

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Tuesday 20th October

Dear Parent/Carer,

Stop the press! Welcome to our slightly delayed weekly ebulletin. We wanted to wait for our Ofsted report to be live on their website! You can now access it via this link; **[WCHS Ofsted 2026](#)**.

As you may know, there have been many changes to how Ofsted inspect schools and report on school performance. The new Ofsted framework is widely considered to be more rigorous and demanding than previous frameworks. The new 'Expected Standard' acts as a much higher baseline and means that a school is meeting the high standards expected nationally. It confirms that pupils are receiving the education, care and support they should expect. The top ratings like "Strong" or "Exceptional" are reserved for a small minority of settings with only around 17% of Ofsted grades currently being placed into these top brackets. Furthermore, the new methodology requires a school to meet every single criteria for a standard; if a school falls short on just one bullet point, it will miss the standard!

Therefore, I am delighted to share with you the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection with our parents and the wider community. The inspection recognised many of the strengths of our school and highlighted the dedication of our staff, the positive attitudes of our pupils, and the support provided by our wider school community. The inspection praised pupils for their behaviour, attitudes to learning, and the supportive and inclusive environment we provide. Inspectors also recognised the quality of teaching, the ambition of our curriculum, and the efforts we make to ensure that every child can achieve their best. We were slightly disappointed that behaviour and attendance are judged under the same standard. The Ofsted team of inspectors were clear that the behaviour and culture within the school was at the expected standard, but our rates of attendance need attention. This is clearly reflected in the report

We are extremely proud of the report and the acknowledgement of the hard work and commitment shown by everyone associated with the school. As I have often said, it takes many different roles and stakeholders to make a great school. It is all of the staff from teachers, to office staff, the site team and cleaners, as well as the parents, members of the community, and the students themselves. We haven't made these improvements for Ofsted, we have made these improvements for the children in this community. West Craven will be the best school for the families in Barnoldswick and the surrounding area. To have the validation from Ofsted that says we are doing just that, is what is most pleasing.

While we are pleased with the positive findings, we also welcome the recommendations identified by Ofsted. I ask for your support to improve rates of attendance. These are improving more rapidly and are in line with national attendance figures for Years 7, 8 and 9, but our older students are not attending as well as they should. There is an obvious link between attendance and attainment; if children aren't in school, they are not benefiting from the high standard of education on offer. We will continue to improve this area and further strengthen our provision to ensure the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

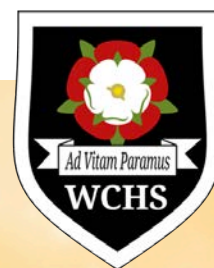
Thank you for your continued support



Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK



7

**7ABA - Harry
7EEV - Jack
7SHO - Alexis
7DWI - Rose
PYL - George**

8

**8JPE - Zen
8MFO - Harry
8YGR - Dylan
8OCA - Noah
PYL - Jessica**

9

**9EAJ - Kian
KSN - Sam
RSW - Emily
NHU - Molly
Lucy - Logan**

10

**WDA - Ellie
HWH - Madiyyah
SAH - Laaibah
AYO - Jamie-Leigh
PYL - Ella**

11

**ECU - Zack
MTV - Shelby
DRA - Maddox
API - Sophie
PYL - Casey**

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



PASTORAL UPDATE YEAR 7

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed a fantastic half term and would like to share some of the exciting learning experiences, achievements, for our Year 7 students.

As we near the end of our first half term, it is clear to see that students have settled into school life exceptionally well. They have shown maturity, enthusiasm, and resilience as they have adapted to new routines, subjects, and teachers. We are proud of the positive attitude they have demonstrated both in lessons and around the school community.

Congratulations to all students who have received achievement points, certificates, and positive recognition from staff. We are particularly impressed by the kindness, respect, and determination shown across the year group.

Regular attendance is vital to student success. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring students attend school punctually and are ready to learn each day.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our Year 7 students who volunteered to help at this year's Open Evening. They were fantastic ambassadors for the school, welcoming visitors, guiding families around the site, and speaking confidently about their experiences of secondary school.

Many prospective students and parents commented on how friendly, polite, and enthusiastic our Year 7 students were. Their willingness to share what they enjoy about school life helped visitors feel welcome and gave them a real insight into our school community.

We are incredibly proud of the maturity, confidence, and responsibility shown by everyone who helped. Their positive attitude reflected our school values and made the evening a great success.

We would like to thank students and families for their support this term. It has been wonderful to see Year 7 grow in confidence and become active members of our school community. We look forward to another successful and exciting term ahead.

Best wishes,

Mrs L Harper and Mrs N Freeman



NOTICE OF ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR

Dear Parent or Guardian

The trustees of Pendle Education Trust are seeking a Parent Governor to join the Local Academy Council at West Craven High School and invite parents, foster parents, carers or guardians who would like to be considered to put their names forward.



An outline of the role is attached, and we are particularly looking to recruit parents who as well as wishing to support West Craven High School in improving outcomes for students, have an interest in further developing the school as a community asset and working with the other Pendle Education schools in the area. If you are interested in standing as a Parent Governor and wish to find out more about what the role entails, please contact Val Townsend, Clerk to the Trust at **vtownsend@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk**

You may also find the following website useful **www.nga.org.uk**.

If you wish to be considered, you will need to complete the form by clicking on the link below, by 9am on Friday 23rd October 2026, or alternatively if you require a paper application form, please contact the school office directly.

