

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Friday 15th May

Dear Parents / Carers

I want to say a massive well done to our Year 11s who have faced up to 6 exams this week, including the first Maths, English Literature, and Science papers. I have spoken to the students after every exam. The students have been very positive about how prepared they are and how they feel the exams are going. They have really impressed all of their teachers and we are very proud of the way they are approaching their exams. They need some well-earned rest along with their revision this weekend, and I will see them again for a busy week of exams on Monday. I would just like to clarify the issue around 'Study Leave'. The official leaving date set by the Government is Friday 26th June. Schools do not have the power to authorise 'Study Leave' as an absence at this stage in the year. After half term we have a timetable of revision sessions before key exams, and we ask that students attend these as well as lessons for which they still have an exam to take. After half term, students will be able to sign out if they don't have an exam, lessons or revision session. There is a free breakfast for Year 11 for every morning exam. The Leavers' Assembly will be on the morning of Thursday 18th June and the Prom is on the evening of Thursday 25th June. While Mrs Gartland has moved into a new role, she has worked very hard to ensure that these students are celebrated and have a wonderful send-off from West Craven. Mrs Evetts has picked up the reigns for the prom and I am looking forward to celebrating with Year 11. Until then, our focus is on ensuring they are prepared, motivated, and looked after during the exams.

I am really pleased to say that the vast majority of our students are setting exemplary standards of behaviour, especially around the exam hall and additional rooms. However, we have a small number of students who are not showing the respect to their fellow students during this exam season. Similarly, a small number of our students are not upholding our school values in their interactions with visitors and supply staff. We expect all of our students to move around the building calmly, with pace and purpose to their next lesson. We expect students to be in their lessons working to the best of their ability no matter what the work who their teacher is. I can not prevent a teacher from becoming ill, but I can insist that our students work to the same high standards in every lesson and treat everyone in our community with the same respect. I taught an English and Maths lesson today and the students were fantastic – we covered a lot of ground on An Inspector Calls and the angles of a parallelogram!

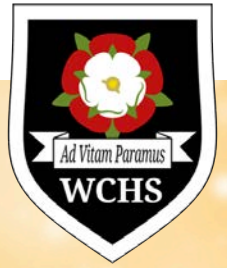
Finally, I would like to thank you for continuing to work with us to make West Craven the best school for this community. We are really grateful for those parents working with us to improve their child's attendance and punctuality. We are looking for more opportunities to engage with our community beyond our parents evenings and events. Watch this space for ways to get involved and talk to us at coffee mornings and informal events. We are also eager to work with all interested stakeholders in our community, including local police, business owners, residents, and parents, to work together to make Barnoldswick the community we all want it to be! If there is something you think the school can be involved in or help support, please get in touch with us.



Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK



7

Alex 7AOP
Libby 7 MFO
Callum 7OCA
Jessica 7 YGR



8

Jordan 8 EAJ
Evie 8KSN
Rita 8NHU
Liam 8 RSW

9

Bradley 9 HWH
Alec 9 AYO
Laaibah 9 LWI
Tom 9 WDA

10

Kaiden 10ABA
Eva 10 KMC
Anna 10 DWI
Isaac 10 JPE
Kai 10 ASC

11

Faye 11 API
Lauren 11 DRA
Georgia 11ECU
Harry 11 MBA
Antonina 11 MMO
Jamal 11MYU

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



My Most Esteemed Readers,

It is with great delight – and perhaps a small cup of coffee on the table – that I take quill to parchment to recount the splendours of our summer term in science.

The season has been nothing short of marvellous. Our devoted Science Club has dazzled the corridors with wonders most extraordinary: giant bubbles drifting through the air, large enough to rival a Labrador in stature, and elephant toothpaste eruptions so exuberant they might well have startled the ton itself. Truly, the spirit of discovery has never shone brighter.

Across the year groups, curiosity has flourished.

