

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Friday 3rd July

Dear Parents / Carers

On Thursday, we welcomed our new Year 7 students for their induction day. The students carried out science experiments to complete their 'egg drop', did some tricky Maths about their favourite foods, and each received a free reading book from our school library. The children had a great day and came back with their parents in the evening. The students and their parents got to meet their new form tutors and ask any questions they still had about starting in September. I hope our new students and parents already feel very much part of our community and have everything they need for September. We look forward to greeting them on Thursday 3rd September.

It was also a busy week with our Year 10 students taking part in a careers trip to Nelson Colne College. They got a chance to experience some of the courses and subjects on offer at the college. It is important that Year 10 start to think about their next steps. We are in an excellent position as a school, surrounded by colleges, universities and employers, who provide a wide range of opportunities for young people. Our job is to try and inform our students about as many of them as possible, so they are inspired to take their next steps after life at West Craven. Please encourage your child to be thinking about careers and discuss this regularly with them. If there is something that your child has an interest in and you need our support in any way, please get in touch with us.

I am very keen to develop our sports teams and to get every student in the school signed up for extra-curricular activities. This year 48% of our students took part in some form of extra-curricular activity. I'd like to get that much higher. We have football, cricket, netball, and athletics competitions. We have a karaoke club, Warhammer club, book club, Art club and more. We also have Stage Door and Imogen's School of Dance offering dance and drama after school. I believe that every child has talents and interests, and we only grow these through practice. Raw talent is a myth; students become great at something when they get the chance to try it and practice. With this in mind, we will be doing a short questionnaire in the new academic year to find out what clubs and activities your child is interested in. Please discuss this at home and encourage your child to get involved. If they play a sport outside of school, maybe they would like to represent the school in competition? Our Art Exhibition and Summer Concert is taking place on Tuesday 7th July. Perhaps your child can play an instrument or sing? We have music lessons, band and choir all taking place in school. We want West Craven to be a place where children are happy and thrive. This happens when they feel part of the school and join in with all we have to offer. If your child is interested in a sport or activity that we don't offer, please let us know because we may have a member of staff who'd like to run it.

Next week is our Summer Concert and Art Exhibition in the main Hall. The Hall opens from 5pm where the students' Art and Design work will be on display. The Music concert starts at 6pm and features a range of musical performances from our talented students. The following week we have our first production for many years; certainly my first stage performance as Principal. The Adams Family is being performed by our students on Tuesday 14th July starting at 6pm. All of these events and performances are free to attend. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to celebrate our fantastic students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK



7

7AOP - Zen
7MFO - Owen
7OCA - Louise
7YGR - Sasha
PYL - Lara

8

8 EAJ - Olivia
8KSN - Hana
8NHU - Blake
8 RSW - Alice
PYL - Tia

9

9 HWH - Ryan
9 AYO - Morgan
9 LWI - Freyja
9 WDA - Hakim
PYL - Shakira

10

10ABA - Holly
10 KMC - Summer
10 DWI - Maddox
10 JPE - Shelby
10 ASC - Joshua
PYL - Elliott

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



PASTORAL UPDATE YEAR 7

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well.

Year 7 have been incredibly busy this term learning all about the world of work. As part of their PSHE lessons, they were fortunate to welcome Paul from Nelson and Colne College into school. Paul delivered engaging and informative sessions that encouraged students to think about their future careers, the skills employers look for, and the many different pathways available after school.

The students took part in a variety of activities designed to help them identify their strengths, interests and aspirations. They explored different job roles, discussed the importance of teamwork and communication, and gained a better understanding of how the choices they make now can help shape their future opportunities. While they briefly explored the opportunities available at college, the main aim was to help students understand the wide range of future career and employment options open to them. They identified the differences between work experience, paid employment, and voluntary work, helping pupils understand how each can support their future career development.

Paul also showed an inspiring video featuring Freddie Flintoff, highlighting the exciting industries, careers, and opportunities available across Lancashire. Year 7 approached these sessions with enthusiasm and maturity, asking thoughtful questions and actively participating in discussions. It has been wonderful to see them developing their confidence and beginning to think about the exciting possibilities that lie ahead. We would like to thank Paul and Nelson and Colne College for their support in helping our students broaden their understanding of the world of work.