Dear Parent or Guardian

The trustees of Pendle Education Trust are seeking a Parent Governor to join the Local Academy Council at West Craven High School and invite parents, foster parents, carers or guardians who would like to be considered to put their names forward.

If we have more suitable candidates than there are vacancies, then an election process will be held.

It should be noted that parents who have been adjudged bankrupt, who have been removed as a trustee or who have received a prison sentence of more than three months for a criminal offence are disqualified from serving as a governor. All governors are required to complete a DBS check.

We do hope you are interested in standing and look forward to receiving your application.





"Pupils appreciate the pastoral support available in school. They trust members of staff who provide them with the help that they need to thrive."

#ASPIRE

We're pleased Ofsted agree with our success. Read our report here



Join Us!

**CURRENTLY IN
YEAR 6
APPLY NOW FOR
SEPTEMBER 2027
PLACES!**

CURRICULUM UPDATE FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 8 Students Cook Up a Delicious Bolognese!

Our Year 8 students recently put their culinary skills to the test by making a classic spaghetti bolognese in Food Technology. The lesson gave students the opportunity to develop important cooking techniques, including safely preparing ingredients, chopping vegetables, browning mince, and creating a rich, flavourful sauce from scratch.

Working carefully and independently, students followed their recipes, measured ingredients accurately, and learned how different herbs and seasonings can enhance the flavour of a dish. They also discussed the importance of nutrition and how a balanced meal can contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

The kitchen was filled with wonderful aromas as the bolognese simmered, and students took great pride in the meals they produced. Many were delighted with the results and enjoyed sharing their finished dishes with family members at home.

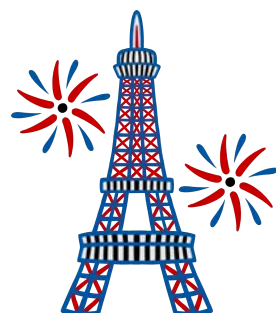
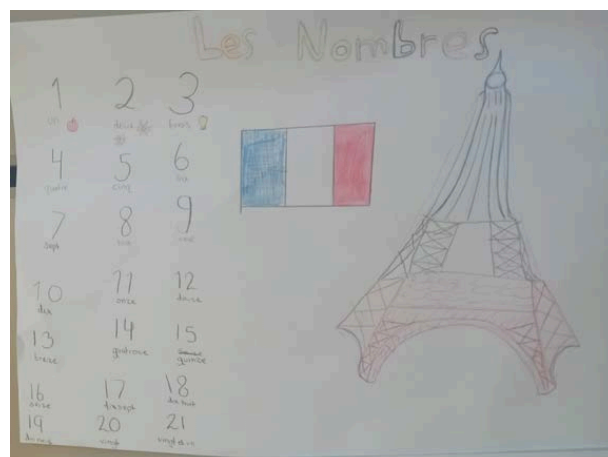
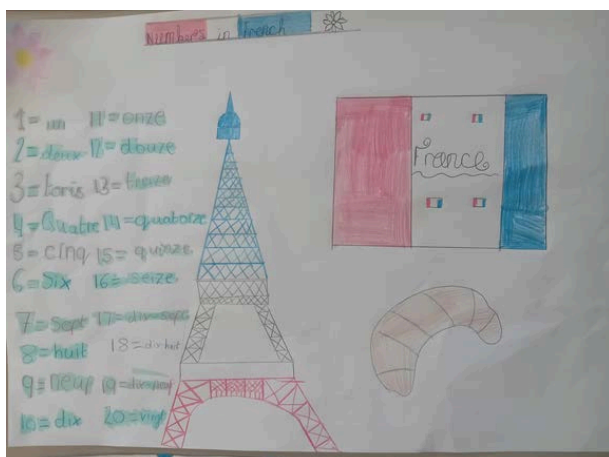
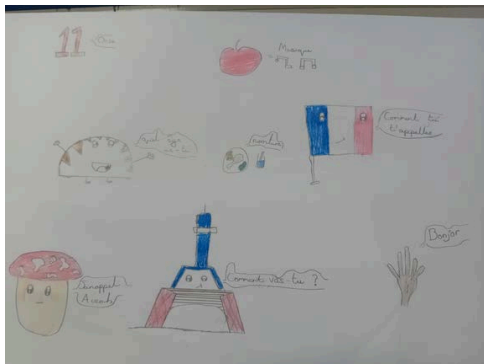
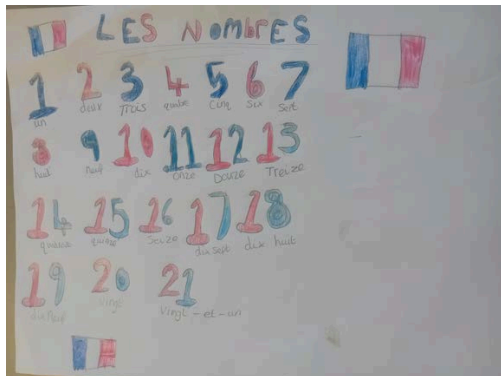
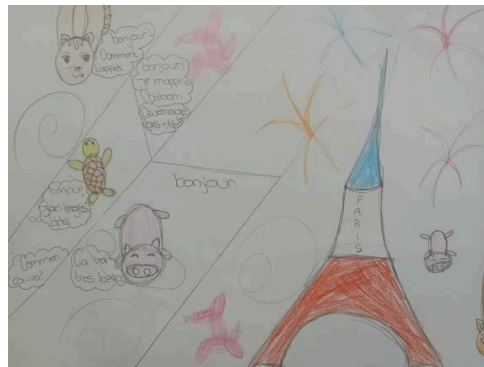
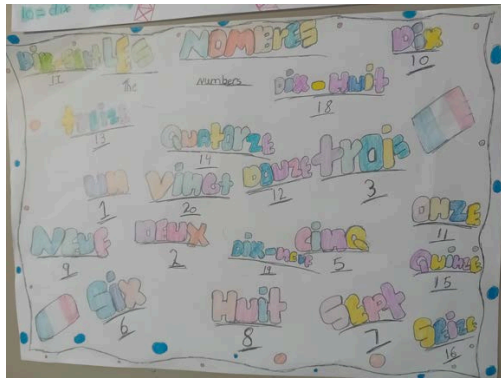
Well done to all of our Year 8 chefs for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and excellent effort. We look forward to seeing what delicious creations they will make next! 🍝👏



