

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Friday 8th May

Dear Parents / Carers

This week a group of our students went across to Nelson Colne College to pitch their ideas for developing Sustainable projects in school. All the judges were impressed with the thought behind the ideas presented and the passion that our children showed during the presentation. They were brilliant ambassadors of all our schools and they received £300 to implement their 'cycle to school' scheme at West Craven. Watch this space for more information about the scheme.

The Year 11 students start their written exams next week with English Literature the first exam on Monday for all students. We are providing breakfast and revision sessions for all morning exams from 8am. The students have prepared well for these exams and we are still supporting them throughout the exam period. We don't have traditional 'study leave', as we want to work with the students right up to the last exam. We ask Year 11 to attend school every day until May half term because they still have exams in most of their subjects, so their lessons are still relevant. After May half term we have timetabled revision sessions for students to attend for the exams they have left. At this point they will need to sign in and out of school to attend these sessions. They will be free to go home if they don't have an exam or revision session. This afternoon the Year 11s enjoyed an ice-cream in a moment of sunshine in the quad garden to say well done for their hard work ready for Monday.

It isn't just Year 11 attendance that's important. Department for Education (DfE) research and independent research shows that students' chances of gaining GCSEs at grade 5 nearly doubles when their attendance is 95% or above. Students across the country who go on to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths have an average attendance of 96.3%. Students who go on to get grade 4s in English and Maths had an average attendance of 94.8%. Those students who didn't achieve a grade 4 in English and Maths had an average of attendance of 91.2%, just above what the DfE define as Persistent Absence. Only 35.6% of students who are defined as having Persistent Absence (lower than 90% attendance) went on to achieve above a grade 4 in English and Maths at GCSE. Our purpose as a school is to ensure that young people are able and ready to move on to the next stage in their journey after Secondary School. It is not my opinion, but a fact that attendance is key to ensuring that students perform to the best of their ability. This doesn't mean there are not, occasionally, genuine reasons why students occasionally need time off school, but please ensure that your child is in school each day to get the most from their time with us.

We currently hold the Leading Parent Partnership Award. We know that as a school it's important that we work in partnership with all parents and carers. Increasing parental participation in school life leads to improved punctuality, attendance, behaviour and, ultimately, better outcomes for young people. We would like to get your views and we are eager to continually improve. In order to evaluate this work, we would ask parents to complete the short survey. It should only take a couple of minutes. You can find the link to the survey [here](#)

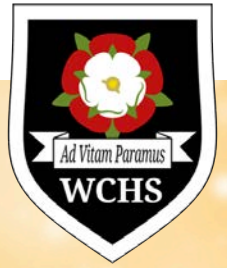
Thank you for your continued support.



Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK



7

Zoya 7 AOP
Caiden 7MFO
Charlie 7OCA
Maryam 7 YGR



8

Emily 8 EAJ
Corey 8 KSN
Emily 8 NHU
Olivia 8 RSW

9

Max 9 HWH
Anayah 9AYO
Peter 9 LWI
Bobbie-Jane 9 WDA

10

Christopher 10 ABA
Henry 10 CMC
Ayesha 10 DWI
Brycen 10 JPE
Jordan 10 ASC

11

Grace 11 API
Bella 11 DRA
Milo 11ECU
Grace 11 MBA
Aaron 11 MMO
Anya 11MYU

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



CURRICULUM UPDATE : ENGLISH

English Department Update

It has been a busy and engaging time in English, with students across all year groups developing their reading, writing and speaking skills.