Year 9 have ventured boldly into the mysteries of energy transfer, conducting practical's that would impress even the most seasoned natural philosopher.

Year 8 have explored chemical reactions, including those that burst into flame upon meeting water – a spectacle worthy of any grand soirée.

And our enchanting Year 7 pupils have been utterly mesmerised by the array of chemical reaction practical's, their eyes alight with the thrill of scientific revelation.

We now turn our thoughts, with pride and affection, to our distinguished Year 11 cohort. As they commence their examinations this week, we wish them every success. May they stride confidently toward their GCSE triumphs and the bright futures that await them.

But, dear reader, the delights do not end here. The summer promises further marvels:

- Ice-cream making, a delicious exploration of states of matter
- Boyle's Law marshmallows, expanding with all the drama of a ballroom scandal
- And a solar-powered BBQ grill, proving that even the sun itself is eager to join our scientific festivities

Such hot topics indeed.

And so, gentle readers, I close this missive with the hope that my humble quill shall grace these pages again in due course.

Until then, I remain,

Yours in curiosity and wonder,



Mr Snyman
Science Teacher

THE ADDAMS FAMILY EXPERIENCE



The Addams Family Experience – Summer Show 2026

We are delighted to invite families and members of our local community to our much-anticipated summer production of The Addams Family Experience! Our talented students have been working incredibly hard alongside Stage Door Youth Theatre to bring this exciting and entertaining musical to life, and we cannot wait to share it with you.

The performance will take place on **Tuesday 14th July 2026 from 6:00pm – 7:00pm** at West Craven High School.

This is a free event, and everyone is warmly welcome to attend. To help us manage numbers, we kindly ask that tickets are booked in advance via our Eventbrite page.

[Click here to book tickets](#)

We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating the fantastic achievements of our students in what promises to be a brilliant evening of entertainment.



AI ACADEMY WORKSHOP INSPIRES FUTURE SKILLS

AI Academy: A Day of Innovation and Discovery

Our students recently took part in an exciting AI Academy day, a hands-on experience exploring the world of artificial intelligence, machine learning and future technology careers.

The day began with a big question: is AI actually magic? Students quickly discovered that the answer is no, AI works by spotting patterns in data and making predictions. They put this to the test using interactive tools like Quick, Draw!, where an AI guesses doodles in real time.

As the day progressed, students explored generative AI, learning how to write effective prompts to create images. A highlight was the prompt battles, where they competed to see who could produce the most creative and accurate results, learning just how important precise language is when working with AI.

Students then stepped into the role of AI engineers, building their own image recognition models to classify games controllers and even training an AI to play a golf game using data they collected themselves.

In the final session, students designed and created their own AI-powered Scratch projects, choosing from a range of creative and technical challenges. They proudly shared their work with their peers and voted for their favourites to round off the day.

Throughout the experience, students developed valuable skills including problem solving, creativity, data literacy and critical thinking – while also gaining an insight into exciting careers in technology, from Machine Learning Engineer to AI Ethics Researcher.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Supporting Student Wellbeing at West Craven High School

At West Craven High School, supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students is a key priority. Recently, students have been taking part in a range of activities designed to help them relax, reflect and feel supported during the busy school term.



Throughout the week, pupils have enjoyed opportunities such as mindful colouring, creative activities and quiet reflection time. These sessions provide valuable moments for students to pause, unwind and focus on their wellbeing, helping them to build positive habits for managing everyday pressures.

We have also encouraged students to spend time outdoors where possible, recognising the powerful impact that fresh air, movement and nature can have on both physical and mental health.

Our staff have created calm, welcoming spaces where students feel comfortable to talk, share or simply take a break when needed. This ongoing support ensures that every young person feels safe, valued and cared for.

We are incredibly proud of how our students have engaged with these activities and supported one another. By continuing to prioritise wellbeing, we are helping to create a positive environment where every student can thrive.