Myself and some of our Year 7 students had an amazing time on the recent trip to London and were fantastic ambassadors for the school throughout. They thoroughly enjoyed visits to the Natural History Museum and the National Gallery, where they explored a range of fascinating exhibits and artworks. The group also experienced some of London's most famous landmarks, including Covent Garden, Leicester Square and Buckingham Palace.

In the evenings, students were treated to two unforgettable theatre performances, enjoying both Hercules and Wicked. Their enthusiasm, excellent behaviour and positive attitude made the trip a huge success.

It was a busy few days packed with memorable experiences and learning opportunities. I'm not sure who was more exhausted at the end of it all – the students or me!

As always, thank you for your continued support

Mrs Harper



CURRICULUM UPDATE HISTORY

A Journey Through History

It's been another exciting term in the History Department, with students continuing to explore fascinating stories from the past and tackling some big questions about how societies change over time.

Year 7 have stepped into Tudor England, investigating the drama and controversy of the Reformation. With Henry VIII's "Great Matter" at the heart of their studies, students have been discovering how one king's personal decisions transformed religion, politics, and everyday life across England.

Year 8 have been studying the First World War, exploring why it became known as "The Great War." Through investigations into trench life and the impact of new and devastating weapons, students have gained a deeper understanding of the experiences of those who lived and fought during this global conflict.

Year 9 have begun an important unit on the Civil Rights Movements in Britain and America, exploring the question: How was discrimination challenged in Britain and the USA after 1945? Students have examined key individuals and campaigns for equality, including asking whether Rosa Parks was simply a tired woman who refused to give up her seat, or part of a much wider movement that transformed the struggle for civil rights.

Year 10 have been studying Life in Nazi Germany, focusing on how Hitler and the Nazi Party attempted to build their so-called Thousand Year Reich. Students have explored how the regime sought to influence all aspects of society, with particular attention on the role of women and the experiences of young people growing up under Nazi rule.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all of our students for their efforts with Seneca Learning homework throughout this academic year. The commitment shown to developing knowledge and reinforcing classroom learning outside of lessons has been fantastic.

A special congratulations goes to our top Seneca learners in each year group:

Year 7

🏆 Inayah
🥈 John
🥉 Caiden

Year 9

🏆 Pippa
🥈 Max
🥉 Izzy

Year 8

🏆 Sam
🥈 Walter
🥉 Thomas

Year 10

🏆 Amy
🥈 Maddox
🥉 Millie



Mr Davidson
Head of History

Your hard work and dedication have been outstanding—well done! 🎉

History continues to come alive in our classrooms, and our students have shown great curiosity, insight, and enthusiasm as they explore the people, events, and ideas that have shaped our world.



CURRICULUM UPDATE HISTORY

A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS GOES TO OUR TOP SENECA LEARNERS IN EACH YEAR GROUP:



CERTIFICATE



SPORTS UPDATE

Year 7 Rugby Skills in Action

This week, our Year 7 boys took part in their third Rugby Union coaching session of the term, continuing to build on the excellent progress they have made so far.

Having already developed their skills in passing, safe tackling, and both offensive and defensive rucking, the focus of this session was on performing a scrum. The boys showed great enthusiasm and teamwork as they applied their learning in a more advanced aspect of the game.

A huge thank you goes to Simon from the RFU Game Management System for leading another fantastic session. His expertise and encouragement helped make it an enjoyable and valuable experience for all involved.



Mr Cameron
PE Teacher





Under 13s Cricketers Produce Spirited Performance at Haslingden

Our Under 13s pairs cricket team travelled to Haslingden on Wednesday to take on Haslingden High School in a thrilling and closely contested fixture.

After winning the toss, West Craven elected to bat first and posted a score of 93 from their 18 overs. Despite losing 12 wickets during the innings, the team's determined batting performance gave them a platform to compete and left Haslingden with a challenging target.

What followed was a remarkable display of bowling and fielding from the West Craven side. A wicket from the very first ball sparked belief, and the team continued to build momentum with some excellent bowling, sharp fielding and committed catching throughout the innings. Their efforts were rewarded as the scores were level going into the final Haslingden pair.

