

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Friday 17th April

Dear Parents / Carers

It's been lovely to welcome the students back for the summer term. The days are longer and the evenings and mornings lighter. There is something positive and life-affirming about the summer term, with plenty of opportunities for our students to get involved in the school and wider community. Nevertheless, it is a busy one with some of the Year 11 students already getting ready for their practical examinations in the main hall next week. We wish them all the best with these first exams. Next week all Year 11 will receive their individual exam timetables. There are revision sessions every day after school, and we will run extra sessions before each exam. These exams are the culmination of 5 years at West Craven and it is a time when students, and parents, are likely to feel anxious and nervous about the summer exam season. We expect all of our students to respect Year 11 spaces and revision sessions, to be calm around school, and to always observe the exam signage. This is something that all of our students will go through, and it helps when they know the whole school community is behind them, supporting them to do their best.

'Their best' is also a very important message that I can't stress enough. Not all students can get the top grades. Even those aiming for the top grades are unlikely to get the best grades in everything. Some students will find certain subjects and exams really difficult, while excelling in other areas or subjects. I have spoken to all students in assembly this week about our ASPIRE values being the values young people need to be successful in life, not just school. As we go through life, we all experience success, but success comes in many forms and rarely comes easily. Success comes from effort, determination, and practice! And even with effort, determination and practice, we will all experience failure and disappointment also. Our mindset and strength of character to respond positively and learn from our mistakes, is a key factor in us achieving our goals. Ultimately, this is what school is for. We are preparing young people for life! We simply ask for them to do their best in all that they do. Whether in lessons, on the corridor, at social times or out of school, we expect students to uphold the highest standards and represent the school. We will be working on what that looks like in form time next week as we define the 'West Craven Way'.

Our Year 10s have returned from their Work Experience before Easter, and we have celebrated their successes in the workplace. The feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive. We will be celebrating with certificates and passing on individual feedback to students and parents in assemblies and letters home next week.

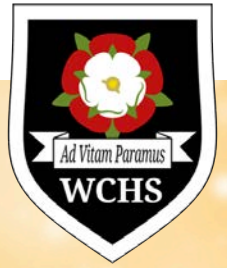
The vast majority of our students have come back looking great in full school uniform. Our uniform exemplifies our high standards and expectations. We have done all we can to make our uniform reasonable and easy to obtain. West Craven Badges are available from our main reception to apply to any black blazer. We insist on black trousers/skirts, a white shirt, school tie and black school shoes. Please support us in setting the tone and expectations for our school by ensuring your child has the correct uniform. Uniform is extremely important as it shows that we belong to the school community and also removes any peer pressure or need to compete with brands and fashion labels. We will be contacting some parents to ensure students have the correct uniform, particularly footwear. Please ensure your child has plain black shoes for school. Thank you for your continued support.



Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK



7

Elessio 7AOP
Talha 7MFO
Ellie 7OCA
Jessica 7YGR



8

Alisha 8EAJ
Reo 8KSN
Blake 8NHU
Emily 8RSW

9

Oliver 9HWH
Eva 9AYO
Max 9LWI
Henry 9WDA

10

Ryys 10 ABA
Noah 10 CMC
Cameron 10 DWI
Artem 10 JPE
Zach 10ASC

11

Hamza 11 API
Lauren 11DRA
Alfie 11ECU
Maisie 11ECV
Casey 11MMO
Miya-Elize 11 MTU

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



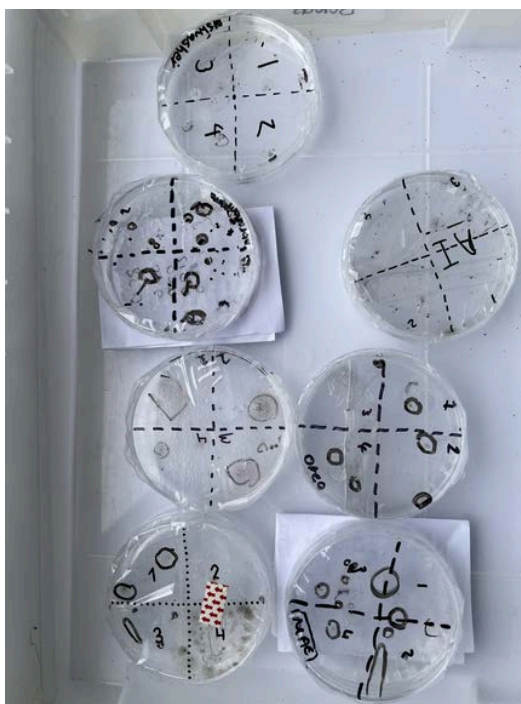
CURRICULUM UPDATE : SCIENCE

"Which part of school has the most germs? Specifically, bacteria? Our Year 10 Triple Science students sought out to answer these questions using the rigorous scientific process taught to them by their science teachers. Part of the "culturing microorganisms" subunit of biology, students were tasked with discovering which factors affect the growth of bacteria on agar plates and being able to calculate the percentage coverage of bacteria on their plates.

Before their work experience weeks and the easter break, student groups chose four areas to swab from and incubate their microorganisms onto their plates in their area of choice. This was to test the amount of bacteria found in those areas and how the factors of temperature, light intensity and moisture affect the growth of the microorganisms.

Returning from their break, students were given the opportunity return to their groups and calculate the coverage of bacteria atop their plates. They used the formula: πr^2 to calculate the total surface area of their plates, various area formulas to calculate the area covered by bacteria, and the final formula:

7 teams competed to have the highest percentage coverage, with various sources of bacteria ranging from the back of a radiator to my very own keyboard or mouse! Overall, all the students did amazingly, able to incubate various bacterial and fungal cultures and even some very interesting red fungus found on the windowsill. However, one team came out on top, with Amy , Phoebe , and Isabella , taking home the prize of two large chocolate bars. Henry , and Lewis , were second, taking home one large chocolate bar. I hope they shared them."



Mr Yoon
Science Teacher



SEND FEEDBACK

New Online Route for SEND and Inclusion Feedback

Lancashire County Council are making it easier for families, young people and professionals to share feedback about SEND and Inclusion services.

A new, streamlined online feedback system is now available, providing a single, clear route for all compliments, comments and complaints. This helps us ensure feedback is logged consistently, tracked properly, and responded to more effectively.

The updated “Give feedback about a SEND service” webpage explains the process clearly and directs users straight to the correct online form. This makes it simpler for families to:

- Tell them what is working well
- Suggest improvements
- Raise concerns about SEND and Inclusion services

Your feedback plays an important role in helping us and the LA understand experiences and improve services for children and young people with SEND.

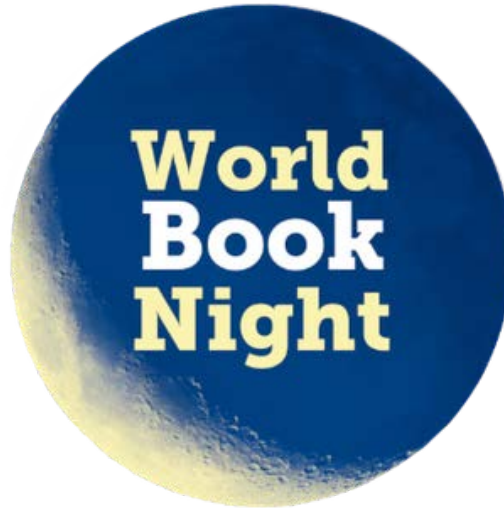
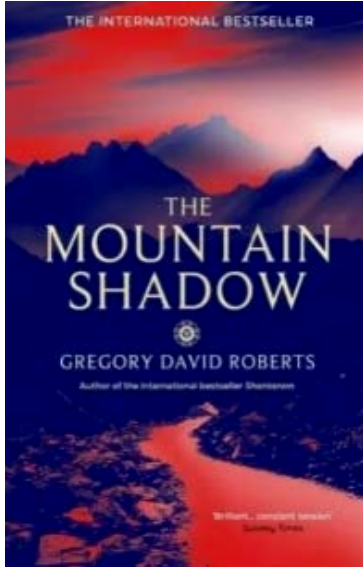
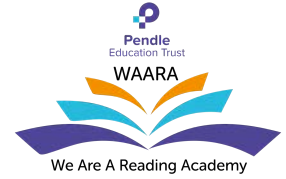
Give feedback about a SEND service – Lancashire County Council