Supporting Our Year 11 Students Through Exam Stress

With exams now underway, we know this can be a challenging time for our Year 11 students and their families. Managing stress is just as important as revising, and we want to support you in helping your child feel calm, confident and prepared. The NHS has produced some helpful advice for parents on how to recognise signs of stress and support young people during exam season. We encourage you to take a look at the guidance and use the tips to support your child at home.

[Click here to find out more](#)



ECO BARNOLDSWICK EVENT

'Eco Barnoldswick are inviting everyone to join their Great Big Green Week event at the Frank St Centre on Saturday 6 June 10am til 3pm.

Last year's clothes and plant swap was a huge success so we'll be doing these again. Time to start checking your wardrobes and plants for items to bring along for swapping and donating. Nothing to swap? No worries just pop in with a donation and pick up something new.

Shocked by the fact that over one billion items of clothing in the UK end up in landfill each year, Art Club pupils at WCHS have been busy up cycling some items which we'll be showcasing on the day.

There'll also be some fun activities for people of all ages to come along and turn fabric scraps into pieces of art, and we'll be starting work on an 'community weave' collaborative art project to share stories of fashion over the years

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

Eco Barnoldswick Swap Shop
Frank Street Centre Barnoldswick
6th June 2026 10am - 3pm

Come along to the Eco Barnoldswick Swap Shop - a fun filled day of swapping, sharing and sustainability! Refresh your wardrobe and give your pre-loved items a second life. Pick up some new greenery at the plant swap.

Bring the kids too - we've got creative craft activities to keep them busy while you browse and mingle.

Creative weaving to take home

Clothes Swap
Have clothes you no longer wear?
Looking to refresh your wardrobe sustainably? Join us for a clothes swap!!

Plant Swap
Got extra cuttings, seedlings, or houseplants looking for a new home? Join us for a fun and eco-friendly way to share your green treasures and meet fellow plant enthusiasts.

An exhibition of sustainable fashion by the pupils of West Craven High School

Refreshments

eco barnoldswick



PASTORAL UPDATE YEAR 11

As we continue through a very important period in the school year, we would like to take a moment to praise our Year 11 students for how well they have conducted themselves during the GCSE examinations that have taken place this week. They have shown excellent focus, maturity and determination, and we are incredibly proud of their positive approach.

We are also pleased to see that the morning booster sessions have been very well attended. These sessions are a valuable opportunity for additional support and last-minute revision, and we encourage students to continue making the most of them in the weeks ahead.

We encourage you to talk to your child about how they are revising and to support them in maintaining regular, short revision routines at home - small, consistent efforts can make a significant difference at this stage.

How parents/carers can help at home:

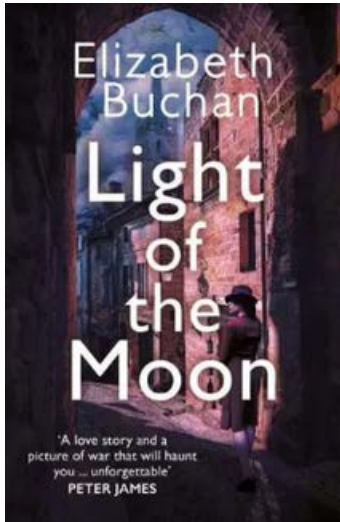
- Ask your child to explain what they've revised
- Talking through their learning helps strengthen understanding and build confidence.
- Encourage short, regular revision sessions
- Little and often (10–20 minutes) is much more effective than last-minute cramming.
- Support the use of revision strategies
- Ask your child to show you their flashcards, mind maps or brain dumps—quizzing them can be particularly helpful.
- Create a calm space and routine for study
- A quiet, consistent environment and a simple routine can greatly improve focus.

Finally, to further support students, we will soon be introducing their Education Record apps. All Year 11 students should bring their phones into school on Thursday 21st May so that we can support them in setting this up and ensure they can access it moving forward.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support during this busy and important time.