Although a couple of late chances went begging and Haslingden eventually edged over the line, the match showcased the resilience, teamwork and determination of the West Craven players, who can be incredibly proud of their performance.

Well done to all of the boys involved, and thank you to Haslingden Cricket Club for hosting the fixture. We hope this memorable match inspires more students to get involved with their local cricket clubs and continue developing their skills in the sport.



Mr Cameron
PE Teacher

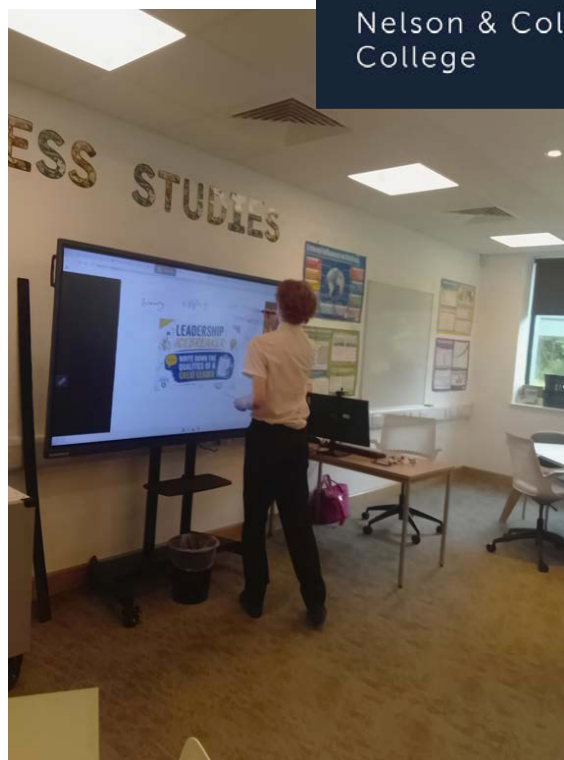
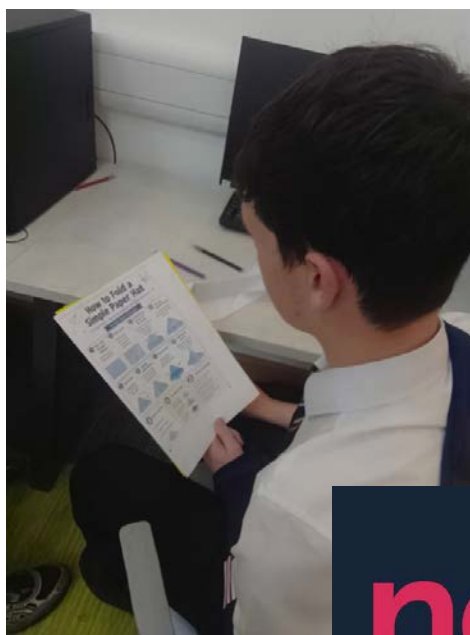


YEAR 10 TASTER DAY AT NELSON AND COLNE COLLEGE

Today, our Year 10 students enjoyed a fantastic visit to Nelson and Colne College, where they had the opportunity to explore the campus and experience a range of subjects that could shape their future pathways after West Craven High School.

Students took part in taster sessions in the subject areas that interested them most, giving them a real insight into college life and helping them make informed decisions about their next steps. It was a valuable experience, allowing them to discover new opportunities and get a feel for the exciting transition from school to college.

A huge thank you to the team at Nelson and Colne College for making our students feel so welcome and for providing such an engaging and inspiring day!



TRANSITION DAY AND EVENING WELCOME

This week, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students from all of our feeder primary schools. It was wonderful to see everyone meeting their form tutors, making new friendships, exploring the school, and getting a real taste of life at high school.

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of fun activities and lessons, helping them build confidence and excitement ahead of joining us in September. We hope you all had as much fun as we did!

This evening, it was equally fantastic to welcome so many parents and carers to our Transition Evening. It was a great opportunity to find out more about the school, see our school uniform, and hear from our Principal about the exciting journey ahead.

