maths PI Day

16<sup>th</sup> March Year 10 Work Experience Week 1

17<sup>th</sup> March - DWP Year 8 session - Routes to Employment

17<sup>th</sup> March - Jekyll & Hyde Theatre Performance

18<sup>th</sup> March Year 9 Vaccinations

23<sup>rd</sup> March Year 10 Work Experience Week 2

26<sup>th</sup> March - Year 11 Intervention Evening

27<sup>th</sup> March End of Term - school closes

13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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**



# EARBY CRICKET CLUB

## NOW RECRUITING!

**JUNIOR PLAYERS  
WANTED!**

U9s • U11s • U13s • U15s

- NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED -  
- JUST BRING A SMILE! -

**NEW LADIES TEAM  
& GIRLS U12s TEAM!**

# OPEN DAY!

**DROP IN SATURDAY 7TH MARCH  
12 - 5 PM**

**CALL IN TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS &  
SIGN ON FOR 2026 SEASON!**

**COME ALONG & JOIN THE FUN!**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

### EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

### PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

### COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

### LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.



## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

### KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

### ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

### Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.