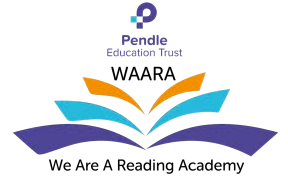


Mr M Balal
Assistant Principal
Whole School Data
& Director of Maths




The librarian loves

The Light of the Moon by Elizabeth Buchan. It is set in France during the Second World War and tells the story of an English SOE officer who embarks upon a forbidden relationship with a German Abwehr officer. I am only a few chapters in, but I am thoroughly enjoying it.



Book Bingo Challenge

The English Department are running a Book Bingo Challenge this half term! Can you complete the board by reading a range of different books and genres? From mystery and adventure to classics and fantasy, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

 Read the books over half term and complete your bingo card for the chance to win prizes!

Completed entries should be returned to the English Department after the holidays.

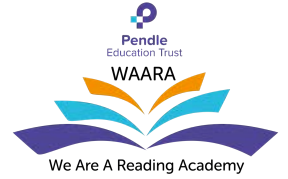
Happy reading – and good luck!

Book Reading Bingo

A female lead character.	A book about sport.	A story with an animal in it.	A mystery to solve.	A funny book.
A hardback book.	A true story.	A science fiction book.	A book with no pictures inside.	A story set in a fictional world.
A book over 100 pages long.	An instructional book.	A book about a group of friends.	A book that has been made into a film.	A book that includes diary entries.
A character with a superpower.	Historical facts.	A book set in a different country.	A story with magic.	A biography.

WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

2026 is the National Year of Reading, the theme “Go All In” encourages people to connect reading with their passions. If you enjoy football and you are looking forward to the FA Cup final this weekend, the library has a book for you. If Eurovision is more your thing, there are lots of books available on playing musical instruments.



Word of the Week

Serendipity is a noun and it means the unexpected good luck you get when you find things without looking for them.







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

A huge congratulations to Bella on her fantastic athletics success! Bella competed in the Lancashire Track & Field Championships at Stanley Park, Blackpool, where she ran an excellent race in the U18 women's 800m, finishing in an impressive 3rd place.

Following this achievement, Bella has been selected to represent the Lancashire Team once again – an incredible honour – and will proudly compete for her county for the third consecutive year at the Northern Inter-Counties on 25 May in Shildon, County Durham.

We are extremely proud of Bella's dedication, talent and continued success, and we wish her the very best of luck in her upcoming race!