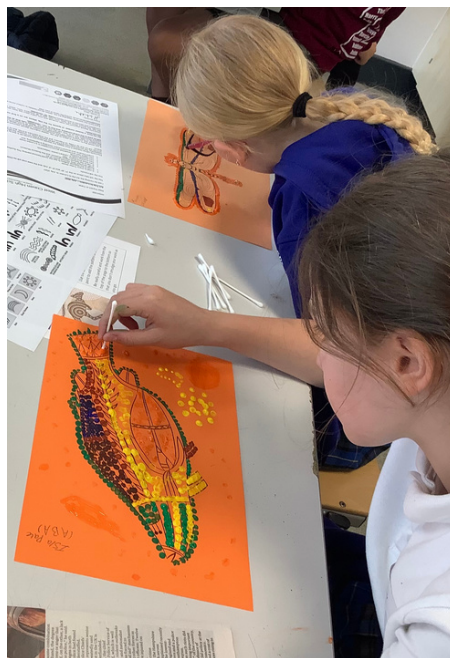
Thank you to everyone who joined us today and helped make it such a memorable occasion. We can't wait to welcome our new Year 7 students back in September to begin the next exciting chapter of their education.

If you were unable to attend the evening, we have attached a link to our Transition Handbook. This contains lots of useful information about our school and will help answer many of the questions you may have before September. If you would prefer a printed copy, you are very welcome to collect one from our school reception.

<https://www.westcraven.co.uk/page/?title=Year+6+Transition&pid=153>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to West Craven High School in September. In the meantime, we hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing summer.



GCSE ART EXHIBITION AND SUMMER CONCERT

West Craven High School Art Exhibition & Summer Concert

West Craven High School is delighted to invite families, friends, and the wider community to an inspiring evening celebrating student creativity and talent.

 **Date:** Tuesday 7th July 2026

 **Venue:** West Craven High School Main Hall

 **Entry:** Free

The evening will begin with our Art Exhibition at 5:00pm, showcasing a diverse and exciting selection of student work, including:

- GCSE pieces from Art, Photography, and 3D Design
- Creative work from Key Stage 3 students
- Outstanding entries from our Primary School Art Competition winners
- Visitors will have the opportunity to explore a vibrant display of artistic talent across a range of mediums and styles.

At 6:00pm, the celebrations continue with our Summer Concert, featuring a variety of musical performances from our talented students.

This promises to be a wonderful evening highlighting the creativity, dedication, and achievements of our students across both the visual and performing arts.

We look forward to welcoming you!



West Craven High School

ART EXHIBITION & SUMMER CONCERT

7th July 2026

A SELECTION OF GCSE WORK
FROM ART, PHOTOGRAPHY
AND 3D DESIGN

ARTWORK FROM KEY STAGE 3
STUDENTS

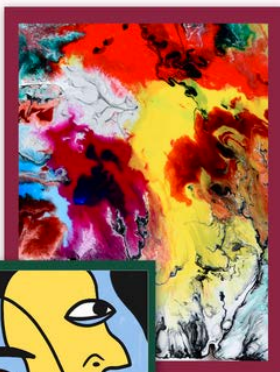
PRIMARY SCHOOL ART
COMPETITION WINNERS

**Art
Exhibition
5:00pm**

**Summer
Concert
6:00pm**

FREE

VENUE: WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL MAIN HALL



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.



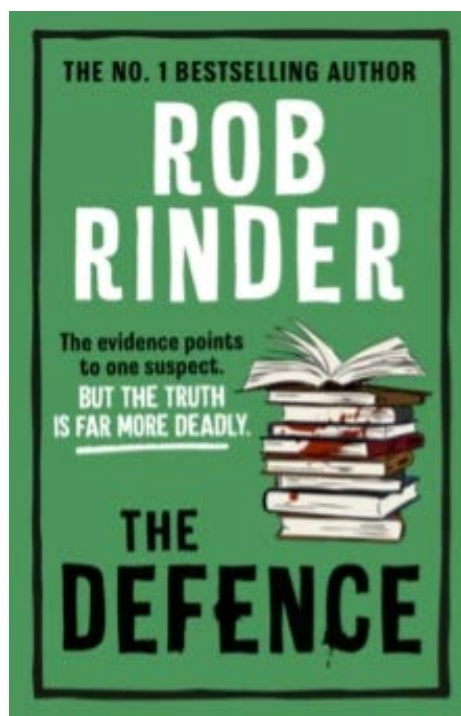
www.westcraven.co.uk



[westcravenhighschool](#)