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/getting-help/complain-about-a-send-service/>



The librarian loves

The Mountain Shadow by Gregory David Roberts. This book is a sequel to Shantaram, which I read earlier in the year. This is a complex book, with a large cast of characters. I will read something lighter when I have finished this novel.



Get ready for World Book Night this 23 April. Between 7pm and 8pm, join readers across the country for an hour dedicated entirely to books. You can take part in any way that suits you—share a story with your family, listen to a free Quick Read on Spotify, or just curl up on your own. However you choose to join in, enjoy the time and happy reading.

If you are looking for a read for World Book Night, come along to the library and have a look at the “Quick Reads” display. These books have short chapters and are a perfect choice to read before bed.

Word of the week

Subterfuge is a noun and it means using deceit to achieve a goal. This word originated from the Latin verb subterfugere, meaning “to escape, evade.” That word combines the prefix subter-, meaning “secretly” (from the adverb subter, meaning “underneath”) with the verb fugere, which means “to flee” and which is also the source of words such as fugitive and refuge, among others.



The poet Benjamin Zephaniah was born on the 15th April 1958. He was dyslexic and he left school at 13 unable to read or write, and was imprisoned for burglary. His first book of poems was published when he was 22. One of his poems is reproduced below:



We Refugees

I come from a musical place
Where they shoot me for my song
And my brother has been tortured
By my brother in my land.

I come from a beautiful place
Where they hate my shade of skin
They don't like the way I pray
And they ban free poetry.

I come from a beautiful place
Where girls cannot go to school
There you are told what to believe
And even young boys must grow beards.

I come from a great old forest
I think it is now a field
And the people I once knew
Are not there now.

We can all be refugees
Nobody is safe,
All it takes is a mad leader
Or no rain to bring forth food,
We can all be refugees
We can all be told to go,
We can be hated by someone
For being someone.

I come from a beautiful place
Where the valley floods each year
And each year the hurricane tells us
That we must keep moving on.

I come from an ancient place
All my family were born there
And I would like to go there
But I really want to live.

I come from a sunny, sandy place
Where tourists go to darken skin
And dealers like to sell guns there
I just can't tell you what's the price.

I am told I have no country now
I am told I am a lie
I am told that modern history books
May forget my name.

We can all be refugees
Sometimes it only takes a day,
Sometimes it only takes a handshake
Or a paper that is signed.
We all came from refugees
Nobody simply just appeared,
Nobody's here without a struggle,
And why should we live in fear
Of the weather or the troubles?
We all came here from somewhere.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – SUMMER TERM 1

West Craven High School (Summer term 1)



After School Clubs

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>Cricket (Year 7 & 8)</p> 	<p>Rounders Year 9 & 10</p> 		<p>Cricket (Year 9 & 10)</p> 	<p>Art Room M10</p> 
<p>French Club Room G3 Year 10s</p> 			<p>Science Club Room G4</p> 	
<p>Library Homework club</p>	<p>Library Homework club</p>	<p>Library Homework club</p>	<p>Library Homework club</p>	
<p>Rounders Yr 7 & 8</p> 	<p>Band club Main Hall</p> 		<p>SEN Homework Club Room G6</p>	
	<p>Stage Door Drama Club 3:30pm – 4:45pm Room T1/2</p> 		<p>Imogen's dance School 3:30pm-4:30pm Gym</p> 	

OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

Out of School Achievement – Bella

At the start of the holidays, Bella McCredie travelled to Sheepmount Stadium in Carlisle to compete in the Northern 5km Road Championships. Despite extremely challenging conditions – with hailstones, strong winds and heavy rain battering the course mid-race – Bella showed fantastic determination and resilience.