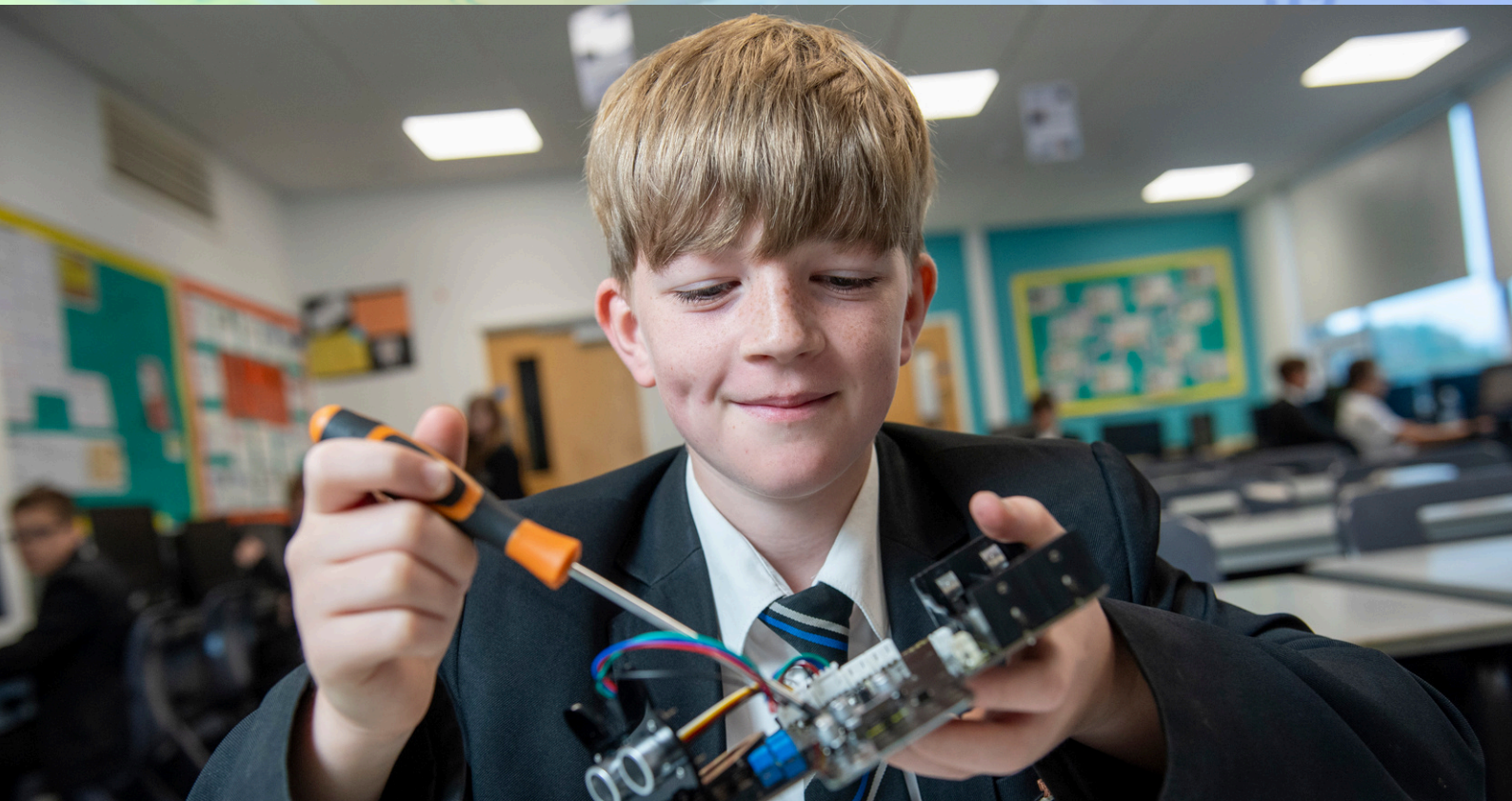


If you would like to share your child's out of school achievements, please contact jevetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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
- 18th June - Year 10 Barclays Life Skills Session 4
- 22nd June - Year 10 One to One Careers Sessions
- 22nd June - NCC PSHE Visit Year 7
- 25th June - Year 11 Prom - Crow Wood
- 2nd July - Year 6 - Transition Day / Evening
- 3rd July - Year 10 taster session at NCC
- 7th July - Summer concert and GCSE Art exhibition
- 14th July - Adams Family Experience 6-7pm
- 22nd July - End of term - student dismissed at 1pm



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

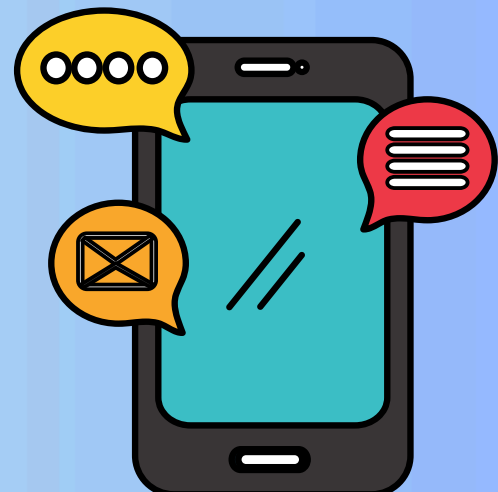
A very warm welcome to all our new Year 7 families! We are thrilled to have you join the West Craven High School community. To stay updated on school news, student achievements, important events, and reminders, we encourage all parents and carers to follow our official Facebook and Instagram pages.