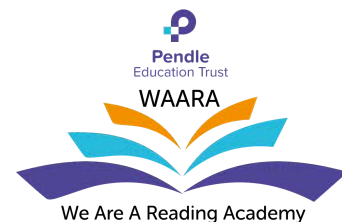


[westcraven.barnoldswick](#)



The librarian loves

The Defence by Rob Rinder. This is the fourth book in the Adam Green series, and I have thoroughly enjoyed all of his books.



Word of the Week

“Euphoria” (noun)

Meaning: A feeling of intense happiness or excitement.

Example in a sentence:

She felt a sense of euphoria as she finally reached the end of her summer novel.

July is a busy month for sports fans. You can watch the world's best tennis players compete at Wimbledon (29 June–12 July), feel the speed and excitement of the British Grand Prix at Silverstone (2–5 July), and follow the incredible journey of the Tour de France (4–26 July). Football fans can look forward to the last 16 of the FIFA World Cup.

If all this sport has inspired your young person to discover a new sport or hobby, the library has a fantastic selection of sports books, packed with stories, facts, tips and inspiration from some of the world's greatest athletes. Whether they are interested in football, tennis, cycling, motorsport or something completely different, there's a book waiting for them



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

Audio books let you enjoy stories everywhere. They are ideal for long journeys, trips to the beach or when you are sitting in the garden. A membership of the local library gives you access to a wide range of audio books. All these services are free. There are public libraries in Barnoldswick, Colne, Earby and Nelson.

<https://www.lancashire.ac.uk/events/listing/nyalitfest>

The Northern Young Adult literary festival will be held on the 11th of July in Preston. This will be a day filled with books readings, author meet and greets and literary discussions. This event is free, but you need to register for a place via the above link.



Sarah MacDonald
Librarian



EXTRA CURRICULAR – SUMMER TERM 2

We are pleased to share details of our Summer 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, 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 Lunchtime Clubs					
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 2

West Craven High School (Summer term 2)

After School Clubs



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



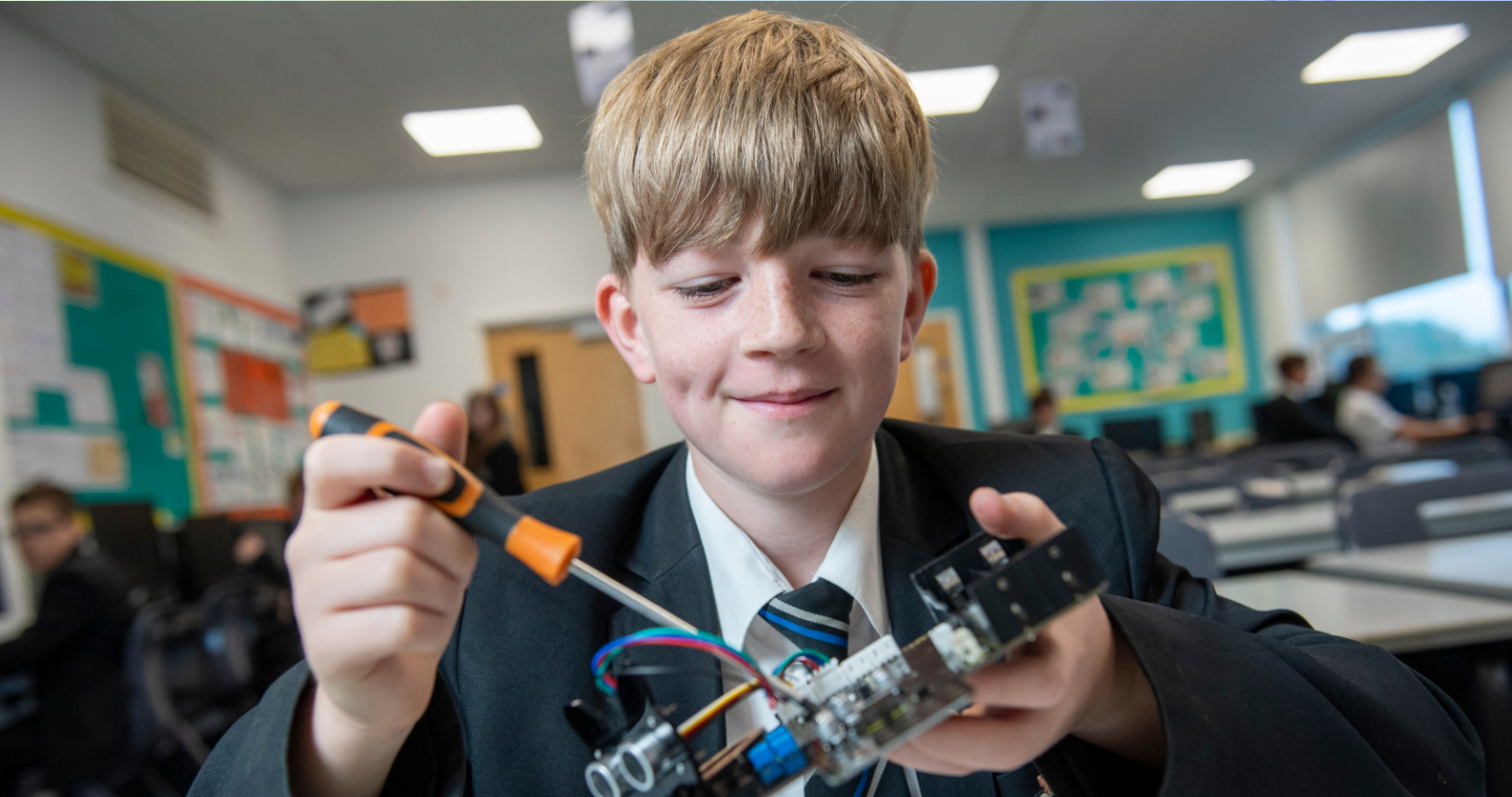
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7th July - Summer concert and GCSE Art exhibition