CURRICULUM UPDATE FRENCH

All year groups in French work often and regularly on phonics and the sounds included in the French language. This is an important skill for them to have to support them in their French reading which then leads on to their spoken language and also how to write new French words that they hear. Whole class reading and vocal repetition supports them in this task in addition to class games.

Year 7 started the year off with the French alphabet and how the letters sound differently in French, they have learned French numbers up to twenty one and the months. They have been learning to introduce themselves in French and have practised asking each other their name, their age and how they are. They have made posters to show off their knowledge of French numbers and drawn a cartoon strip showing a French conversation using the questions and answers they have been learning. These are being entered into a school competition for the best ones. Year 7 have been engaging in all four language skills as they start their language learning journey. This means they have all completed listening, reading, writing and speaking tasks.



CURRICULUM UPDATE FRENCH

Year 8 have been learning new vocabulary about places in town and saying what places there are and are not in a town. They have played memory games in class, also as a class against the teacher and against each other as a fun way to memorise their new words. They have enjoyed a catchy song to learn the verb aller, and I can still hear year 11's singing this popular song as they walk to lessons on the corridor. It is definitely one that sticks! Further online class games have been played against each other to use this verb with the new vocab. They continue to do classwork using all four language skills; listening, reading, writing and listening.

Year 9 have been learning to talk about where they live and how to describe their region using new adjectives and saying if it is in the countryside, at the coast, in the mountains or on an island. They have learned more detailed vocabulary for things to be found in an area with quantifiers and have also played memory games to help remember their new vocab. They have learned to describe various weathers in French, unlike English they have not used the word 'it is' but more comprehensive language. Year 9 are very competitive when it comes to playing the class memory games and having had over two years practice at this, they have become very good at it!

Year 10 have continued to work on the topic of Free Time and are now about to prepare their first set of speaking preparation questions and answers. This topic has included talking about what they do online with the present tense of regular er ending verbs, saying what they do to keep active using present tense irregular verbs, talking about TV programmes and what they like to watch, using the near future tense to talk about making plans to go out, using the past tense to talk about what they did last weekend and finally using two tenses together to talk about the francophone games. They are now revising this topic for the end of module and Autumn one assessments. This is when they will have the opportunity to really show off their language skills.

Year 11 are now over half way through their GCSE syllabus and conscientiously working towards their final GCSE. They have started the topic of Our Planet and the Environment and are using their 4 language skills to good advantage in lessons and for homework task. Revision is now also included in the schedule and many pupils have taken advantage of this opportunity to make progress in the subjects previously studied in year 10. They have been learning to talk about geography and the climate using comparatives and superlatives whilst discussing francophone countries. They have talked about environmental problems and understood how to use the present tense of the passive voice. Whilst this may sound complicated, they could do this in French without realising that they had just succeeded in doing so, through using previously acquired knowledge and bringing these aspects together. They are presently discussing how people can work together and the actions that can be taken to protect the environment.



ADULT LEARNING

Discover new opportunities with Lancashire Adult Learning

Have you ever thought about returning to the classroom, learning a new skill or gaining a qualification? Lancashire Adult Learning offers a wide range of opportunities for adults at every stage of their learning journey, whether you're a complete beginner, looking to build confidence or ready to work towards a higher-level qualification.

With courses ranging from beginner level to Level 3 and beyond, there's something for everyone. Opportunities include English, maths and digital skills, as well as courses focused on health and well-being. There are also family learning sessions, giving parents and families the chance to learn together.

Whether you want to improve your everyday skills, boost your confidence, explore a new interest or take the next step towards employment or further study, Lancashire Adult Learning could be the perfect place to start.

It's never too late to learn something new!

Visit the Lancashire Adult Learning website to explore the courses available and discover the opportunities waiting for you. Simply click on the link to find out more.

Start Your Learner Journey - Lancashire Adult Learning



Start Your Learner Journey

Flexible, Friendly And Built Around You

At Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL), we help you take the next confident step -whether that's improving everyday skills, gaining a recognised qualification, changing career, or learning for personal growth. As part of East Lancashire Learning Group, we offer welcoming classes across Lancashire and flexible online options, so study fits around work, family and life.

Search all courses



Why start with LAL?

 Courses from beginner to Level 3 and above, including English, Maths, digital, ESOL, health & wellbeing, family learning, work skills and professional sector-specific routes.		 Friendly tutors who understand your starting points and will support you to achieve your goals	
 Flexible delivery (day/evening, in-person and online) with clear progression options		 Practical support with finance, welfare and careers so nothing blocks your progress	

COMPETITION TIME

Design a Sculpture for Barnoldswick!