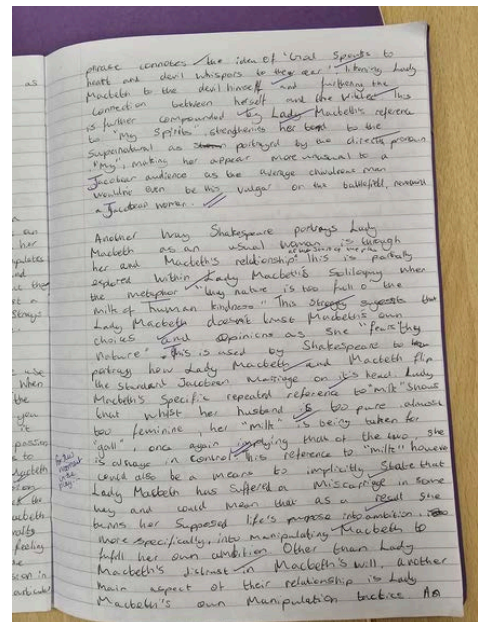
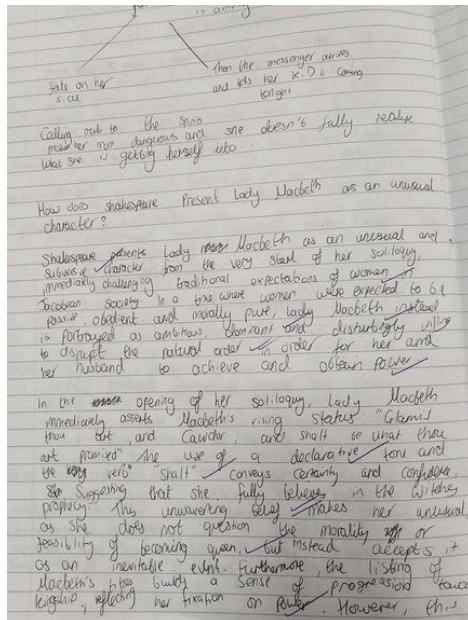
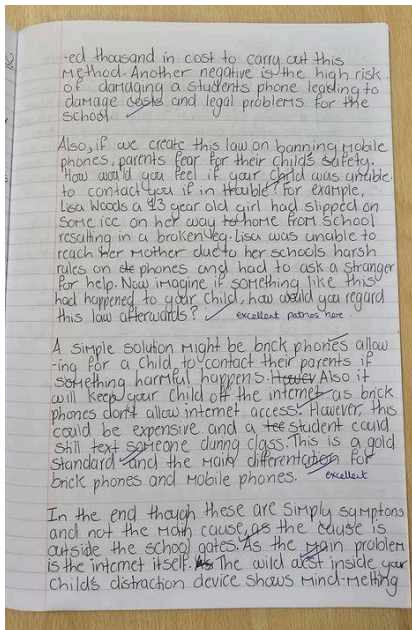
Year 7 have been exploring Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. As part of their learning, they completed a creative writing task imagining they had a servant and giving instructions. We received some wonderfully imaginative and often very funny responses, including one student who wished for snow so they didn't have to come to school!

Year 8 have been reading *A River Runs Gold*, exploring themes around refugees. We have been particularly impressed by their maturity and their willingness to read aloud in class. Developing oracy skills is a key part of our curriculum, and it has been fantastic to see their confidence growing.

Year 9 have been studying *Animal Farm*, alongside learning about the context of the Russian Revolution. This work is helping them to build the knowledge and analytical skills they will need as they move towards their GCSE studies.

Year 10 are currently studying *An Inspector Calls*. It has been brilliant to see so many students enthusiastically taking on roles and acting out scenes in class, bringing the play to life and deepening their understanding.

Year 11 students are now fully focused on revision ahead of their upcoming exams. We are very proud of their effort and commitment, and we look forward to sharing some examples of their work with you.



Ms D Murray
School Improvement Lead
including English & Literacy



Pendle Education Trust Sustainability Fund Event

Pendle Education Trust Sustainability Fund Event

Students from across Pendle Education Trust came together for an inspiring and impactful Sustainability Fund event, hosted at Nelson and Colne College. Representatives from West Craven High School, Colne Primet Academy, Casterton Primary Academy, Castercliff Primary Academy and Pendle Primary Academy all took part, pitching innovative ideas to reduce their school's carbon footprint.

In a "Dragons' Den"-style format, students presented their proposals to an expert panel of judges, including representatives from Silentnight, Reed Recruitment and Taylor Shaw Catering Services, alongside Nelson and Colne College and the CEO of Pendle Education Trust.

The creativity and passion on display were exceptional. Students shared a wide range of ideas, from promoting cycling to school and reducing car usage, to developing school gardens, composting initiatives and other environmentally conscious projects.

It was a fantastic day that truly highlighted the commitment of our young people to sustainability and environmental responsibility. We are delighted that funding has now been awarded, enabling students to bring their ideas to life and make a real difference within their school communities.

We look forward to seeing these projects develop and the positive impact they will have across the Trust.



Pendle Education Trust Sustainability Fund Event

West Craven Students Shine at Sustainability Fund Event

A huge well done to our students from West Craven High School who recently took part in the Pendle Education Trust Sustainability Fund event. The event brought together schools from across the Trust to pitch innovative ideas aimed at reducing their carbon footprint—and our students represented us brilliantly.

Amy, Summer, Eva, and Evan delivered an impressive proposal focused on encouraging more students to cycle to school as a way of reducing emissions and promoting healthier lifestyles. As part of their plan, they identified that our current bike shed is in need of repair. The students proposed using funding to refurbish the space, including installing new panels and creating a more welcoming and secure area for bikes.

Alongside the improvements, they also plan to lead a student-led campaign across school. This will include assemblies, posters, and leaflets designed to raise awareness and encourage more students to choose cycling as a sustainable alternative to travelling by car.

We are incredibly proud of their creativity, confidence, and commitment to making a positive difference to our environment. Well done to everyone involved!



YEAR 11 EXAM BOOSTER SESSIONS

As part of our continued support for Year 11 students during the GCSE exam period, we will be launching a programme of exam booster and revision sessions from Monday 11th May.

These sessions will run throughout the week and are designed to help students feel confident, prepared and ready for their exams. Morning booster sessions will be available across a range of subjects, alongside revision and support sessions taking place throughout the school day and during the week.

To help students start the day positively, breakfast will be provided for those attending the morning sessions from 8am - booster starts at 8:15am.

Please see next week's exam booster timetable below, if you can encourage your child to add these sessions to their diary and attend wherever possible. These extra sessions will provide valuable revision, exam practice and final preparation ahead of their GCSE exams.

The following sessions can be found on our website here [Booster Sessions](#).



Year 11 EXAM Booster Sessions

	Monday 11/05/26	Tuesday 12/05/26	Wednesday 13/05/26	Thursday 14/05/26	Friday 15/05/26
8.00am -8.45am	English booster		Geography Booster	Maths Booster	History booster
Form time	AQA English Literature Paper 1 1hr 45m		AQA Geography Paper 1 1hr 30m	EdExcel Mathematics Paper 1 (Non Calculator) F/H 1hr 30m	AQA History Paper 1 2hrs
Period 1					
Period 2					
Period 3	Business Booster	Science booster			
12.25pm - 1pm					
Period 4	AQA Business Paper 1 1hr 45m	AQA Combined Science: Trilogy - Biology Paper 1 F/H 1hr 15m AQA Biology Paper 1 F/H 1hr 45m			
Period 5					
After school revision	Science	Geography	Maths	History	



COOKING LESSONS

Year 7 Get Cooking: Quesadillas in Action! 🍌

Our Year 7 students have been busy in the kitchen this week, putting their culinary skills to the test as they learnt how to make delicious quesadillas.

During the lesson, students explored a range of key cooking skills, including preparing ingredients safely, combining flavours, and cooking their quesadillas to perfection. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm, teamwork and creativity on display as students carefully assembled their dishes and experimented with different fillings.

The results looked absolutely amazing, and more importantly, the students were incredibly proud of what they had created. Experiences like this not only build practical life skills but also encourage confidence and independence in the kitchen.

A huge well done to all of our Year 7 students for their fantastic effort—and thank you to the staff for supporting such an engaging an



Mrs Whittle
Head of ART



LIFE IN BARLICK DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Year 9 Step Back in Time: Life in Barlick During the Second World War

Our Year 9 students recently took part in a powerful and engaging History lesson exploring what life was like in Barnoldswick during the Second World War.

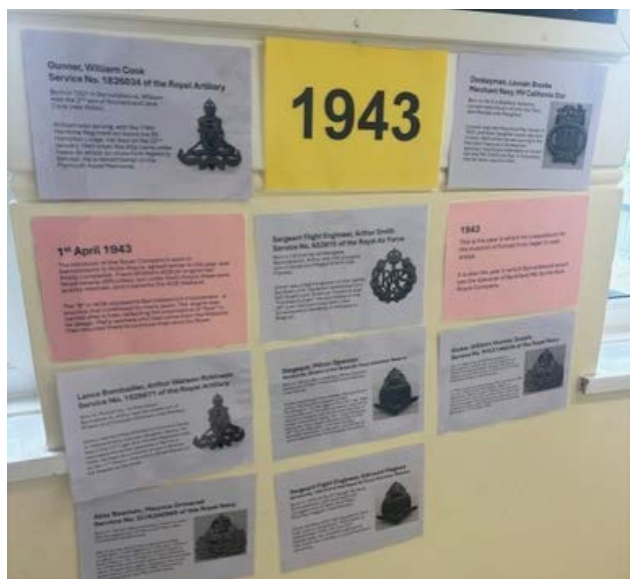
Using real local evidence, students investigated how the war impacted everyday life in our community. Much of their learning was inspired by the work of local historian Peter Ian Thompson, whose research has helped preserve the stories of Barnoldswick's role in times of conflict.

Students were fascinated to discover that history was made right here in Barlick, where a new type of aircraft engine was developed in a former cotton mill. These engines, built by Rolls Royce, were the first of their kind to achieve success in action and remain an important part of the town's proud heritage.