14th July - Adams Family Experience 6-7pm

20th July - Sports Day

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



www.westcraven.co.uk



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



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

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

CLITHEROE
AUCTION MART



LEVEL 2 GENERAL FARM WORKER



CLITHEROE AUCTION MART
& MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Are you passionate about agriculture and looking to build a career in the farming industry? This is an exciting opportunity to gain hands-on experience while studying towards a **Level 2 General Farm Worker Apprenticeship** in partnership with Myerscough College.



ABOUT THE ROLE

Clitheroe Auction Mart is offering a practical, work-based apprenticeship where you will develop essential skills across all aspects of farm work and livestock management while attending college to support your learning.



TRAINING & QUALIFICATION

- ✓ Level 2 General Farm Worker Apprenticeship
- ✓ Delivered in partnership with Myerscough College
- ✓ Combination of on-the-job training and college-based learning

Industry relevant additional qualifications:

- ✓ PA1 Telehandler
- ✓ First Aid

WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING



Assisting with the handling and care of livestock



Supporting auction day operations



Maintaining clean and safe working environments



Learning about animal welfare, health, and feeding



Using farm machinery and equipment (where appropriate)



Developing teamwork and communication skills in a busy agricultural setting



WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- ✓ Enthusiasm for farming and agriculture
- ✓ Strong work ethic and willingness to learn
- ✓ Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- ✓ Good timekeeping and reliability
- ✓ Practical mindset and interest in working outdoors



WHAT YOU'LL GAIN

- ✓ Industry-recognised qualification
- ✓ Real hands-on agricultural experience
- ✓ Opportunity to build a career in the farming industry
- ✓ Support and mentorship from experienced professionals



*Real skills.
Real experience.
Real opportunities.*



HOW TO APPLY

If you're ready to start your career in agriculture, apply now and take your first step into the farming industry!



or

Jeremy Greenhalgh
Jeremy@auctionmart.co.uk
Rachel Dickinson
rachel.dickinson@auctionmart.co.uk

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

EFFECTIVE REVISION AND STUDY SKILLS

As exam season ramps up, revision often becomes louder, busier, and less effective. Many pupils still rely on comfort strategies like re-reading and highlighting. These can feel productive but rarely build long-term memory. This guide will help you create a low-effort, high-impact revision system that teaches pupils how to revise, rather than merely emphasising its importance.

1 DIAGNOSE BEFORE DOING

Before adding more sessions, identify why a pupil is underperforming: knowledge gaps, weak routines, poor choices, or low effort driven by a lack of confidence. Treating every issue as 'needs more revision' creates noise. Use a quick check: what do they know, what do they misunderstand, what can't they retrieve under pressure, and what do they avoid? Then match revision to the actual problem.

2 TEACH REVISION EXPLICITLY

Most pupils haven't been taught how to revise well, so they pick what feels easiest. Build short revision mini-lessons into curriculum time; demonstrate retrieval, spacing, and how to self-check. Model it live, do it together, then gradually hand over responsibility. The goal is independence, not dependency. When pupils understand why strategies work, they're more likely to use them when it matters.

3 PRIORITISE RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

Make recall the default. Use methods such as low-stakes quizzes, flashcards, free recall, blurring, and 'answer then check'. Effective testing helps to measure and strengthen learning. Keep it specific and frequent – small chunks, lots of repetition, and immediate feedback. For parents, the best question isn't 'Have you revised?' but 'What can you remember today, without notes?'

4 SPACE IT OUT

Cramming can boost short-term performance, but it's weaker for long-term retention. Help pupils spread practice across days and weeks, revisiting content after memory has faded. That 'slight struggle' is the point. Use a simple rhythm: new learning, next-day retrieval, a three-day revisit, a weekly revisit, and mixed practice before the exam. This turns revision into a routine, not a panic.

5 MIX, DON'T BLOCK

Practising one topic for a long stretch – known as 'blocked practice' – can feel easy, but it can hide fragile learning. Mixing topics, question types, or methods strengthens long-term learning and helps pupils apply knowledge later. For educators, design homework and revision packs so topics reappear in a planned cycle. For parents, encourage sessions that mix two topics rather than focusing on just one.

6 USE DESIRABLE DIFFICULTY

Revision should feel effortful, not effortless. Durable learning comes from challenging revision techniques: attempting answers before looking, explaining ideas aloud, writing from memory, or tackling unfamiliar question formats. The key is 'hard, but doable'. If a pupil always gets everything right, it's too easy. If they always fail, it's too hard. Aim for productive struggle with quick feedback loops.

7 CENTRALISE MATERIALS SIMPLY

Revision fails when pupils waste energy finding resources, navigating platforms, or guessing what matters. Reduce cognitive overload by centralising what they need: a single hub per subject, a clear list of priority knowledge, and a small set of standard task types such as quizzes, flash cards, exam questions, or corrections. Less admin clutter means more working memory for learning.

8 PLAN, MONITOR, EVALUATE

Strong revision is self-regulated. Pupils plan what they'll do, monitor if it's working, and evaluate what to change next time. Use a weekly revision review routine that asks: 'What did I try?' 'What improved?' 'What didn't?' 'What's my next micro-goal?' Post-mock action plans are powerful here because they force honesty about time spent, strategy used, and impact achieved.

9 WRAP MOCKS PROPERLY

Mocks only help if pupils learn from them. Use an exam wrapper approach: before the mock, set strategy goals; afterwards, analyse errors such as knowledge gaps, misread questions, weak methods, and timing issues, then create a targeted reteach and retest plan. Parents can support by asking, 'What type of mistake was it, and what's your fix?' rather than 'What grade did you get?'

10 MAKE TIME VISIBLE

Revision becomes real when time is protected and predictable. Help pupils build a timetable that's short, repeatable, and realistic: 30–40 minute blocks, clear start and stop times, and specific tasks, not 'revise science'. Avoid perfectionist plans that look pretty and collapse by Tuesday. Consistency beats intensity. Build momentum with small wins, then build from there.

Meet Our Expert

Amjad Ali is the creator of Try This Teaching and the CPD and Inclusion Lead for the Chiltern Learning Trust. With over 19 years' experience in education, including leadership roles in diverse and high-need schools, he specialises in inclusive, evidence-informed practice. His work focuses on practical, low-effort, high-impact strategies that help students learn more and retain knowledge over time.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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