Barnoldswick is a town full of big ideas. Long ago, people made cloth here, and later the first jet engine was tested in our town. Amazing things can happen in Barnoldswick!

Now Barnoldswick's Stream and Steam Heritage Trail is getting bigger, with new sculptures, nature spots and fun things to discover.

Your Challenge

Design a sculpture inspired by:

- Barnoldswick's history
- Nature, wildlife or geology
- Our streams and waterways

Let your imagination run wild!

You Could Win!

Two winning designs (primary and senior school age) will be turned into real sculptures and displayed in Letcliffe Park. You could even help the sculptors bring your idea to life.

Deadline

31 October 2026

Send Your Design To

clerk@barnoldswicktowncouncil.gov.uk

Subject: Sculpture Competition

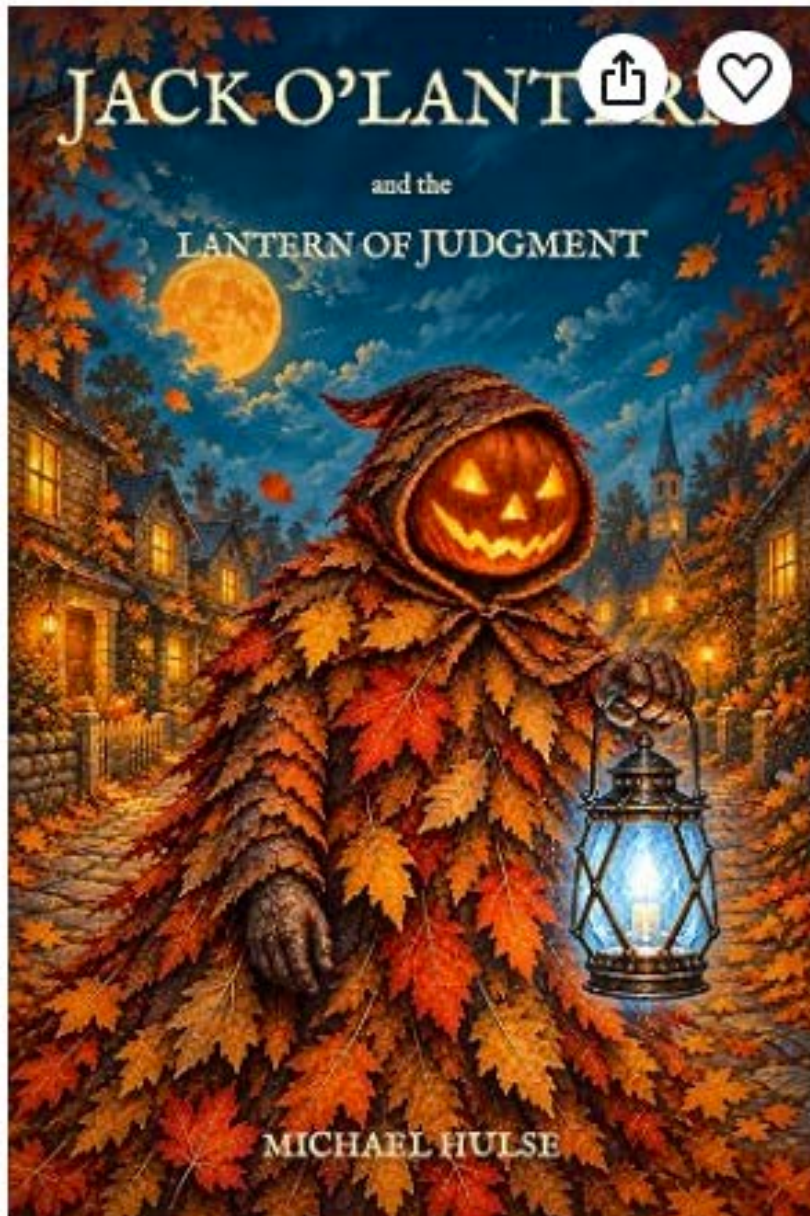
Let us know if you are in primary or senior school so we enter you in the right category.

You can post it through the letterbox at The Civic Hall, Station Road if you prefer just make sure you add your name and contact details so we can get in touch.

Get creative and show us what makes Barnoldswick special! ✨







🍁📖 A little Halloween reading recommendation! 📖🍁

Mr Hulse our Data Manager has written a book called Jack O'Lantern, which is now available to buy on Amazon!

It's been lovely to see some of our students enjoying reading the book, and we wanted to share it with our school community.

If you're looking for a spooky seasonal read, why not take a look? 🧛📖

Something is stealing Blackwood's autumn.

Nine-year-old Arthur remembers when a carved pumpkin could make a dark evening feel friendly. Now his neighbours queue for the newest toys, old possessions are thrown away, and even familiar names are slipping from memory. In his garden shed, Arthur lights a pumpkin of his own.

Someone answers.

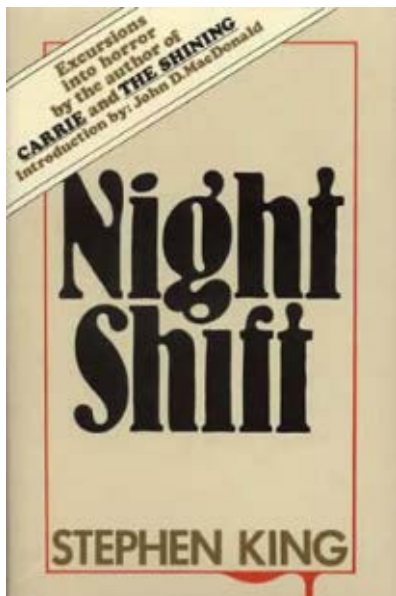
Jack O'Lantern was once a toymaker. Clothed in autumn leaves and carrying a lantern that reveals the truth, he has come to confront the Hollow King, whose glittering promises are tightening their hold on Blackwood.