Undeterred by the weather, Bella finished an impressive 10th place overall, setting a new personal best time of 20:30. This was an incredible achievement, shaving a whole minute off her previous 5km time from last year.

Looking ahead, Bella is now preparing for the 2026 outdoor track season, where she will be competing in the 800m, shot put, discus and the 4x400m relay as part of the North West Premier Division Youth Development League, representing Blackburn Harriers & AC.

A huge well done to Bella – we wish her every success for the season ahead



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

Support for FREE school meals

Support accessing Free School Meals

If your child does not already have Free School Meals, you may be eligible if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, not entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work

You can apply online, or there is information about how to apply by phone and post on the Lancashire County Council website: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>

Applications need to go directly to Lancashire County Council and not to the school. If you would like support or need assistance with completing Free School Meal forms, or also travel pass application forms, you can contact the ELLIE Centre at Barden Campus. The phone number for parents/carers is 01282 682275 and the ELLIE Centre is open to parents/carers Monday – Friday 09:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. during term-time.

Drop in and see us:

Monday to Friday 9am – 1pm

**ELLIE at The Faith Centre, The Burnley Exchange, Barden Lane, Burnley,
Lancashire. BB10 1JD**

East Lancashire
Learning and Information Exchange





kooth

Exams can be tough.

They're supposed to test you, and sometimes that can be overwhelming. But we're here if it ever feels too much.

With free, confidential support, you can talk to a professional, read how others might be feeling the same or take a moment to write down your thoughts.



Visit **Kooth.com** to explore the many ways Kooth can support you.

NHS

Providing NHS services



BURNLEY COLLEGE
SIXTH FORM CENTRE



Sixth Form Centre

Year 7-11 Open Evening

In Year 7 or 8?

Explore our campus and explore your options.

- ✓ Find out about your different pathways/subjects at College?
- ✓ Get advice choosing the GCSEs you need for your dream career

In Year 9, 10 or 11?

Plan the perfect pathway to achieve your goals.

- ✓ Get advice and guidance on your future
- ✓ Check out our unrivalled enrichment activities
- ✓ Hear from the Principal and Tutors
- ✓ Be among the first to sign up for our free taster sessions, BC Programmes
- ✓ Apply on the night (for year 11s)

Save the Date

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY | 5.30PM - 8PM

A LEVELS | VOCATIONAL STUDY | THEMIS APPRENTICESHIPS | T LEVELS



www.westcraven.co.uk



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



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 20th April - Lancashire Sexual Health Team visit
- 20th April - Nelson and Colne College PSHE Visit
- 27th April - Year 10 - Careers Meetings
- 30th April - Year 10 Parents Evening
- 4th May - Bank Holiday - School closed
- 11th May - Mental Health Awareness Week
- 18th May - Nelson and Colne College PSHE Visit
- 22nd May - End of school Term



OUR COMMUNITY

Community Advertisements

In this section of our newsletter, we share posters for local events, activities, and charities.

If you would like us to advertise a community event or club, please email jvetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk.

Please note that West Craven High School is not affiliated with these organisations and cannot endorse the events, promotions, or clubs. We will only feature events that we consider appropriate for our school community.

We are
Community

Stay connected, follow us on Facebook and Instagram

A very warm welcome to all our new Year 7 families! We are thrilled to have you join the West Craven High School community. To stay updated on school news, student achievements, important events, and reminders, we encourage all parents and carers to follow our official Facebook and Instagram pages.



West Craven High School



WestCraven.Barnoldswick



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 15-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2025, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or sextortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 380 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the first five months alone, police received an average of 117 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

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