The lesson also encouraged students to reflect on the sacrifices made by local people. They learned that, despite its small size, Barnoldswick gave so much during both world wars, with many men and women leaving home to serve—and far too many never returning. The town's war memorial stands as a lasting tribute, commemorating those who gave their lives, including 75 men and one woman during the Second World War.

As part of the lesson, students worked collaboratively to create a large timeline display in the corridor, transforming the space into a 'museum gallery'. This immersive activity brought history to life, allowing students to visualise key events and better understand the experiences of those who lived through the war.

It was fantastic to see such thoughtful engagement from our students as they explored their local history, showed respect for those who served, and deepened their understanding of the past.



Mr Davidson
Head of
Humanities and
MFL



PASTORAL UPDATE YEAR 10

Firstly, it was lovely to meet and speak with our Year 10 parents, carers and guardians at Parents Evening. I really enjoyed the opportunity to talk about your child and to hear teachers share such positive feedback about how they are getting on. It was reassuring to discuss the bespoke support the school has in place to help your child feel confident, supported and continue to make strong progress.

Secondly: Calling all Y10! Would you like to become a Prefect?

What is a Prefect?

A Prefect is a student who is an ambassador for West Craven High School. They represent the 'West Craven Way' and are role models for the school community. A Prefect is a respected and recognised role within school.

Why should I apply to be a Prefect?

- Gain leadership experience
- West Craven Staff in supporting students
- Be a voice for Y11 and have influence on the Y11 Prom and school events
- Give something back to the community
- Respect from students and staff
- It looks great on college and job applications
- Help with school recruitment processes
- Special tie and badge
- Queue pass for lunch



What is expected from me?

- 2 x break duties per week
- Support in school events where requested (productions, parents' evening + more)
- Model outstanding behaviour and uniform
- Represent the West Craven Way
- Support younger students in school

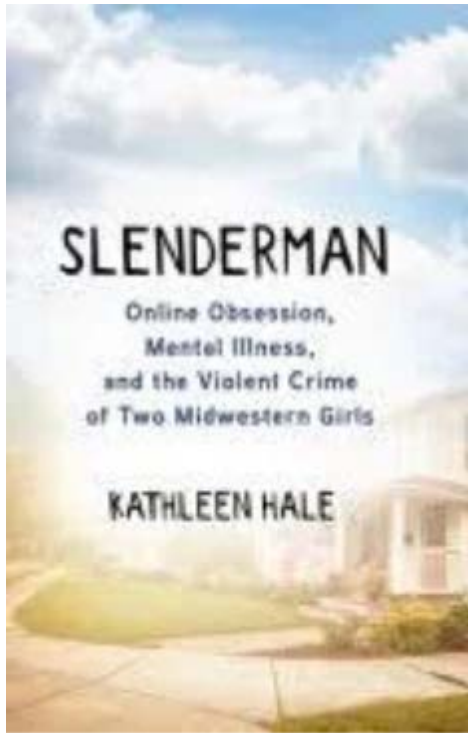
Please collect Prefect Application Form from your form tutors . Once completed hand them into Ms Janjua by 22nd May 2024.

Thanks for all your support.

Regards

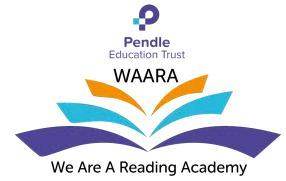


Ms Janjua
Year 10 Pastoral Lead



The librarian loves

The Slenderman by Kathleen Hale. This is a true story about a crime in America that two teenagers committed because of an internet meme. It was recommended to me by a friend.



Michael Rosen was born on the 7th May 1946 in Harrow. He is a renowned poet and he has published over 140 books. One of his best-known books is "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". The poem reproduced below is about his father's uncle and aunt being deported in a cattle truck to Auschwitz Concentration Camp in 1943.



VE Day, observed on the 8th May, marks the formal surrender of Nazi Germany and the end of the Second World War. There is a display of books on World War II in the library.



Clockmender Oscar Rosen and his wife Rachel on Convoy 6, November 1942

What did you think,
as you and Rachel
sat on the floor of the cattle truck
as it left Paris?

Did you think of the watches
and clocks you had mended?
Did you think of the tiny springs
and wheels?

You with your magnifying glass
in your eye poring over the works
so that a Monsieur or a Madame
could tell the time,
correct to the exact second?
Did you think of the smell of the sea
and the push of a boat against
the waves?

How you and Rachel
would stand on the deck
the wind in your faces
as you sailed away?

Did you look
through the gaps in the slats
on the side of the truck?
Did you see farmers in fields?
Women selling clothes in a market?
Did you call out?

Did you push your hands through the gaps?
Did the night come creeping in?
Did you see a light from a window
where people sat and
ate their evening meal?
Did you see in the dark
horror on Rachel's face?

Did she see horror on yours?
Did you shut her eyes?
Did she shut yours?
Thinking of children
who shut their eyes to make
the world go away?
And then

behind your eyelids
did you think of the cattle
that had once stood in the truck
as they were taken away
to the slaughter-house?






EXTRA CURRICULAR – SUMMER TERM 1

We are pleased to share details of our Summer Term 1 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, Cricket, Rounders, 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					
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	
	Choir Lunch time Room G8	Computing All Years Room G11			
	Youth Enterprise / Fundraising Room G11 	Creative Writing Room T8 Year 7 only 			

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 – Dance

A huge congratulations to Katie for her fantastic success at the Own the Floor 2026 dance competition in Warwick. Competing at a very high level, Katie placed 2nd in Senior Lyrical with her routine "Dandelions" and an impressive 4th in Senior Jazz with "I Move On".

As well as these brilliant results, Katie is continuing to develop her passion for dance and will be moving on to begin a coaching qualification in September. She is also preparing for a large showcase performance in Birmingham this November. We are incredibly proud of her dedication, talent and achievements – well done, Katie!



If you would like to share your child's out of school achievements, please contact [**jvetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk**](mailto:jvetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk)



BURNLEY COLLEGE
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



BURNLEY COLLEGE APPLICANT PREVIEW DAY Monday 29 June



MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS GREAT DAY WHERE YOU WILL:

- **Discover** more about your chosen course or Apprenticeship
- **Start to find your way around** the Campus and workshops
- **Ask any questions** about travel, careers advice, university progression and more
- **Get to know** your Tutors and Trainers better.

We're looking forward to welcoming you to Applicant Preview Day, whether you plan to study A Levels, a Vocational course, T Levels or start a Themis Apprenticeship.

**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR
OFFICIAL INVITATION
Coming Soon!**

If you have any questions please contact us
01282 733322 | admissions@burnley.ac.uk

FOLLOW US ON:
  

BURNLEY COLLEGE APPLICANT PREVIEW DAY Monday 29 June

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS GREAT DAY WHERE YOU WILL:

- **Discover** more about your chosen course or Apprenticeship
- **Start to find your way around** the Campus and workshops
- **Ask any questions**
- **Get to know** your Tutors and Trainers.



Sixth Form Centre



www.westcraven.co.uk



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



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- 11th May – Mental Health Awareness Week
- 18th May – Nelson and Colne College PSHE Visit
- 18th May – Local Academy Council Meeting
- 22nd May - End of school term
- 1st June – School Reopens
- 1st June – Nelson and Colne College PSHE Visit
- 4th June – World Environment Day
- 4th June – Year 8 Parents’ Evening
- 8th June – Year 10 1-to-1 Careers Meetings
- 8th June – Nelson and Colne College PSHE Visit
- 9th June – Pendle Schools Music Festival at the Muni



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



LANCASHIRE MUSIC SERVICE

JAZZ DAY



SIGN UP!



SATURDAY 16TH MAY
10AM - 3:30PM

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EAST RD, LANCASTER, LA1 3EF

#WHEREWILLMUSICTAKEYOU



EARBY CRICKET CLUB



JUNIOR PLAYERS NEEDED!



JOIN OUR TEAMS



UNDER
11



UNDER
13



UNDER
15



GIRLS
UNDER
12
SOFTBALL



TRAINING EVERY
FRIDAY

AT
6PM



MAKE FRIENDS



IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS



BE PART OF
SOMETHING GREAT

GET INVOLVED.
HAVE FUN. PLAY CRICKET!



For more information, contact:

EARBY CRICKET CLUB

BARNOLDSWICK CRICKET CLUB

UNDER 13 PLAYERS WANTED!

JOIN OUR EXISTING TEAM



11-13 YEARS
YEARS 7 & 8

- ✓ Hardball Cricket
- ✓ Coaching Provided
- ✓ All Abilities Welcome
New to cricket? No problem!
We'll teach you the basics.



MESSAGE US DIRECTLY
IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE INTERESTED



BE PART OF A GREAT TEAM
MAKE FRIENDS • HAVE FUN • PLAY CRICKET



WE HAVE A FEW SPACES
AVAILABLE – JOIN US!



TAKE YOUR
GAME
FURTHER
WITH US!



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorfy and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.03.2026