Arthur wants to help. But saving a broken toy is easier than mending a friendship, and Jack's gift for seeing the truth does not always make him fair. As the Hollow King prepares his greatest celebration, Arthur must find a way to bring his neighbours together before their small lights go out.

Click here to buy your copy now : <https://amzn.eu/d/02IH0lss>



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

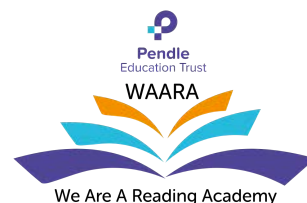


The librarian loves

Night Shift by Stephen King. I have read this book numerous times because I love it so much.

Word of the Week

Recalcitrant is an adjective used to describe someone who stubbornly refuses to obey orders.

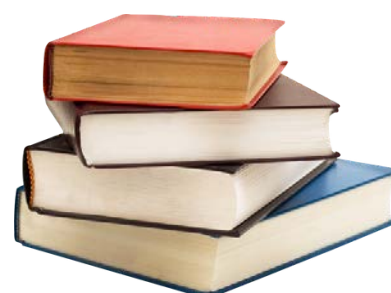


The school librarian has organised an online book fair, and leaflets have been handed out in English lessons. Orders above £10 will provide the school library with money for new books. All orders will be delivered to the school. Please order via the link below:

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

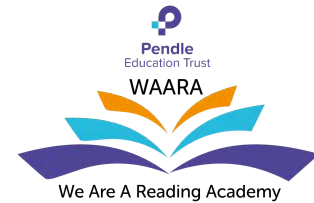


Ada Lovelace Day is an international celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). It is held on the 13th of October. It aims to increase the profile of women in STEM and, in doing so, create new role models who will encourage more girls into STEM careers and support women already working in STEM. There is a display in the library featuring female scientists.



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

October is ADHD Awareness Month. To help pupils develop their understanding of ADHD, there is a display of books in the library that feature characters that have ADHD. Also on display is a study guide for pupils with ADHD.



Home – Patrick Ness – LibGuides at Saint Ignatius' College Riverview
Patrick Ness (born 17 October 1971) is an American-British author, journalist, lecturer, and screenwriter. Born in the United States, Ness moved to London in 1999 and holds dual citizenship. He is best known for his books for young adults, including the Chaos Walking (2008–2010) trilogy and A Monster Calls (2011).

Ness won the annual Carnegie Medal in 2011 and in 2012, for *Monsters of Men* and *A Monster Calls*. He is one of seven writers to win two Medals, and the second to win consecutively. He was the first writer in residence for Book Trust and he is a Fellow of the Royal Literary Society.

He wrote the screenplay of the 2016 film adaptation of *A Monster Calls*, and was the creator and writer of the Doctor Who spin-off series *Class*.

His books are available in the school library.



COLLEGE OPEN EVENING



IT'S
YOUR
TIME

OPEN EVENING

Wed 21 Oct

5.30pm – 8.00pm

BOOK NOW – burnley.ac.uk



BOOK NOW



IT'S
YOUR
TIME

OPEN EVENING

September

Thur 24

October

Wed 21

November

Tue 17

2027

February

Tue 9

March

Wed 24

5.30pm to 8.00pm

BOOK NOW – burnley.ac.uk



BOOK NOW



IT'S
YOUR
TIME

OPEN EVENING

Thur 24 Sept

5.30pm – 8.00pm

BOOK NOW – burnley.ac.uk

The perfect time to explore the pathways and subjects that suit you: A Levels, T Levels, Vocational study and Apprenticeships



BOOK NOW



www.westcraven.co.uk



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



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

EXTRA CURRICULAR – AUTUMN TERM 1

We are pleased to share details of our Autumn 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 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 Mrs Swinscoe & Mr Gilmour	Computing All Years Room G11			
					



EXTRA CURRICULAR – AUTUMN TERM 1

West Craven High School (Autumn Term 1)

After School Clubs



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Design Technology Room G7 				Art Room M10 
Year 10&11 Football Mr Wilson 3G Pitch 	YR 7 Football 3G Pitch Mr Foulds 		Year 8&9 Football Mr Cameron 3G Pitch 	
French Club Room G3 KS3 &4 	Amy's Dance Club Gym 		STEM Club Room G9 	
Library Homework club	Library Homework club	Library Homework club	Library Homework club	
Badminton Sports Hall Mr Wilson 	Band club Main Hall Mrs Swinscoe & Mr Gilmour 		SEN Homework Club Room G6 	
Year 7,8 & 9 Netball 3G Pitch A Bateman 			Crochet for beginners Room G6 	



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – AUTUMN TERM 1



LEARN TO DANCE AT WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

EVERY TUESDAY 3:30PM - 4:30PM- VENUE: GYM

SIGN UP TODAY

FREE



email: office@westcraven.co.uk

Places are limited, open to all year groups



www.westcraven.co.uk



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



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

College Open Events 26/27

Summary

College Name	What do they offer?	When?
Nelson and Colne College	Vocational A-Levels T-Level Apprenticeship	<i>Saturday 26th September 2026 – 10.00am-2.00pm</i> <i>Thursday 8th October 2026 – 5.30pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Tuesday 10th November 2026 – 5.30pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Tuesday 19th January 2027 – 5.30pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Thursday 10th June 2027 - 5.30pm-7.30pm</i>
Accrington and Rossendale College	Vocational A-Levels T-Level Apprenticeship	<i>Thursday 1st October 2026 – 5.30pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Tuesday 17th November 2026 – 5.30pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Thursday 14th January 2027 – 5.30pm-7.30pm</i>
Burnley College	Vocational A-Levels T-Level Apprenticeship	<i>Thursday 24th September 2026 – 5.30pm-8.00pm</i> <i>Wednesday 21st October 2026 – 5.30pm-8.00pm</i> <i>Thursday 17th November 2026 – 5.30pm-8.00pm</i> <i>Tuesday 9th February 2027 – 5.30pm-8.00pm</i> <i>Wednesday 24th March 2027 – 5.30pm-8.00pm</i>
Craven College	Vocational T-Level Apprenticeship	<i>Monday 5th October 2026 – 5.30pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Wednesday 18th November 2026 - 5.30pm-7.30pm</i> <u><i>Aviation Academy Dates</i></u> <i>Wednesday 7th October 2026 – 6.00pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Thursday 8th October 2026 – 6.00pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Wednesday 14th October 2026 – 6.00pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Wednesday 18th November 2026 - 5.30pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Wednesday 25th November 2026 – 6.00pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Thursday 26th November 2026 – 6.00pm-7.30pm</i>
Myerscough College	Vocational T-Levels Apprenticeship	<i>Saturday 3rd October 2026 – 10.00am-1.00pm</i> <i>Saturday 21st November 2026 – 10.00am-1.00pm</i> <i>Saturday 6th February 2027 – 10.00am-1.00pm</i> <i>Saturday 17th April 2027 – 10.00am-1.00pm</i>
Training 2000	Apprenticeship	<i>Wednesday 27th January 2027 – 4.30pm-7.30pm</i> <i>Thursday 28th January 2027 – 4.30pm-7.30pm</i>

OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

Out of School Achievement

A huge well done to Harry in Year 8, who has recently joined Skipton RFC Under-13s. In his very first official match for the team, Harry helped Skipton secure a fantastic victory and was awarded Player of the Week in recognition of his outstanding performance.

This is a brilliant achievement and a great start to his rugby journey. We are incredibly proud of Harry and look forward to hearing about his future successes on the pitch.

Congratulations, Harry!



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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 19th October – NCC Lunchtime drop in

Friday 23rd October – End of half term

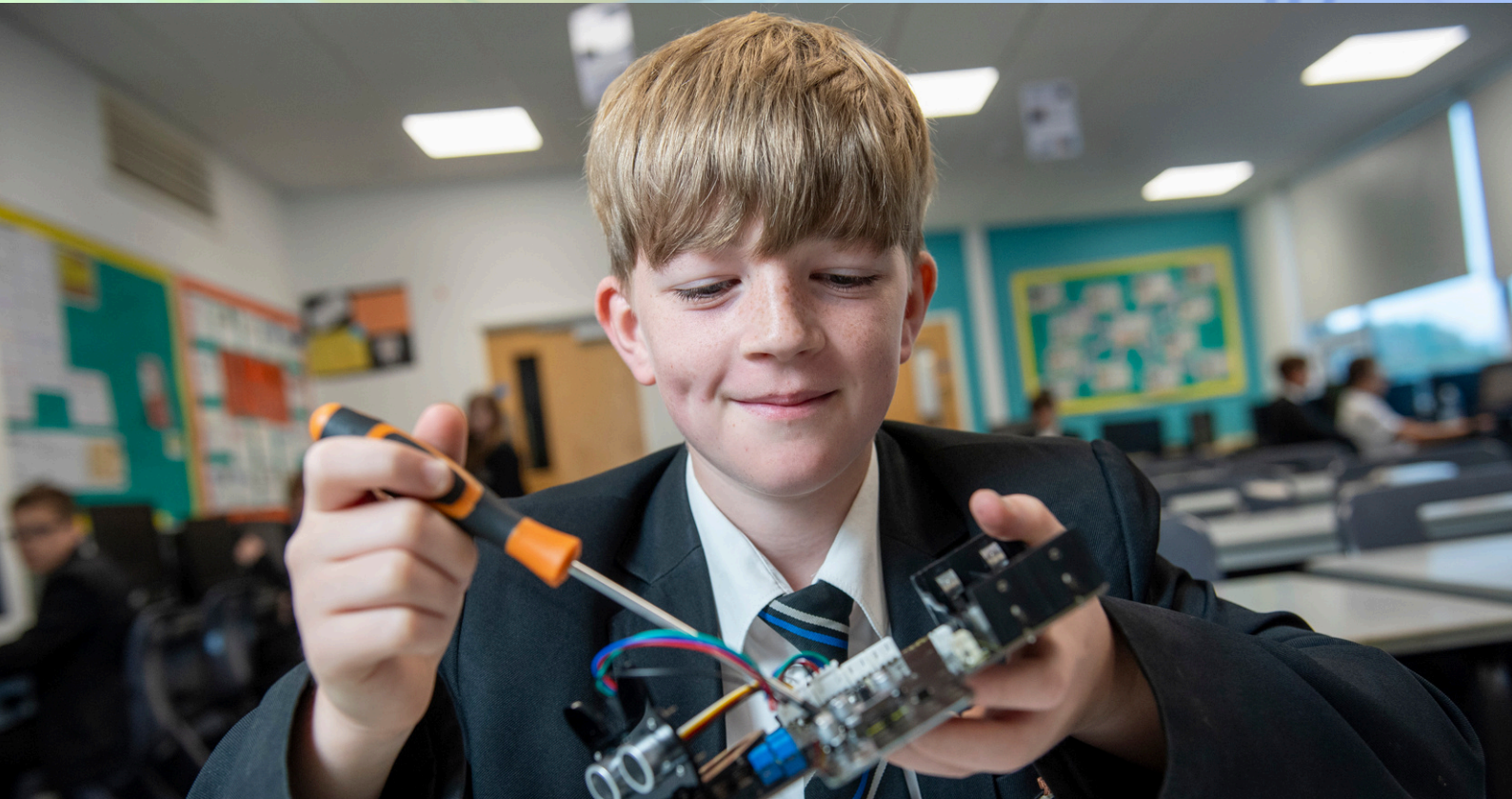
Monday 9th November – School Reopens

Thursday 26 November Star Awards Night at Colne Muni

Thursday 10 December – Year 11 parent evening

Wednesday 16 December – Christmas Concert

Tuesday 22 December – end of term – students 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)



Wild Explorers: Into The Wild

A 2-day experience for young people in years 6-11.
Into The Wild provides an opportunity for young people to unplug from technology and benefit from all that nature has to offer.

Into The Wild is a 2-day experience that will give young people in years 6 - 11 increased responsibility and challenge.

You will have the opportunity to set up your own shelter, make your own campfire and cook the food on the fire along with other activities on the day.

The 2 days will be centred around building confidence, leadership, teamwork and resilience.



Price

£95 per child for 2 days inc food
Childcare vouchers accepted

Age

School Years 6 - 11

Upcoming Dates

28th & 29th October 2026

Please note: this is a 2 day experience.



Time

9.30am - 3.30pm

Location

Broughton Hall Estate



hello@wildexplorers.org.uk



www.wildexplorers.org.uk

East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

**Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'**

Delivered by CYPMH East
tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT



**Enter the word "CYPMH East" as the first name and "drop in" as the
second name followed by your date of birth.**

You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 7th October 2026

1pm – 3pm

Wednesday 14th October 2026

3pm – 5pm

Wednesday 21st October 2026

5pm – 7pm

Wednesday 28th October 2026

1pm – 3pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about LEGO FORTNITE

Epic Games have recently introduced three new game modes to Fortnite: Rocket Racing, Fortnite Festival and, finally, Lego Fortnite: a survival game using official Lego characters. There are lots of great mechanics that encourage creativity in children, but – as with any online game – it's important to stay aware of the potential risks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MONETISATION

Lego Fortnite utilises a similar online item shop to the main Fortnite game. When this title was released, the makers introduced thousands of Lego versions of the original game's character skins. Owning an original Fortnite cosmetic means you also own the LEGO version at no extra cost, but the addition of these extra versions could potentially spark new interest in young players, making it more tempting to pay real money for these in-game accessories.

ONLINE PLAY

LEGO Fortnite can be played online, as with the base game. While a player's LEGO world is private when it's first created, they can then invite anyone on their in-game friends list to play with them. If any strangers are on this friends list, they can be invited onto their server. Thankfully, Epic Games has implemented a solid reporting system, as well as tools to kick other players from the game.

FEAR FACTOR

There is no explicit violence in Lego Fortnite, but there is a lot of combat. While the battles in Lego Fortnite remain very cartoonish and child friendly, a lot of the action unfolds inside dark caves, with spiders, skeletons or scary-looking monsters. The game can get a little spooky at times, which could potentially scare younger players.

COMPLEX GAMEPLAY

Lego Fortnite is a survival game, though it's not as simple as something like Minecraft. There are lots of different crafting stations and loads of items to use or combine (including various rarities to seek out and harvest). The gathering and crafting elements of the game can get quite complicated and confusing, which could be a source of frustration for some younger players.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEGO IS FRIENDLY

Much like real Lego, this game is incredibly inviting. It's friendly, fun and accessible: a younger player could still enjoy this title even if they'd never played Fortnite before. With sanitised violence, it's a far more family-friendly gaming experience all round – worth bearing in mind if you're concerned about children and young people being exposed to violent or frightening content.

SET LITTLE CHALLENGES

As we've noted, the game is a lot more difficult than it may seem, which could be frustrating or upsetting for some younger players. While the game does a good job of setting realistic targets for players, it can still feel overwhelming. If parents suggest smaller challenges – such as building a house – children can flex their creativity, express themselves with their builds and feel a real sense of accomplishment.

PLAY TOGETHER

Take some time to play the game together. Not only will that help with some of the complicated tasks, but it's also just a fun pastime. Playing with family members also reduces the potential for younger players to invite strangers to enjoy the game with – if any are on their friends list. Furthermore, playing with children will let you more effectively limit their time spent on the game. Instead of "switch it off", you can now say "let's play some more later!"