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!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WINK

AGE RATING
13+



Wink is a messaging app which allows children to connect and communicate with other users. In a similar style to Tinder, Wink uses the swipe method for browsing profiles and accepting or declining them. Once two users have accepted each other by swiping on one another's profile, they can then communicate and play games online together. The fact that Wink allows children to share photos, personal information and their location with other users has caused significant concern.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POTENTIAL FOR GROOMING

Wink accounts can't be made private – so when a young person uploads images and shares their social media usernames, it's easier for potential groomers to stalk and locate them online. The fact that children prioritise having an abundance of friends is also a concern: they're more likely to accept someone just to build their friend count – possibly including users with sinister intentions.

ACCIDENTAL OVER-SHARING

Many young people don't consider privacy when they choose to share their social media usernames on their Wink profile. This allows other people to connect with them on multiple platforms, strengthening their online presence and reputation. Some children post photos which reveal aspects of their personal life to other users – showing their house, school, friends and family, for instance.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many popular messaging apps contain profiles featuring profanity, nude or semi-nude photos and users openly looking for a "wink" or "hook up". Users can send messages anonymously, which engenders a sense of power and freedom. Children often engage in inappropriate behaviour more willingly when it's anonymous, even if it's not the sort of thing they would take part in normally.

CYBERBULLYING

Being anonymous online provides some users with an incentive to bully others through toxic private conversations. Anonymous bullies can send hurtful messages or pressure young people into sending inappropriate content. Being a victim of cyberbullying can result in children becoming depressed and showing low self-esteem. If your child is exhibiting these signs, it's time to step in.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Wink encourages repeated engagement through signing in daily, making connections, building up a message 'streak' and publicly sharing stories. The reward is 'gems', which allow users to connect with more people, play games and edit their profile background. This can lead to children spending an excessive amount of screen time on the app, which of course can be detrimental to their health.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If you do decide to allow your child to have a Wink account – or you find that they already have one – it's vital to talk to them about how to use the app responsibly and keep themselves safe. You could also consider exploring Wink yourself and becoming familiar with the app before letting your child download it, as there are no security settings or parental controls that can be put into place.

BE WARY OF SHARING

It's important that your child stays aware of what they're sharing online. Remind them about the importance of not posting personal information like their full name or which school they go to. Many users share their other social media account details on Wink to build their friend count, but we would recommend advising your child not to give strangers multiple avenues to contact them.

BALANCE SCREEN TIME

Before having a chat with your child about screen time, ask yourself: if you're being a positive role model, get your child thinking about how much time they spend on the app: is it healthy? Is it affecting their offline relationships with people? Is it impacting their mood? If so, you could suggest some activities you can do together which aren't so reliant on digital technology.

OFFER YOUR SUPPORT

While it's not always easy to talk about inappropriate content with your child, it's crucial that they understand the impact of sending or receiving it. They also need to feel that they can speak to you about it without worrying about consequences. Emphasise that, if your child receives any messages that make them feel uncomfortable, they can block the sender and report them to the app.

DISCUSS LOSS OF OWNERSHIP

It's essential that young people understand that once content goes online, the sender no longer has any control over where it will end up. While your child may feel like they can trust their online 'friends', that person is still a stranger, even sharing an inappropriate image, for example, could then be used as leverage – as their 'friend' threatens to release it publicly unless the child sends more.

BE CAUTIOUS OF NEW CONTACTS

Remind your child that not everyone online is who they say they are, and some users have harmful intentions. If someone on Wink is asking them lots of personal questions or suggests meeting up in real life, these are definite red flags. Encourage your child to ask for help if they're unsure about a particular profile. Remember, the app has a block button: your child shouldn't be afraid to use it!

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Suthal and is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government regarding Internet use and sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday