WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

Principal's Welcome

Friday 13th November

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been great to welcome the students back after the half term break. The students have come back after their well-deserved holiday ready to learn and take everything they can from this half term. The rewards event at the end of the half term was extremely popular with the students and we will be running an even bigger rewards event in school at the end of term. Our term finish date is Tuesday 22nd of December, so we will be focusing on rewards during these last two days. The message is that you have to be in it to win it! Keep your attendance over 90% and be here on those days to have the best chance of some fantastic rewards and prizes!

As I have said, I want West Craven to be a school where students thrive and are successful. This is built on high standards and expectations. We want to be the best school for this community and, as I often say to the students, this starts with the actions of the young people that make the school what it is!

One of our expectations is that all students have their equipment at the start of every lesson. We call these our SELF checks; Sit-up, Equipment, Listen, Focus. We noticed last half term that many students don't have a full set of basic equipment for school. This slows the start of lessons, as teachers have to lend basic equipment. Our focus is making every minute of every lesson count, so this was something we want to quickly rectify. Please ensure that your child has a sensible school bag and pencil case with basic equipment. We are able to provide pencil cases containing the basic equipment for a small cost on Parent Pay as a simple and cost effective option for parents. We will send further information out about this as a way of making it easy for parents and children. The most important thing is that students are ready to learn for each of their lessons.

Remembrance day was Wednesday 11th November, with Remembrance Sunday taking place on the 8th November, last weekend. Our school was be represented at the town remembrance service on Sunday, where students and staff laid a wreath at the Barnoldswick War Memorial, along with other representative from the community, to acknowledge all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. All staff and students observed the 2 minute silence on Wednesday and had an assembly last week led by Mr Davidson to highlight the importance of remembrance.

Our STAR awards evening is on Thursday 26th at Colne Municiple Theatre. The event starts at 7pm with students and parents arriving from 6:15pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and reward those students that do the right things and work hard day-in, day-out! I am really looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Thank you for your continued support

Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

7

7ABA -Nevaeh
7EEV - Rosie
7SHO - Halle
7DWI - Poppy
PYL - Sylvie

8

8JPE - Hanna
8MFO - Ruby
8YGR - Sasha
8 OCA - Charlie
PYL - Evie

9

9 EAJ - Daniel
KSN - James
RSW - Walter
NHU - Oscar
Lucy - Muavia

10

WDA - Ella
HWH - Layla
SAH - Max
AYO - Alec
PYL - Charlie

11

ECU - Ethan
MTV - Phoebe
DRA - Lilah
API - Mollie
PYL - Christopher

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

PASTORAL UPDATE YEAR 9

Welcome back Year 9!

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break and are feeling refreshed for the weeks ahead. We now have a busy and important half term leading up to the Christmas break, and it is vital that everyone returns with a positive attitude and a determination to give their very best.

Please make every lesson count by working hard, staying focused, and taking every opportunity to make progress in your learning. Consistent effort in class, completing homework, and actively participating in lessons will help you achieve your full potential and finish the term strongly.
As the mornings and evenings are now much darker, please remember to stay safe when travelling to and from school. Be aware of your surroundings, use safe routes, and take extra care when crossing roads. With the colder weather arriving, make sure you wear a coat and come to school prepared for the conditions so that you can stay warm and safe.

Let's make this a successful half term by showing excellent effort, maintaining high standards, and continuing to make positive progress in every lesson. We look forward to celebrating your achievements as we approach the Christmas holidays.
Have a fantastic half term and welcome back!

Mrs Freeman
Year 9 Pastoral Lead






WEST CRAVEN
ODD SOCKS DAY
MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2026
DIFFERENT PEOPLE STRONGER TOGETHER
BE KIND
BREAK THE SILENCE
BULLYING HAS NO PLACE HERE.
SAME RESPECT DIFFERENT SOCKS
GOOD PEOPLE BRIGHTER TOMORROW
This year's campaign – Break the Silence – will encourage children, young people and adults across the UK to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen and take action together.
WHY 'BREAK THE SILENCE'?
This theme was developed in collaboration with the anti-bullying sector and shaped directly by the voices of more than 200 children and young people, many of whom spoke about the silence that can surround bullying and the barriers young people face in asking for help.
ANTI-BULLYING WEEK IMPACT
Reaches an estimated 8 million children and young people
Engages more than 80% of UK schools
Organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, which is coordinated by leading children's charity the National Children's Bureau.
SPEAK UP. LISTEN. SUPPORT. ACT.
TOGETHER WE CAN BREAK THE SILENCE AROUND BULLYING.
START CONVERSATIONS
LISTEN WITHOUT JUDGEMENT
SUPPORT EACH OTHER
TAKE ACTION
A BRIGHTER HAPPIER KINDER SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE
WEAR ODD SOCKS
DIFFERENT IS GOOD.
EVERYONE BELONGS.
EVERY VOICE MATTERS.
KINDNESS CHANGES LIVES

REMEBRANCE SUNDAY



🌹 Remembrance Sunday | Lest We Forget

Students from West Craven High School laid a wreath at the Remembrance Service in Barnoldswick today, honouring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

We will remember them. ❤️

REMEMBRANCE DISPLAY

Students across Key Stage 3 came together to create a striking poppy display in the school foyer as part of our Remembrance commemorations. Every pupil contributed to the display, which serves as a powerful tribute to the soldiers and animals who have played a role in past and current conflicts.

The sea of handcrafted poppies provides a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by so many and encourages our school community to take a moment to reflect on the importance of remembrance. Through this collective effort, pupils demonstrated creativity, respect and an appreciation of the service and bravery shown by both people and animals throughout history.

We are incredibly proud of all our KS3 students for their thoughtful contributions, helping to create a meaningful display that will be viewed by pupils, staff and visitors throughout the Remembrance period.









SPORTS UPDATE

Year 7 Rugby Update

The Year 7 boys faced a tough challenge away at Fisher More this week, coming up against a strong and well-organised side. Despite their best efforts, they were well beaten by an excellent Fisher More team. The boys showed great determination throughout the match and will no doubt learn valuable lessons from the experience as they continue to develop their skills.

Away from competitive fixtures, Year 7 pupils have been enjoying a series of rugby sessions during PE lessons. Coaches from the RFU are visiting school throughout the remainder of the term to introduce pupils to the basics of the game through fun, engaging activities. This week it was the boys' turn to take part, and they threw themselves into the sessions with plenty of enthusiasm. It was fantastic to see so many pupils enjoying the opportunity to try rugby and develop new skills.



Year 7 Netball Tournament Success

Well done to all of our girls who took part in the Pendle Schools Year 7 Netball Tournament. The competition provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to represent the school, showcase their skills, and enjoy competing against other local schools.

We entered two teams into the tournament, and both performed brilliantly throughout the event. One team secured an impressive third-place finish, while the other finished in a very respectable fifth place. The girls demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship, making the school proud with their efforts.

Congratulations to everyone involved on a fantastic achievement! 🏐👏



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 9 Students Put Their Dough-Making Skills to the Test



Our talented Year 9 Food Technology students recently got hands-on in the kitchen as they learned how to make delicious garlic dough balls from scratch.

As part of their practical lesson, students developed their food preparation and baking skills, carefully measuring ingredients, kneading dough and shaping their creations before baking them to perfection. The classroom was filled with the wonderful aroma of freshly baked garlic dough balls, and the finished results looked fantastic.

The activity gave students the opportunity to build confidence in the kitchen while learning important culinary techniques that they can use at home. It was great to see their enthusiasm, creativity and teamwork throughout the lesson.

Well done to all our Year 9 students for producing such impressive results. They looked almost too good to eat!

Year 8 Students Cook Up a Treat with Chicken Fajitas

Our Year 8 students recently put their culinary skills to the test by preparing delicious chicken fajitas as part of their food technology lessons. [https://ou...essageItem | Outlook] Working carefully to develop key cooking techniques, students learned how to safely prepare ingredients, season and cook chicken, and combine colourful vegetables to create a tasty and nutritious meal. The practical session gave pupils the opportunity to build confidence in the kitchen while exploring the importance of healthy, balanced eating.

The finished fajitas looked fantastic, with students demonstrating excellent teamwork, organisation and creativity throughout the lesson. From preparing fresh ingredients to assembling their final dishes, Year 8 showed great enthusiasm and pride in their work.

Experiences like these help students develop valuable life skills, encouraging independence and an understanding of food preparation that they can use both at school and at home. Well done to all of our Year 8 chefs for their hard work and impressive results!





AWARDS AND REWARDS

Celebrating Student Success – Awards and Rewards Assemblies

At the end of each half term, we come together to celebrate the hard work, achievements and successes of our students through our Awards and Rewards Assemblies.

These special assemblies recognise students who have demonstrated excellent attendance, alongside those who have truly embraced our ASPIRE core values. They provide an opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions our students make, recognise their commitment to learning and highlight the fantastic achievements taking place across our school.

We are incredibly proud of the effort, determination and enthusiasm shown by our students, and it is wonderful to see so many being recognised for their achievements.

Take a look at some of the highlights from our Awards and Rewards Assemblies last half term. A huge congratulations to all our students who received awards – keep up the fantastic work!

















AWARDS AND REWARDS
















arc.
Accrington & Rossendale College
ARC OPEN EVENT
THUR 14 JAN
APPRENTICESHIP OPEN EVENT
THUR 11 FEB
YR 7-11 OPEN EVENT
TUES 15 JUN
JOIN US AT OUR OPEN EVENT
Search "Accrington & Rossendale College" To Register!


ncc.
Nelson & Colne College
NCC OPEN EVENT
TUES 19 JAN
APPRENTICESHIP OPEN EVENT
TUES 2 FEB
YR 7-11 OPEN EVENT
THUR 10 JUN
JOIN US AT OUR OPEN EVENTS
Search "Nelson & Colne College" To Register!

Ad Vitam Paramus
WCHS

West Craven High School

CHRISTMAS

Concert

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

Christmas Market: Browse from 5:30pm
Showtime: 6:00 - 8:00pm

Join us for an evening of festive cheer and fantastic talent as our students take to the stage for our annual Christmas concert!

Enjoy performances from our school choir, band and solo stars!

Christmas stalls will be open to browse from 5:30pm for a bit of festive shopping!



Pendle
Education Trust

Christmas Card Competition



Each year we ask children from our five schools to design a card for us to send out digitally at Christmas.

This year the theme is "JOY"

Using a piece of A4 paper or card folded into an A5 card, we would like you to design a card based on this theme. It can be portrait or landscape. Please don't include any words on your design.
All cards will then be sent to residents at local care homes using the Cards for Kindness scheme.

A primary and secondary winner will be chosen to be sent out digitally as our Trust card for 2026.

Please hand your cards into your school by 12pm on Friday 20th November.

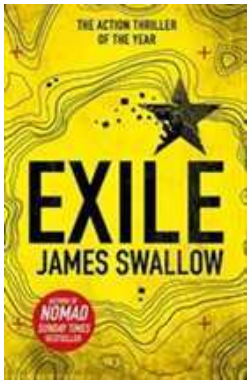
GOOD LUCK!





WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

The librarian loves
The Exile by James Swallow. It tells the exploits of British Agent Marc Dane. It is a fast-paced thriller that moves through several countries. This is book two in a series, and I am looking forward to the third book.





Remember through reading
Our library's beautiful Remembrance Day display is helping students explore history through the power of books. Alongside our commemorative display, we have selected a collection of thought-provoking fiction, memoirs and historical texts that bring to life stories of courage, sacrifice, resilience and hope during times of conflict.
Reading helps us understand the experiences of others and reflect on the impact of historical events on ordinary people's lives. We encourage all students to visit the library, browse the display and discover a book that inspires them

The library is an ideal place to study during the mock exam fortnight. Revision guides are available, as are laptops. The library is open at break and lunch and after school Monday - -Thursday until 4pm.





Bram Stoker was born on November 8th, 1847, in Dublin. He is most well known for writing Dracula, but he also wrote several other novels. Dracula is available to borrow from the school library.

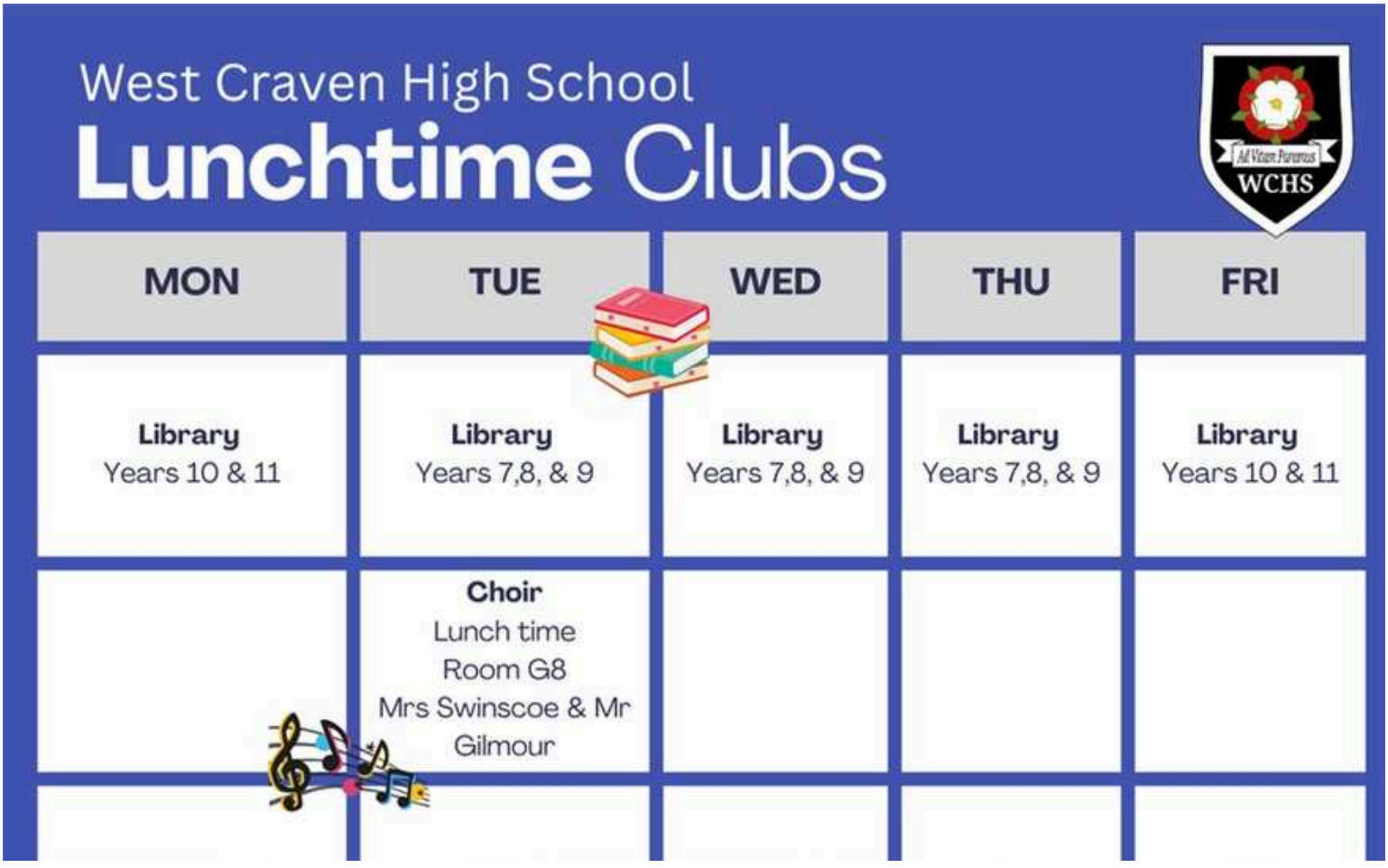
EXTRA CURRICULAR – AUTUMN TERM 2

We are pleased to share details of our Autumn 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.



EXTRA CURRICULAR – AUTUMN TERM 2

West Craven High School (Autumn Term 2)

After School Clubs

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Design Technology Room G7	**Girls Football YR 7&8**	**Craft Club** Room G6		**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				

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 11th November Year 11 Electronics Masterclass Burnley College
Thursday 26 November Star Awards Night at Colne Muni
Thursday 26th November - Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 1st December - Year 11 Mock Interviews
Thursday 10th December - Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 10 December - Year 11 parents 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 **jevetts@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.



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



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert



Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual 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.

Source: https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.09.2023