MONITOR SPENDING

If a child has provided their parents' email address and been given consent to make in-game purchases, it's worth keeping an eye on how much gets spent on the in-game currency, V-Bucks. It's very tempting to buy character skins in LEGO form, as a way of expressing yourself and looking cool and unique. As you may know already, the average skin costs between £6-18, which can add up very quickly if not tracked and limited. Keep in mind that you can make it necessary to enter a PIN code to validate every purchase using the game's parental controls, and you can prevent the game from saving your payment information whenever you make a purchase. Furthermore, players under-13 automatically have their spending limited to \$100 (£78.55) per day.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality, augmented reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

**I THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE FUNNY
TO THROW
FIREWORKS**



Lancashire Fire
and Rescue Service



Lancashire Fire and
Rescue Service



@LancashireFRS

www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk

making Lancashire safer



> SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

Are you a teacher, youth worker or do you run a local community group?

If so you can help Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service reduce the risk of injury to our children and young people by raising awareness around the serious dangers associated with fireworks and bonfires.

For further information on promoting bonfire and firework safety please contact your local community fire station. Details can be found on our website www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/yourlocalstation.

You can also find useful information on the Government website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-firework-safety-schools-pack-key-stage-2

> JOIN LANCASHIRE'S FIGHT AGAINST FIRE

Accidents tend to happen at private, smaller bonfire gatherings. Be safe this year and attend an organised display.

Bonfires and fireworks produce large volumes of carbon emissions and other harmful gases. Please protect the environment and attend an organised display where possible.

> CONTACT US

For more information on practical fire safety advice both around the bonfire period and in the home you can visit our website.

 Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

 @LancashireFRS

 www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk

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Bonfire Safety



Fact.

Lancashire's fire crews **are up to four times busier** than usual around Bonfire night, wasting time and resources attending unsafe bonfires.

> WARNING! FIRE AND ALCOHOL DON'T MIX!

Do not go near bonfires or fireworks whilst under the influence of alcohol, especially if you are responsible for tending to a fire or lighting fireworks.

Some individuals may be tempted to ignore local by-laws, however it is an offence to drink alcohol in public places.

> BONFIRES AND THE LAW

There are no UK statutes that specifically prohibit domestic bonfires on private land however there are laws that protect people from being affected by the smoke caused by bonfires.

Fly-tipping during the Bonfire period is a major cause of nuisance fires and is also a criminal offence. If you see fly-tipping or know where there is a build up of refuse or combustible material it may be a tempting target for firesetters, so report it to your local council.

If you have any information about any deliberate fire setting in your area you can report it anonymously to **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111**

Be mindful that fires can get out of control quickly and could cause injury so ensure the fire is monitored and not left unattended.

> BONFIRE SAFETY ADVICE

We would always advise the public look to attend organised bonfire and firework displays. However, if you do decide to have a bonfire at home there are a few considerations to bear in mind.

- Build your bonfire well away from trees, hedges, fences, power lines, buildings and vehicles. Don't build your pile too large, add materials as the fire burns down.
- You must ensure that smoke does not cause a nuisance to neighbours or affect visibility on roads.
- Be careful to ensure that flying embers don't endanger any neighbouring properties.
- Never use flammable liquid to ignite bonfires. Use firelighters instead.
- To reduce the emission of harmful smoke, fires should only comprise of untreated wood and paper based materials.
- Never throw fireworks or pressurised containers onto bonfires as there is a danger of them exploding.
- Bonfires must always be supervised, even if the fire is smouldering and dying down. You must ensure it is properly extinguished.
- Check the bonfire before lighting it to ensure there are no animals or children hiding in the pile.

Any bonfire that fails to satisfy safety conditions or where people are behaving irresponsibly may be removed or extinguished.

> ORGANISING A DISPLAY

For more information visit ROSPA: www.saferfireworks.com for practical guidance and advice.

> FIREWORKS

Watching fireworks can be great fun for children. However, figures show that, more often than not, it's children rather than adults who are injured over the bonfire period.

Keep your family safe by talking to them about firework safety and encourage them to always follow the firework code.



> FIREWORKS LEGISLATION

It is an offence:

- To set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am (or after midnight on bonfire night).
- To modify, tamper with or misuse fireworks.
- To throw or set off fireworks in any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place.
- To sell fireworks to anyone under 18.
- For anyone under 18 to possess fireworks in a public place.
- For anyone other than a fireworks professional to possess display category fireworks.
- To cause unnecessary suffering to any domestic or captive animals.

Bright SparX

2026 Virtual Education Package

Our Bright Sparx bonfire and firework education session is for High School and College (KS3, KS4 & KS5) aged students in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, including those in Alternative Education Provision and Home Educated Learners.

It seeks to raise awareness of how to keep safe during the bonfire period and what the consequences of misusing fireworks could be, including the law around fireworks.

Click on the times below to register for the session.
Each individual teacher/lead adult will need to register separately.

Sessions are **FREE**, last 15 minutes and start promptly at the time indicated. You can access MS Teams without the app by going through the desktop browser when prompted.

Please direct any queries you have to: preventionsupport@lancsfirerescue.org.uk

Session Delivery Times

Mon 12 Oct 09:00	Tues 13 Oct 08:55	Wed 14 Oct 08:50	Wed 14 Oct 13:45	Thurs 15 Oct 08:45	Fri 16 Oct 08:40
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Dial in 10 minutes before session start time. Sessions will start at the time stated.



Polo shirt from girlfriend £60

Sweatband, model's own £10

Headphones from Mum & Dad £90

Life-long scars from messing
around with Roman Candle £7.99

**FIREWORKS
BE SAFE
NOT SORRY**
ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CODE



IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO
POSSESS FIREWORKS IN
PUBLIC IF YOU'RE UNDER 18

Find out more at www.direct.gov.uk/fireworks



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